



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
3400 – 30 Street
Vernon, BC
V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 8, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants

TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

COVID-19 update: Public attendance at Council meetings paused in accordance with health order

On December 7, 2020, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer (PHO) extended a health order which prohibits in-person events and community-based gatherings across the province, with the intention of helping to significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As part of the [PHO order](#), members of the public (including the media) are prohibited from attending City Council meetings and public hearings.

In accordance with this province-wide directive, the City of Vernon is reminding the public about opportunities to view Council meetings electronically and how individuals may continue to participate in upcoming public hearings, through written submissions.

The City of Vernon video records all open Council meetings and public hearings and makes them available on the [City's website](#). The Regular Council meeting and public hearing scheduled for December 14, 2020, will be available by Noon on December 15.

During the December 14 public hearing, City staff will make presentations on the applications before Council. All written submissions received by the Corporate Officer by 3:00 p.m. that day will be read into the record and posted on the City's website at www.vernon.ca/publichearings. Council will then recess the meeting until January 11, 2021.

In response to the health order, the City has temporarily extended the public hearing process to provide an opportunity for individuals to view the meeting online, view the written submissions regarding the applications, and provide additional written comment prior to the January 11 meeting. Written comments must be received by the Corporate Officer by **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021**. Written submissions can be emailed to phearings@vernon.ca.

The City will continue this process until the Provincial Health Officer rescinds or amends the order to allow in-person attendance at public hearings again.

For more information on Council meetings, the public hearing process, and the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.vernon.ca.