



March 25, 2020

HON. DAVID EBY Q.C., ATTORNEY GENERAL

Room 232 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

HON. MIKE FARNWORTH, MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

Room 128 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

HON. CLAIRE TREVENA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Room 306 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

RE: Central Coast Regional District COVID-19 Emergency Travel Restriction Order

Attached is our COVID-19 Emergency Travel Restriction Order which we have made pursuant to our Declaration of a Local State of Emergency and the *Emergency Program Act*, which will come into force upon receipt of approval from the Ministry of Transport. We have taken this extraordinary step in response to the imminent threat of COVID-19 being introduced into our Region, the declarations of the Nuxalk, Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv and Kitasoo/Xai'xais Tribal Councils that have already enacted travel restrictions pursuant to assertions of indigenous law, and already calls for vigilantism against visitors entering the Regional District who feel the need to flee for their lives to areas of the Province that are free of COVID-19 and who will not heed voluntary requests to minimize the risks they pose in exposing others to the virus.

Given our remote geography and limited population centres, we may be able to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into our region, and as a local government with a population of only 3,319, we are capable of quickly identifying residents and what is essential to our survival. We however do not have medical or other resources to also handle an influx of British Columbians seeking refuge.

We respectfully request your assistance with implementing this Order by:

1. Approving the Central Coast Regional District's submitted and future State of Local Emergency expense authorization requests.
2. Directing the Bella Bella and Bella Coola RCMP Detachments to enforce our Order pursuant to the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*, BC Reg 477/94, s. 9(a), in the same way that wildfire evacuations are enforced during local states of emergency. AND,
3. Broadcasting our travel advisory to British Columbians generally and at BC Ferry Terminals, and Highway 20. And,
4. Providing the Minister of Public Safety and the Minister of Transport's approval to place these restrictions on Highway 20 and transport into the CCRD generally.

Our Order is not intended to inhibit freedom of navigation or the delivery of goods, essential services, or access to medical care and emergency response by anyone, or the Province's and Vancouver Coastal Health's mandate to lead the response to COVID-19. We respect the right of all our residents and First Nations to return to their homes and territories.

We have taken steps to coordinate and communicate our measures with our residents, businesses, First Nations, Vancouver Coastal Health, the physicians at our hospitals, the RCMP, BC Ferries, Prince Rupert Marine Radio, the Ministry of Transport and others. We are quickly developing a permit process and safety procedures. Our constituents are overwhelmingly in favour of such measures some have been clear that they will take matters into their own hands if we or the Province fail to do so.

While we are the smallest Regional District Office in the Province, we are supported by the First Nations in the Regional District who have already committed staff and volunteers to establish points of entry checkpoints.

In order to preserve peace, order and good government, and to protect our elders, indigenous language speakers, and high proportion of residents with co-morbidities, we must provide this framework to lawfully restrict movement into the Central Coast Regional District.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Schooner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair Samuel Schooner

On behalf of the unanimous Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District

cc: MLA Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness