

Board Chair Update

On March 11, CRD Board Chair Colin Plant spoke about the COVID-19 situation and the CRD's role at a public meeting with the following remarks:

In my remarks today I wish to focus on the COVID 19 situation and how the CRD is responding to this rapidly evolving situation. In addition to my remarks we will consider the matter further in a closed session as it deals with personnel matters.

After having several conversations with the CAO, we want the Public, Staff and Board to know the following:

As an organization are monitoring the situation closely, following the guidance of Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer.

Staff have initiated a corporate emergency operations centre (EOC) to monitor and undertake advanced planning in anticipation of a potential escalation of the COVID-19 situation and the potential for operational impacts in the CRD. As part of the EOC's work, there is regular communication between Island Health, Emergency Management BC and local authorities such as the CRD.

The CRD has had an advance planning group in place since January to ensure we are prepared, with a focus on maintaining essential service levels and following the advice of public health officials at every step.

We will be looking to ensure the health and safety of our staff as well as ensuring we continue to provide the essential services CRD residents need and expect.

Although the risk to British Columbians remains low, we encourage everyone to check the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Public Health Agency of Canada websites for ongoing updates.

The Board and its committees will continue to meet in open as public meetings as part of our responsibility to our constituents. Hand sanitizers and soap are fully stocked and we also offer the option of viewing by webcast for the public.

And finally on this matter, as I say to my students, how you practise is how you will perform, I encourage us all to set the best examples for hygiene practises for our residents in the event that COVID 19 does present in the CRD. Together we will work our way through this challenging situation.