



Message from the Mayor

Provincial Health Orders Must be Complied With

Lake Cowichan – April 11th, 2020

A month ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Contrary to earlier assertions, the virus has been on upward spiral infecting people worldwide and bringing death to thousands. While there is talk of leveling the curve or even bending the curve downward, the numbers of infections and deaths even in Canada tell a different story.

It is imperative that the regulations and measures that have been put in place are complied with, and rigorously. The warm weather should not give us a sense of complacency.

The following must be maintained if we are to look forward to normal lives:

- Social distancing requirements must be diligently followed while at work or while at the stores that remain open. Avoid moving from one residence to another. Physical contact with those who are not of the same household should be avoided except through the phone or electronically. A lockdown is not where we want to be.
- Proper and frequent handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizers must be practiced.
- Burning regulations of the Town and now the Province must be complied with. The penalties imposed by the Province will be more onerous than those in place now. Effective April 16th, 2020 stiffer penalties will be imposed under the **Open Fire Regulations**. However, please note backyard burning is prohibited at all times within the Town of Lake Cowichan.

I would like to paraphrase a US doctor who put it bluntly yesterday that there is an expectation that the economy can bounce back but the dead will not. I want us all to get through this crisis together in good health. We can only do this through a disciplined will to follow the Provincial Health Orders that are meant for our collective good. A Provincial Orders Support Team and Call Centre has been established to support us in ensuring compliance of Provincial Orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This call centre is operational 7 days a week.

Rod Peters
Mayor
