



RURAL ISLANDS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY WEBINAR – OUTCOMES – May 28, 2020.

Today's meeting will include overviews from Mayne and Malcolm Islands followed by:

1. Roll-out of the Island Comeback Site and Launch
2. Pandemic Impact Surveys – Common Island Theme's Reviewed
3. Q & A + Additional Updates

ISLAND UPDATES

Jean-Daniel Cusin, Mayne Liaison, CRD and Deborah Goldman, SGH-CESC Chair– Mayne Island

Challenges

- Lost tourism revenue from this season
- Non-profit fundraising events have all been cancelled
- Concern about increased ferry traffic
- Lack of tourism is impacting whole way of life
- All-island festivities cancelled this year

Recent Actions/Initiatives

- Lions Club volunteers supporting food bank and hampers, doubled number of beneficiaries
- Emergency program is updating contact list
- Some stores opening early
- Some restaurants offering take out

Advocacy and Coordination

- CESC has service contract with community resource centre, ensuring community receives all information about government support programs
- Rolled out survey, community engagement process
- Reaching out to memberships on Mayne
- Emergency response (EOC) with CRD and many community members, Chamber, Community Resource Coordinators, talking about recovery now
- Local medical doctor lead charge created committee to further the emergency response

Communication

- Social media, person to person
- Reaching out to memberships on Mayne

Good News

- Sewing non-medical masks and handed out to residents
- No businesses have closed doors permanently yet
- Lots of activity at the farmers market
- Lots of good, strong, community feeling

Marjorie Giroux, Sointula Resource Centre Society– Malcolm Island

Challenges

- How to manage re-opening
- Lots of community division and debate
- Conflicting information from BC government and BC ferries
- General confusion about what's next
- What to tell visitors

Recent Actions/Initiatives

- Mass mail out to inform community supports and protocols
- Created a community kitchen
- Free mask program
- List of accommodations to self isolate
- Volunteer list to deliver groceries, walk pets, etc.
- Created COVID page
- Developed protocols early
- Supported local volunteer groups
- Social media, website and posters

Advocacy and Coordination

- Pandemic Planning Group with a wide variety of local groups

Good News

- Birthday Bandits – signage put up to celebrate birthdays by local housing coop residents

ROLL-OUT OF THE ISLAND COMEBACK – GIFT CERTIFICATES AND DIRECTORY

- Local launch May 27, 7 provincial and national June 8th week
- E-commerce platform to support islands to be used into the future
- All islands' initiative to build network
- Some islands still to come aboard
- Donations and gift certificates
- FAQ page
- More businesses registered than activated, support team working hard to get everyone onboard
- 124 businesses registered now, 68 are on Stripe, more coming soon
- News releases to local islands, social media campaign, print for provincial and national media, NGOs, government, etc. asking them to post and push, ads will become available for people to share, sharing stories, professional PR/Media person involved
- Gift certificates have a monetary value to be redeemed at some future date
- www.islandcomeback.ca

PANDEMIC IMPACT SURVEYS – Common Island Themes Reviewed

Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna, Salt Spring

		Galiano Mayne Pender and Saturna (%)	Salt Spring (%)
Do you own or rent your building?	Own	49	53
	Rent	43	43
	None	8	4
Do you own a home based business?	Yes		49
	No		49
Has your business closed because of the pandemic?	Yes	53	59
	No	47	41
How many employees have you released as a result of the pandemic?			269
Will you be able to restart one the pandemic is over?	Yes	74	59
	Unsure	24	35
	No	2	4
Would you be able to adapt to physical distancing if it becomes the norm?	Yes	44	30
	Unsure	42	49
	No	14	21
Have you been affected by connectivity issues?	Yes	54	
	Unsure	0	
	No	46	
Would you be interested in having a local investor invest in your operation and locally owned?	Yes	6	11
	No	65	57
	Maybe	29	32
What industry best represents your business? (#s not %)	Arts	5	12
	Education	0	NA
	Food and Agriculture	3	18
	Health and Wellness	5	5
	Manufacturing	4	NA
	Professional Services	3	5
	Tourism and Hospitality	13	37

	Trades	9	7
	Retail	8	10
	Transportation	1	NA
Would you be interested in having access to a low-interest/no interest loan from a local community investment co-op to help you through the crisis?	Yes	10	14
	No	65	52
	Maybe	25	35
Would you be interested in applying for a grant to help you through the crisis?	Yes	59	
	No	27	
	Maybe	14	
Would you be interested in receiving additional support, advice or mentorship to help your business?	Yes	24	
	No	44	
	Maybe	35	
Would you be interested in participating in an interisland conversation about recovery?	Yes	37	
	No	25	
	Maybe	38	

TechHatchery Quadra – Key Outcomes

See compilation of resources at <https://www.techatchery.ca/covid19-business-resources>

People were excited about programs but often felt they did not qualify and felt unsure of how to approach larger organizations.

Together we learned:

- Forming a group to approach agencies made it easy for important decision makers in those agencies to engage with us
- If the letter of the policy isn't a perfect fit but the spirit seems aligned, pursue the opportunity
- Advocate for change by bringing politicians and leaders from many levels to the table
- Participate in regional messaging

If your business is still operational, how has your business evolved or changed (if at all) to remain operational while we physically distance? eg. Take out orders, online orders, working remotely using virtual tools

- Many places shutdown
- Some places remained open but felt vulnerable
- Some places pivoted successfully and some unsuccessfully to alternative ways of doing business
- Currently, many of us are working together to write policy and leverage work done by others to engage our own sectors and spheres of interest

NEXT RIEP COVID RESPONSE & RECOVERY WEBINAR

3 – 4 PM • THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH – RESILIENCE STORIES