

May, 2020 First Edition

HICEEC REPORT

Coming together, while staying apart

Once the pandemic emergency was declared, during the initial time of critical communications, HICEEC brought together a team that adopted a five-pronged approach to get a “stay at home” message out. This included a press release (radio, TV, and print); a social media campaign on Hornby Island pages for both Facebook and Instagram; a COVID-19 advisory banner on hornbyisland.com; a www.hiceec.org COVID-19 alert banner, with the video featuring Casey & Finnegan; and messaging on the Hornby Island Community Connections Facebook Group.

HICEEC then initiated a regular State of the Economy Zoom call, which includes representatives from all sectors of the economy: Daniel Arbour (CVRD rep.); Sheila McDonnell (S.D. 71 trustee); Rudy Rogalsky & Lynn Nunley (HIRRA); Anita Lewis (New Horizons); Grant Scott (Islands Trust); Doug Chinnery (HIFR, First Responders); Angela Hudson, Frances Millan, Patrick Lui & Michael Williams (Hornby Island Short Term Rentals Assoc.); Lisha Scott & Don Peterson (the Coop); Ronaldo Cruz (Ford Cove Store); Mark Jones (UBCU & HIES); Karen Ross (BCF FAC); Stephen Bishop (Sea Breeze Lodge); Andrew Mark (HIAC); musicians; Ringside Market merchants; Dierdre Atkinson (the Festival); Cath Gray (CHI); Phil Davies (Lerena Vineyard); Jake Berman (hornbyisland.com), Lori Nawrot (Home Support); Jean Miserendino (Ford Cove Harbour Authority), etc. Feel your sector is missing? Contact karen@hiceec.org to join.

HICEEC staff and Board joined the HIRRA-organized Hornby COVID-19 response team, which shares weekly updates. Also on the team are the Islands Trust, Area A CVRD, the Hornby physicians/medical clinic, Home Support, Emergency Preparedness, First Responders, the Coop Store, and HIES/kitchen. Weekly updates have been shared.

It is heartening to witness representatives from all these local organizations stepping up and coming together to provide compassionate, strong leadership. Concerns for the safety and economic security of all members of our community has been the consistent focus of this work. These discussions are critical to help each group support and share with each other. And when the time comes that the safe re-opening of our economy is on the near horizon, these groups will work to ensure that it is done with care and caution.

Where to get help

HICEEC sought out the best sources of information on the rapidly evolving government relief programs and posts regular updates on Hornby Island Community Connections (thanks to Pat Mullan for moderating this far-reaching local forum). One of the best sources of comprehensive, updated information for non-profits and individuals is at: <https://bcnpha.ca/resources/covid-19-coronavirus/>. This site has printable pdfs with information on Federal Resources, Provincial Resources, Regional Health Authority Resources, Harm Reduction Resources, Guidance for Women Fleeing Violence, and Poster Resources.

An excellent source of information for small businesses, with federal and provincial summaries, is found at: <https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us>

Guide guidance

Separate discussions have been undertaken with advertisers in the annual Visitor Guide, which have led to some major changes reflecting the anticipated need to scale down activities, even in the best--case scenario. The print run will be cut in half, distribution limited to the local region and online; and some messaging regarding respecting social distancing will be added.

The new normal: virtual AGM

Notice is hereby given for the HICEEC Annual General Meeting. It will be held electronically, using Zoom conference calling, on Monday, June 1st, at 7 PM. We ask all those interested in attending to contact karen@hiceec.org to get on an email list so the access codes can be sent to you.

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: John Heinegg, Katherine Ronan, Carlyn Bishop, Jason Griggs, John Grayson, Jeff Zamluk, Jim Bulmer, and Jack Hornstein.