



Message from Your Director

During this anxious and uncertain time, my colleagues and I have been on the phone and teleconferencing with our MLA, Adam Olsen, BC Ferries president, Mark Collins, your local Island Trustees, members of island commissions, the Community Resource Centre, heads of CRD departments and many islanders. The phone has not stopped ringing as we all try to come to grips with COVID-19 and figure out how best to cope.

I have been quarantined myself for two weeks, taking my temperature and reporting to VIHA. They phoned to let me know that I might possibly have been in contact with a carrier of the virus through visiting my dentist. But thank goodness, all is well health wise and I continue to pursue ways to help the islands through these anxious times.

The CRD has provided a wealth of information on their website, updated regularly as news becomes available. There are contact emails for each electoral area that are monitored every day and links to current media releases and government information. For the SGI's the email address is sgicovid@crd.bc.ca and as well the EOC has an appointed staff person to coordinate communication with our islands.

The CESC (Community Economic Sustainability Commission) www.sustainableislands.ca also has links on the front page that take you directly to COVID-19 information.

During a health emergency such as this, regional governments take direction from the Provincial Health Officer and Solicitor General of our provincial health authority. In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, the CRD is taking immediate action following the direction of BC's Chief Medical Officer of Health. We should all practice what Dr. Bonnie Henry continually tells us. She has been amazing.

We need to acknowledge our own Emergency Response Teams and all the volunteers on the islands who have been providing food programs, telephoning assistance and all the other services that are even more crucial now. Their dedication has gone above and beyond.

I understand that life has changed drastically for us all and that it will take time to get back to normal. But islanders are resilient and communities are strong. I will continue to push for whatever help is available. As we go into this Easter weekend continue to do your part to adhere to the guidelines and safe practices and above all continue to be kind to one another.

Sincerely,

Dave Howe
CRD Director, Southern Gulf Islands