



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Province issues Emergency Order restricting non-essential travel

On August 19, 2023, the Province of BC issued an [Emergency Order](#) restricting **non-essential** travel for the purpose of staying in temporary accommodation in several communities in the Okanagan.

These restrictions will support access to accommodations for evacuees and personnel providing emergency and critical services.

“Our Province is facing the worst wildfire season in our history. Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated and crews on the ground are battling to save people’s homes,” said Premier David Eby. “We’re grateful for everyone who has listened to our call to change plans and not travel in the central Interior and the southeast. But very large numbers of people are evacuated in the Okanagan and we especially need more accommodation there. This order will help ensure we have accommodation available for the people who need it in this time of crisis.”

This order applies to temporary accommodation in the following cities:

- Kelowna-West Kelowna;
- Kamloops;
- Oliver;
- Osoyoos;
- Penticton; and
- Vernon.

This Order does not impact travel through to other regions, but the public is asked to avoid non-essential travel to the central Interior and southeast of BC. Roadways must remain clear for emergency response operations. This Order will remain in effect until end of day September 4, 2023.

For more information on the Emergency Order, please visit the Province of British Columbia [website](#).