

April 16, 2020

Chair Kevin Acton and Chair Akbal Mund

Regional District of North Okanagan

9848 Aberdeen Road

Coldstream, BC

Chair Acton and Chair Mund

As you are aware, business owners in Greater Vernon are struggling through the Covid-19 pandemic, with many closing their doors or, if open, experiencing a significant reduction in revenue. Local business is the backbone of the community and the eventual move towards recovery requires support for business now.

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce requests that RDNO consider the following:

- That in conjunction with the provincial government, that the tax collection date be moved to the end of September. This is similar to a request RDNO has received from the City of Vernon.
- That 2020 utility bills for Greater Vernon Water and Silver Star Water customers be due four months after the billing cycle, and that interest be waived on outstanding balances until Dec. 31. This would be similar to the action taken in the District of Lake Country.
- That RDNO review the 2020 financial plan and if adjustments can be made to expenditures. Many business owners have had to make difficult decisions.
- Where funds exist, that RDNO proceed with 2020 capital projects as a way of supporting the economy. Conditions are also ideal at this time as many businesses are closed, so the negative impact of construction would be reduced.

The Greater Vernon Chamber has been focused on supporting its members and the business community through Covid-19, including promoting shop local and providing an online directory of businesses that are open. Another significant role has been advocating on behalf of business to all levels of government. We appreciate the efforts of the Board and Administration during an extremely challenging time for our community, and we look forward to working with you.

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Sincerely,



Krystin Kempton, President

Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce