

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF – March 31/2020 COVID 19 update

Tk'emlúps Chief and Council wanted to keep you advised of the work that the SNTC is doing to support member communities during the COVID 19 crisis.

The Secwépemc Nation Building Initiative has committed to four initiatives during the Covid-19 pandemic. The health and wellbeing of nation members and staff is our main concern and all safety precautions have and will be taken during these initiatives.

Salmon Distribution

The Secwepemc Nation Building Initiative has provided over 11,000 pounds of salmon to all Secwépemc communities over the past week to provide immediate assistance during this pandemic. All seventeen communities that participated were grateful to have salmon in their community members' freezers.

TteS was blessed to receive the salmon, which was provided to our Elders, our vulnerable and low income family members.

Seeds for Gardening

It will be time to plant gardens soon. SNTC has committed to providing seeds to communities so that members have access to healthy fruit and vegetables, reduce the reliance on store brought products, and so that we can sustain ourselves using our own resources. We know that

being on the land has many healing benefits and our members will need this in the coming months.

Traditional Medicines

Many communities may not have access to the medicines we use traditionally to ward off viruses, and heal our bodies. The SNTC team will be working with knowledge keepers to gather traditional medicines.

Healing

The SNTC team is working with knowledge keepers to explore ways for individuals to continue ceremonies and share traditional knowledge while maintaining preventative measures during this pandemic. Social distancing is still very important! As Dr. Evan Adams said "We need to find a new way to fly".

TteS Chief and Council thank the work of the SNTC in supporting our membership through these difficult times. Thanks also to Tribal Chief Kukpi7 Wayne Christianson, for all his hard work.

Yours truly, **Tkemlúps te Secwépemc**

Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir (Chief) On behalf of Council