

FACT SHEET ON COVID-19 IMPACTS

February 23, 2021

The following represents a preliminary outline of issues Neskantaga First Nation is challenged with during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Overcrowded housing which affects the ability to isolate (both for on-reserve and for members in urban areas)
- Homelessness (both for on-reserve and for members in urban areas)
- Inability for homeless to return back to home community during the pandemic due to lack of isolation infrastructure and lack of adequate housing
- High number of crises and state of emergencies (SOE)
- Water and infrastructure deficits and disrepair in the community (experienced an evacuation twice within 2 years and it is an ongoing issue which continues to challenge day-to-day life)
- Long standing legacy issues and trauma (creating health and safety, as well as mental health challenges)
- Existing 2013 SOE due to poor living conditions and a high number of suicides
- Poor housing conditions and lack of housing (mold and sub-standard living conditions)
- With a young and growing population the community cannot keep up with housing requirements (needs become greater, Youth require ongoing supports)
- Addictions, mental health and social issues
- Colonialism and experience of racism and discrimination in urban areas
- Lack of internet connectivity affecting ability to access resources on mental health and medical care
- COVID-19 exposures and long-term effects taking its toll on the wellness of people and families involved
- Lack of resources for medical services and long-term care homes
- High cost of living (inability to access nutrition and foods needed to maintain health)
- High rates of diabetes and other chronic diseases
- High cost of fuel (currently \$2.69/litre at local community store)
- Lack of resources for land-based healing
- Lack of access to construction and home maintenance supplies
- Increased anxiety and stress
- Transportation issues
- Cargo and freight ordering due to pandemic has increased
- Essential needs for babies are hard to come by at the local store (diapers, pullups, wipes, etc.)
- Community has been under lockdown and in a state of crisis since the pandemic began
- Life in community has drastically changed due to ongoing water, infrastructure issues and due in large part to the pandemic situation – this is a challenge and ongoing

