



Mayor's Report

March 8, 2021

Happy International Womens' Day. I was listening to a podcast this morning and panelists were talking about a number of items, including misogyny and racism in all levels of government. Jillian Oliver, political strategist, summed up their conversation with this thought: "We need to remember that freedom of speech does not mean freedom from accountability and your words and actions matter."

On the evening of February 23, I attended the Summerland Healthy Community Initiative's presentation on Food Security. Presenters included representatives from Interior Health, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and the Summerland Food Bank. Prior to a Q+A session, we saw a video about the 2020 Hallowe'en for Hunger event. This was a very informative virtual event and I'd like to give a special shout out to Leah Herman and Phoebe Chalmers of the SSS Leadership class and teacher Myron Dueck for the video.

February 24, I attended the second virtual session (of eight) in the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) Speakers Series. Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) President Brian Frenkel spoke about a number of additional challenges local governments are facing due to COVID-19, and the advocacy work UBCM and other local government organizations is doing with the Province.

On Wednesday, March 3 we heard from a panel discussion on Connectivity, specifically to rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Panelists included representatives from the Ministry of Citizens' Services, Telus and Shaw. This week, registered participants will hear from Dr. Albert de Villiers, Chief Medical Health Officer for Interior Health, who will speak about the double health crises of COVID-19 and opioids.

Provincial health authorities have started a weekly call for mayors and chairs to provide updates on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. I attended this call on February 25 and March 4. Interior Health has launched Phase 2 of BC's immunization plan. Visit interiorhealth.ca/covid-19 for the latest updates and information on eligibility and how to book your COVID-19 immunization appointment. This link has been added to the District's website and posted on the District's Facebook page.

Finally, on February 26, Council held a short special meeting to adopt the 5-year Financial Plan bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot