



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT



REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE

May 13, 2020

Powell River, BC – To help keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) strongly urges you to please stay close to home this May long weekend.

Do not visit the qathet Regional District, City of Powell River, or Tla'amin Nation territory including Savary, Lasqueti and Texada islands until further notice.

Premier Horgan's message is clear. Remain close to home and **do not travel** this weekend. "This is not a time for a road trip to another community for a hike or a holiday. If you have a provincial park in your area, by all means visit it. Do not travel great distances, we need to stay close to home. Wherever you live is an outstanding place. Stay there and enjoy it," said the Premier.

qathet Regional District Chair, Patrick Brabazon expressed concern with visitors coming to the region during the upcoming holiday. "BC Ferries has advised that all reservations from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale this Thursday and Friday are now full. This is extremely worrying for our entire region. Our communities are not prepared to welcome visitors at this time. We are, in the strongest way possible, recommending you postpone your trip. It could save lives. Please do your part to protect your neighbours and fellow Canadians," said Brabazon.

Our health care facilities rely on limited resources and are continuing to provide for those in need. Our essential services, including grocery stores, are already very limited in providing for the needs of current residents. We are not equipped to service a large influx of visitors and if exposed, our small and remote communities are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19.

We are asking all residents to help spread this message and advise all their family and friends to please stay home this holiday weekend. The EOC thanks everyone for their cooperation.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 please visit qathet.ca.

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