

PRESS RELEASE

March 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Secwepemc Nation Declare State of Emergency within Secwepemcúl'ecw RE: COVID-19 Outbreak

The Kupkukwpi7 (Chiefs) of the Secwepemc communities are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of its members during this time and have declared a state of emergency in response to the imminent threat posed to our Nation members.

Secwepemc Leadership have taken action in exercising inherent Secwepemc rights within the collective jurisdiction of Secwepemcúl'ecw to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Secwepemc waters, wildlife, lands, peoples and properties.

The Secwepemc Nation calls on Canada and the Province of British Columbia to comply with UNDRIP and to uphold the Crowns' constitutional and fiduciary obligations to the Secwepemc Nation and uphold Section 15 of Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms that gives Secwepemc rights to equal protection; equal benefits; without discrimination.

At this time Secwepemc band administration offices are closed and will be offering essential services only until further notice while evaluations are ongoing.

ORDER

Pursuant to [Section 12 (1) of the Emergency Program Act (RS, 1996, Chap 111) / Secwepemc that a state of local emergency exists in Secwepemcúl'ecw due to the coronavirus and the Secwepemc members are at greater risk due to isolation, remoteness and lack of access to quality care equivalent to the general public;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Secwepemc, its employees, servants and agents are empowered pursuant to [Section 13 (1) of the Emergency Program Act/ Secwepemc to do all acts and implement all procedures that are considered necessary to prevent or to alleviate the effects of the emergency.

ORDERED by the Secwepemc Kukukwpi7 this date, March 20, 2020, to remain in force for thirty days until April 20, 2020 at midnight unless cancelled by Secwepemc Kupkukwpi7.

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For more information contact:

Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Tribal Chief (250-503-7072)

Enclosures (2)

Nation Address from Secwepemc Kupkukwpi7
Order of Statement of Emergency by Secwepemc Kupkukwpi7