



Gitsegukla Band Council

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Gitsegukla Band Council COVID-19 Notice

As per Assembly of First Nations National Chief-Perry Bellegarde's Declaration for all First Nations: Gitsegukla Band Council is hereby declaring a "State of Emergency" pertaining to Coronavirus-19 for the community of Gitsegukla.

In partnership with National Assembly of First Nations; BC Assembly of First Nations; First Nations Summit; Union of BC Indian Chiefs; all levels of Federal and Provincial Governments; First Nations Health Authority, First Nations Health Council; BC Emergency Management: Gitsegukla Band Council has implemented its Level 3 COVID-19 Community Protection Measure.

- Level 3 COVID-19 Gitsegukla Community Protection Plan is attached – please read it and other attached information carefully to have a better understanding.

Gitsegukla Emergency Management Committee (GEMC) is comprised of: Gitsegukla Band Council: Chief-Willie Blackwater: Deputy Chief-Victoria Russell: Councillors: Jennifer Gladstone: Morris Williams: Brian Wesley: Darlene Russell: Art Sampare: Noel Argueta: Roxane Alexcee. Band Administration: Dharmesh Makwana: Gitsegukla School Principal: Louise Ormerod: Community Health Representative: Wanda Williams: First Responder: Darrell Milton: Social Infrastructure Committee: Sharon P. Russell: MNP: Kam Sandhu and Prabh Nijjar. This group has 2 teleconferences a week to provide upstate status of community protection plan and makes decisions of how to further strengthen the plan.

Gitsegukla Emergency Response Team (GERT) is comprised of: Gitsegukla Band Council: Chief-Willie Blackwater: Deputy Chief-Victoria Russell: Fire Chief: Brian Wesley: Band Administration: Dharmesh Makwana: Gitsegukla School Principal: Louise Ormerod: Community Health Representative: Wanda Williams: First Responder: Darrell Milton: Social Infrastructure Committee: Sharon P. Russell: MNP: Kam Sandhu and Prabh Nijjar. This group monitors the GEME's community plan and provides updates to the GEME twice a week during the teleconferences.

Gate Keepers: Fire Chief-Brian Wesley: First Responders: Darrel Milton: Sam Aksidan: Ronald Wesley: Steven Aksidan: Dennis Gladstone: Community members: Lyle Russell: Greg Smith: Jason Shelford.

The Gate Keepers have been instructed to keep an accurate record of everyone that comes and goes into our community. They've been instructed to inform everyone that returns from doing what it is that they have to do outside the community; to self-isolate within their homes. This VIRUS is DEADLY; and our HEALTH CENTRE is ill equipped to handle a Community Infection.

Those that come back home; it is CRUCIAL that each of you; self-quarantine yourselves for a minimum of 14 days. Those that need to go to pick up groceries and other essential needs; please self-isolate yourselves also for a minimum of 14 days.

Very Important Note: for the protection of our community and to assist families to protect themselves from this DEADLY VIRIUS: we will be posting names of all members that have gone to Smithers or beyond and to Terrace or beyond; upon their returned home. We will also

be posting names of members and/or families who had lived outside of Gitsegukla that have returned home. Plus, we will be posting names of all those that are noticeably defying our protective measures; and we will be reporting to the RCMP the license plate numbers of vehicles that don't stop and report to the gate keepers. This may seem like a Drastic Measure, but when it comes to SAVING the LIVES of our community members and those that reside in our community; we the Band Council VOW to do whatever it TAKES.

Because the COVID-19 has the potential end result of Death, in particular to Elders and those with Medical Conditions; it is crucial that the Gitsegukla Community Protection Working Group Committee and the Gate Keepers **"do not"** breach its objective to protect the community members lives: as it is contradicting for them to defy our community protective measures.

We now have only one entrance in and out of our community: we the Band Council and those that are helping us have very little limitations of ensuring that our protection plan is enforced. **Therefore**, we are pleading with you the community members to make your respective family members, relatives and friends fully accountable to the protective measures we have developed. The most VUNERABLE are our ELDERS, THOSE WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS and CHILDREN.

We are not the only Band Council throughout BC that have implemented Community Protective Measure against COVID-19: most if not all First Nations Communities have implemented their own protective measures.

In closing we the Band Council can only share: Our Lives as Leaders are Precious: The Lives of our Immediate Families are Precious: The Lives of our Relatives are Precious: The Lives of our Elders are Precious: The Lives of our Children are Precious: The Lives of those that are Sick and Disabled who live in our community are Precious; The lives of our Community Members and Residents are Precious.

Therefore, we as members and residents of this community must call on each other to SAVE the lives of THOSE THAT ARE MOST VUNERABLE: because ONE MISTAKE MAY COST either our own Life or the Life of a member or resident.

Gitsegukla Chief and Council