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**March 20, 2020**

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

### **Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses Adapts Operations in Response to COVID-19**

**The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB)** recognizes increased concern over the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on Vancouver Island. As such, we have adapted operations for many of our businesses to help reduce the spread of the virus. Our highest priority is the health of our staff, Citizens and communities. As this situation evolves, we have taken steps to modify our immediate operations. We have made the following changes to our businesses:

#### **The Market and Cafe**

Several weeks ago, we started to prepare by increasing order sizes for supplies brought into the Market for the community. We have added stock of essential items to ensure that there are supplies for our community. Starting **Friday, March 20**, we will be offering free scheduled deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Orders must be placed and paid for before 6pm the day before and can be made over the phone at 250-728-2000. Delivery does not include any Alcohol or Tobacco. If visiting the Market, you can expect precautionary measures taken to reduce the risk of contact between individuals. These actions include decreasing staff working at one time and self-checkout services. Effective immediately, our store hours will be

**Monday and Tuesday:** 11am - 6pm

**Wednesday:** *Closed*

**Thursday to Saturday:** 11am - 6pm

**Sunday:** *Closed*

#### **Malsit Public House**

Following the order by BC's provincial health officer with regard to public gathering spaces, the Malsit Public House remains closed until further notice.

### **Pachena Bay Campground**

Effective immediately, we have delayed the opening of the Pachena Bay Campground. The facility will remain closed until further notice as we continue to monitor the situation closely.

### **Awis Guesthouse, Upnit Lodge, and Hacas Inn**

We have suspended all reservations and bookings for the month of April. At this time, we will offer emergency accommodation for stranded visitors who need somewhere to stay. We are also discussing ways to use these facilities with the local Health Care Centre in the event they are needed.

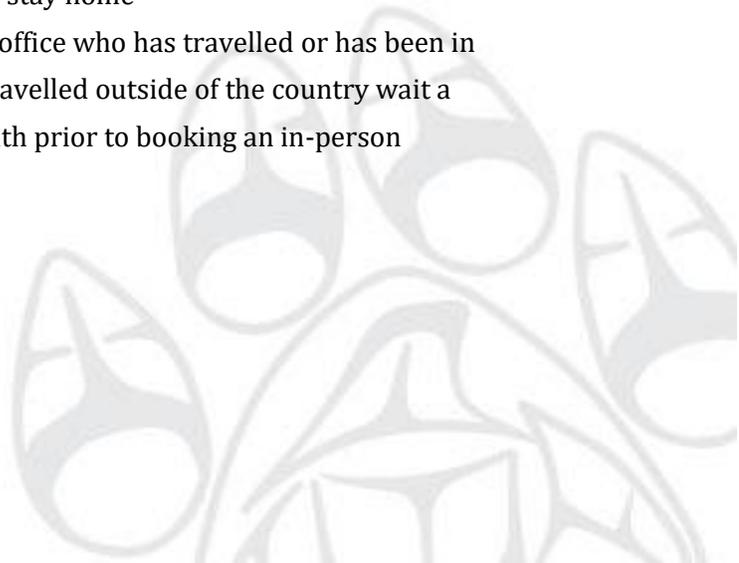
### **Forestry**

Our forestry operations will continue to monitor the updates from federal, provincial and municipal authorities and will be making decisions and updating staff based on these updates. We will be modifying operations and working directly with staff on changes to practice social distancing to help reduce the transmission of the virus.

### **HGB Office**

Our office is configured in a manner that allows for social distancing so we will continue to maintain regular business hours, but will be closed to the public. We will be available by appointment only and can be reached at **778-421-2663** to book. To keep our team safe and minimize the spread of the virus, we have taken the following steps:

- We will be requesting meetings be done over the phone or with video conferencing
- Regular cleaning and sanitizing of work stations and common areas
- We have ensured staff are prepared to work remotely
- We are asking staff that do not feel well to stay home
- We are asking that anyone who visits our office who has travelled or has been in contact with someone who has recently travelled outside of the country wait a minimum of 14 days to evaluate your health prior to booking an in-person meeting



We understand that many of these decisions will affect employment. We are currently exploring options available for employment assistance at the local, provincial and federal levels. We will provide updates as more information becomes available.

The health and safety of our people is a priority and although we were faced with challenging decisions, we feel strength in knowing our proactive measures will help prevent the spread of this virus. We believe in health before the economy.

Wishing you mental and physical health during this time.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer**  
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