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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Subject: Federal & Provincial COVID Update

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Below is a summary of the Federal and Provincial COVID update for today, July 20 –

Canada:

MPs returned to the House of Commons today to debate legislation introduced by the Liberal government that would reform the federal wage subsidy and provide relief to people with disabilities.

The new bill, C-20, would expand the number of companies that qualify for the wage subsidy, change the amount companies can put toward their workers' wages and extend the program to the end of the year.

If passed, the bill also would send a one-time payment of \$600 to people with disabilities and extend some legal deadlines for court cases.

Canada has 110,637 coronavirus infections and 8,884 deaths. Provinces and territories listed 97,300 of those as recovered or resolved.

BC:

- Dr. Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix also presented results from an online survey completed by 394,382 people about the impact of COVID-19.

The results suggest that most people have followed the public health advice to wash hands regularly and avoid gatherings, but staying home when sick is still a bit of a sticking point. While 79 per cent of those who responded said they can stay home when they're feeling unwell, only about 67 per cent said they actually stay home.

The biggest problems caused by COVID-19, according to those who answered the survey, include loss of work, concern for vulnerable family members and mental health struggles.

Those between the ages of 18 and 29 were most likely to say their mental health and financial situation have suffered as a result of the pandemic

- Employers and workers who need to extend temporary layoffs due to COVID-19 can more easily apply for a variance using the Employment Standards Branch's new online application.

In June, government extended the time period for temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 to a maximum of 24 weeks, expiring on Aug. 30, 2020. This is expanded from 16 weeks, to give employers and workers more flexibility.

The new online application simplifies and streamlines the process for employers and workers to jointly apply for an extension beyond Aug. 30 by eliminating the need for hardcopy documents and signatures, while ensuring the integrity of the branch's decision-making process.

- Measures enacted by the Province in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that temporarily allow restaurants and pubs to purchase beer, wine and spirits at wholesale cost instead of liquor store retail prices came into effect on Monday, July 20, 2020.

Hospitality customers who have registered with the Province's Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) can now use a searchable hospitality price list to help with their buying decisions. A complete online hospitality product catalogue will launch Sept. 1, 2020.

The temporary authorization will remain in effect until March 31, 2021. A provincial review of the program during this temporary reform will help government determine the financial costs and benefits of the change.

Health update:

Statistics presented Monday show that 20 per cent of COVID-19 patients in long-term care and 22 per cent in acute care units of hospitals have died of their illness. The death rate drops dramatically to 0.5 per cent in the remaining COVID-19 patients.

102 new confirmed cases since Friday afternoon. There have now been 3,300 cases in B.C. since the beginning of the pandemic, of which 253 are still active.

Sixteen people are now in hospital, including four in intensive care.

There have been no new deaths recorded since Friday, leaving B.C.'s total at 189 to date.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.