



Declaration of State of Emergency Off-Reserve Member COVID-19 Outbreak

WHEREAS the City of Thunder Bay declared a State of Emergency on February 2nd 2021 due to outbreak of a communicable disease, namely the COVID-19 coronavirus which constitute a danger of major proportions that has resulted in serious harm to persons;

WHEREAS the off-reserve population overall is 217 Neskantaga First Nation members with 12 (6%) currently testing positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS this outbreak is disproportionately affecting individuals experiencing homelessness and who are precariously housed;

WHEREAS this outbreak has laid to bare a number of challenges and heavy prices the community is paying as result, some of which are outlined in the attached Fact Sheet on COVID-19 impacts;

WHEREAS Neskantaga First Nation does not have the financial and human resources to deal with this emergency;

WHEREAS Neskantaga urgently requires additional resources to help its members with this outbreak in the city of Thunder Bay;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to our inherent authority and responsibility to advocate for our members regardless of where they reside, we hereby declare a state of emergency amongst our members in the entirety of the municipality of the City of Thunder Bay;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the Neskantaga First Nation is to do all acts and implement all procedures that are considered necessary to prevent or to alleviate the effects of this emergency;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the first acts to alleviate the effects of this emergency extraordinary measures be undertaken to relief the strain on its membership and to properly

support its members and Neskantaga First Nation including prioritizing for COVID-19 immunization in the city of Thunder Bay as soon as it is available;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Indigenous Services Canada fund emergency housing to accommodate the homeless population (at least 14 members) who have been forced off-reserve due to a lack of housing, in order to lower their risk of contracting Covid-19 and further support their health and safety;

ORDERED by Neskantaga First Nation, on this 23rd day of February, 2021, and remaining in force until such time that the citizens of Neskantaga First Nation in the city of Thunder Bay are fully immunized against the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Chief Christopher Moonias

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Moonias", is positioned below the name of the Chief. The signature is fluid and cursive.