

Item 12.1

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE - August 28, 2023**

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|----|--|---|
| 1. | Calendar of Events - August /September   | N |
| 2. | C. Eliason - Email dated August 18, 2023 - Community Fire Break  | N |
| 3. | J. Beatty, Chair, Shuswap Climate Action Society - Letter received August 17, 2023 - Funding Request for Project "Lose the Lawn" - Transforming Yards into Multi-Purpose Gardens | A |
| 4. | Shuswap Food Action Society - Letter dated August 15, 2023 - Invitation to Food Security Series at Fall Fair   | N |
| 5. | A. Varnes, Program Manager, Shuswap District Arts Council - Email dated August 22, 2023 - Wednesday on the Wharf - Remainder of Season Cancelled                                 | N |
| 6. | Interior Health Information Bulletin - August 21, 2023 - Interior Health Air Quality Guidance  | N |

N = No Action Required  
A = Action Requested

S = Staff has Responded  
R = Response Required

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
City Parks & Spaces

# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Travelling Tots Playgroup Tuesday Youth Ride	2 Shuswap Children's Association @ Klahani Park	3	4	5 Minor Baseball Zone Qualifier @ Blackburn Park
6 Minor Baseball Zone Qualifier @ Blackburn Park	7 BC DAY City Hall Closed	8 Travelling Tots Playgroup Tuesday Youth Ride	9	10	11	12
13	14 Invasive Species Interactive Trailer Canoe Beach	15 Travelling Tots Playgroup Tuesday Youth Ride	16 Shuswap Children's Association Summer Bash @ Blackburn Park & Gazebo	17 Roots and Blues Kickoff Concert Downtown	18 31 <sup>st</sup> Annual Roots and Blues Festival	19 Downtown Farmer's Market 31 <sup>st</sup> Annual Roots and Blues Festival
20 31 <sup>st</sup> Annual Roots and Blues Festival	21	22 Travelling Tots Playgroup Tuesday Youth Ride	23	24	25	26 Downtown Farmer's Market
27	28	29 Travelling Tots Playgroup Tuesday Youth Ride	30	31		

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
City Parks & Spaces

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Downtown Farmer's Market
3	4 LABOUR DAY City Hall closed	5 8:30 am Travelling Tots Playgroup 5:00 pm Tuesday Youth Ride	6	7	8 Salmon Arm Fair	9 10:15 am Salmon Arm Fair Parade Salmon Arm Fair Downtown Farmer's Market
10 Salmon Arm Fair	11	12 8:30 am Travelling Tots Playgroup 5:00 pm Tuesday Youth Ride	13	14	15	16 Lake2Lake Ride for Rwanda Downtown Farmer's Market
17 8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Shuswap Cross, Cyclocross Race @ Klahani Park Terry Fox Run Lake2Lake Ride for Rwanda	18	19 8:30 am Travelling Tots Playgroup 5:00 pm Tuesday Youth Ride	20	21	22	23 Downtown Farmer's Market 10:00 am Shuswap Cycling Club Junior MTB Event @ South Canoe Trails
24	25	26 8:30 am Travelling Tots Playgroup 5:00 pm Tuesday Youth Ride	27	28	29	30 Downtown Farmer's Market

**Rhonda West**

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**From:** Rhonda West  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Letter to Council

I urge the City of Salmon Arm to take the lead on an initiative that could benefit all British Columbians.

Forest companies have seen a reduction in their AAC. This would allow them to access more fiber.

Communities need fire breaks and fire smart programs cost money.

Work with the province and local forest companies to plan&log a fire break around the community. This would mean expanding their licenses into areas that they would not have been able to log previously.

I envision a headband like ring around the City.

While not acceptable in the past as it was not aesthetically pleasing, it could make a big difference. The area could be used for more trails.

Jobs, Safety and Trails.

That's a HAT TRICK from a headband.

All the best.

Chad Eliason  
Mortgage Broker  
250-804-9874



## Project “Lose the Lawn” – Transforming Yards into Multi-Purpose Gardens

### Funding Request to the City of Salmon Arm

#### Executive Summary

Climate change has been rapidly altering our local environment, giving us earlier warmer springs, hotter extended summers, and more frequent drought periods. The average annual daytime temperatures in the Shuswap are already 1.4°C warmer and nighttime temperatures are 3.1°C warmer than 30 years ago.<sup>1</sup> The Shuswap Climate Action Society (SCAS) has heard from many people in the community a desire to move away from lawns that are high maintenance and adopt yards that are a more sustainable mix of trees, shrubs, and food gardens. This type of landscaping would integrate xeriscaping, native and drought tolerant vegetation that will require much less maintenance, support wildlife and be resilient in the face of climate change.

Recently the City of Salmon Arm has developed and implemented a water conservation strategy with the goal of reducing the high volumes of water used in the summer to maintain traditional lawns and gardens. To address the dual need of longer-term climate resilience and water conservation, SCAS is developing an on-line educational program for residents wanting to make changes but lacking the knowledge and experience to begin transforming their yards.

SCAS believes that our project objectives are well aligned with those of the City of Salmon Arm’s, and we hope to form a partnership and obtain funding to bring this educational program to the community.

#### Organization Description

Our organization was conceived in the fall of 2019 after a federal election when climate and the environment were top issues and Greta Thunberg inspired massive global climate strikes that captured international media attention. Some concerned citizens in the Salmon Arm area wanted to keep that momentum going, so we came together and began planning events and projects to bring climate awareness to our community, creating Shuswap Climate Action.

**Our Vision Statement:** The North Okanagan and Shuswap is a leader in climate action, building resilient communities.

**Our Mission Statement:** Supporting community knowledge and solutions.

The main goal of SCAS is to educate and support climate solutions for residents in our community, as well as through communication and collaboration with other local organizations, businesses, and all levels of government. Since being formed, we have carried out many

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<sup>1</sup> Personal Communication – Johanna Wagstaffe, Sr. Meteorologist at CBC, January 2021.



initiatives and held many events to raise awareness and encourage greater community climate resilience. On May 26, 2022, we were incorporated as a society under the BC Societies Act, allowing us to move into the future with more accountability and transparency.

We achieve our goals through:

- Monthly newsletters that now reach over 350 people,
- Regular appearances at the local farmers markets in Salmon Arm and Sorrento,
- On-line webinars with special guest speakers,
- A website that has many resources containing reliable climate information, and
- Maintain a presence on Facebook, Instagram and a YouTube channel.

## Need Statement

The past few years have shown us that climate change is advancing rapidly, with this summer's extreme weather signaling that "something has changed".<sup>2</sup> This year the overall temperatures for both spring and summer are much hotter than normal resulting in extensive drought in BC along with a record number of wildfires ravaging much of Canada. This leaves no doubt that communities must quickly mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

In urban areas, one of the strategies to both sequester carbon and minimize the heat island effect, is to increase shade and greenery. Researchers at NASA have found that the best way to do this in an urban setting is to "design and manage green spaces in ways that pull as much carbon out of the atmosphere as possible and store it permanently while minimizing the release of emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from plants as they dry out or during non-growing seasons, **ideally with native, drought-tolerant species**".<sup>3</sup>

As communities institute water management and conservation programs, there has been an increasing trend by homeowners to ditch lawns in favour of xeriscaping. This saves vast amounts of water, reduces dependency on fertilizer and pesticides, which in turn has many municipalities like Kamloops and Kelowna encouraging residents to employ xeriscaping. The City of Kamloops has estimated that xeriscaping can reduce water usage by 50 percent or less than traditional landscaping.<sup>4</sup>

There are many benefits to transforming the traditional lawn into a landscape that incorporates species that are drought tolerant, requiring less maintenance and inputs like fertilizer and pesticides. However, integrating vegetation that is also pollinator-friendly, including trees, shrubs and food gardens, has even greater benefits. Our educational program is aimed at achieving all these benefits to create a community that will be more climate resilient. We

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<sup>2</sup> ['Something's changed!': Summer 2023 is screaming climate change, scientists say | CBC News](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Study: Urban Greenery Plays a Surprising Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet \(nasa.gov\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Xeriscaping | City of Kamloops](#)



believe this program is best delivered by the experts we have assembled, meeting our goals, the needs of residents, and meeting the needs of the City of Salmon Arm to reduce water usage.

## Project Goals and Objectives

The SCAS is launching this educational program this fall and into next spring to provide easy-to-follow advice from two experts in the field of xeriscape, permaculture, and food gardening. The program will assist residents moving from traditional lawns to landscapes that contain trees, shrubs and plants that are native to our zone, drought tolerant, reduce inputs like fertilizer and pesticides, are pollinator-friendly and produce food.

The elements of the program will include at on-line presentations and support from our experts, providing a list of important resources on our website, possibly creating a demonstration garden, as well as ongoing support from other local groups and hopefully the City of Salmon Arm.

## Project Description

We are planning to have two (possibly three) webinars to encourage and educate the community to move away from traditional lawns to yards that contain trees, shrubs and plants are native to our zone, drought tolerant, reduce fertilizer and pesticides, are pollinator-friendly and produce food. These webinar presentations call on the expertise of two professionals: Keli Westgate of Lekker Land Design and permaculture expert, and Sigrie Kendrick the Executive Director of the Okanagan Xeriscape Association. Both have slightly different but complimentary backgrounds and have worked to help their communities transform traditional yards by integrating xeriscaping, permaculture (the art of designing beneficial relationships between plants, animals and people), natural and other proven methods to reduce water use and create climate resilient urban landscapes.

The program outline for the first webinar includes:

- Introduction to xeriscaping and permaculture, definitions, concepts explained.
- What is the importance of this approach?
- What are the benefits?
- Examples of what rewilding/xeriscaping/rain gardens/permaculture looks like.
- The “nuts and bolts” of how to do xeriscaping/naturescaping - improving soil, mulching techniques, etc.,
- Planning your yard – diagram, plant selection, get ready for fall planting and next spring.
- Managing expectations – this process will take years!
- Resources – list of websites and books to help plan and prepare yards.

The first on-line presentation will be held on October 18, 2023, and the second on February 19, 2024, the timing of which will help participants plan and implement the transformation of their



yards in harmony with seasonal gardening rhythms. The presentations will be conducted via Zoom with participant registration required. Each webinar will be 75-80 minutes, with 30 minutes each for Keli and Sigrie to go through the program and 15–20 minutes for a Q&A session at the end. We will record the Zoom for posting on our website.

The program will be advertised through our newsletter, on social media, with other similar groups like Shuswap Food Action Society and the Shuswap Naturalists Club, and in the local newspaper. If the City of Salmon Arm is a partner delivering the program, we would also be grateful for their additional media and online advertisement of the program.

## Evaluation

The number of registrations for the on-line presentations will be an indication of the community's interest and engagement. However, we will also be following up with the presenters and participants after the first webinar to help us tailor the second webinar and provide additional information or advice from our experts, focussing on participant feedback regarding topics that require more attention. Hence, we may include a third webinar to address gaps and improve the success of participants if deemed necessary. We may also expand or adjust our advertising strategy to draw in more participants. If the city is a partner, we would also obtain their feedback to ensure the program meets their needs.

Another indication of the success of our program will be monitoring visits to a demonstration garden, or gardens, that provide examples of implementing the principles of xeriscaping. As well, we will follow the progress of residents we know of who are in the process of transforming their yards and keeping those stories updated (with participant's permission) on social media.

## Budget

### Summary of Expenses

Item	Rate	Description	Total
Professional fees - K. Westgate	\$95/hr	Prgm development/delivery Est 4.5 hrs	\$427.50
OXA Honourarium - S. Kendrick	\$95/hr	Prgm development/delivery Est 4.5 hrs	\$427.50
Other project costs		Printing and advertising. Technical support.	\$145.00
Total funding requested from the City of Salmon Arm			\$1,000.00

The table above summarizes the anticipated expenses for the program that we are requesting from the City of Salmon Arm. The majority of the expenses are to compensate the professionals we have engaged to develop and deliver the program. Ms. Westgate's fees are based on her



\$95/hr. rate and estimated 4.5 hours of preparation and delivery of the webinars. Ms. Kendrick is the Executive Director of a non-profit organization that is funded by the Okanagan Basin Water Board for work they do in the Okanagan. We feel that Ms. Kendrick's time and effort should be compensated for with an equivalent honourarium to the Okanagan Xeriscape Association.

The additional cost for the program would cover advertising including printing posters and any handouts, and technical support to run both webinars through the Zoom platform.

We are asking the City of Salmon Arm to fund 100 percent of the estimated expenses for this series of webinars since this program will educate the community on saving water by xeriscaping yards which is directly aligned with the City's objectives stated in the water conservation strategy. Also, this program will encourage residents to retain and plant trees which will create cooler and more climate-resilient communities. SCAS will be donating executive director's and member's time, as well as our Zoom account to implement and advertise the event.

In summary, there is a growing need from both a climate resilience and a municipal water conservation perspective for this kind of educational program to be implemented. Many other municipalities have successfully moved in this direction. We are excited to be offering this program to the community and having the City of Salmon Arm partner with us would ensure we can cover the cost of this program and make it free to the public. With a comprehensive and free educational approach, this program is sure to attract many residents interested in transforming their yard into a low maintenance, drought tolerant and beautiful landscape.

SCAS looks forward to hearing back from the city regarding this request in the coming days.

Julia Beatty, Chair  
Shuswap Climate Action Society



August 15, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to invite you to our upcoming Food Security series at the Fall Fair (schedule attached). This is our second annual series which invites community members to share and inspire people on a variety of topics related to food and agriculture.

At Shuswap Food Action our mission is to build community around local food. Community is made up of the gifts, skills and capacities of people working together. You cannot purchase community - it comes from care given freely from the heart. We know that Council believes in community and would like to provide each of you the opportunity to learn more about some of the great work being done on this issue. In particular, we would like you to consider attending the panel discussion on food security in our community (Friday, September 8th at 11 am).

Thank you for your consideration,

The Board of Directors  
Shuswap Food Action Society

## Project Grow: Food Security Series 2023

In Partnership with:



	Friday, Sept 8	Saturday, Sept 9	Sunday, Sept 10	
10:00	<p><b>What's UP with the price of food &amp; what can we do about it?</b></p> <p>An explanation of how higher input costs (energy, labour, shipping, etc.) impact the food supply, with ideas on how to adapt to this new reality.</p> <p>Speakers: Toni Walton - Buckerfield's &amp; Avery's Acres, Brad DeMille (reviewing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parade (no talk scheduled)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Backyard Chickens</b></p> <p>How to get started with producing your own eggs and meat</p> <p>Speakers: Toni Walton - Avery's Acres</p>	
11:00	<p><b>Panel Discussion: What is happening with food security in our community?</b></p> <p>Food security is essential to healthy communities. What is currently happening in our own community and what are actions we can take to improve food security?</p> <p>Speakers: Valiheri Semenluk (Second Harvest), Serena Caner (SFAS), Janet McLean-Sentf (Eagle Valley Community Resource Centre), Patti Thurston (Shuswap Family Centre), Joel Torrens (Salvation Army) Monica Kriese (Shuswap Community Response Network)</p>	<p><b>Getting Growing! How to get started in a home garden</b></p> <p>Taking a green space and converting into food production in an urban environment</p> <p>Speaker: Melanie Bennett - Shuswap Food Action</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Honey bees and native pollinators</b></p> <p>If you're interested in producing your own honey, learn best practices about taking care of your bees and also the effects on the native pollinator species</p> <p>Speaker: Bill Stagg - Toni to confirm</p>	
12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Growing a homestead business</b></p> <p>How small-scale gardens and farms can create an income stream through farmstands and agritourism</p> <p>Speakers: Morgan Matheson &amp; Maria Otting - Salmon Arm Economic Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Preserving the harvest for nutrition and food security</b></p> <p>Fermenting, Dehydrating, Freezing, Canning. The nutrition of each and how to have quality foods in your pantry</p> <p>Speaker: Afke Zonderland - Okanagan Rawsome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seed Saving</b></p> <p>How to increase self-sufficiency in the garden by saving your own seed for planting next season</p> <p>Speaker: Jon Alcock - Sunshine Farm</p>	
1:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Setting up Success for Shuswap Farmers</b></p> <p>What are realities facing our local farmers? What could help them succeed? And if land costs are an issue, what could municipally-owned and leased land look like? How can farmers help each other too in a cooperative fashion?</p> <p>Speakers: Jade Shaman &amp; and Elmarie Roberts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understand Fertilizers</b></p> <p>What's the differences between ALL those products on the shelf? Synthetic VS Organic? What do the numbers mean?</p> <p>Speaker: Jazmyn Mcmyn - Grow Change Horticultural Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eat your Greens! Year-round indoor growing for your health!</b></p> <p>Learn about using indoor grow towers, grow lights and starting your seedlings to have year-round nutrition.</p> <p>Speaker: Juanita Miller</p>	
2:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Greenhouse in the Snow</b></p> <p>Exploring season extension, growing more variety and using geothermal to reduce energy needs</p> <p>Speaker: Dale Klages- Greenhouse In the Snow</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fall IS for planting</b></p> <p>Make the most of Fall and Q&amp;A with horticultural experts!</p> <p>Speaker: Harriet Hanna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homesteading is FIRST a state of mind</b></p> <p>What is homesteading and how YOU can "homestead" in any small or large area</p> <p>Speaker: Una St. Clair - HighCrest Off Grid Farm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incubator Farm Success Story</b></p> <p>Exploring opportunities for municipal options to support farmers - could also be a farmers panel here</p> <p>Speaker: Elmarie Roberts</p>
3:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indigenous food wisdom</b></p> <p>How can we connect more deeply to our food and the land on which it's grown</p> <p>Speaker:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Permaculture and Regenerative Agriculture</b></p> <p>Could also include soil health here</p> <p>Speaker: Shelagh Garson (reviewing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Growing Mushrooms</b></p> <p>How can we grow mushrooms in our gardens and homesteads to produce this important food source for ourselves? What are the benefits that can come from mushrooms?</p> <p>Speaker: Brent Cox - Frosty Hollow Mushrooms</p>	<p>Could there be a presentation all to do with HOW to eat Local?</p> <p>The presentation would focus on a set amount of farms who are producing a consistent quantity, food into grocers, and year-round food including Keenan, Little Mountain, Inspired Breads or Little Red Hen, Fieldstone Organics, etc</p>

### Details

**Where:** Presentations to be held inside the Artisan Building within the Fair grounds. 60 Seats available.

**How much:** A fair pass is required to have admittance but the talks are FREE!

**How long:** Presentations will be roughly 30min each with 15min for Q&A with the speaker and 15 minutes for turn over to next speaker

**Rhonda West**

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**From:** Barb Puddifant  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Wednesday on the Wharf - Remainder of Season Cancelled  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-1.pdf

**From:** Wow Salmon Arm Arts Centre <wow@salmonarmartscentre.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:16 AM  
**Subject:** [External] Wednesday on the Wharf - Remainder of Season Cancelled

For Immediate Release

August 22 2023

With heavy hearts the Shuswap District Arts Council announces the cancellation of the remainder of the Wednesday on the Wharf community concert series that happen on Wednesday evenings at 6.45 pm at Marine Peace Park in Salmon Arm. This decision was made out of consideration for the safety of artists, crew, staff, and audience members given the dynamic wildfire and air quality situation currently playing out in the Shuswap.

“We were so looking forward to welcoming Josh + Bex on August 23rd and Ben Klick on August 30th. Our audiences have been so enthusiastic all season. However taking care of everyone involved in Wednesday on the Wharf during this wildfire situation, including audiences, is our priority,” says Arts Council program manager Astrid Varnes. “We hope these artists will be able to join us again next year.”

The Shuswap District Arts Council extends a heartfelt kukwstéc-kucw (on behalf of all of us, thank you) to all the sponsors, supporters, artists and crew who made this year’s concert series possible. We look forward to experiencing live music together again next year.

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Questions can be directed to

Astrid Varnes  
Program Manager, Shuswap District Arts Council  
[wow@salmonarmartscentre.ca](mailto:wow@salmonarmartscentre.ca)  
250 832 1170

**For Immediate Release | August 21, 2023**

## Interior Health air quality guidance

**IH WIDE** – Communities across the Interior Health region are experiencing heavy impacts from wildfire smoke.

People with chronic conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes, as well as pregnant women, infants, and young children, are most affected by wildfire smoke.

The best way to protect your health from wildfire smoke is to reduce your exposure to smoke and seek cleaner air.

### During smoky conditions:

- Stay indoors: Reduce time spent outside to protect your health
- Reduce outdoor physical activity: Refer to the [Air Quality Health Index](#) and decrease physical exertion when air quality is poor
- Consider wearing a well fitted respirator if you cannot access cleaner air: [Use a well fitted respirator](#) (e.g., N95, KN95) to reduce exposure to particulate matter in smoke
- Activate medical management plans: Ensure your plan to self-manage any chronic diseases (e.g., respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) is in place and up-to-date, and that adequate rescue medications are available
- Use a home clean air shelter: Spend time in a room in your home with a [portable air cleaner](#) with HEPA filtration to reduce smoke exposure

**VIDEO:** [Medical Health Officer Dr. Sue Pollock talks about air quality, tips to reduce risk and how smoke affects you](#)

### Wildfire smoke and your mental health

Smoky skies can affect us physically and also make us feel anxious and stressed. There are actions we can take to help improve and manage our mental wellness through these stressful times.

- Manage stress: Use stress-relief techniques such as meditation or focusing on a creative outlet (e.g., journaling and art)
- Tap in to social networks: Having conversations and spending time with people closest to us is especially important during emergencies and disasters
- Take care: Eat well, exercise indoors, drink lots of water and get enough sleep
- Help others: Assisting others can help us regain a sense of purpose and community as we confront challenges together. The [Emergency Support Services Program](#) welcomes and relies on volunteers to coordinate support services for people forced from their homes in an emergency.

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

### MEDIA, FOR INFORMATION:

PHONE 1.844.469.7077 EMAIL [media@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:media@interiorhealth.ca)

**Resources**

- Visit the [BCCDC wildfire smoke](#) webpage to learn more about the health effects of wildfire smoke, how to prepare for wildfire season, and more
- For other steps to create cleaner air space at home, check out Health Canada's online resource [Guidance for Cleaner Air Spaces during Wildfire Smoke Events](#)
- To learn about the steps that you can take to prepare for a wildfire and manage wildfire-related issues before, during or after a wildfire please visit our [wildfires webpage](#)
- Call [8-1-1](#) or your primary care provider if you're experiencing more severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath or chest pain, or [911](#) if it's a health emergency

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**MEDIA, FOR INFORMATION:**

PHONE 1.844.469.7077 EMAIL [media@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:media@interiorhealth.ca)