

March 23, 2020

## **TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM FORMED**

These are truly unprecedented times. Wherever you are, Tahltan Leadership hopes that you and your family remains well.

This morning, President Chad Norman Day, Chief Marie Quock, Chief Rick Mclean, Vice President Ken Edzerza and Secretary Treasurer Adrian Carlick met to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our Territory.

Tahltan leadership has been working diligently to address the needs and concerns of our communities. Today, Tahltan Leadership took it a step further by agreeing to the establishment of a Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management Team.

Composed of leadership from Iskut Band, Tahltan Band and the Tahltan Central Government, this team has committed to:

- 1. Working together as one – while including in all relevant stakeholders and experts – to do what can be done to prevent the spread of the virus and in the event it does reach our Territory, ensure that we are prepared; and**
- 2. Having regular meetings and providing regular briefings to the Nation.**

The TNCEMT (Tahltan Nation COVID-19 Emergency Management Team) plans to meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, moving forward, and provide a briefing to the Nation later that day.

The TNCEMT would like to stress in the strongest terms that Tahltan Territory is not immune from this pandemic. Everyone must do their part to break the chain of commission, flatten the outbreak curve, and prevent the virus from reaching the Territory. Effective immediately:

- **Tahltans in Territory are required to stay at home, with the exception of essential services and going to the supermarket and or medical facilities. Going out on the land with family you are self-isolating with is okay.**
- **Tahltans in Territory are required to social distance. Public gatherings of 2 or more people are forbidden.**
- **Tahltans in Territory are required to remain in Territory and do their shopping in our community supermarkets.**
- **Tahltan who are outside of Territory are required to remain where they are and follow all provincial social distancing guidelines.**

Tahltan Leadership continues to be in talks with Premier Horgan and various Ministers, advocating for the Tahltan, Kaska and Tlingit Nations and the unique challenges our remote locations pose. The Premier has followed through on his commitment to President Day and has put the Tahltan Nation in direct contact with Dave Peterson Emergency Management BC Assistant Deputy Minister Office Recovery, Planning and Disaster Reduction.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has provided 3Nations (Tahltan, Kaska, Tlingit) with \$100,000 dollars to support pandemic planning work. This is on top of the money ISC sent directly to the Iskut Band and Tahltan Band. 3Nations will be contracting a company with pandemic planning experience to provide all three Nations with expert advice and assistance going forward. A company should be chosen and hired tomorrow. Freddie Louie is representing the Tahltan Nation on the 3Nations COVID-19 Technical Team and Christine Ball and Nancy Quock are representing Tahltan Band and Peggy Abou, Natasha Callbreath, Maggie Dennis, and Annabel Nole are representing Iskut.

This afternoon, TNCEMPT had a leadership to leadership meeting with Newcrest (Red Chris) to discuss what steps Newcrest was taking and what further steps they are willing to take to ensure our communities remain safe. Further discussions are set to take place and further information will be communicated to the Nation by Wednesday.

Tahltan Leadership understands and shares your concerns and is committed to coming together as one to protect our Territory from this virus. We must remain calm, stick together and support each other. We will get through this trying time together.

### **Message from the TCG Lands Department**

We understand that a lot of people are using their new found time to get out and go hunting. During this crisis is worth reminding everyone to respect wildlife, take only what you need and use all that you take. Please be aware that cows are pregnant during this period. Allowing them to produce calves will help the declining populations recover. Aerial surveys show that 75% of all moose close to the communities are cow/calves. In addition, please be safe when out on the land as grizzly bears will be waking up from hibernation.

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