



Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Update from Chief and Council – March 19, 2020

- Chief and Council want to continue to provide updates daily to our membership
- As of March 18 at 3pm, there were 231 cases of COVID 19 in BC. There were 45 new cases in a day. Interior Health only has 9 cases, again as of March 18 at 3pm.
- On the website there is an update on what essential services are available in the community and how to contact them. Our managers phone numbers are included. If you require any assistance, please contact the managers.
- The Social Assistance office is closed to members except by appointment. Please call 250-314-1522 to arrange for assistance.
- Social Assistance cheques have been processed and are in the mail
- Today Chief and Council met with the RCMP. They have pandemic plans in place and backup plans. Just a reminder that if there is an emergency, please call it into the Rural Detachment, if at all possible, rather than drop by the office in person.
- We also met with the head of the City of Kamloops Emergency Operations Centre as well as the City of Kamloops' Chief Administrative Office about how we can have a collective COVID response plan. We talked about what plans we both have in place and possible shared resources in areas like water

treatment plant and emergency planning. The City of Kamloops representatives have been told that there are sufficient supplies for Kamloops and that there is no need to panic shop.

- City of Kamloops staff has also let us know that Air Canada has stopped flights to Kamloops. Some routes have already been cancelled and the rest will be cancelled by April 1st.
- Chief and Council has initiated Level 1 of T'kemplups Emergency Operation Centre as of March 20/2020. Councilor Thomas Blank will be the lead on this initiative.
- Chief and Council also participated in a conference call with the Secwepemc Health Caucus. There was a call with many of the Secwepemc Leadership who shared details of what their communities are doing to prepare for COVID 19
- Chief Rosanne talked to Indigenous Services Canada today and they will be releasing funds to FN communities fairly soon to aid in community's operating during this crisis. ISC is still developing the process for releasing the emergency funding.
- As of March 18, the Province of BC issued a State of Emergency. Declaring a state of emergency allows the Province, through the minister, to implement any provincial emergency measures required with access to land and human resource assets that may be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency. This includes securing the critical supply chains to make sure people have access to essential goods and services, and that infrastructure necessary in a response is readily available.
-
- Please remember to socially isolate and wash your hands.

- Just a reminder to only use information from reliable sources. Misinformation is causing people a lot of unnecessary stress. Refer to the list of reliable sites that was distributed yesterday for that information.

Yours truly,

Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir (Chief)
On behalf of Council
Tkemlúps te Secwépemc