



Declaration of State of Local Emergency on COVID-19 Outbreak in the Community

ORDER

WHEREAS a COVID-19 outbreak in Neskantaga First Nation was identified by the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority as beginning on May 12, 2021;

WHEREAS the source of the outbreak has been identified as coming from an outside contractor and COVID-19 testing, to-date, has identified the virus as spreading to two (2) people residing in Neskantaga First Nation (one a member and the other a resident) and that a contact tracing investigation has begun;

WHEREAS these are the first positive cases identified in the community since the pandemic began in March 2020;

WHEREAS this year, the community has experienced 7 deaths and COVID-19 has impacted on the community's ability to heal/mourn;

WHEREAS with these cases being identified and the short amount of time it took for the virus to spread—the community has initiated a community-wide lock-down protocol requiring all members to shelter in place;

WHEREAS the shelter in place order will impact on two (2) upcoming funerals/burials that were supposed to have taken place over the next week and the COVID-19 has already;

WHEREAS the community plans to undergo community-wide COVID-19 testing in the near future and are hopeful that the high uptake of COVID-19 vaccination will play a positive role in curbing the spread in the community;

WHEREAS the children in the community under the age of 18 years old were not vaccinated and this is a concern with this current outbreak;

WHEREAS the ability to mount a response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Neskantaga First Nation is impacted by a 26-year boil water advisory, overcrowded housing, lack of logistical supports for isolating families, amongst other challenges;

WHEREAS the community has exhausted internal human/other resources and are needing outside government and humanitarian assistance to address the outbreak;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to our inherent authority and responsibility to protect and advocate for our members, we hereby declare a state of emergency in our community;

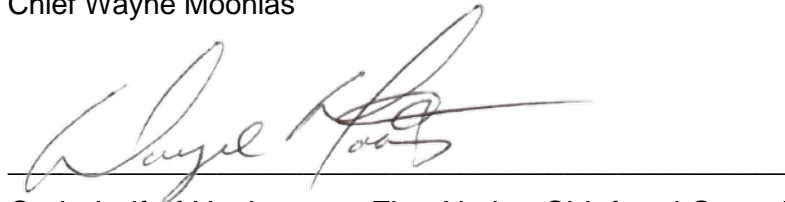
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the Neskantaga First Nation is to do all acts and implement all procedures that are considered necessary to prevent or to alleviate the effects of this emergency;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the first acts to alleviate the effects of this emergency is to call on outside government and humanitarian assistance to provide emergency management supports in order for Neskantaga First Nation to effectively respond to the outbreak;

ORDERED by Neskantaga First Nation, on this 13th day of May, 2021, and remaining in force until such time that the outbreak is declared over by the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority.

PER:

Chief Wayne Moonias

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Moonias", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

On behalf of Neskantaga First Nation Chief and Council