



CAO REPORT – June 14, 2021

My report this week centers on the work of staff in the District. First, as we have turned the corner into the warmer months of the year, I want to recognize the excellent work of those staff who beautify our community through the landscaping of our boulevards, street sweeping, mowing the grass in our parks and tending to the maintenance of our recreational assets. They are doing a great job! With it being my first summer living in Summerland I am very impressed with their pride of service as evidenced through their quality of work.

I also wanted to give a shout out to our public works staff who responded quickly and professionally when the water main broke on South Victoria Road a couple of weeks ago. It was a major breakage of a large water line resulting in the temporary loss of pressurized water to a large part of Summerland. However, the key word here is temporary – within hours they had the break excavated, work arounds planned, alternate fire routes and water sources located and signs placed in the community and messages and maps on the website and Facebook. Within a day or so the line was fixed, and pressurized water service was restored. A few days after that Interior Health provided the all-clear to lift the boil water advisory once the regulated testing procedures were completed. These events are always unforeseen, and inconvenient, I am proud about the quick response of staff.

As Council is aware, I am leading the development of a Code of Ethics for the staff. This has been an inclusive process involving all staff throughout the organization for their feedback and input. We have evolved the document through several drafts based on this feedback and are now working on our final draft based on the result of two all staff meetings held last week. We are a values-based organization and so the Code will focus on those values, effectively codifying in words what I observe every day throughout on the organization.

Finally, I wanted to make Council aware that we are keeping in step with the provincial government Health Orders and safe reopening procedures for the District. Our regular hours of operation for in-person service in all our public works yard and District hall have been restored, and any staff that were working from home for a short period were phased back into the workplace over a few weeks, so that on June 7th all staff were returned to the work environment. These steps to regularize our workplace align with guidance from the province. Residents will notice that we continue to require the use of masks, and have hand sanitizer available, and also in some places limit the number of people within certain spaces at one time to allow for social distancing. We look forward to those precautions also being withdrawn in line with further direction from public health, and likely in step with the progress towards vaccination in the province.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt

Chief Administrative Officer