

# **ALIB Community Communique**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2020

Attention: Adams Lake (Cstèlnec) Band and Community Members

Re: Emergency Operations Update

Adams Lake Indian Band, along with many other First Nations across Canada have declared a state of emergency as a result of the Covid 19 virus. The Adams Lake Indian Band has worked to follow the many health and safety recommendations coming from the Federal and Provincial government along with the initiatives and directives from our own Health and Wellness staff. This unprecedented situation has affected local, regional and international travel. Self-isolation and enforced quarantines are being observed across the country. We will continue to do our part in this global pandemic. The Adams Lake Indian Band will strive to do its part to ensure community health and safety.

## **Emergency Funds**

Emergency cheques are being made for every Band Member of the Adams Lake Indian Band. Every man, woman and child will receive the sum of \$200 starting Friday April 3, 2020 for local Band Members. For Band Members living away, the target is for your cheques will be mailed out on Monday and Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **Food Distribution for Elder and Person with Disabilities**

There is a food distribution team working on ordering food and supplies for elders and those persons with disabilities in the hopes that those at risk stay in as much as possible during this crisis. The team is attempting to acquire food and prepare for delivery in mid-April. We will arrange for delivery and keep in touch with the elders of the community to ensure that they are safe and healthy during this difficult time.

## **Health and Wellness Team**

The health and wellness team has been keeping up with the regional and national health advisories to inform the community of the changing guidelines which the community is to adhere to. The Government of Canada now has a ban on gatherings of no more than 10 people. Therefore, we are advising against gatherings such as ceremonies, feasts and other activities that we normally undertake. These health warnings have been developed and forwarded through our electronic sign, newsletter and social media. The Health and Wellness Team are providing a valuable service, leadership and guidance for ALIB in this time of pandemic.

## **Administration**

The Adams Lake Indian Band will be operating with a reduced staff beginning on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. The health advisories are recommending that those people who are at risk should stay home and if possible, work from home. As such, ALIB will work with a reduced staff until this crisis begins to subside. We will operate with essential staff only until such time as it is deemed to be safe to return to work. The administration is in contact with local and regional Emergency Management BC offices and is updated on the issues and recommendations coming from local and regional authorities. The Finance Department will operate from home as much as possible and they will come into work for essential financial administration.

### **Public Works and Housing**

The public works department will work to ensure that our infrastructure such as water and sanitation are working during this pandemic. They will ensure that the community continues to receive its clean water and services during this difficult time. The housing department will continue to work on renovations and seeking funding to build new homes this year. Contractors working within the community will need to get permission forms from the community members whose homes are being worked on.

### **Education**

The schools within the community are now closed. The students are at home for the time being. The staff of Chief Atahm school will work remotely and offer the opportunity for kids to continue with their studies during this school closure. We have the capability of disseminating homework for students during this closure through the internet.

### **Natural Resources**

The Natural Resource Department will operate as normally as possible. The work crews that primarily work outside on contracts obtained from government will continue to do so. Since they work outside, they can keep away from being too close as much as possible. The Natural Resource department will continue to seek work and business opportunities on behalf of the Adams Lake First Nation.

### **Conclusion**

The Chief and Council of the Adams Lake Indian will continue to work with the outside emergency operations centers to ensure that we can have a cooperative effort as we strive to get through this crisis. We will work to provide weekly updates to inform the community of any changes as it relates to the health and safety of our community.

To keep up to date on events as they change, please visit the ALIB website at [www: adamslakeband.org](http://www.adamslakeband.org). Tab called Covid-19 will have daily updates posted here. Please share this URL with you family and friends.

Kukstsemc  
Kukpi7 Cliff Arnouse  
Adams Lake Indian Band

Distribution:  
ALIB website: [www.adamslakeband.org](http://www.adamslakeband.org)