



For Immediate Release

March 17, 2020

All Yorkton Recreational and Community Facilities Close Tomorrow

“The COVID-19 crisis continues to spread, and we want to make sure we do everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our Yorkton residents,” said Mayor Bob Maloney at a news conference this afternoon at City Hall.

“Any gathering place for larger numbers of people is now banned across the province, and with that in mind, Council and City Administration will close all our recreation and community facilities, effective Wednesday March 18. This includes the entire Gallagher Centre facility as well as the Water Park and Swimming Pool, the Flexihall and Arena, the Kinsmen Arena, Gloria Hayden Community Centre, Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre, the Visitor Information Centre on Highway 9 and the Yorkton Public Library. “I want to emphasize that plans are in place to ensure critical services such as water, sewer and snow clearing are maintained throughout the City, and our Police and Fire Protection Services will continue to function as usual,” said the Mayor.

“At this point City Hall will remain open, although we encourage people to pay bills on line or through the mail slot in the atrium to help protect the health and safety of our staff,” he said.

The closures come in the wake of upcoming school closures across the province, scheduled for Friday March 20, plus event cancellations and a ban of gatherings of 250 or more individuals across Saskatchewan. Minimizing public gatherings and reducing non-essential contact is recommended.

“While we have no cases in our area at this point we need to keep ahead of the curve to protect people in our community, especially our seniors. Let’s be clear, if you can postpone or cancel a planned gathering or event it is in everyone’s best interest to do so,” said the Mayor.

“Our hearts and minds are with our local business community at this time and we urge residents to do whatever they can to support our friends and neighbours. The City of Yorkton is committed to do whatever we can to support our local businesses,” said the Mayor.

As with any public health issue, the City of Yorkton continues to work closely with the Saskatchewan Medical Health Office and their local officials and follow their lead. “We are following the science as this difficult situation continues to evolve,” said the Mayor.

“We encourage everyone to practice proper hygiene such as covering a cough and/or sneeze with a tissue and promptly disposing of it in the garbage; refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth; practice “social distancing”; and stay home when feeling sick,” he said.

For more information on the COVID-19 virus, and what you can do to protect yourself and those around you, please refer to the notices and publications that can be found at: www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus

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