



Mayor's Report

April 26, 2021

COVID-19 continues to dominate the news and our daily lives. Council again has the ability, following appropriate protocols, to attend meetings in-person in Council Chambers. Although the public is still unable to participate this way, the ability to speak by phone or join the meeting via Zoom continues to be available. And, of course, written submissions are received and distributed to all of Council.

On April 15 and 22 I attended the weekly Mayors' vaccination roundtable with Interior Health. In an attempt to slow the rise of COVID-19 cases, especially those requiring hospitalization, the Province has introduced travel restrictions through to midnight on May 25. The overall message remains consistent: **Stay in Summerland and travel for essential purposes only.**

Under the Emergency Program Act (EPA), on April 23 Minister Farnworth issued an order restricting non-essential travel in BC. Movement into and out of specified regions—unless deemed essential—is not allowed and is now prohibited by law. This means that Summerland residents must stay within the Northern and Interior Health regions.

Although we are unable to move about our beautiful province as freely as usual for the next month, we can be thankful we live in the Okanagan—and in Summerland—where outdoor activities are plentiful, especially as we move into the warmer days ahead.

Staying with COVID-19, my thanks to the many residents who have contacted me to say how quick and easy it is to get vaccinated. I'm looking forward to my turn.

On April 14, I attended the Development Process Improvement Advisory Committee meeting. Among other items for discussion, District staff and Council received thanks from the Committee for the rapid review process for temporary patios, put in place to help local eateries who cannot offer dine-in service. The CAO will be speaking to this further in his report.

April 15 was the monthly meeting of the South Okanagan-Similkameen Respect Network, followed by, on April 22, the Education and Outreach Task Force meeting. South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services (SOICS), the lead agency in this work, has partnered with UBCO to analyze the data gathered in the Report Racism Survey. These baseline data will be used to guide the Network and the Task Force in our work.

Lastly, it is great to see so many people out on the trails in our municipal parks. From my observations, both Conkle and Giant's Head are getting plenty of use. The Giant's Head gate is now open to vehicles for the season. You can travel to the upper parking lot from noon to 9 pm every day except Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot