

***Town of Port McNeill***  
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May 29, 2020

Dear Port McNeill Visitors:

After a time of isolating and heeding the advice of our provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, we are ready to welcome you to our community this summer.

British Columbia has done an excellent job at containing the COVID- 19 virus and in June we expect to be moving into Phase three of BC's Restart Plan. We know most British Columbians have been staying in their own communities, but now that the weather is getting better and provincial parks are re-opening, you are anxious to get some fresh air and go back to making memories with your families.

### **What can you expect when you travel to Port McNeill?**

Community members are taking Dr. Bonnie Henry's recommendations very seriously, so please respect other people's "bubbles". You will find residents friendly and welcoming. We have plenty of fresh air and wide-open spaces for you to be able to get outside and maintain your social distance. Our parks are open, and our many trails vary in levels of difficulty, accommodating a variety of fitness levels.

Our shops, restaurants, and accommodations have taken the welfare of their staff and customers very seriously. They have been diligent in meeting all WorksafeBC COVID guidelines specific to operation of their businesses. You will be able to purchase most of what you need while you are here, and you will feel safe.

### **What may be not be available?**

Many of our tourism operators are still working out the details of their services with social distancing guidelines. Some may not be able to offer activities for you to take part in. Companies offering whale watching, fishing charters and wildlife tours are in the midst of determining how they can operate safely. If these activities are what you wish to do in our area, please call the providers in advance so you will not be disappointed. You can access the many tourism companies and find more information about them as the weeks progress through Vancouver Island North's website:

[www.vancouverislandnorth.ca](http://www.vancouverislandnorth.ca).

Thank you for respecting our initial request to explore closer to home. We needed the extra time to set systems in place to keep our residents and travelers safe. We are now ready to welcome you to our community and the region we love so much, all be it in a new way.

On behalf of the Town of Port McNeill Council & Staff,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Wickstrom". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Mayor Gaby Wickstrom