

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2023 | 4:40 pm

UNTIL: Further Notice

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – CLOSURE TO TRAILS' ACCESS

LIONS BAY, BC: In line with other communities, the Village of Lions Bay has closed visitor parking and access to trails in and around the community due to the ongoing wildfire risk. The fire rating has been high/extreme for weeks and dry conditions continue.

Due to unprecedented hiker pressure in our backcountry areas, we must unfortunately take this temporary measure to reduce the risk of a human-caused wildfire.

Unlike other communities such as Kelowna and Yellowknife where fires started kilometres away, a fire on trails could be only hundreds of metres away from homes.

This risk is exacerbated by the municipality's water shortage and inability to fight a fire for a prolonged period. Unlike other Metro Vancouver communities, Lions Bay relies only upon its watershed above the village. A fire in this area would contaminate the water supply with disastrous consequences for our small community.

A further danger is that hikers at the popular Tunnel Bluffs viewpoint could potentially be stranded, putting a further strain on rescue efforts and endangering visitors and residents alike.

Acting Mayor of Lions Bay Jaime Cunliffe said, "This decision was not taken lightly, and we look forward to welcoming hikers back when conditions are safe for everybody, after we get some much-needed rain, we wanted to get the message out so that hikers don't drive all the way here only to find they can't go hiking."

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For More Information, please contact:

Deputy Mayor, Jaime Cunliffe, Lions Bay Councillor, via councillor.cunliffe@lionsbay.ca