



**Mayor's Report  
April 14, 2020**

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy Easter weekend, even though we were separated from friends and family.

This public health emergency has had an impact on all of us—some more than others—and the District of Summerland is not excluded from that. Clearly, we are now meeting electronically and, following a ruling by the Province's public health officer, the public is no longer able to attend the meeting. We do, however, recognize the importance of public input on agenda items, and welcome your comments and input in written form. Mr. Haddad, our chief administrative officer, will provide updates on operational activities related to COVID-19.

Council has had preliminary discussions about adjusting the proposed 2020 budget. These discussions continue on tonight's agenda and, after receiving any new information we may ask for from senior staff tonight, we hope to make decisions on this matter at the Special Council meeting scheduled for Friday morning, April 17.

Until further notice, all meetings related to Council or other work I do in my role as mayor are being held electronically.

On March 27, I and the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) executive attended a call hosted by Minister Donaldson and ministry staff. The executive spoke about the impact the required shutdowns are having on natural resource businesses, especially forestry, and our concerns about wildland fires further complicating the provincial state of emergency. The Minister assured us that the Province is aware of both issues and, in regard to the wildfire season, is working on how to manage evacuations during COVID-19 should the emergency arise.

Still on SILGA, the executive made the decision to cancel the convention this year. At our next meeting (end of this month) we will continue discussions on whether or not we will have some type of smaller event later in 2020.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting was on April 7. Three agenda items to bring forward are the semi-finals of the AquaHacking Challenge; the annual water survey report; and the selection of the OBWB grant recipients for 2020. Visit [OBWB.ca](http://OBWB.ca) for more information. The water survey report is on Thursday, April 16. I have forwarded the webinar information to our CAO and Councillor Van Alphen who is council's liaison on the Water Advisory Committee.

B.C. mayors, regional district chairs and CAOs have been having weekly telephone calls with the Province, most often with Minister Robinson, Municipal Affairs and Housing. On the latest call, she

asked that we share information about Province's rent relief program at [bchousing.org](http://bchousing.org). South Okanagan-Similkameen mayors and CAOs have also started having bi-weekly calls. Thank you to Mayor Vassilaki and his staff for hosting these calls. Collaboration and regular and consistent messaging are especially important during this time.

Finally, speaking of the importance for communications, District updates can be found at [www.summerland.ca](http://www.summerland.ca) and on the District of Summerland Facebook page. As always, the Mayor's Reports and the Mayor's Minute column are posted on the website and last month, at the request of, and in consultation with our CAO, I began daily Mayor's Messages on the District's Facebook page.

Be safe and continued health, Summerland. As Dr. Henry said on Easter weekend, "This is the time for all of us to stay strong in our commitment to flatten the curve."

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot