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**Release Date: April 17, 2020**  
**Town of Arnprior COVID-19 Update 5**

**Arnprior, ON.** On April 13<sup>th</sup> on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and with the approval of the Ontario legislature, the Ontario government extended the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to May 12, 2020. This will allow the government to continue to use every tool at its disposal to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The extension of the provincial declaration of emergency allows Ontario to continue to enforce current emergency orders, such as the closure of all non-essential workplaces, outdoor amenities such as parks and recreational areas, public places and bars and restaurants, as well as restrictions on social gatherings of more than five people, and prohibitions against price-gouging.

Based on the extension of the provincial declaration of emergency and closure of facilities and cancelling of programming, to address the financial consequences of these measures, Council is implementing certain cost containment actions to help mitigate the impacts. These measures include work force reductions of 45 mostly part-time positions, suspension of the summer student program and expenditure reductions.

The COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and is forcing many employers, including the Town to make difficult decisions. These measures attempt to balance maintaining service delivery while reducing the pressing financial impacts caused by the global pandemic.

“Council regrets the need to implement workforce reductions during these particularly trying times, however the impacts of the loss of user fees, deferred tax payments and waived interest and penalties, puts significant financial strain on the Corporation”, said Mayor Stack. “Council will continue to monitor the impacts of this on-going emergency on our operations, with staff input, to make the best decisions with the best information available.”

Furthermore, Council regrets the decision to cancel or postpone all Town events up to June 30, 2020. This includes the Recreation and Culture Fair, the beginning of the Arnprior Sunday Market Season, Priorpalooza, Pitch-In Day and the Rock and Splash Pool Party. Staff are working on options to reschedule these events or provide virtual options where available so please monitor the Town’s website, app and social media for updates.

At this time regular meetings of Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month have been cancelled but special meetings of Council as requested by the Mayor are being held virtually. Members of the public can watch these meeting live or the recorded version afterwards at [arnprior.ca/youtube](http://arnprior.ca/youtube) .

The landfill remains closed to the public however curbside collection does continue weekly and the bag limit has temporarily been increased from 2 bags to 4 bags during the closure. The spring leaf and yard waste curb side collection will move forward as scheduled on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

A reminder that although all Town facilities are closed staff can still be reached by phone and e-mail, contact information can be found at [www.arnprior.ca/contact-us](http://www.arnprior.ca/contact-us). As always, residents are encouraged to follow the guidance and protocols of our local experts in Public Health.

The Town continues to update the Town COVID webpage with links to resources as they become available at [www.arnprior.ca/covid](http://www.arnprior.ca/covid).

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