



Message from the Mayor of Burns Lake

Media Release, Wednesday, March 19, 2020

Village Council and staff are diligently working behind the scenes to ensure that we are taking all the necessary precautions to safeguard our residents. Here is a snapshot of efforts to date and ongoing:

- **NEW** As of March 18, our municipal office is closed to the public. Staff will continue to work at the office, they can be reached via email: village@burnslake.ca or via phone: 250-692-7587
- **NEW** The Lakeside Multiplex closed at noon on March 18 for the duration of the COVID event.
- We are in continual contact with provincial agencies and organizations to stay current with this rapidly changing event.
- Senior government public health departments are the lead COVID 19 agencies, and local governments take our direction from them.
- Village of Burns Lake staff continues to update the website and our Facebook page with municipal information, provincial links and best practices.

“Provincial officials have declared a public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement gives the Public Health Officer special powers under the Public Health Act, including the ability to issue verbal orders and the power to compel peace officers to enforce those orders.” *UBCM The Compass*

We strongly recommend that our community members follow federal and provincial recommendations, which include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Practice social distancing and stay at home whenever possible
- ✓ Self-quarantine for 14 days if you have been travelling outside of Canada
- ✓ Cancel all unnecessary travel to other communities
- ✓ Cancel all gatherings over 50 people

For current COVID information monitor these websites (live links are on the Village website: www.burnslake.ca):

BC Centre for Disease Control, www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19

Province of BC News Releases: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases>

HealthLink BC: www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19

Northern Health: www.northernhealth.ca

As this situation is developing quickly, please continue to monitor the Village of Burns Lake's website and Facebook page for **municipal updates and links to provincial organizations**: www.burnslake.ca

AND FINALLY

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through the COVID 19 event. Make sure to take measures to protect yourself by frequent handwashing, social distancing and stay at home if you do not feel well.

- **Please do not hoard supplies.** There have been some very disappointing displays of this behaviour throughout the world. We have been repeatedly assured that there is not a shortage of groceries, and the store shelves are continually being restocked. Please be kind, the next person in line also needs supplies.
- **Take precautions, but care for those who are vulnerable in our community, the elderly, the sick and the homeless.** We need to come together and ensure that our residents are protected and able to face this ever changing event.

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For further information, the contacts during the COVID 19 event are:

Media Contact: Mayor Dolores Funk:

email: mayor@burnslake.ca or 250-692-9932

Public Inquiries: Sheryl Worthing, CAO

email: sworthing@burnslake.ca or 250-692-7587