

Protecting & Supporting Our Fragile Rural Island Economies

RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE

THE ISLANDS

Bowen, Cormorant, Cortes, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano,
Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Malcom, Mayne, Pender,
Quadra, Salt Spring, Saturna, Queen Charlotte Strait,
Texada, Thetis.

• March 25, 2020 •

Virtual Meeting Format

- MUTE when not speaking
- Raise 'hand' button'- moderator will recognize
- In 'chat' introduce yourself and your island
- Submit question/comments in 'chat'
- Island by Island will be able to update
- Option to close your video and still see screen
- Meeting is being recorded

Meeting Purpose

- Share actions and ideas
 - *What's the impact on your Island?*
 - *What are you doing?*
 - *What's working so far?*
- Advocate! – locally, regionally
 - Tweet/text storm; emails to MP/MLA/Regional Dist./ CAO/Mayors
- Brief Update from JTT and WD
- Coordinate and collaborate across the Islands where possible and appropriate

Islands Roundtable

For your Island/Area – Please speak to impact and responses on your Island:

- Farming - Growers-Producers
- Artisans & Crafts; Health & Wellness
- Tourism Activity Providers-Accommodators
- Small, independent sole proprietorships
- Community overall

'Big' Picture Concerns

○ **Federal?**

- Wages, for 90 days, (up to \$25,000/employer)?
- Tax filing flexibility; GST credits?
- Set aside \$10B for credit support for small businesses?

○ **Provincial?**

- Where's the support for our small owner-operator businesses?

○ **Regional Districts?**

- What's their role beyond emergency services?

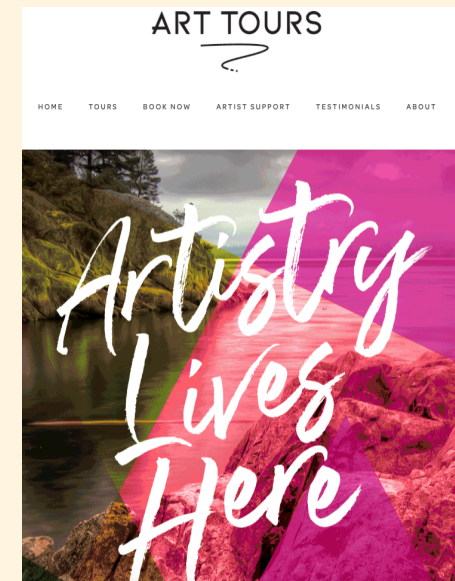
○ **Financial Institutions?**

- Role of financial institutions in offering relief – banks/mortgages/rent/
- Relief programs for small independent, self-employed operators

Ways to Support Local Economies

Initial Idea Sharing:

- Limited market openings for:
 - Essential services
 - Fresh produce; Packaged food
 - Cleaning supplies; liquor/beer
- Market Days 'online'
- Staggered farm-stand openings
- Studio Tours online
- 'Take-Out' Tuesdays
- **MORE IDEAS/ACTIONS?**



Ways to Support Local Economies

- Utilize web-based resources and social media channels to market, distribute, sell – provide interim relief
- Consolidate marketing of local products to have greater reach beyond our islands to the ‘world’ – **RIEP**
 - Invite the world to make *a difference by investing now to save our islands*’ – leave a ‘tip’
 - Rural Islands Web directory of ‘gift cards’ soon to be established
 - Cornwall, Ontario model <https://www.cornwall-gift-certificates.ca>

Next Steps

- Continue to share information and to feed information into government about local impact
- Advocacy for local economic relief
 - Tweet Storms and Text Storms to elected officials
 - Email campaign
 - Local Chambers can take the lead
- RIEP Bi-Weekly Resilience Roundtable
- RIEP **Recovery Information** STOREHOUSE
- **Be well, be calm, and carry on.**