



## **Mayor's Report**

April 12, 2021

I hope everyone had the chance to relax and enjoy time with those in their bubble on the Easter Long Weekend, even in the absence of travel. Because of the holiday, I have less to report on tonight.

On April 1 and 8, I attended the weekly update call with Interior Health. The age cohorts for vaccination are lowering rapidly as vaccines make their way to B.C. As of today, B.C. residents wishing to be immunized who are aged 55+, Indigenous people aged 18+ and those who are considered “clinically extremely vulnerable” are now being asked to register. The age cohort drops to 50+ on Wednesday, April 14; 45+ on Friday, April 16 and to 40+ next Monday, April 19. Please note that you do not book your appointment at the time of registration but you will receive a confirmation number. When it is time to book your appointment, you will be notified by your choice of email, text or phone call.

March 31 and April 7 I attended the final two presentations in the Southern Interior Local Government (SILGA) Speakers Series. We were unable to enjoy an in-person conference again this year, but the executive decided instead to host eight speakers for SILGA members. Each session covered a different topic—ranging from community connectivity to the impact of COVID-19 on local governments, to the value of university/local government partnerships— and included a question and answer session. Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Minister Ravi Kahlon spoke to members on March 31.

Also on April 7 the CAO and I took part in the Minister of Municipal Affairs Josie Osborne’s call to mayors and regional district chairs. Dr. Martin Lavoie, Deputy Public Health Officer made a presentation then answered questions about the vaccination roll-out and other concerns related to COVID-19.

On April 8, on behalf of SILGA, I attended the Council of Forest Industries Virtual Convention. As those in the construction sector or people doing DIY renovations know, lumber prices have quadrupled over the past year in North America. As Premier Horgan and several others commented, though, there are still several challenges ahead for the forest industry including fibre supply for secondary industries, ensuring Indigenous partners are involved in decision-making, softwood lumber tariff talks and sustainable forestry management. On this last item the Premier stated that the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Katrina Conroy has been mandated to revise B.C.’s forest policies. These are expected to be public in the next few weeks.

Finally, congratulations to Stuart and Maxine Millis, Summerland’s Snow Angels for the 2020/21 winter. A Snow Angel is someone who helps out a neighbour and shovels snow or adopts a sidewalk to keep clear whenever it snows. This past winter, almost 50 residents were nominated as Snow Angels and each received a signed Snow Angel certificate. Stuart and Maxine Millis, whose names were randomly drawn, received a \$50 gift certificate to a local vendor. Thank you to you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot