

Tit'q'et P.O. Box 615 Lillooet, B.C. VoX 1Vo

March 24, 2020

Dear T'ít'q'et/Community Members:

Re: COVID - 19

Covid-19 is a serious threat. BC has declared a state of emergency. In response, T'ít'q'et has activated its Emergency Operations Centre Level 1. Information on the EOC was shared in my Covid-19 Update letter dated March 20, 2020. As well, T'ít'q'et Council is considering declaring a state of emergency as recommended by the First Nation Leadership Council (see attached letter for information).

As an important measure to protect our community, Council is requesting that anyone who attended Desmond Peter's wake, funeral service, and/or other large gatherings in the last 14 days, or anyone who has been in contact with people who show the symptoms, to please self-isolate. Symptoms include one or more of the following: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, tiredness. Self-isolation means staying inside your homes and restricting contact with other people especially those that do not reside in your home. Do not go outside of your household. Do not visit your neighbours or other homes. **PLEASE STAY HOME.** T'ít'q'et encourages any people who may have been potentially exposed to COVID -19 to please inform the health department so that additional resources may be provided. If you are concerned with how to manage daily needs while in self-isolation, please contact Susan Napoleon, EOC Coordinator, or see our community Fb page and website for updated information on resources.

We must acknowledge that we are all responsible for stopping the spread of this virus. We each must take this threat seriously. No one is safe from this virus. Take care of yourselves, your families, community Elders, children, friends and neighbours.

Please stay home. S7atšxstsútwi (Take Care of yourselves)

Sincerely,

Chief Courteney Adolph-Jones

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

March 23, 2020

To All BC First Nations and Tribal Councils

Dear FN Community Leaders:

Re: State of Emergency in First Nation Communities

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) recognizes the inherent jurisdiction and self-determination of First Nations with regard to their lands and their peoples, and is encouraging all Nations to declare a State of Emergency as soon as possible in their communities. This follows the national State of Emergency in respect to the COVID-19 pandemic declared by the Assembly of First Nations on March 21, 2020, as well as the provincial government, and many municipal governments in BC.

The FNLC supports those First Nations that have already declared their own State of Emergency in their own communities and instituted travel restrictions in order to safeguard their citizens.

For other communities that may wish to set up their own community travel restrictions and public alerts, a template notice is attached that may be tailored to your specific community requirements.

The FNLC also strongly recommends all First Nation communities adhere to all measures put forth by public health authorities and the First Nations Health Authority to stop the spread of COVID-19 and take extreme precautionary measures to maintain health and safety in their communities. Information sheets developed by the First Nations Health Authority on community and individual protection measures are attached.

It is incumbent upon us all to act now and take all necessary measures to ensure strict social (physical) distancing immediately. We strongly support the recent advice from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Health Council and First Nations Health Directors Association that all communities cancel or postpone all cultural, community or social gatherings, meetings and events.

Community leaders must immediately work to educate all our citizens especially the youth - so they learn and understand the significant risks associated with COVID-19. Further, leaders are encouraged to involve and inform the whole community in efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. The FNLC and FNHA will continue to provide relevant and updated information to be shared with your community members and leaders.

With services, restaurants and bars closed, it is imperative that communities avoid gathering in any form until the pandemic is done. Our communities are small, interconnected and very social and, so, we recognize the significant challenges of physical distancing. However, COVID-19 presents challenges requiring fast and extreme measures and we must be vigilant in ensuring that we keep the virus out of our communities. The only way we can do this is to act now and not be physically close to others, aside from the people in your immediate household.



FIRST MATIONS

1004 Landooz Rd. Prince George, BC V2K 5S3

Ph: 778-945-9910 Fx: 778-945-9916



1200-100 Park Royal South West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903 Fx: 604-926-9923 Toll Free: 866-990-9939



INDIAN CHIEFS

401 - 312 Main Street Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2

Ph: 604-684-0231 Fx: 604-684-5726

Page 1 of 3

The FNLC further recommends that community members uphold principles such as "securing only what one needs," with respect to attaining essential goods such as food and supplies. We must continue to support and look out for our neighbours, family and friends.

The FNHA is a key source for COVID-19 related information for First Nations in BC. The FNHA has activated its Public Health Response Team and is constantly monitoring and reacting to updated COVID-19 information, and regularly updating its website. The FNHA also has a Communicable Disease Emergency Response Plan template for communities to utilize.

For detailed information on COVID-19 and impacts for First Nations, please visit the FNHA for daily updates: https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/information-on-novel-coronavirus.

Other sites for First Nations are the BC Ministry of Health COVID-19 Information page: https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19 and BC Centre for Disease Control: http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/.

Additionally, regular updates are being sent to First Nations via email from Indigenous Services Canada and via RDG Catherine Lappe on Twitter: @Catherine RDGBC.

For non-health related questions and requests to ISC during this time, please email: aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca This will help ensure all requests are tracked and responded to promptly.

In this unprecedented global emergency, we all need to do our part to protect our Nations and our most precious assets, our citizens.

Respectfully,

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

Cheryl Casimer

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

Chief Don Tom

Robert Phillips

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

ydia Hwitsum

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Rd. Prince George, BC V2K 5S3

Ph: 778-945-9910 Fx: 778-945-9916



1200-100 Park Royal South West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903 Fx: 604-926-9923 Toll Free: 866-990-9939



401 - 312 Main Street Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2

Ph: 604-684-0231 Fx: 604-684-5726

FNLC NOTICE TO BC FIRST NATIONS FNLC COVID-19 INFORMATION WEBSITE FOR FIRST NATIONS

March 24, 2020

First Nations in British Columbia have unique needs and considerations in responding to COVID-19. As the situation develops, there is a need for clear, reliable information to enable leaders to make the best decisions for their communities.

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) has compiled a comprehensive selection of resources on COVID-19 for First Nations use. These resources can be accessed by visiting:

www.fnlc.ca

The website will be updated regularly as responses to COVID-19 evolve. The site includes:

- A News Centre for the latest developments
- Information for First Nations accessing financial resources
- Health information links to the First Nations Health Authority.

If you require further information, or have any concerns about COVID-19 you want to bring to the attention of the FNLC, please refer to the <u>Contact</u> <u>Us</u> section of the website.



Tít'q'et

P.O. Box 615
Lillooet, B.C.
VoKiVo

phone (250) 256 4118 fax (250) 256 4544

March 20, 2020

Dear T'ít'q'et Members:

RE: COVID-19 RESPONSE

T'ít'q'et is preparing to keep our members safe by providing the most accurate and up to date information.

T'ít'q'et website and Facebook page will be used for any new updates with COVID -19 and other important information. Please share with your family members that may not have access to social media.

Precautions that have been implemented include:

- 1. Staff and Council travel suspended until further notice.
- 2. All community events postponed.
- 3. The weight room closed.
- 4. COVID -19 information packages delivered door to door.

New precautionary measure effective immediately:

- 1.All administration buildings will be closed to the general public. Staff will remain working. Some staff will work from home. Staff are connected remotely to their emails and voicemail so they will still follow up with your messages.
- 2. All Council and committee meetings will be closed to the public. A virtual meeting app is being set up for these meetings if they will be required to operate that way in the near future.

If you need to contact any staff members, please contact them through telephone or email. The staff contact list is attached.

Housing Rent Payments: Please etransfer rent payments to bettyl@titget.org or mail cheque or money order to Box 615, Lillooet BC VOK 1VO. No cash payments will be accepted at this time.

If members/clients need to pick up a purchase order, please call ahead. A doorbell has been installed so please ring the bell. A staff member will meet you outside the building to give you the document. Please do not be alarmed. The staff member will be wearing personal

protective equipment. Also, if you are feeling unwell when picking up an item at the door, please wear a mask that has been provided in the bag that was delivered on March 18, 2020.

Due to the fact that BC has declared both a public health emergency and a state of emergency, T'ít'q'et has activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) level 1. During this challenging time, we all need to protect the safety of our Elders, family, community and staff.

Please remember social distancing practices: stay at least 6 feet apart from other people; washing hands, use hand sanitizer when soap is not available, and regularly disinfecting commonly touched surfaces in your home. If you haven't done so already, please identify someone from outside of your household to assist you in case of illness or required isolation to retrieve groceries and/or other essential items including medications

Sincerely,

Chief Courteney Adolph-Jones