



BRIEFING NOTE

**COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman
May 11, 2020**

Federal financial assistance request

I want to assure Regional residents that we are working hard to continue providing essential services during COVID-19 to get our residents through this crisis.

We're turning recreation centres into homeless shelters; providing transit to essential workers; and we're coordinating emergency child care for our paramedics and other essential workers in our community. Our public health staff are working around the clock to help keep us safe.

We're committed to keeping essential services running when people need them most.

This is why I sent a formal request to our Federal Government, on behalf of Regional Council, asking for financial assistance moving forward. Our revenues are plummeting and our costs are rising as we manage the pandemic.

Municipalities cannot run deficits and we know this is not the time to cut services.

We asked for immediate action to protect our most vulnerable populations. We want to see them implement the emergency operating fund that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is calling for on behalf of municipalities country-wide.

We're all doing our part to get through this and I'm proud of how the Region's municipalities, businesses, health partners and citizens have responded.