



MEDIA RELEASE
April 3, 2020

qathet Regional District to Conduct Regional Board and Standing Committee Meetings Electronically

qathet Regional District, B.C. – The qathet Regional District (qRD) would like to advise the public of changes to Regional Board Meeting attendance and to conducting business during the COVID 19 pandemic.

On March 26, 2020, the qathet Regional District adopted Procedure Bylaw No. 557, 2020. The Bylaw modernizes board procedures and allows Directors to participate using their preferred technology. The bylaw further allows electronic Board and Committee meetings to be held with only the Chair being required to be physically present at the meeting location place.

Coincidentally on the same day of adoption, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, issued [Ministerial Order M083](#) regarding relaxations to the rules surrounding local government meetings. The significance of this Order was that it enabled all local governments in the Province to hold meetings electronically even if they did not have such activities in their procedure bylaw. For the qRD, this order would now allow the Chair of the Committee or Board to preside over the meeting remotely if necessary. Another significant feature of this order is that local governments are not required to have public in attendance at the meeting. This will enable essential business to continue during the state of emergency, and will protect staff, elected officials and the public by enforcing physical distancing protocols and recommendations.

This Order also gives room for local governments to temporarily postpone public hearings and at the March 30, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board chose to postpone public hearings until a safer time.

Meetings will continue to be live-streamed for the public to watch. To view live and archived Regional Board meetings, please visit qathet.ca/webcasts.

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