



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

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February 18, 2021

File No. 0530-01

Premier John Horgan
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

Hon. Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P4

Dear Premier Horgan, Minister Dix and Dr. Henry:

Re: Vaccine Distribution

As local leaders, we feel that more communication should be provided to communities about timelines, goals, and expectations regarding vaccine distribution. As far as we are aware, this massive responsibility has been designated to local health authorities. This becomes an issue for hospitals and health units already working at capacity and trying to cope with the additional complexities and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would suggest that perhaps a separate task force could be started to alleviate the burden placed on health authorities for vaccine administration. There are additional resources that could be called upon in these unprecedented times, such as using our military personnel, local health programs such as nursing and medical schools, pharmacists, or paramedics.

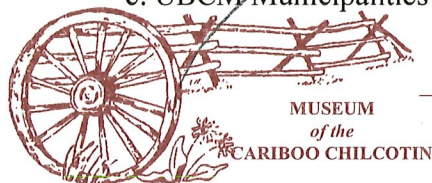
A task force of health professionals could help determine the best use of our limited resources. Using a convoy of medical personnel from city to city may be advantageous once the vaccine supply is more available. It is clear that allowing the same personnel to administer the COVID-19 vaccine as the flu vaccine is not that simple due to complex storage and administration. We are already hearing of doses having to be disposed of due to improper storage. Although the current vaccine supply is limited, we need to be prepared for a general public roll-out – and for the public to be informed.

Our understanding is that the high-risk population is currently being vaccinated through to the end of March (Phases 1 and 2), which will transition to Phase 3 and 4 for the general population. Following this projection, everyone who wishes to receive the vaccine will have had an opportunity by the end of September 2021. Please know you have our full support and recognition that these are extremely challenging times. We hope to be part of the solution and look forward to opportunities to support vaccine distribution, including assistance with establishing community vaccination sites.

Yours truly,

Mayor Walt Cobb

c: UBCM Municipalities and Regional Districts



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