

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2020

Cowichan Strong partnership launches COVID-19 business recovery needs assessment

DUNCAN, BC – In response to the unparalleled economic impacts of COVID-19, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and its Cowichan Strong partners are reaching out to the business community to assess the effects of the pandemic at a local level.

[Cowichan Strong](#), a partnership initiated by Economic Development Cowichan, the Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures Cowichan, is spearheading a [Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Survey](#) designed to measure the impact of the COVID-19 event on business operations in the Cowichan – now and in the weeks to come.

“Over the last few weeks, many of us have seen business reduce hours, modify how they operate or close completely,” said Barry O’Riordan, Manager of Economic Development Cowichan. “While there are many anecdotal stories, we need more solid local-level data to help our businesses through the recovery phase.”

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment is being distributed to local business owners as a survey, and serves as a first step in building a COVID-19 recovery plan for the Cowichan business community. This will be the first of a series of surveys that will be shared every four weeks for the next three months to assess the economic recovery progress.

Economic Development Cowichan is also working closely with Social Planning Cowichan to support a series of [COVID-19 Community Surveys](#) that assess impacts on a personal/household level. Those surveys are available at the Social Planning Cowichan website and all residents of the Cowichan region are encouraged to participate.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Barry O’Riordan
Manager, Economic Development Cowichan
250.709.1119
barry.oriordan@cvrd.bc.ca