

April 24, 2020

## **TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

### **Tahltan Healthcare**

A stand-by helicopter ambulance is now available to our region – Dease Lake, Iskut, and Telegraph Creek. This is important because if a BC Ambulance does not have an aircraft immediately available, we can call on this rotary craft for immediate assistance. Thank you Dr. Jaco Fourie for making this happen for the Tahltan Nation.

### **Red Chris (Newcrest)**

Newcrest Provided each of the communities with no touch thermometers that can be used to screen people before the enter the community and at local clinic or offices. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, two were provided to each community with additional thermometers ordered and awaiting delivery.

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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:lcallbreath@redchrismine.ca)

**Phone:** 250-771-4200

**Shannon Wilson**

**Email:** [swilson@redchrismine.ca](mailto:swilson@redchrismine.ca)

**Phone:** 604-800-9200 ext 162

## **Dease Lake Update**

The Dease Lake EMC has been in operation for four weeks and we are working hard as a team to do all that we can to keep our community safe.

The Dease Lake EMC had homemade masks made and they are available at the People's Haven. If you would like one, please call 250-771-5577.

This week the Dease Lake EMC was able to distribute Super A gift cards to every household in Dease Lake. The purpose of these gift cards is to reduce the cost of groceries which will in turn lessen the need for our community members to travel outside of Dease Lake. The gift cards are to be used for GROCERIES ONLY and will not be accepted as payment for fuel, electronics, camping items, tabaco, liquor etc. Please note that Super A gift cards are being funded by the Dease Lake Community Funds.

Super A has implemented many changes over the last four weeks, including social/physical distancing. The "gas bar" is only for fuel purchases and express groceries. For everyone using a grocery cart or basket when shopping, please pay for your purchases at "Til 3", rather than at the gas bar. This is being done in order to lessen the traffic around the gas bar and thus, keep our community members safe. In addition, most aisles are now marked as "one way only". Importantly, these measures will not work if shoppers do not follow the signage and keep 6 feet apart while shopping. The health and well-being of our community requires everyone to follow the rules, so please read the signs, follow the directions laid out around the store and follow all directions given by staff. Remember we are all in this together.

Canada Post is allowing only one person at a time in their facility, as there is not enough room to allow for a two meters distance between people. Please call ahead to see if you have mail to pick up: 250-771-5013. If you would like someone else to pick up your mail, please fill out an authorization form at the post office as CJ is not allowed to do so without this form filled out in advance.

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.

For those of you who have the ability to influence those who are not yet following Social Distancing and Self-Isolation guidelines: Often the most effective approach to helping people understand the danger we are all facing is a heart-to-heart from a respected loved one such as a grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle or close family friend. If you are one of these respected loved ones and are witnessing someone you care about disregard the need to Social Distance and Self-Isolate, please speak to them about it. You may be the one who makes the difference.

If anyone in your household has any symptoms of COVID-19 please call the Northern Health Info Line at [1-844-645-7811](tel:1-844-645-7811).

For a list of symptoms please visit the BC Centre for Disease Control at:  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

### *Who is your Emergency Management Committee Coordinator?*

Dease Lake EMC Coordinator is Tina Etzerza - 250-771-3405 or 250-631-2442 - [EMCDL@tahltan.org](mailto:EMCDL@tahltan.org)

### *Who are the EMC Committee Members?*

Kim Rowe	Tahltan Band & Peoples Haven
Carol Danielson	Dease Lake Community Development Fund & School District 87
Tina Etzerza	EMC Coordinator and Regional District Kitimat-Stikine
Susan Hotson	Health Administrator Stikine Health Center
Kimberley Marion	Tahltan Central Government & Community Representative
Steve Woodcox	RCMP
Ed Van Meirlo	Super A
Shana Dennis	Finance Administrator Tahltan Band
Hankin Asp	Tahltan Nation Development Corporation
Chief Richard McLean	Chief, Tahltan Band
Shirley Nehass	Resident of IR 9

### **Iskut Update**

The Kluachon store has been stocked with a good variety of produce for the community. We are happy see the shelves stocked and the store keeping up with demand.

The Kluachon Cafe is busy with take out and everything is going great.

Our team is putting orders in to get a community garden started. This projects to be a fantastic project that will benefit many community members.

Our community bingo is going great!

We have a new contest called "Cleanest Yard 2020". It is great to see everyone out and enjoying the fresh air while cleaning up. Usually the community has a big clean up followed by a BBQ but obviously this year is different. Nevertheless, it is good to see everyone out and motivated to clean their yards up.

Our gate monitors are still working and protecting the community. Remember to be nice to our frontline workers! They are following job guidelines and doing their job to protect you and the rest of our community.

Please be reminded of the fire ban. No fires bigger than a campfire are allowed.

As your Emergency Coordinator I challenge everyone while they are out walking to bring a bag and pick up some garbage. With spring melting all our snow garbage is now showing up. Let us all do our part to keep our Territory clean!

Any questions or concerns please email Natacha Callbreath, Iskut Emergency Coordinator at: [emergencycoordinator@iskut.org](mailto:emergencycoordinator@iskut.org).

### **Telegraph Creek Update**

Telegraph Creek gate monitoring remains in effect. We are compiling the information collected from the gate, which helps us monitor any visitors that enter our community as well as community members who travel outside the community. Anyone entering the community is required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Telegraph Creek store prices have been reduced to reflect the cost of the freight. An additional supply of fruits and vegetables was delivered today to help maintain supply through the week.

Educating our community regarding the threat of COVID-19 remains a priority. There is nothing more important than the safety of all our community members.

Our cook is back to deliver "Meals on Wheels" to our Elders. This is critical for providing healthy and cost-effective meals, as well as providing some important social interaction from a distance.

Our social team organized a special Bingo for the Elders who do not have internet and therefore cannot play Facebook Bingo. We received a great response and they would like this to continue.

In addition, our social team delivered more craft kits, Lego, and sewing pouch kits to community members. We will be holding another community Facebook Bingo, with prizes being store credits.

Food hampers will be going out to assist families who have been hit hard by these challenging times.

We have 40 thermometers and 8 medical Infrared Thermometers arriving next week. 60 spray bottles will arrive next week, so we can distribute the hand sanitizer that was donated by Newcrest (Red Chris).

Another shipment of pampers & formula will arrive next week to assist our families with costs and access.

Two members from our social team have been identified to work on the Grocery Committee with our Nation EMC.

We will begin the cutting & distributing of the community wood next week.

Pharmacy services for all three communities have been finalized and prescriptions and medications will now be shipped from Shoppers Drug Mart out of Smithers. We can send in prescriptions on Monday and it will be delivered to Telegraph Creek on Wednesday.

Finally, we have an order of PPE for the community arriving soon. This will be shipped from FNHA.

ENDS