## Animals take to the streets

By Justina Ray - April 21, 2020

There will be a strong desire to kickstart conventional development once this crisis subsides. But if we follow this path without an altogether different mindset, we may end up back in the exact same place we are now or some place even worse.

But while we are seeing signs of resurgence, this is a far cry from recovery.

As a biologist, watching spring unfold while I remain chained to my desk is immensely frustrating. But if this crisis has taught us anything, it is about the value of gathering solid information as a basis for decision making and the need for ongoing monitoring to better understand our successes and our failures.

That will not be an easy change to make and it will require some serious rebalancing of priorities.

During these stressful times, people have found a small ray of light in sights like killer whales – released from the pressure of the relentless chase of whale-watching boats and ship traffic – cavorting off the Vancouver shoreline, and coyotes slipping down streets in broad daylight.

We need to build a new relationship with nature that starts with ending piecemeal “business as usual” resource extraction planning for our remaining vast wild areas.

While people have retreated inside their homes, animals have taken to the streets in cities throughout the world.

Much of this will be temporary, of course, unless we decide that the lessons being learned during the COVID-19 crisis extend to changing our approach to the natural world.