



**Mayor's Report
November 23, 2020**

Well, here we are again on Zoom. As much as Council prefers to meet in-person, we will revisit our decision to meet electronically after December 7, when we will hear more from the Province on COVID-19 restrictions.

On Wednesday, November 11 I took some time out of CAO interviews to represent Summerland on Remembrance Day service. My thanks to the Legion for hosting this service, mindful of the pandemic restrictions. It was reverent and honouring of those in our community—and all Canadians—who have, or continue to, work for peace.

Last week Council announced that Mr. Graham Statt will be joining the District on January 4, 2021 to fill the role of Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Statt has worked in senior staff positions with the Alberta government and brings many years of leadership to his new position at the District.

On Friday, November 13, I was a panelist in a webinar called Perspectives on Affordable Housing, chaired by Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart. In his opening, Mayor Stewart reminded participants that a range of housing options is key: What may be affordable to one person or family is out of reach for another. Other presenters included Jill Atkey of BC Non-Profit Housing Association, Michael Andersen with Sightline Institute out of Seattle, and Paul Finch of the BCGEU. I learned about some interesting and innovative work being done in other areas. Something that all speakers mentioned was that if local governments want to see affordable housing projects in their communities, they need to ensure their zoning and development bylaws reflect that objective.

Utilities budget discussions began on Tuesday morning, November 17 and ran the full day. Staff are preparing a public Utility Rates Open House for December 7; details will be made available by month-end.

Summerland, I know we are all weary of the pandemic and some are not happy with the tighter restrictions announced last week. But the counts—positive tests, people in hospital and, sadly, those dying of COVID-19—is rising in B.C. and in the Interior Health region. For the sake of your family, your friends and neighbours, and yourselves, please follow Dr. Henry's directives. We're in this together and we'll get through it together. On behalf of Council, thank you for doing your part to be kind, be calm, and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot