

BC COVID-19

Positive Tests

659 BC-wide incl.
42 new cases in BC
on Wednesday
47 total cases in
Island Health.
13 deaths in BC
183 of the 659
have recovered.

Gabriola SOUNDER

A DAILY BRIEF from Gabriola's Weekly Community Newspaper

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 8

Province announces up to \$500/mo relief package for home renters

Sounder News

To support people and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Province is introducing a new temporary rental supplement, halting evictions and freezing rents, among other actions.

The new rental supplement will help households by offering up to \$500 a month towards their rent, building on federal and provincial financial supports already announced for British Columbians facing financial hardship.

Premier John Horgan said, "With lost jobs and lost wages due to COVID-19, many tenants are worried they can't make the rent. It's a challenging time for landlords too. Nobody should lose their home as a result of COVID-19. Our plan will give much-needed financial relief to renters and landlords. It will also provide more security for renters, who will be able to stay in their homes without fear of eviction or increasing rents during this emergency."

The funds will support renters experiencing a loss of income by helping them pay their rent and will be paid directly to landlords on their behalf, to ensure landlords continue to receive rental income during the pandemic. Benefiting people with low to moderate incomes, this supplement will be available to renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs.

Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing said, "People are feeling a lot of fear and anxiety and they need to be able to depend on the comfort and stability of home right now. Our government is taking steps to help take some of the pressure off renters and landlords and protect people's health. We're helping renters pay rent and giving them the peace of mind that they have a stable home in these unprecedented times, and ensuring that landlords can count on some rental income right now to keep them afloat too."

Robinson was asked if the payments would be allocated by individual renter; or by rental unit (say for each of the three persons sharing a rental unit; or just a single payment of \$500/mo for that unit).

She said that was one of the details still being worked out, but that specific question had come up in the discussions.

Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA for Vancouver-West End, who led the Province's Rental Housing Task Force, consulted with a broad range of tenant and landlord organizations to inform the development of these actions that meet the needs of both landlords and tenants during the pandemic.

"As we work together to fight this pandemic, we can't afford to leave anyone behind," Chandra Herbert said. "That's why I delivered recommendations that address the immediate concerns of both landlords and tenants who are doing their best at this difficult time."

The Province is implementing a number of additional measures to keep people housed and protect their health. The full list of immedi-



Derek Kilbourn photo

PLAYGROUNDS CLOSED - Chris van Ossenbruggen with Regional District of Nanaimo Recreation & Parks tapes off the Huxley Community Park Playground on Wednesday, March 25. The RDN and Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District announced the closure off all playgrounds, sport courts, and other facilities earlier this week, in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

ate measures includes:

- * The new temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month, paid directly to landlords.

- * Halting evictions by ensuring a landlord may not issue a new notice to end tenancy for any reason. However, in exceptional cases where it may be needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the property, landlords will be able to apply to the Residential Tenancy Branch for a hearing.

- * Halting the enforcement of existing eviction notices issued by the Residential Tenancy Branch, except in extreme cases where there are safety concerns. The smaller number of court ordered evictions are up to the courts, which operate independently of government.

- * Freezing new annual rent increases during the state of emergency.

- * Preventing landlords from accessing rental units without the consent of the tenant (for example, for showings or routine maintenance), except in exceptional cases where it is needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the unit.

- * Restricting methods that renters and landlords can use to serve notices to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19 (no personal service and allowing email).

- * Allowing landlords to restrict the use of common areas by tenants or guests to protect against the transmission of COVID-19.

To further support renters and landlords, the Residential Tenancy Branch will implement several additional actions, including adjourning and rescheduling hearings in situations where people need additional time to prepare and extending timelines for filing applications for dispute resolution.

Next daily updates by: Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, BC Minister of Health: Thurs., Mar. 26 & Fri. March 27. 3pm.

These can be watched live online, or after-the-fact on [Facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment) and [Twitter @BCGovNews](https://twitter.com/BCGovNews)

Canada Emergency Response Benefit to provide \$2,000 for up to four months to workers

To support workers and help businesses keep their employees, the Canadian Government has proposed legislation to establish the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). This taxable benefit would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB would be a simpler and more accessible combination of the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

The CERB would cover Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures. The CERB would apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).

Additionally, workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19, would also qualify for the CERB. This would help businesses keep their employees as they navigate these difficult times, while ensuring they preserve the ability to quickly resume operations as soon as it becomes possible.

The EI system was not designed to process the unprecedented high volume of applications received in the past week. Given this situation, all Canadians who have ceased working due to COVID-19, whether they are EI-eligible or not, would be able to receive the CERB to ensure they have timely access to the income support they need.

Canadians who are already receiving EI regular and sickness benefits as of today would continue to receive their benefits and should not apply to the CERB. If their EI benefits end before October 3, 2020, they could apply for the CERB once their EI benefits cease, if they are unable to return to work due to COVID-19. Canadians who have already applied for EI and whose application has not yet been processed would not need to reapply. Canadians who are eligible for EI regular and sickness benefits would still be able to access their normal EI benefits, if still unemployed, after the 16-week period covered by the CERB.

The government is working to get money into the pockets of Canadians as quickly as possible. The portal for accessing the CERB would be available in early April. EI eligible Canadians who have lost their job can continue to apply for EI here, as can Canadians applying for other EI benefits.

Canadians would begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The CERB would be paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.

This benefit would be one part of the government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, to support Canadian workers and businesses and help stabilize the economy by helping Canadians pay for essentials like housing and groceries, and helping businesses pay their employees and bills during this unprecedented time of global uncertainty.

**Take the self-assessment survey
for COVID-19 symptoms**
<http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Nanaimo RCMP warn about COVID-19 scams

Nanaimo RCMP

As the world gears up to curb the spread of COVID-19, some people have taken to using the pandemic as a new way to scam vulnerable populations.

Scammers play on fears and anxiety to push their scams. They brazenly set up fake websites to sell bogus products, use fake emails, texts, and a variety of other fake social media posts, including false testimonials, as a ruse to obtain money and personal information from people.

For the sole reason of soliciting donations and playing on your goodwill, scammers have been spreading misinformation about COVID-19, offering advice on unproven treatments, protective gear or detection kits, or fake home sanitizing services.

The following profiles six scams that are currently making their way around the internet. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Linked In are just a few of the more popular social media platforms being used to spread this disinformation.

Fraud – Private companies offering fast COVID-19 tests for sale.

Fact – In Canada, only hospitals can perform the test and no other tests are genuine or guaranteed to provide accurate results.

Fraud – Door-to-door solicitors offering fake decontamination services.

Fact – Follow direction of the Provincial Health Authority to decontaminate your home and reduce your personal risk.

Fraud – Fraudsters posing as police have been imposing on-the-spot fines to consumers wearing masks claiming that wearing a mask in public goes against a full-face veil law.

Fact – It is not illegal to wear a mask for health reasons.

Fraud – Fraudsters urge you to invest in hot new stocks related to the virus.

Fact – You should only ever purchase stocks through reputable sources and banking institutions.

Fraud – Fraudsters sending emails, texts or online campaigns that capitalize on the public's fears about COVID-19.

Fact – Do not respond to unsolicited email, texts or phone calls. Don't click on any links or provide any information about yourself. If you have any doubts about where the email came from, make sure to check the identity of the sender, and if you receive a suspicious phone call, hang-up.

Fraud – Fraudsters are creating fraudulent and deceptive online ads offering cleaning products, hand sanitizers, other items in high demand

Fact – Buy from companies or individuals you know by reputation or from past experience. Before checking out, make sure you're still on a reputable website and have not been redirected to a third-party page. Use a credit card when shopping online; many offer protection and may give you a refund.

If you were contacted by someone who you suspect is a scammer and have not lost money or provided any personal information, should report the interaction to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and not the Nanaimo RCMP.

Concerning other local scams, there have been only a handful of callers to the Nanaimo RCMP reporting scammers asking for donations for COVID-19. All of the callers stated, they relied on a quick google search to confirm the caller was not from a reputable agency, and then simply hung up the phone or ignored the internet postings. None of the callers to the Nanaimo RCMP reported losing any money or giving out personal information.

With to frauds and scams in general, in recent weeks there have been a number of incidents reported to the Nanaimo RCMP, of scammers going door to door offering cleaning services, hot water tanks and water purification kits. While none of the callers indicated it was related to the COVID-19 outbreak, it would not be surprising to see this begin.

Anyone who has lost money or divulged personal information to a scammer, either online or in person, can call the non-emergency line of the Nanaimo RCMP at 250-754-2345.

NO FIRES

Fire Ban in effect for Gabriola Island due to COVID-19 respiratory concerns

Will Sprogis, Fire Chief, Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department

Hello Gabriola, We hope you are all safe and healthy at home.

We have an important announcement regarding open burning on the island.

Under the directive of the RDN the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department has now implemented a complete ban on all open burning.

This is due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and air quality concerns for those that may be affected. This ban is effective immediately and you will see all the "No Fire" signs up around the island by the end of the day.

Exemptions from the open burning ban are cooking fires and woodstoves to heat your homes. We thank you for your continued support and compliance during these difficult times.

We will get through this, together.

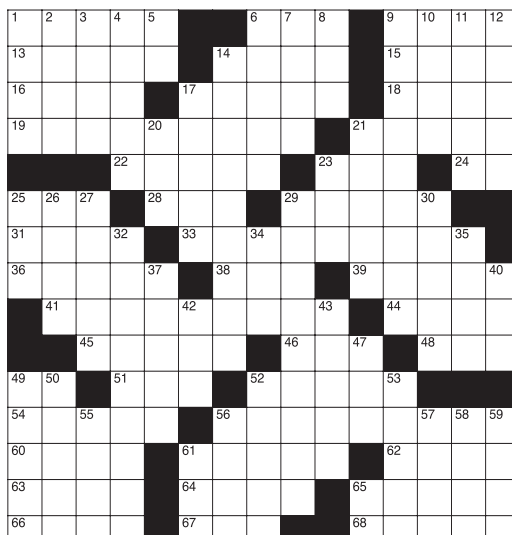


RAVEN
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Open Tuesday - Friday 9-4

We welcome phone orders with credit card payments or come to our take out window.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Punctuation mark
6. Married woman
9. Nocturnal rodent
13. Suffix
14. A way to disappoint
15. Saddle horse
16. West African country
17. Philippine island
18. "Girls" creator Dunham
19. A type of twin
21. Groans
22. Infections
23. What a beaver makes
24. Thou
25. Make a mistake
28. Receive
29. Dresses
31. Burn the surface of
33. Where coaches observe
36. Ceremonial offices
38. Paddle
39. The body's main artery
41. Altered the original state
44. Alleges
45. Short-billed rails
46. Northern Thai province
48. Albanian monetary unit
49. Who the Wolverines play for
51. Oath
52. Astronomical period
54. A single unit
56. Presides over
60. Spoiled tot
61. Hillsides
62. Fertility god
63. Assuage
64. Signs a contract
65. Ancient Greek war dance
66. Allows
67. Lunar crater
68. Crash a motorcycle (Brit. slang)



CLUES DOWN

1. Loose-fitting undergarment
2. Western Romanian city
3. Unit of length
4. Type of electricity
5. Article
6. Mothers
7. Monetary unit
8. Single Lens Reflex
9. Tan-colored horses
10. Region
11. Cautious in spending money
12. Belittle
14. Sarcastic
17. Fathers
20. Clothes
21. Opera's Callas
23. Lentil dish
25. Energy-saving module
26. Make sense of a language
27. Hurries through
29. Songs to one's lover
30. Name given to plant groups
32. Improves
34. Patriotic women
35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid
37. Instrument in Indian music
40. Request
42. Make into leather without using tannin
43. Defies
47. Neither
49. Flower cluster
50. Phonological unit
52. Leaves in water
53. Cavalry-sword
55. Famed American cartoonist
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
57. Scarlett's home
58. Make
59. Stony waste matter
61. What to do at auction
65. Incorrect letters

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DELIVERY: PIZZAS, SALADS, DESSERTS, & READY TO GO FROZEN MEALS, PLUS BEERS, CIDERS, & BOTTLES OF WINE!
HOURS WILL BE 4 - 8PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP! OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 4 - 8PM.
CALL 250 247 0095 OR 250 247 0093 TO ORDER.

WOODFIRERESTAURANT.CA
250 247 0095 OR 250 247 0093



Local Government:

Islands Trust buildings are open for business, closed to public. Local Trust Committee meetings are on hold indefinitely. www.islandstrust.bc.ca

Regional District of Nanaimo: Administration offices are closed to the public. Seek RDN services via phone or email. www.rdn.bc.ca

250-390-4111 or 1-877-607-4111 or email inquiries@rdn.bc.ca
Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District: Fire Halls are closed to the public. Contact at 250-247-9677 or email gabfire@shaw.ca or call the Duty Officer at 250-755-9289.

Gabriola RMCP: Front counter closed. Call non-emergency line at 250-247-8333. At the detachment use the phone in the call box by the door and speak with an emergency dispatcher.

If you have an emergency, please call 911 immediately.

FREE DAILY DELIVERY

(30lb or less items) for people in self-isolation.

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Call to Special Order.

Regular sanitizing, and social distancing program in place in store.



ACE
Hardware
490 North Road, Gabriola
250-247-8800
www.acecanada.ca
9-5 Daily



RDN Chair Issues Statement on Discretionary Travel During COVID-19

RDN Press Release

On behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors, Chair Ian Thorpe is urging all visitors, tourists and residents to avoid discretionary travel in the RDN including Gabriola, Mudge, and DeCourcy Islands. The Board passed a motion supporting this at yesterday's Special Board Meeting.

"Travel should be discouraged unless it's necessary," said RDN Board Chair Ian Thorpe. "The more we can encourage people to stay home and self-isolate and not go out unless they need to, the better."

Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 by making a conscious effort to keep a physical distance between each other. Physical distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak. This means avoiding crowded places and non-essential gatherings; limiting contact with people at higher risk (e.g. older adults and those in poor health); and keeping a distance of at least two arms lengths (approximately two metres) from others.

For the most up-to-date information and resources related to COVID-19, visit Public Health Agency of Canada, BC Centre for Disease Control and Island Health.

This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none.

BE THE SECOND LITTLE PIGGY!



LISTENING TO MUSIC CAN DECREASE LEVELS OF CORTISOL IN THE BODY, WHICH CAN HELP REDUCE WHAT?

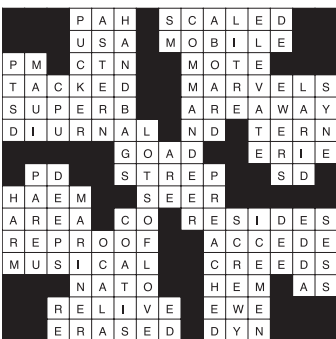
ANSWER: STRESS

Today's Joke

Wash your hands like you're trying to wash away the disappointment of another Canucks season without them winning a Stanley Cup. 😜

If you would like to donate to this daily brief effort, or purchase a subscription of the regular weekly edition to be delivered via email we would be grateful for your support.

Click on this link or copy and paste to your browser
<https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/7ba8fhfg94af>



6	5	4	1	7	3	2	8	9
7	9	8	5	2	6	1	3	4
2	3	1	4	8	9	5	7	6
9	2	7	8	6	1	4	5	3
4	6	3	2	9	5	8	1	7
1	8	5	3	4	7	6	9	2
8	1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5
5	7	2	9	1	4	3	6	8
3	4	6	7	5	8	9	2	1

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Instrument

SPANISH: Instrumento

ITALIAN: Strumento

FRENCH: Instrument

GERMAN: Instrument

6				7	3	2	8	
7	9		5					
2		1						6
					1	4	5	
		3			5	8	1	
1	8	5		4			9	2
8					2		4	
	7		9	1		3	6	8
3						9	2	

The Sudoku Puzzle is played over a 9x9 grid, in each row there are 9 slots, some of them are empty and need to be filled. Each row, column and "area" (3*3) should contain the numbers 1 to 9, but: The number can appear only once on each row, once on each column & only once on each area (3*3 slots). The number should appear only once a row, column or area.

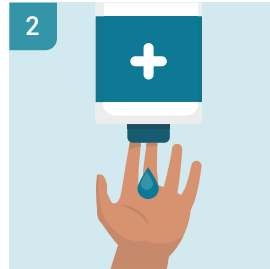


HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST INFECTIONS



1 WET HANDS



2 APPLY SOAP



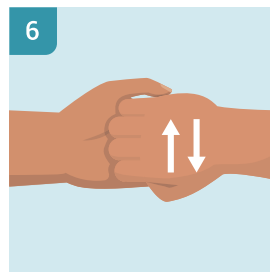
3 RUB HANDS
PALM TO PALM



4 LATHER THE BACKS
OF YOUR HANDS



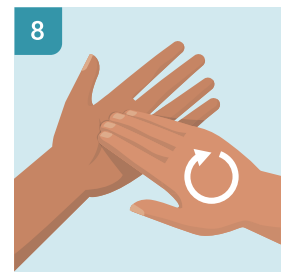
5 SCRUB
BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS



6 RUB THE BACKS
OF FINGERS ON
THE OPPOSING PALMS



7 CLEAN THUMBS



8 WASH FINGERNAILS
AND FINGERTIPS



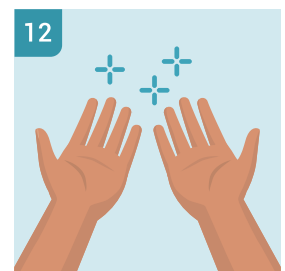
9 RINSE HANDS



10 DRY WITH
A SINGLE USE TOWEL



11 USE THE TOWEL
TO TURN OFF THE FAUCET



12 YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN

Please thoroughly wash your hands to

keep us healthy!