

**For Immediate Release  
Thursday, May 14, 2020**

## **COVID-19 Update # 13**

### **West Coast Communities Joint News Release**

On May 12, 2020 the District of Ucluelet, District of Tofino, Area C and West Coast First Nation communities issued a [joint news release](#) to thank accommodation providers for staying closed through the May long weekend and visitors for postponing their trips to the coast. The release reinforces the [BC Restart Plan](#) which indicates that **non-essential travel is not recommended at this time or during Phase 2 of reopening.**

### **Support Local Businesses**

On May 12, Council passed its annual Budget which waives renewal fees for 2020 business licenses. This contribution is intended to support local businesses that have adjusted their business practices to meet challenges related to COVID-19. As more businesses reopen during Phase 2 of the BC Restart Plan it is critical that we all buy local as much as possible.

The Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce recently joined a network of communities including Tofino, Victoria and Vancouver that are working to support locally owned businesses through [Support Local BC](#) site. You can [support local Ucluelet business](#) through the purchase of online gift certificates.

For more information about business supports and how the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce is fighting for local businesses follow them on [Facebook](#).

### **Support for Tourism Businesses**

Some tourism businesses may reopen during Phase 3 of the [BC Restart Plan](#). In the meantime the [Tourism Resilience Program](#) provides meaningful, hands-on guidance and support to help businesses navigate the immediate impact of COVID-19 and work towards long-term resiliency.

Federal support for seasonal and tourism companies was announced this week. Follow the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce on [Facebook](#) for details.

### **Mental Health Support**

Federal government recently launched the [Wellness Together Canada](#) Mental Health and Substance Use Support portal. This age friendly resource provides free online tools, apps and connections to trained volunteers and qualified mental health professionals. Modules about low mood, anxiety, worry, substance use, social isolation and relationships are all included in this resource.

For more information about local accessing care on the west coast [visit this catalogue](#) of local care providers.

We encourage you to stay up to date by [signing up for the District's UkeeMail](#) and by regularly visiting these Federal and Provincial links:

[Government of Canada - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreak Update](#)  
[Government of British Columbia COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information](#)  
[BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Data](#)

Thank you Ucluetians. Stay strong, be safe and be kind.

For more information please visit [ucluelet.ca](http://ucluelet.ca) or contact the District of Ucluelet at 250-726-7744.