

# Eabametoong First Nation

Fort Hope Indian Reserve #64

P.O. Box 298

Eabamet Lake, Ontario

P0T 1L0

Telephone: (807) 242-7221

Fax: (807) 242-1441

## COMMUNITY NOTICE

April 1, 2020

Booshoo, everyone!

We hope you and your families are doing well in these challenging times. We are writing to provide an update on the increasing measures that EFN Chief and Council have taken to date, and are now putting into place to protect our community. These decisions are not made lightly, but are based on the best medical advice available and in our collective interests.

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, EFN enacted a restriction on all non-essential travel to and from the community. This required all flight and road travel to be approved by the EFN Senior Executive Officer and Assistant Senior Executive Officer;
- Effective March 31, EFN has prepared a **COVID-19 Pandemic Plan**;
- Effective March 31, EFN has declared a **State of Emergency** due to the serious public health crisis of COVID-19; and,
- Effective April 1, EFN has declared the **EFN COVID-19 Community Protection and Emergency Response Order**

All of these documents will be made available in paper copy and online, but here are some key summary points from the **Community Protection and Emergency Response Order**:

1. Restriction on flights into the community – a new needs-based schedule and charter approach will be developed with airlines to ensure delivery of essentials and approved resident travel (e.g. urgent medical issues) and screening of any returning members;
2. Restriction on visits from off-reserve members;
3. Procedures for any emergency business travel, including for staff and EFN leadership;
4. Guidance for Physical Distancing and Self-Isolation for all persons on reserve, including:
  - a. Staying at home, except for daily exercise and purchasing supplies;
  - b. Encouragement to get out on the land for traditional harvesting, hunting/fishing, but in household groups while practicing physical distancing from others;
  - c. Protocols for self-isolation if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms;
  - d. Limits on number of people at stores (10), and in the event of funerals (10);
  - e. Recommended supervision for all children under the age of 16;
  - f. 10pm evening curfew for anyone under the age of 18.

5. The Order is subject to review and amendment by Chief and Council, and will be reviewed within the first 15 days of coming into effect. Measures may be increased or decreased as appropriate for the protection of our community.

Details and specific restrictions are described in the attached Order. It is our intent to protect the community from the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout the Province of Ontario, and prevent our members from experiencing the horrific scenarios that are occurring in other parts of the world. So far, we have not had any members identified with symptoms of COVID-19. Let us consider that and our community remoteness as a blessing in these uncertain times.

As we have mentioned, and must continue to stress, our number one protection against COVID-19 is for all of us to be vigilant in practicing physical distancing and frequent hand washing. Some of the measures introduced in this Order will require adjustments to our daily life. The virus will not spread without people passing it on others, so please think of each other and don't be a spreader. If we are committed to the protection and health of our community, then we must make some personal sacrifices and all do our part to take these measures seriously.

Wishing you and your families strength and courage as we overcome this together,

Eabametoong First Nation Chief and Council

