

May 14/20 CAO Remarks

Good Morning Mayor and Council.

Emergency Operations Centre

We are currently holding at a Level 1 EOC with the Province's extension of the State of Emergency until May 27. We are also turning our minds to the EOC's role in recovery moving forward.

Reopening of the Economy

WorkSafeBC guidelines are expected to be ready by Friday as part of the B.C. government's phased relaxing of pandemic restrictions related to businesses such as restaurants which are ready to reopen potentially as early as May 19, after the Victoria Day long weekend.

City sidewalks, street space curbs and alleys are being eyed to become the new frontier for foodies, as the cities explores open air dining options to help restaurants affected by COVID-19.

The City has been working alongside our business partners for the last 67 days to position Victoria for recovery. More on what is currently in play this am in a report from our Head of Business and Community relations.

I recognize Council has a number of motions on recovery today and to that end, I will be putting together a small working group

across City departments with the goal of expediting our ability to implement actions to support the recovery of the local economy.

Regional update

Weekly calls with CAOs. City services are being delivered seamlessly through technology and individual appointments. This new way of doing business will inform our new way forward.

From a staffing perspective, most municipalities will be continuing to have staff work at home and they are taking a measured and thoughtful way forward.

You will be hearing from staff today on options for public hearings and public input which are mindful of the directives from the provincial health orders and considerate of the needs for the public to be engaged in land use and other matters at City Hall.

Victoria Day Weekend

Starting today, the City is re-opening tennis and pickleball courts, sports fields, and skate and bike parks as part of a phased return to outdoor recreation facilities.

The decision aligns with the provincial government's Restart Plan, which includes recreation as one of several activities to resume this month.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, decisions about recreation facilities have been guided by public health advice, and the City continues to monitor provincial recommendations as part of safe recovery.

Although these facilities will be open for recreational use, there will still be no lessons or league play, and people will be expected to continue following public health guidelines, including physical distancing.

Closure signage and fencing will be removed in the coming days and replaced with new signage to communicate guidelines for use.

At this time, close contact recreation facilities remain closed, including playgrounds, basketball courts, outdoor gyms and the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre.