



## News Release

January 30, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Seawatch neighbourhood roads remain closed due to sinkhole activity

Sechelt, BC – The District of Sechelt announced the barricades on Gale Avenue North and Seawatch Lane will remain in place, effectively blocking all traffic to the Seawatch neighbourhood, in response to the most recent investigation from Thurber Engineering. Signs are in place to restrict pedestrian access as well.

The investigation of public property on Seawatch Lane confirmed that Seawatch Lane has been undermined and the thickness of the remaining crust may not be sufficient to support ongoing use. The report has been shared with Seawatch property owners and posted on the District's website.

The District of Sechelt has informed first responders and utility companies of the road closures. The Sechelt Fire Department and RCMP have confirmed they will attend the site in the event of an emergency and the Fire Department has implemented a response plan. BC Ambulance Service does not permit first responders to enter hazardous areas and will not attend beyond the barricades; however, the Fire Department will assist if necessary. Utility companies will make their own determinations on how to proceed should maintenance of their infrastructure be required.

The District of Sechelt has contacted MLA, Nicholas Simons and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth to request information on possible assistance for the residents in Seawatch but have yet to receive a favourable response.

Mayor Darnelda Siegers stated, "We are trying to facilitate a meeting, as soon as possible, for residents with our insurance providers, Thurber Engineering and representative from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General so residents will have the information they need to make their own decisions."

The Seawatch neighbourhood has experienced sinkholes for several years with the most recent hole daylighting on private property on or about December 25, 2018. That hole was 25 meters deep with a void of 400 cubic meters. The hole was later backfilled by the property owner.

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