



NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AND COUNCIL

BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

DATE	QUORUM	PROVINCE	CHRONOLOGICAL NO:
March 30, 2020	3	Ontario	

DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

**NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION
STATE OF EMERGENCY ON COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic and has advised governments around the world to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of this coronavirus;

WHEREAS: Neskantaga First Nation Chief and Council are elected to represent the membership of Neskantaga First Nation, and have an inherent responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of their residents and members, both on and off-reserve;

WHEREAS Neskantaga First Nation faces unique and difficult challenges in protection people from, and containing, this virus, and the spread of COVID-19 poses a critical threat to the health and safety of our community due to overcrowding in homes, our geographic isolation, and inadequate resources due to decades of government neglect;

WHEREAS this crisis is compounded by a persistent and significant shortage of services and, such as hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and other essential personal protective equipment, medical supplies and medical staff critical to protecting the health of community members;

WHEREAS the leadership of Neskantaga First Nation has enacted its Pandemic Plan and has directed all on and off-reserve community members and departments to take the steps necessary to protect themselves and community members;

WHEREAS our already inadequate on-reserve health system will collapse under strain if COVID-19 enters our community, and urban centres already reporting positive COVID-19 cases may also fail to support the needs of our members due to inadequate surge capacity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Chief and Council hereby declare that Neskantaga First Nation is under a State of Emergency due to the threat of COVID-19;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this State of Emergency has been declared due to insufficient medical emergency response services including medical staff, medical supplies, testing kits and facilities, personal protective equipment and collective and holistic capacity to adequately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;



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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Neskantaga First Nation formally calls upon the governments of Canada and Ontario and all departments, agencies and partners to deploy the critical resources required to address the threat of this pandemic immediately;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief and Council of Neskantaga First Nation directs and authorizes Matawa First Nations and Nishnawbe Aski Nation to communicate the content of this BCR in its entirety to the appropriate senior officials with governments of Canada and Ontario, and any other parties who may be in a position to provide assistance;

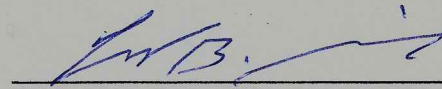
FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that this State of Emergency will remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by subsequent order by the Chief and Council of Neskantaga First Nation.


Chief


Councillor


Councillor


Councillor


Councillor