

April 21, 2020

TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Tahltan Healthcare

Tahltan Leadership has secured the services of a fixed wing plane, stationed in the Lower Mainland, that takes care of the medical needs of northern communities. What this means is that this plane can land in Dease Lake each day to pick up COVID-19 tests and fly them to Vancouver for same day results. This plane also enables us to bring in medical staff and prescriptions if necessary.

In addition, Rapid Testing capability is coming to our Territory.

Red Chris (Newcrest)

Newcrest has placed an advanced care paramedic - 16 years work experience predominantly in the North - to provide rotating services in our three local communities for the next six weeks. The paramedic will assist with outreach work in the communities, wellness checks, educational services, ambulance training, preparations for transportation, and community response abilities related to COVID-19. Newcrest is covering all costs associated with this service.

Newcrest provided 30 loads of firewood logs split equally between Iskut, Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek. Tahltan Forestry Ltd. was engaged to do this work. Newcrest also covered the costs of delivery to the three communities.

Newcrest delivered a 200-litre drum of hand sanitizer, on April 16th, to each of our three communities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new measures put in place at Red Chris please contact either:

Lorraine Callbreath

Email: lcallbreath@redchrismine.ca

Phone: 250-771-4200

Shannon Wilson

Email: swilson@redchrismine.ca

Phone: 604-800-9200 ext 162

Dease Lake Update

The Dease Lake EMC has been working on ways to support our community with the cost of groceries, so we can keep everyone in our communities safe at home and the virus outside of the Territory. Super A gift cards – FOR GROCERIES ONLY – will be distributed. Those in receipt of these gift cars will receive a discount on groceries at the point of purchase.

Households of two people or less will receive \$40.00 per week while households of three or more people will receive \$60.00 per week. The Dease Lake EMC will do this for the months of April and May and will reassess before the end of May to gauge if this is an effective approach.

On April 29th and May 13th, you will receive Super A gift cards, which are for the two weeks following these dates.

Please rest assured that we understand that this is a challenging time and we are working on options to help you.

The Dease Lake EMC has had some masks made up and are available at the People's Haven. Please call 250-771-5577 to arrange for pickup.

Kimberley Marion has been hired through the EMC to coordinate and organize activities for the community to keep us active and entertained while we are self-isolating.

Please remember that the Dease Lake EMC is requesting that if you are leaving Dease Lake, if you have been out of town, and are returning to Dease Lake, or if you have someone who is new to your home to please contact:

Kailene Louie at the Peoples Haven: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday at 250-771-5577 alternate number is 250-771-3442

After hours please contact Andrea Louie at 250-771-3032

It is essential that as a community we do not travel unless necessary. Also, if you are returning to Dease Lake or are new to Dease Lake please follow the Self-isolation guidelines which have been provided via Facebook and Mailouts.

EMC Coordinator is Tina Etzerza - 250-771-3405 or 250-631-2442 - EMCDL@tahtlan.org

Iskut Update

In order to keep our people at home, the Iskut Band will begin covering the freight costs for our groceries; as a result, the Kluachon Store has been given direction to pass these savings onto our members by reducing the price of goods.

We have called each household in our community to understand what supplies are required. Thank you to our team for working so hard on this task. A large grocery order will be made by the end of the week.

Bingo has completed another successful week. Everyone is enjoying it, especially all the big winners. Our next round of contests will be coming out soon. In addition, we are looking at doing yard cleaning, summer window decorating and something for the men in our community.

We are in the process of turning the Klappan turn-off into a Chinha-de-li kima gathering place. This will be available for families to have a bbq, camp and spend time around the fire. We are currently writing up guidelines and a schedule so this can serve as a great get away for our people. Please stay tuned for more information.

The Klappan school has launched their school garden. A hands-on learning curriculum is being used offers quite an exciting way to pass the time. Tahltan art and craft kits went home, that included a small leather medicine pouch, paint and Tahltan art. We have a Klappan school FB group to keep in contact with families and is updated regularly.

The KS Nutrition program is running again and provides quick healthy breakfasts, snacks, and lunches for our students at home. E-learning and staff professional days have taken place over the last two weeks, so that the KS staff could be trained in online learning. Huey has also made a homework drop box in a wonderful 4-directions design for outside the school. Meduh to the Staff for the hard work.

Headstart has dropped off another craft package for the children! Thanks to the staff for always taking care of our young Headstart children.

Any questions or concerns please email the Emergency coordinator of Iskut emergencycoordinator@iskut.org.

Telegraph Creek Update

Telegraph Creek is experiencing multiple washouts from the spring run off this year, the road to downtown Telegraph Creek is closed. LDM, along with some TBC employees are working diligently to keep all the roads open. COVID-19 emergency preparedness remains a key priority.

This week Chief Rick McLean brought in moose meat, that was harvested by Shelby Marion, to be shared with the residents of Telegraph Creek.

In order to keep our people at home, the Tahltan Band will begin covering the freight costs for our groceries; as a result, grocery prices at Tahltan Centre are in the process of being lowered, this is in effort to keep Telegraph Creek community members from making non essential trips to Dease Lake and beyond.

We would like to thank all community members for doing their part during these challenging times; not only are you keeping yourself safe, but you are keeping everyone else safe within the community.

ENDS