



**Mayor's Report  
May 25, 2020**

On May 12, the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) executive had a conference call with Minister Doug Donaldson, Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. I had the opportunity to bring forward the concerns of many SILGA local governments about migrant farm workers, specifically if the Province will be providing resources for safely accommodating these much-needed agricultural workers.

May 14 I attended the Summerland Healthy Community Initiative meeting. District staff will be submitting a Healthy Communities Plan H grant application to continue the Speakers Series on health matters this fall. The Series, sponsored by the District, SD67 and Interior Health, has covered a range of topics including vaping, cannabis use, radon and youth mental health.

CAO Anthony Haddad, Corporate Officer Karen Needham and I had a discussion on May 20 with a consultant who has been contracted by the Province to work with local governments on developing safe spaces for migrant farm workers. The consultant recognizes the urgency of the situation as agricultural workers are already arriving from Eastern Canada. We hope to hear more soon.

Councillor Holmes and I attended the RDOS and Regional Hospital District board meetings on May 21 and he has submitted a report on the meetings.

That afternoon I joined the teleconference with Minister Robinson who announced the next intake for the Community Housing Fund will open on May 27. The Province is expecting a good uptake on the Fund and expects to see another 3,000 housing units. Minister Robinson asked for comments or questions on how the transition to Phase 2 of B.C.'s Restart Plan is proceeding. We heard a few concerns, but it appears the transition is going smoothly for most communities.

Friday morning, as requested by the Summerland Chamber of Commerce, I MC'd the virtual 2019 Community Excellence Awards. I am sworn to secrecy on the winners of the four awards, including the Mayor's Award of Excellence, but all are very well-deserved. The Chamber plans to release the completed video—with the appropriate fanfare—early next month. The Business Excellence Awards will be presented at a later date.

Summerland is one week into Phase 2 and local businesses are starting to re-open. The success of easing the pandemic restrictions of the past two months depends on us. Businesses must continue to follow

the orders and protocols set out by the public health officer and, for some sectors, WorkSafe and/or AgSafe. We, as consumers, must be patient and respect that business owners may be nervous as they embark on this new way of doing business. They are trusting us to take the necessary precautions to keep them and their staff safe as much as we are trusting them to operate in a manner that protects us. Our mutual goal is to keep the infection numbers low so we can move into Phase 3 without having to go back to tighter restrictions. We are very much still in this together.

Be safe. Continued health.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot