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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 17, 2020**

**City Hall and Public Works Closed, Essential Services to Be Maintained**

DUNCAN, BC – The City of Duncan is committed to essential service delivery throughout the COVID-19 response. As a precautionary measure to protect the health of staff and customers, at the end of today, March 17, 2020, City Hall and Public Works will be closing to the public.

City staff can be reached by phone 250-746-6126, email [duncan@duncan.ca](mailto:duncan@duncan.ca) or through the website (complaints and payments) [www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca) for the foreseeable future. The drop box at City Hall will continue to be monitored for payments or correspondence.

This action is being taken in coordination with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the member municipalities of Ladysmith, North Cowichan and Lake Cowichan, each of which is also closing its administrative offices to the public.

Along with our CVRD partners, the City has reviewed essential service levels across all aspects of our workforce. At this time, we will continue to maintain our essential services, including fire protection, water and sewer utilities, garbage collection, bylaw enforcement, emergency management, communications, finance, and governance. Land use services, including building inspection and development planning, will continue on a limited basis.

Yesterday, in accordance with the latest recommendations from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, to limit public gatherings to 50 people and practice social distancing, the City announced cancellation of all public meetings and events at City Square, parks and sports fields.

Mayor Staples stated, “we recognize the challenges facing our residents and business owners. If we take preventative measures now, we can reduce the impacts of COVID-19 on our community members, particularly those who are most vulnerable.”

We apologize for the inconvenience these actions will inevitably create, and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we make every effort to adjust our operations to these exceptional circumstances.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus, please call HealthLink at 8-1-1. Questions about social distancing, and provincial and federal support, resources and assistance can be directed to the BC COVID-19 information hotline at 1-888-COVID19 or 1-888-268-4319.

**COVID-19 Information Links:**

- [Health Canada](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLinkBC](#)
- [Self-Screening Tool](#)

For more information, please contact:

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