



DISTRICT OF LILLOOET

INFORMATION RELEASE

APRIL 14, 2020

Explaining the role of the Emergency Operations Centre

We want to make sure residents have a clear understanding of the role of the District of Lillooet's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

In response to the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 in BC, the District of Lillooet activated its EOC on March 18. That same day, the District also closed its Municipal Hall and REC Centre to the public to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The District is still maintaining essential services despite these closures.

The EOC is a structure established under the authority of the *BC Emergency Program Act*. In the current Provincial State of Emergency, the role of Lillooet's EOC is to support the lead agencies in dealing with the threat of coronavirus/COVID-19.

The lead agencies in this emergency are the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health. This means that the front-line agencies coordinating efforts across the province in the current emergency are the health care professionals, including our heroic nurses and doctors and support staff. It is the role of Lillooet's EOC to provide support for these health care workers by supporting the health agencies that they work for.

To help understand the primary and secondary responsibilities of the EOC, the Terms of Reference can be downloaded [here](#).

Everyone should understand that the EOC is not a large organization with an army of workers and a dedicated budget. Lillooet's EOC is comprised of a very small number of individuals, some are District of Lillooet staff and some are volunteers, who are engaged with a multitude of tasks in support of the lead agencies as set out in the Terms of Reference.

If the need arises, the EOC can request additional staffing and resources to meet the challenges of the emergency but can only proceed if approved by the Province. If the EOC spends money that falls outside the parameters approved by the Province, the District of Lillooet will not be reimbursed for those expenses.

The EOC may be able to provide logistical support to volunteer organizations who provide a needed service but the EOC cannot provide boots on the ground or funding that is not approved by the Province.

Lillooet's EOC is in frequent contact with local health care officials, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District's EOC and the EOCs established by the various surrounding St'at'imc communities, as well as provincial agencies.

For more information about Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS), visit this site:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc>

If you have health concerns, call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1
Issued by the District of Lillooet Emergency Operations Centre
covidinfo@lillooet.ca

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