

Very carefully and very slowly reopening some of our operations on June 1

Thanks to our collective efforts and the bending of the curve, we can be cautiously optimistic for the near future. We can very slowly, and very carefully get back to offering courses and training in a much-reduced capacity.

Last week, British Columbia announced a careful phased plan to reopen society and the economy. For example:

May 14 onward, reopening of BC Parks, sports and recreation activities

June 1 onward, reopening of overnight camping in BC Parks, hotels, resorts.

It's time to plan or replan your outdoor activities while following provincial and federal safety guidelines!

Outdoor activities like kayaking in small groups and close to home here on the island seem the very appropriate thing to do.

The physical and mental benefits of outdoor activities are numerous. Additionally, the camaraderie after weeks of isolation is an added bonus. However, SKILS and our staff must never lower our guard regarding epidemic prevention.

Safety has always been a priority for us. This encompasses the safety of our clients, staff and communities in which we operate. We have done lots of research for best practices and have made modifications to our programs to meet government guidelines. We are also in consultation with the BC Health Authority to share our standards and risk management practices.

For example, we will have much smaller group sizes and we will use some very innovative protective gear for practicing rescues when a 2 metre distance is not possible.

As usual we are welcoming private groups for custom and private programs. Contact us to book private programs. With the challenge of the food supply for fish and meat, have you considered a kayak fishing program?

We invite you to consult our course calendar. We will progressively add more programs during the next weeks and months as long we have the proper safety conditions and as per the government guidelines. We encourage you to register on our wait lists.

With these unprecedented times, we have made adjustments to our cancellation policy. We are cautiously optimistic, but we need to plan for unforeseen situations. For cancellation of a program because of a change in the provincial or federal guidelines or other reasons related to COVID-19, we will give you a credit for future programs or a refund, whichever you prefer. For non-COVID-19 related cancellations, our regular cancellation policy applies.

Furthermore, if you are feeling sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms before a program, even on the same day the program starts, we will give you a full credit for a program in the future. We want you to plan, dream and get excited about kayaking with us without the financial risks. At the time of booking, each participant will receive our risk management plan so you can plan ahead. We have developed extensive risk management protocols for COVID-19 and we will keep improving and adapting them as new information comes available.

Our staff are really missing guiding and teaching. They are looking forward to reconnecting with you in the great outdoors. Believe us, we cannot wait to be on the water again. We are really missing it.