

Joint statement from Lasqueti organizations regarding COVID-19

March 23, 2020

This joint statement is from the following Lasqueti individuals and organizations:

- Lasqueti Local Emergency Coordinator (Darcy Pascall)
- Lasqueti Regional Director (Andrew Fall)
- Lasqueti Local Islands Trustees (Peter Johnston and Tim Peterson)
- Lasqueti Community Association
- Lasqueti Ferry Committee
- Lasqueti Last Resort Society
- Lasqueti Island Ratepayers Association

WHEREAS:

- COVID-19 poses significant risks to the health and well-being of the Lasqueti community;
- There is a high risk of disruption to our limited essential services, including the ferry, food, fuel, medical, first responder, firefighting, and others;
- Lasqueti residents are taking steps to protect our community; and
- It is important for us to act in a unified way to take care of our community, especially our most vulnerable, and to ensure that we don't over-burden our essential services (especially the ferry and our First Responders).

WE THEREFORE ASK:

1. **EVERYONE TO FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS AND SAFETY GUIDELINES**, including proper hand washing, respectful social/physical distancing with everyone except immediate family, and self-isolation when returning from foreign travel.
 - To comply with Provincial and Federal Public Health Officer advisories of 2-metre physical distancing on the ferry, the number of passengers + crew would need to be limited to about 20, with two spots allocated to essential personnel/travel.
2. **EVERYONE TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF RISKS TO CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES**, given our limited resources, isolation and response capacity.
3. **POSTPONEMENT OF ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL TO AND FROM LASQUETI**. We look forward to welcoming visitors when it is safe to do so. "*Now is not the time to be visiting the islands*" ([Islands Trust News Release, Mar. 22, 2020](#)).
4. **RESIDENTS PLANNING TO STAY ON LASQUETI DURING THE OUTBREAK TO:**
 - Be prepared to remain on Lasqueti for an extended period
 - Be prepared to take care of the health and safety of your own family
 - Be prepared to be self-sufficient at your own home
 - Consider how to minimize impacts on essential services
 - Be prepared to pitch in when needed
 - Avoid non-essential gatherings and travel