May 28/20 CAO Remarks

Good Morning Mayor and Council.

Emergency Operations Centre

We are still at a Level 1 EOC and are continuing with twice weekly briefings with Council. Yesterday the Premier announced that the Provincial State of Emergency would be extended to June 10.

Decampment of Pandora and Topaz

Over the weekend the decamping of individuals at Topaz and Pandora was completed with 344 people now being able to avail of food, hygiene and health and harm reduction services at various indoor spaces.

Work continues on this front with the focus on the individuals sheltering at BHP. Bylaw in partnership with the HART team continues to add names to the new census which is shared with BC Housing to get individuals on their housing registry.

In the interim, city staff are collaborating closely with a whole host of service providers on ensuring that services are available to those sheltering in parks. This includes increased communication with those sheltering about park amenities and information about safety regulations.

As you will notice the fencing is still in place on Pandora and at Topaz Park which will allow for remediation work to take place in the coming weeks.

Recovery Work

Staff are hard at work reimagining city streets and sidewalks based on input from our local businesses about how we can transform the City for the summer and beyond to ensure that our local economy recovers quickly. We look forward to sharing our tactics and plans next week.

Get Growing

CTV News -- This week 30 organizations came to a drive through pick up at the parks yard to collect the first 50,000 food starts. There has been considerable interest in this program and the next distributions are scheduled for late July/early August.