



URGENT APPEAL TO VISITORS AND SECOND HOME OWNERS NOT TO TRAVEL TO THE WEST COAST REGION FOR EASTER WEEKEND

April 9, 2020

PACIFIC RIM, B.C. – The First Nations, municipalities and communities of the West Coast send an urgent appeal to all potential day-trippers, visitors and second home owners to stay at home for the Easter long weekend and not visit Tofino, Ucluelet or the West Coast region.

In keeping with recommendations from every level of government and every public health official, now is not the time to travel for tourism or recreation purposes. Now is not the time to visit your second home or permit your friends to use your empty vacation rental. Now is not the time for a surfing, fishing or camping trip.

Now is the time to stay home and bend the curve – not bend the rules.

We remind Vancouver Islanders and other British Columbians who may be tempted to travel to the West Coast this weekend that:

- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is closed.
- All Provincial parks are closed, including Maquinna Marine Provincial Park (aka Hot Springs Cove) and Kennedy Lake.
- First Nations communities – housing some of the most vulnerable residents of the West Coast – are completely locked down to visitors.
- Virtually every accommodation operator, small and large, is closed to travelers.
- Wildlife watching business, tour operators, and surfing rental businesses are all closed.
- Bars, pubs, and spas are closed.
- The few restaurants open to take-out are providing meals for local residents, essential workers, and health care staff.

Show your love and respect for our small communities, for our treasured elders and senior citizens, for our limited health care resources, and for our frontline workers who are sacrificing time from their own families this Easter weekend.

Let our public works employees, social services, health care workers and first responders focus on delivering services and protecting the region's most vulnerable residents.

We look forward to welcoming you later when it is safe for you, and safe for us - **but that's not this weekend.**

Chief Joshua Charleson
Hesquiaht First Nation

Chief Greg Louie
Ahousaht First Nation

Elmer Frank, EOC Chairman
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations

Mayor Josie Osborne
District of Tofino

Mayor Mayco Noël
District of Ucluelet

President Chuck McCarthy
Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government

Chief Anne Mack
Toquaht Nation

Kel Roberts
Area "C" Director, ACRD