

May 13, 2020

TAHLTAN NATION COVID-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

EVENT CANCELLATIONS:

Tahltan Leadership would like to announce the following cancellations due to COVID-19:

May:

Healthy Active Tahltan School Events – Dease Lake, Iskut and Telegraph Creek

Iskut Baby Welcoming

TCG Update Meetings

June:

Tahltan Band Chief and Council Election Postponed until end of November

June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 22: Tour de Telegraph

School and Headstart Sports/Awards/Grad Day

TCG Update Meetings

July:

Dease Lake Fishing Derby

Iskut Music Festival

Iskut Literacy Camp

Glenora Literacy Camp

Telegraph Creek Grad

August:

Tahltan Music Fest

Iskut Cultural Camp Kawdy

October:

110th Declaration Celebration

Dease Lake Update

Today the Dease Lake Emergency Management Committee began distributing grocery hampers with the help of the Dease Lake Canadian Ranger Patrol and New Crest Mining. The distribution will happen as follows:

- Households with occupants age 60 and up – your hamper will be delivered to your home sometime tomorrow.
- If your family who resides in your home includes children under the age of 18 please come and pick up your hamper at the old shell station anytime between 1:00pm and 5:00pm.
- If your household does not include people from either of the above groups please come by and pick up your hamper at the old shell station anytime between 3:00pm and 5:00pm.

When you come to pick up your hamper, we ask that you pull up near the old restaurant door on an angle so you will be able to drive away without backing up. Wait in your vehicle, the groceries will be put into your vehicle and you can drive away.

We are not allowing the public into the sorting area as we are taking safety precautions and those who are sorting and delivering are wearing gloves and masks. If you have any questions, please message the DLEMC on Facebook or email at emcdl@tahttan.org or phone Tina Etzerza at 250-771-3405.

Iskut Update

Mother's Day weekend was filled with activities and beautiful weather. Flower baskets were delivered to Elders and flowers were delivered to expecting moms and moms with young babies.

The Mother's Day walk took place while practising social distancing and walking with only those in your household. A Mother's Day cake decorating contest took place as well. Thank you, Terri Lynn and Anabelle who made this, happen!

Last Friday we had a Community Clean-Up. This year it was the Iskut Band, Iskut Valley Health and Klappan School staff doing it for a change and not the kids. It was great to see everyone out and wow what a beautiful and clean community we have! Many hard-working people picked up many bags of garbage left over from the spring melt.

We received thermometers and some games from Newcrest (Red Chris) that were dropped off during the weekend. Thank you.

Starting Tuesday May 12th, we are having the Dease Lake high school teachers come to the Community Hall to teach our students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. They will have desks spaced apart to follow all social distance guidelines. This is a great idea and we are looking forward to seeing it work.

Just a reminder that if you have been out of town – for example to Terrace, Smithers or beyond – you must self isolate for 14 days when you return home. Please do not go to the store or public places. We have a Runner Team who will shop for you and pick up your mail while following all protocols and safety measures. If you have any questions please contact Natasha Callbreath emergencycoordinator@iskut.org.

Telegraph Creek

We need to continue with our preventive measures as this is critical for us to continue to prevent your risk of getting sick with COVID-19.

- ***Stay home is possible.***
- ***Wash your hands.***
- ***Take everyday precautions to keep space between yourself and others.***
- ***Keep away from people who are sick.***
- ***Clean & disinfect.***

Our Social Team continues to provide programs and services for the community. The third phase of food hampers are being delivered today. With these hampers going out, all community households would have received a hamper. The Mother's Day walk went well, and residents want to begin a weekly walking program. A community book club has started, and we had several books arrive this week and more are on order. Please call the Rec Centre @ 235-3100 if you would like to join or share your books with others. Sewing kits are being delivered as other projects are finished. Several homemade masks have been delivered to the Rec Centre and will continue to have community members sew masks. Let us know if you require one.

A Chinese cuisine community dinner is planned for May 14th, it will be ready by 4pm for pick-up and we will have staff deliver to our Elders.

River Song is open for residents who are required to isolate for 14 days and cannot go home due to a household member that is/are compromised. River Song is also open for takeout food and the cook is also a professional baker and willing to take orders.

We continue with the upgrades to the 30-mile Men's Camp, with graveling the entrance and painting the cabins. The men will also begin the clearing of the Summit trail. Lots of deadfall from the 2018 fire needs to be cleared to access this trail during the winter and summer. This was a very popular trail for winter snowmobiling. The plan is to build a cabin to be utilized seasonally.

We planted our 50 tomato plants in the greenhouse and will be planting the beautiful flowers around the Nursing Station and the Elders Complex by the end of the week. We will begin planting the community garden on May 19th, if you can help in any way, please let us know or show up at the garden.

Our store manager reports that we were well stocked for veggies and dairy products last week. Two meat shipments arrived today, so the meat is also well stocked. Thursday mornings are set

for our Elders shopping and rides are provided for those who require this service. Fuel prices are reduced to reflect the lower prices during COVID-19.

Reminder: If you are travelling outside the territory, please call Sheila at the Band office, 250-235-3151, and give her dates of your travel. This is crucial to the safety of our community and to track the contact if we should have a case of COVID-19.

Red Chris (Newcrest)

Newcrest Red Chris worked with local Tahltan community members to commission sewing of 700 cloth face masks. All employees and contractors are required wear the masks during travel to and from site.

Newcrest Red Chris is providing in-kind donations of volunteer time by Lorraine Callbreath who is working in Dease Lake with the EMC team and elders.

Newcrest Red Chris supported travel for local nurses (in-kind).

Newcrest Red Chris provided cleaning supplies to Iskut, Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek. Cleaning supplies provided included bleach, hand gloves, multi-surface cleaner, bathroom cleaner and hand soap. Additional no-touch thermometers were also provided to each community.

Thank you to Lorraine Callbreath and Newcrest (Red Chris) who are working on the distribution of additional board-games, indoor activities, and other entertainment such crosswords/books for our three local community residents. Items are set to be delivered very soon.

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.

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 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

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