



## *Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc*

(Kamloops Indian Band)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

### **Update from Chief and Council – May 15, 2020**

#### **Food Sovereignty**

Our name Tk'emlúps translates to where the rivers meet and Secwepemc translates to “The People of the Land where the water flows from the highest mountains, through the rivers, on its way to the ocean”.

Our identity is intimately intertwined with the water and the land that has sustained us for thousands of years.

The cultural heritage of our land and food system is crucial. Our lands within Tk'emlúps in Secwepemcúl'ecw is important for our hunting, fishing, farming, and berry-picking harvesting areas.

Right now, we are all in gardening mode and want to plant our gardens this long weekend. For some this is an annual practice, and for many others this will be the first time.

Chief and Council share in the concern over food sovereignty and want to support all efforts by membership to secure their food supply. This includes requests for rototilling and gardening.

Chief and Council wanted to further support each of our families of TteS further. We have passed a motion **Moving to approve of a \$75.00 seed allowance cheque for on and off reserve membership over the age of 18 to be paid out of the Covid-19 budget account.**

The Finance Department mailed out by the cheques yesterday. A big thanks to Diane Jules and Renee Gottfriedson for getting the cheques completed so quickly. If the office does not have your current mailing address, please contact Communications.

Our ancestors played a significant role in finding solutions to many of the biggest systemic challenges of their world. Our crisis is COVID 19. I would encourage all members to try a garden and teach our youth how to provide for themselves.

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We ask Creator for continued good health. We know that our Elders and future generations will continue to thrive. We will continue to strive for a better quality of life and watch our gardens grow.

Thank you to the all the frontline workers for their ongoing efforts. Bless all our leaders and all those behind the scenes helping all of us day by day.

Kukwstép-kucw

Yours truly,  
**Tkemlúps te Secwépemc**

Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir (Chief)  
On behalf of Council