



April 2, 2020

City opening more public washrooms, turning on water for community gardens

More public washrooms are now available for use in Campbell River. Facilities have been opened at Robron, Nunns Creek and Dick Murphy parks. Washroom, handwashing and drinking water facilities remain open at Spirit Square. A portable washroom is also being placed near the downtown fire hall.

"We had initially closed most facilities to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 as we did not have enough resources for the cleaning frequency required to ensure community safety. We recognized the demand for this service and worked to re-organized resources so that crews can attend to these facilities more frequently to provide the increased cleaning," explains Drew Hadfield, the City's director of operations. *"Safe use of these facilities requires everyone to be extremely vigilant about handwashing and to respect the public health requirements for physical distancing."*

The washrooms at Robron and Nunns Creeks will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The washroom at Dick Murphy Park will be open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

"Having access to more washrooms and handwashing stations will be particularly helpful to people experiencing homelessness in our community," adds city manager Deborah Sargent. *"We appreciate the extraordinary difficulty for people trying to navigate these changes without adequate shelter, and we are working with community partners and local service providers, including the Coalition to End Homelessness, to support our vulnerable population."*

"In terms of the demand for additional washroom access, unfortunately, we are not in a position to open facilities in other locations at this time," Hadfield adds. *"We are working to provide as much service as possible, and if we can arrange the required resources to allow us to open more facilities, we will certainly do so, and we will announce the change."*

Community gardens will have water tomorrow

The City is also turning on water for all three community gardens in Campbell River (Laughing Willow, Mountain View and Campbellton Community Garden). Gardeners must also maintain appropriate physical distance while in these locations.

Resources

- Find information and free referral to a full range of community, social and government services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.bc211.ca
- The Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness provides resources and community organization updates, plus access to services for people who may be in vulnerable situations www.crhousing.net
- Call the provincial health line 8-1-1 if you feel sick with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough)
- Direct questions regarding public health orders to the provincial hotline at 1-888-COVID19
- For general inquiries about City services, email info@campbellriver.ca or call 250-286-4033.
- Report crime to the RCMP detachment at 250-286-6221
- Report concerns on First Nations land to the First Nations Health Authority by email to covid19@fnha.ca or call 604-693-6500

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Contact: Deborah Sargent, City Manager

250-286-5740

Public health reminders

- Public access is prohibited in parks that include playground equipment, sports fields and courts, the off-leash dog park and all parks furniture (benches, picnic tables). These facilities are closed to reduce gathering and access to activities and equipment with commonly touched surfaces that can contribute to spreading the virus. Please do not remove signs posted in these areas.
- Pathways such as the Seawalk, Dick Murphy Park walkway and trails on Baikie Island may be used with appropriate physical distance – by people not required to stay home due to illness or potential exposure to the virus.
- To slow and limit the spread of COVID-19, everyone must clean hands frequently, stay home as much as possible and maintain at least two metres (six feet) physical distance from people who are not members of your household
- People returning from traveling outside Canada must be quarantined for 14 days.
- People who are sick must stay home.
- Shop in moderation for essential goods and services – and with required physical distance.