



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT



REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE
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Regional Emergency Operations Centre Advises Visitors and Second Home Owners to Postpone Holiday Travel to qathet Region

qathet Regional District, B.C. – The Regional Emergency Operations Centre is advising all visitors and second home owners not to visit the qathet Regional District, City of Powell River, or Tla'amin Nation for the upcoming holidays. This travel advisory includes Savary, Lasqueti and Texada islands.

British Columbia has seen an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths, according to Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. Henry said she is strongly encouraging the public to follow all COVID-19 orders and advising everyone to stay close to home during the holiday season. "There are many small things that we can do that will get us through this," said Henry. "We can find ways to do this safely that will protect the elders in our family. Yes, we can see them, but we can't be together in the same way."

Our small and remote communities are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19. "We understand the desire to leave large urban centres in order to physically distance yourself and to visit with families, however such actions threaten the safety of our entire community," said Regional District Chair Patrick Brabazon. "In order to ensure everyone can celebrate the holidays, we strongly urge you to postpone travel plans to our region until further notice."

The qathet region is not immune to the effects of COVID-19. Earlier this fall, Tla'amin Nation experienced an outbreak of over 35 COVID-19 cases, prompting a State of Local Emergency Order. "Our roads remain closed to the general public with the exception of essential services and certified contractors in order to limit gatherings," said Hegus John Hackett. "Gathering with family and friends that do not live with you greatly increases the chances of catching or spreading COVID-19."

Regional health care facilities rely on limited resources and are continuing to provide for those in need. According to City of Powell River Mayor, Dave Formosa, the region cannot provide health services for a large influx of visitors. "Our health facilities need to focus on providing vital care to our local residents," said Formosa. "By reducing travel and remaining home for the holidays, you can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect your family and friends."

For more information on COVID-19 please visit qathet.ca.

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