

April 30, 2020



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COVID19: Notice to Wasauksing Cottagers (UPDATE)

As we continue to respond to the unprecedented and daily evolving COVID-19 global pandemic, the Chief and Council of Wasauksing First Nation (WFN) will continue to follow the Emergency Response Order #2 (March 31, 2020).

Specifically, the following provision in Emergency Response Order #2 continues to be in effect:

All persons are prohibited from entering onto and from remaining on Wasauksing Lands for the purpose of accessing, visiting, staying at or residing within any cottage, lot, area, or portion of the properties held by way of the head lease by Wasauksing Lands Inc.

There will be no further granting of exemptions to the above provision, and any existing exemptions will be reviewed and revised if required. This Order will remain in effect until the State of Emergency on WFN is no longer in effect, unless it is revoked earlier.

To be clear, we are asking cottagers to avoid coming to WFN territory at this time. This is consistent with the recommendations of the provincial government to stay at home, and requests from small towns across the Province and the country.

The decision to make this Order and to keep it in force was not made lightly by Council and the WFN Emergency Response Team (ERT team), as we value our relationship with each of you. The restrictions in Order #2 are meant to protect our vulnerable population, especially our youth and Elders who we must protect at all costs. They are also meant to protect our limited local healthcare resources. To date, we have successfully prevented the virus from entering WFN territory, which we attribute to our strong measures taken to close down access and prevent unneeded travel to and from WFN territory.

We have received numerous requests to enter WFN territory to view damage caused by high water and wind. While we understand the desire to view such damage personally, we will not be allowing access to cottagers for this purpose. We will, however, be allowing insurance adjusters and local contractors temporary access to WFN territory for the purposes of identifying and repairing extreme damage. Please notify WFN at the ERT team email address (ert@wasauksing.ca) to provide details of possible damage, lot number, insurance adjuster's information, and contractor's information and we will review and provide temporary access passes where deemed necessary.



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Our Management and staff continue to prepare property tax relief options and we look forward to sharing more information on proposed measures very soon. WFN will also ensure that regular patrols are completed in the cottage lot area and that any suspicious activity is reported to the police for the duration of Emergency Response Order #2. We will also request the Anishinabek Police Service continue patrols in the cottage lot area to help keep on eye on your cottages and lots.

We look forward to the day that life returns closer to normal so that we can welcome cottagers back to our community, and each day brings us closer to this. This notice will be provided to PICA, and posted on WFN website at wasauksing.ca. Please check the WFN website for further updates.

Chi-Miigwetch for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. Please stay safe!

Sincerely,

WFN Chief and Council