



Northern Rockies Regional Municipality
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April 8, 2020

Re: US travelers on the Alaska Highway/NRRM and COVID-19

As mayor of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, I would like to bring to your attention a very serious concern during this pandemic state of emergency.

Many other communities have expressed trepidations about people that are still travelling, for tourism or to vacation properties. The Northern Rockies usually sees the number of US travellers increase at this time of year, due to tourism and as many part-time Alaskan residents travel north from their winter home in the lower 48, and this year is proving no different in spite of COVID-19 warnings.

There is no doubt that these travellers are stopping in communities for fuel, food and rest; the unfortunate truth is that the communities that they are patronizing are some of those least equipped to cope with the demands of a COVID-19 outbreak in terms of health and other resources. Unless travelers indicate "leisure or recreation" at the Canada-US border crossing, they are allowed entry by CBSA and directed to self-isolate at their end destination.

Given the remoteness of our location, we would like to see much more strict regulation of travel into the region, essentially precluding ALL travel that is non-essential. Fort Nelson First Nation has closed its gateways to all but essential traffic, but as a local government we are unable to provide our residents with the same health security.

I hope that you are able to give serious consideration to this request, which we are making on behalf of our northern residents who deserve protection at this vulnerable time.

If you have any questions, I am happy to discuss them with you, please feel free to call me at 1.250.500.1060 (cellular). Thank you for your consideration – I trust you will understand the reason for my concern.

Sincerely,
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Foster, Mayor

CC:

Hon. Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena - Bulkley Valley
Bob Zimmer, MP Prince George – Peace River -
Northern Rockies
Todd Doherty, MP Cariboo – Prince George
Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George - Valemount
Mike Bernier, MLA Peace River South
Mike Morris, MLA Prince George - Mackenzie
Dan Davies, MLA Peace River North
Dale Bumstead, Mayor – Dawson Creek
Rob Fraser, Mayor – District of Taylor
Lori Ackerman, Mayor – Fort St. John
Lyn Hall, Mayor – Prince George
Beverly Playfair, Mayor – Fort St. James
Gladys Atrill, Deputy Mayor - Smithers
Dolores Funk, Mayor – Burns Lake
Lee Brain, Mayor – Prince Rupert
Philip Germuth, Mayor – Kitimat
Carol Leclerc, Mayor – Terrace
Sarrah Storey, Mayor – Fraser Lake
Daniel Bertrand, Director Area A, Central Coast RD
Keith Bertrand, Mayor – Tumbler Ridge
Allen Courtoreille, Mayor – Chetwynd
Joan Atkinson, Mayor - Mackenzie
Brad Sperling, Director, Peace River RD

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