

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

### Information Release

May 22, 2020

#### Provincial Funding Supports COVID-19 Safety Precautions at Loose Bay Campground

---

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has received funding support from the Ministry of Agriculture to continue coordinating COVID-19 safety precautions at Loose Bay Campground near Oliver, BC. The \$60,000 in funding will help cover costs associated with hiring an RDOS COVID-19 coordinator, cleaning and hygiene measures, as well as printing educational materials and signage. The RDOS shares the Province's recognition of the importance of providing seasonal accommodations for domestic temporary workers who support farms and tree planting.

"Domestic temporary workers are a designated essential service and they are a crucial and appreciated resource in maintaining part of the food supply system," says RDOS Chair Karla Kozakevich. "Providing seasonal accommodations at Loose Bay Campground helps agricultural workers remain safe and available for service." The RDOS will continue working with the Province, Interior Health, industry representatives, and local elected officials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The RDOS is also in regular communication with the Province to identify ways to minimize the health and safety risks posed by the current practice of open camping in the region. Senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture will be working with farmers and industry associations to ensure farmers understand their responsibilities as employers to promote community and worker health and safety during this time. Once workers arrive at a safe site, they're encouraged to stay local and avoid all non-essential travel.

#### Loose Bay Campground COVID-19 Precautions

All new entry residents at Loose Bay Campground and visitors, such as farmers looking to hire temporary workers, are greeted by the RDOS COVID-19 coordinator for the site and are then required to complete a COVID-19 Self-Assessment before entering the camp. This step is also required for anyone who has been away from the camp for more than 24 hours. Campers are also provided with a site orientation and discussion about COVID-19 prevention including physical distancing. A copy of the orientation is provided in English and French.

In the event an individual is identified as having COVID-19 symptoms, steps are in place to ensure the individual follows provincial health directives. This includes contacting 8-1-1 Health Link and following the directions of a nurse. Next steps may include making arrangements for a COVID-19 test and quarantine if directed by a physician. Isolation would be facilitated by Interior Health and coordinated by BC Housing.

#### Background

On May 1, 2020 Loose Bay Campground, a seasonal facility that has historically catered to domestic temporary workers, opened for the season. The RDOS holds a license of occupation on the Crown parcel where Loose Bay Campground is located. In past years, the Loose Bay Campground Society, an independent agricultural industry group has managed the campground.

On April 27 of this year, the society voted to dissolve as a result of the complexities of meeting the safety guidelines required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Loose Bay Campground is used by domestic temporary workers as well as tourists and others, many of whom stay several months at a time.

#####

For further information, please call 250-492-0237 or email [info@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:info@rdos.bc.ca).

*Karla Kozakevich*

---

Karla Kozakevich, Chair  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

CivicReady® Mass Notification System – sign up for routine and emergency notifications: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/civic-ready/>



Loose Bay Campground Orientation  
Photo: Anne Benn, RDOS Emergency Program Coordinator