

Greetings everyone,

We hope you are all staying safe during this time. The BCWF Youth Program Team has been working very hard this past month planning out the logistics of our planned programming as well as developing alternative programming should COVID-19 measures persist. Like everyone, we have been closely following the news and press conferences of Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Bonnie Henry, Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, and Premier, John Horgan. Today, we are updating you on our plans for our summer youth programs: Wild Kidz and Go Wild.

### CAMP UPDATES

Although Dr. Henry, Minister Dix, and Premier Horgan announced this past Wednesday (April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020) that the Province will be announcing its plan to loosen COVID-19 safety measures next week, we have decided to cancel our July Wild Kidz camps that were planned for Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John. Choosing to cancel these camps was a difficult decision. We truly believe that the best way to instill a love for the environment and conservation is to be outside and enjoy nature firsthand. However, the safety of our campers, our clubs, local partners, host communities, and their families is our number one priority. All families who have registered for these camps will receive full refunds in the coming days.

As of today, our August Wild Kidz camps (i.e. Castlegar, Rock Creek, and Abbotsford) and new Go Wild camp are on standby. We will make a definitive statement on whether these camps will proceed as scheduled on June 1<sup>st</sup> where we hope to have clear direction from the PHO and the British Columbia Ministry of Health. Should these camps proceed, we assure all campers, members, and families that we will adhere strictly to all guidance from Federal and Provincial authorities. We are also collaborating with other camp programs across BC on potential protocols that we can put into place that can help ensure the safety of our campers and their families. Examples of protocols that are being considered include the use of facemasks for all campers, having families submit a record of health and symptoms for 2 weeks prior to attending camp, and asking all families to limit contact with others outside of their homes and work places while their children attend camp. Moreover, we are also extending the deadline for applications to the new Go Wild program to June 5<sup>th</sup> which will allow families to have more time to plan their kids summer as COVID-19 measures are slowly and strategically lifted in the coming weeks. June 5<sup>th</sup> is also the deadline to register for all remaining Wild Kidz camps.

### CAMP ALTERNATIVES

As mentioned, the Youth Program Team has also been hard at work planning for the very real possibility of cancelling all our in-person summer programming. Without a doubt, physically distancing measures has really put our mission of providing quality outdoor and conservation education to the test. But our team has been up to the challenge. We will be increasing our online content by providing weekly newsletters which will provide simple activities include journal or art prompts, featured BC animals, and simple kid and family activities. We are also developing a subscription service that will be available this summer that will have a bank of activities that we would normally teach at our Wild Kidz and Go Wild camps. Finally, we will be launching a “camps at home” service where campers will be guided through activities by virtual counsellors.

THANK YOU

In conclusion, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us so far. This includes all past and future campers, their families, our partner fish and game clubs, our BCWF volunteers, and of course our funders:



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We are happy to answer any questions, concerns, or comments regarding these updates. Please direct any inquiries to Chris Lim, Manager of Youth Programs at [chris.lim@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:chris.lim@bcwf.bc.ca).