

HASTINGS CROSSING



Dear HxBIA Member,

At the end of another eventful week, I hope you're staying safe and healthy.

There were a few positive developments in the past couple days. On the coronavirus itself, apparently everyone's efforts to physically distance are having an impact. While we continue to see new cases, provincial health officer [Dr. Bonnie Henry announced today](#) that the rate at which they have been appearing is about half of that modelled by the province.

In addition to its previous commitment of a \$107 billion support package, [the federal government today announced several more measures](#) including that:

- The wage subsidy has been dramatically expanded to 75% and is retroactive to March 15;
- GST/HST payments have been deferred until June;
- Through the Canada Emergency Business Account, banks will provide loans of up to \$40,000 to qualifying small businesses including \$10,000 that may be forgivable.

[Mayor Kennedy Stewart announced several measures yesterday](#) that directly support needs on the downtown east side, including shelter spaces and a safe drug supply. With COVID-19 now detected among the most vulnerable residents in our neighbourhood, these steps are essential.

Security remains a priority. The Vancouver Police Department is combating break-ins by pursuing investigations on known offenders and targeting geographic hot spots. Their preventative advice for businesses is to:

1. Move merchandise away from windows and out of view, or remove it from the retail space altogether;
2. Use window shutters to minimize damage and reduce visibility;
3. Upgrade locks; and
4. Increase outdoor lighting levels to ensure the space around your business is visible and well-lit.

The City of Vancouver has offered to coordinate the timing of additional patrols that they are funding in our area. Please let me know if there are any specific periods of the day where you feel additional security should be allocated.

If you have any updates on permanent business closures, please share the information with me. The Vancouver Economic Commission is tracking the impact of COVID and it's important to have accurate data in any analysis.

I wish you a safe and pleasant weekend.

All the best,
Adam



[Unsubscribe](#)