



## **KAPAWE'NO** FIRST NATION

**March 18, 2018**

**Attention: Kapawe'no First Nation Members**

### **KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION UPDATE**

I am aware that there are some members that may be concerned as to what is happening within the Nation with the recent events and the closure of the Health Centre and the Band office. Further to the last notice to members I want to reassure everyone that we are working diligently on addressing the issue of the Covid 19 pandemic that has just recently come to the forefront for our community. Our initial work was getting the disinfecting kits and relevant information to each household. We also felt it necessary to advise the membership that there was an individual who tested positive for the virus in the neighboring community. We felt it necessary to make our members aware of this event so that they could take the necessary precautions needed. It was also necessary to bring to your attention the fact that this virus is within our area.

I would like to inform the members that we have been working diligently on behalf of our members in the area of our Pandemic Planning and working to ensure that the essential needs of the members are met. Please understand that this is a new process and we are working with the various departments, AHS, Indigenous Services Canada, FNIHB, and the Disaster Management department. This is by no means a quick process. We have also been in contact with the Treaty 8 office in Edmonton to see what additional supports they may be able to provide. Needless to say, it has been a difficult process but it does not mean there has not been progress within the last 24 hours. Of course, there is still much work to be done within the next few days. We are committed to providing up to date information to membership as much as possible but we want to ensure that the information being provided is relevant to you as members. Communication procedures will be discussed within the next day or so and decisions will be made as to how we can inform members of ongoing developments. We are working with minimal administrative staff as many are attending to families and some are in self-isolation mode as a preventative measure. While we appreciate the offers of assistance, we also recognize that we need to minimize risks to staff and members as much as possible.

We understand that there are questions in regards to what will be the normal for band business and programs within the next while. We will be getting to those issues as soon as the initial priority areas regarding the pandemic have been resolved. We ask that community members have patience and recognize that we will inform membership on this as soon we can on how we will be operating in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, I urge our community members to take the initiative to follow the recommendation in regards to prevention that were provided in the packages delivered to each household. Restrict your travel if possible and only venture out for things that are essential. I am asking for your help by doing your part to protect your household which will thereby protect the community as a whole. As a Nation we will get through this critical time when we work together.

Please watch for further information as it becomes available within the next few days.

Chief Sydney Halcrow