

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



March 13, 2020

CVRD waives cancellation policies for events, facility bookings and program registration

DUNCAN, BC – To support public health in relation to the COVID-19 virus response, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has waived its cancellation policies for events, facility bookings and program registrations at CVRD facilities.

The decision was made at a special Board meeting this afternoon, and applies to all CVRD parks and facilities, including the Cowichan Community Centre, Kerry Park Recreation Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, and the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre.

“Our Board has decided that, in support of health, it’s not appropriate to penalize those who planned and paid for the use our facilities,” said Aaron Stone, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “We recognize there will be a loss of revenue associated with this decision, but it is the right thing to do to support our community members at this time. We will review options for cost recovery via insurance and other compensation opportunities that may become available.”

Yesterday provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry directed event organizers to cancel all gatherings of 250 people or more due to the growing COVID-19 outbreak. Based on that direction, last night the CVRD regrettably cancelled a performance by Natalie MacMaster at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre and refunded ticketholders. All events at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre scheduled for March and April have been postponed.

While all events with participant numbers greater than 250 will be cancelled for the foreseeable future, all Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) facilities, including recycling centres, will remain open and delivering services until otherwise advised or directed by the Provincial Health Officer.

The CVRD will continue to convene a Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) in partnership with its member municipalities, First Nations, school districts and Island Health as required, in an effort to share information and practices that will help ‘flatten the curve’ of transmission in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

For more information on the CVRD response to COVID-19 please visit the [COVID-19 Information](#) page on the CVRD website

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For more information, please contact:

Kris Schumacher
Manager, Communications & Engagement
250.746.2635
kris.schumacher@cverd.bc.ca