



## Chief and Mayor Urge Travellers to Stay Home

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In light of the dangers posed by the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus, District of Lillooet Mayor Peter Busse and Cayoose Creek Indian Band Chief Michelle Edwards today issued a joint statement asking travelers to 'Stay Home.'

The District of Lillooet and its surrounding communities, whose collective population is roughly 5,000 are all completely dependent on the limited local health and retail services available here and are very concerned an infected traveler will introduce the virus into the local community.

"We owe the residents of Lillooet the utmost in protections through this period and it does not help to have out of town traffic arriving," said Mayor Busse. "We not only urge, but we demand, that the unnecessary traffic ceases forthwith."

He added: "If you are not needed here for Lillooet's essential services – you must stay away. You put us all at risk and this will not be accepted."

Chief Michelle Edwards of Cayoose Creek Indian Band (Sekw'el'was) reinforced the mayor's message.

"The local population of Lillooet and each of the Indigenous communities is relatively small, therefore, even a single case of COVID-19 may have a devastating effect on the St'at'imc people," she said. "The only cure we have right now is prevention and we encourage all people to be both self-aware and community-aware and maintaining social distance and staying at home."

Mayor Busse noted that, overall, activity in the community has been dramatically reduced and the vast majority of local residents are following the safe practices prescribed by public health officials in this difficult time.

"On the whole, I am most pleased with our businesses and residents that have taken this pandemic seriously and how they have come to the fore in adhering to the recommendations and edicts from Public Health," the mayor said.

The District of Lillooet lies in the heart of St'at'imc Territory and is encompassed by the St'at'imc communities of Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et, Xwisten, Xaxli'p, Ts'kw'aylaxw and Tsal'alh as well as Areas A and B of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

Issued by the District of Lillooet Emergency Operations Centre  
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