

Public Statement
Bishop's Falls Town Council
March 18, 2020

In response to the latest information regarding COVID-19 and the advice from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Bishop's Falls Town Council is implementing additional measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Effective immediately, the Town of Bishop's Falls is implementing an *Essential Services Plan* as follows:

- All Town facilities are closed to public access.
- The Town will continue to deliver the following essential services:
 - o Snow clearing
 - o Waterline break repairs
 - o Wastewater system maintenance/monitoring
 - o Sewer/Water lateral service repairs
 - o Major asphalt repairs (i.e. large potholes)
 - o Fire hydrants snow removal
 - o Chlorine sampling
 - o Emergencies (i.e. fire, localized flooding, etc.)
 - o Garbage removal from recreation sites
 - o Payroll
 - o Accounts payable
 - o Accounts receivable
 - o Public inquiries
- To protect the public and our employees, essential services will be addressed using a modified service delivery approach. Effective immediately;
 - o Regular public works and recreation employees will be based from their homes. They will be called upon only to address essential services applicable to their respective Departments as per the *Essential Services Plan*.
 - o Regular administration employees will report to work at the Town Hall on a restricted schedule that adheres to the social distancing recommendations. At most, only two employees will be in the Town Hall at any given time. The Town Hall will no longer accept in-person visitations.
- Payments will only be received by mail, through BMO online banking, or over the telephone by credit card. Payments by telephone will only be received on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Council will continue to waive the credit card convenience fee while the *Essential Services Plan* is in effect.
- Vendors are advised to mail invoices and statements to the Town Hall or send them by email to vperry@bishopsfalls.ca. Once invoices are approved by Council, payments will be issued on Mondays and Tuesdays.

- The Town will continue to check mail on a daily basis, Monday to Friday.
- Public inquiries will be addressed Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. If you have a general question/concern/issue, you must contact us by telephone (258 6581), email (info@bishopsfalls.ca), or through our website (submit a concern button <https://bishopsfalls.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=9965316&pageId=12934885>).

The Bishop's Falls Town Council continues to monitor the developments surrounding COVID-19 closely, and it will adjust its approach where circumstances warrant.

Mayor Bryan King stated, "It is clear we need to elevate our response to the COVID-19 health emergency and focusing on essential services is the next step. Our employees, where possible, will be based at home, and will only respond when necessary to deliver essential services. Rest assured your municipal government is watching this situation closely, and we will continue to ensure services are held to the best possible standard in these unique circumstances. Please be safe and follow the instructions of the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland Labrador."

For information regarding COVID-19, please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>