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CHIEF
Warren Tabobondung

CHIEF COUNCILLOR
Rebeka Tabobondung

COUNCILLORS
Vince Checkock
Brent Tabobondung
Dave Rice
Theresa McInnes

CHIEF & COUNCIL MESSAGE APRIL 17, 2020

Ahnii Dinwehndaagmuk,

Chi Miigwetch to all the self-sacrificing and social distancing efforts each of our citizens have made over the past month. We hope your physical distancing journey hasn't worn your tolerance too thin. All of our efforts have been paying off, as we have no reported COVID-19 cases in the community yet. However as of April 16th the District of Parry Sound has 3 confirmed cases.

Miigwetch to the Easter Bunny for dropping off special treats to the children this past weekend! WFN Staff are working hard to ensure on-going programming albeit in a new and 'COVID safe' way. Some of the programs prioritize children and family needs, while others prioritize Elders, Ontario Works, and the vulnerable. Each of our Elders are checked in on by relevant WFN staff regularly and we continue to call on all community members to also check-in on their family members and ensure they are OK and have what they need. The diligence and hard work of WFN staff is noted and appreciated by C&C, especially that of our Health Dept.

If you have any questions, concerns or need support please call the Health Station: **705-746-8022** and or E-mail: ert@wasauksing.ca

WFN Emergency Response Team (ERT):

Chief and Council continues to work closely and have established an Emergency Response Team comprised of the following Senior Administrative Staff and Council. The team meets several times a week to put measures in place to ensure the on-going health and safety of WFN members and Staff. The Emergency Response Team as listed will co-develop, implement, and maintain the Emergency Response Plan in all its phases:

Emergency Designate: Chief Warren Tabobondung

Emergency Designate: Deborah Pegahmagabow, Director of Health

Councillors: Rebeka Tabobondung (Communications), Vince Checkock (Security Control), Brent Tabobondung (Security Control), Dave Rice, Theresa McInnes

Director Public Works: Ryan Tabobondung

Here are some ERT updates:

-Video surveillance has been installed at the entry and exits of the bridge to deter and document potential violators of our Orders. Full Orders are listed at www.wasauksing.ca

-As of the April 16th, 2020 Band Council Resolution, WFN is no longer accepting exemption applications from Cottagers under the WLI subleases as defined in Order #2.

-Anishinabek Police Service has begun issuing warnings and fines to individuals and businesses violating the Orders. The **APS** is supporting and enforcing the Orders at: **1-888-310-1122**

-On April 11th and 12th a temporary community volunteer check point was set up on the Wasauksing side of the bridge. The purpose was to enforce the Orders and determine the flow of traffic taking place. Data was collected and handed over to Emergency Designate and Director of Health, Deborah Pegahmagabow. The following information was collected:



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- 0 cottagers attempted to access WLI cottages
- 40 non-residents travelling to purchase cigarettes, gas, or fishing were turned away
- 170 temporary resident passes were issued

-The ERT is working towards establishing a COVID-19 Security Checkpoint and vehicle registration at the point of entry to Wasauksing First Nation.

-Vehicles entering Wasauksing First Nation will be registered and will receive an updated resident and essential travel pass.

-Vehicles that do not meet any of the criteria of Resident and/or Essential travel will be turned away. Essential travel is currently listed by the Province of Ontario and in our Orders. To reduce the chance of bringing the virus into the community we ask that you make as minimal trips as possible.

-Members who live in town or regionally will be granted temporary access to the community to deliver essential supplies but are encouraged not to enter households as you could carry in the virus. Ensure you practice physical distancing (2 meters apart from each other).

What does this mean for our WFN membership who live in town or further away?

If you are an off-reserve WFN member returning to the community to live, you must register with the Director of Health and you will be required to go into a 14-day self-isolation period, you will be required to answer the following questions:

- Where are you returning from?
- Where/who will you be staying with?

Questions or temporary travel arrangements must be made with the ERT Team:
ert@wasauksing.ca

We understand that these measurements are not ideal and come with challenges but they are necessary to keep the community as safe as possible. As this virus continues to spread, Wasauksing First Nation will adjust its measures accordingly. Please remember:

- Self isolate if you have been around someone who awaits testing or has tested positive;
- Physical distance of no less than 6 feet (2 metres)-this means outside of your home when gathering the essential items such as food and medications; wear a mask for extra precautions;
- Hand wash lots and lots, as well as use hand sanitizer;
- If you do have to sneeze, sneeze into your arm or tissue and dispose of immediately it and then wash your hands; don't touch your face, if you do, wash your hands;
- Stay within the confines of your own home and yard, only leaving for a trip to town, to get your essential items such as food and medication, and for exercise and culture.
- Stay safe at home and consider it your safe bubble and protect it.

Miigwetch and remember we appreciate all the efforts everyone is making and we will get through this together.

Chief & Council