



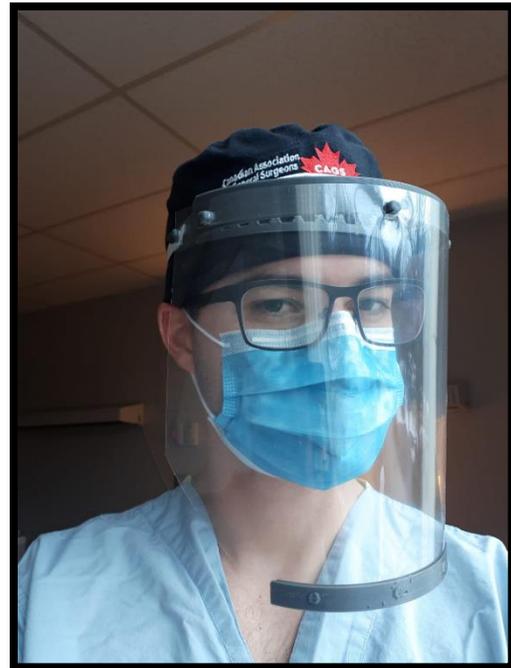
City of Revelstoke Media Release

March 30, 2020
Immediate Release

COVID-19 – City Supports Revelstoke Idea Factory Production of Partly-Reusable Face Shields

Revelstoke, BC – Through grant funding, we are excited to offer support to the Revelstoke Idea Factory which has been working with local medical practitioners at Queen Victoria Hospital to prototype a low-cost, partly-reusable face shield for use by emergency and medical staff when treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The healthcare system has identified a need for face shields in the coming weeks. Supply is running low of their current disposable face shield, and the World Health Organization has sounded the alarm that emergency and health care workers around the globe will face a critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). Two Idea Factory board members are working with community volunteers to bring this project to reality, using 3d printers to produce the face shield in collaboration with the local health authority. Medical staff at Queen Victoria Hospital have given their emergency approval and already placed an order for 300 shields.

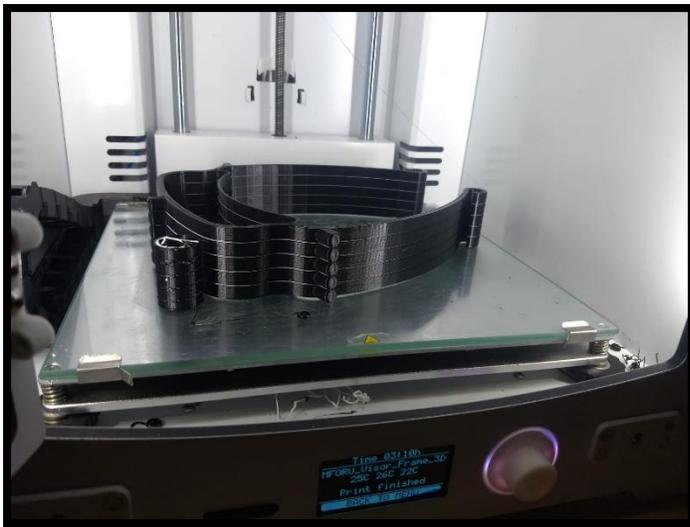


Dr. Bret Batchelor wearing an early prototype based on an open source design

With core funding provided via BC Rural Dividend grants and the Economic Opportunity Fund administered through the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), an additional commitment of funding from Community Futures Revelstoke and soon-to-be launched crowdfunding efforts by the Fab Lab Society, the COVID-19 Community Project has begun mass-producing face shields to meet local demand as well as for other communities down the road.

Production will increase over the next week. Volunteers with the Revelstoke Idea Factory are hoping to produce 100 before the end of March and 90 per day by April 2 for distribution to health care facilities. This is capacity-dependent on the arrival of 3D printing equipment, shield material and securing printing filament—all things made possible by the community funds and programs.

“Our community is facing a health crisis of unknown proportion. The work of these volunteers with the FAB Lab Society will be critical to ensuring that emergency and health care workers are protected while caring for our loved ones” stated Mayor Gary Sulz. “I am thrilled that we have such an innovative group of people in our community who have seen the need and used their skills and equipment to respond so quickly to produce personal protective equipment for use by our medical teams”.



The Revelstoke Idea Factory, formed in 2018 by community members involved in the technology sector, was launched with a grant of \$100,000 through Rural Dividend and matched by additional funding from the CSRD. To date, the Idea Factory has developed and led training programs for youth in collaboration with School District 19 and Okanagan College.

Programming has been provided to high school students in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years, as well

as via summer camps delivered by Okanagan College at the Revelstoke campus. A March break program began this year but was suspended after a few days given the on-going health crisis.

For more information on the COVID-19 Community Project please go to the [Revelstoke Idea Factory website](#).



To donate to the purchasing of raw materials and 3D printers to facilitate the production of face masks, please visit the [Go Fund Me](#).

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