

April 7th, 2020

Dr. Bonnie JF Henry
Provincial Health Officer of British Columbia
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4

Dear Dr. Henry

RE: COVID-19 and Healthy Outdoor Activities

On behalf of the members of the BC Wildlife Federation, we thank you for your public health leadership and guidance during the COVID-19 emergency.

We write to thank you and to ask you to promote the healthy outdoor activities that are still possible to do while maintaining appropriate physical distancing. We want to contribute responsible suggestions for ways that families can still enjoy healthy, appropriate outdoor activities to help maintain and/or boost mental health.

Suggestions for your feedback and inclusion for healthy outdoor education and recreation are:

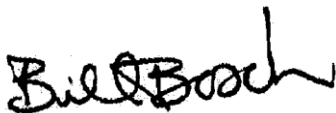
- While going for walks in your local area, identify invasive plant species and, in the future with the landowner's permission if it is not public property, go back and remove them.
- If you have the material available, build small bird nesting boxes or bee homesteads.
- Plant a pollinator garden.
- Take your immediate isolated family fishing at a local fishing spot in your home community and if your local boat launch is still open, wait patiently and keep a safe physical distance.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially around boat launches, gates and ramps.

We reach out to you as we move into spring weather because people will want to get outside with their families to exercise and protect their mental health as young children get restless, and many parents get increasingly agitated.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide us to create suggestions for suitable activities and risk reduction tips. We want to be able to promote fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation as appropriate with our public health partners.

We encourage you to share the suggestions that work to create healthy outlets for families at this difficult time.

Yours in conservation,



Bill Bosch
President
BC Wildlife Federation