



Mayor's Report

May 25, 2021

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Victoria Day long weekend and either enjoyed some of the many local treasures or explored others within our provincially-mandated travel zone. As announced by Premier Horgan this afternoon, the four-step re-open plan is underway, dependent on three important figures. Case counts and hospitalizations must continue to fall or level out and vaccination rates, currently at 65% must continue to climb. The regional travel restrictions remain in place until at least June 15.

On May 11, as Council liaison, I attended the Summerland Community Arts Council board meeting. The SCAC is in the second of a five-year fee-for-service contract to manage the banner program for the District. The call for artists to submit artwork following a Diversity and Inclusion theme resulted in 16 submissions; five will be selected by the Chamber of Commerce. It is expected the banners will be produced and installed by the end of June.

On May 12 the Education Task Force of the South Okanagan Similkameen Respect Network had a brainstorming session on the Unboxed Project. This project is fashioned after the "You Need this Box" project developed by the Treaty Six First Nations and the Edmonton Community Foundation. The Box—expected to be available this fall—will contain carefully curated products, tools and activities to help participants grow their anti-racist skill set.

May 13 and 20 the CAO and I attended the Interior Health Mayors' Vaccine Roundtable update. The District website provides links to the most recent information. All residents who are 12+, including international students, are eligible for their first vaccination. The first step is to register by phone or online; you will be contacted to book an appointment. Persons living in care homes who received their first vaccination through a mobile clinic are receiving their second dose the same way.

The Summerland Healthy Community Initiative held our monthly meeting on May 13. The mental health presentation is being moved to September; the upcoming GoByBike BC and the ParticipACTION Challenge were discussed: more details in CAO Statt's report.

On May 17 Council attended a virtual meeting with the Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council to discuss mutual concerns and opportunities. CAO Statt and I met with SD67 representatives on May 21 to update each other and speak briefly about opportunities to collaborate. The District will continue to meet regularly with each group to continue to strengthen relationships and work together.

Lastly, on May 19 I attended a Climate Caucus call for Canadian elected officials. I can't always find the time to get onto these calls but it was good to talk with colleagues to share and to learn about what climate action initiatives are underway in other municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot