



Kukpi7 (Chief)

Cliff Arnouse

April, 2021 Report

To all ALIB members and friends

Weytk xwexweyt kuc

Welcome to the new normal, on the many ways we all must change how we live and communicate. The new *communications techniques* we have learned, like **teams, zoom** and not so much **skype**. The **phones** have become more important too.

The **wash your hands, stay six feet apart, and wearing a mask**. This is all good to protecting our elders and other family members from the virus. This has been on-going for more than a year now and I'm sure everyone is a tired of this. We must maintain the safeguards for our families, elders and membership.

In the coming weeks and cycle, we have organized various events to help us all get through the these stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is hope for better days ahead where we can get back to living as normal as possible.

The last few COVID-19 data reports were showing a sizeable reduction in number of cases of the pandemic here within the community. The variants are getting to be a concern as the virus mutates. Some may wish to not comply with the guidelines, and this leads to further spreading of these variants. The summer is where we hope we can look to for some normalcy. Local data has been positive for the past month and we have only one active case, 50 have recovered, five are isolating, the total cases in the community was **51** to date. New restrictions from BC's health Dr. Bonnie Henry reporting on the third

wave of the pandemic. There have been over one thousand cases in one day with the concerns of new **variants** too. There is to be no unnecessary travel and only essential travel is allowed. There are still no indoor gatherings and ten are allowed for outdoors. In our schools the grade four to twelve are now required to wear masks in their classrooms. Funerals are to have a maximum of ten people. These guidelines are especially difficult for First Nation people who are used to having gatherings.

The ALIB is in the process of planning for a feast to celebrate the opening of the **new waterline** which has now reached the end of our territory on the Kamloops Shuswap road. At first it was just going to be for the homes down Kamloops Shuswap road and then we decided to hold an all-community celebration of this great accomplishment. Clean **potable water** is in homes that had hard water and other dangerous chemicals ruining cloths, pipes, appliances and showers. This community meal is to **take place April 16th** with a delivery of cooked foods for everyone to celebrate the completion of the waterline for the homes that did not have this basic need until now.

The past has a way of getting in the way of showing up in todays world. In order to deal with some of these pains and hurts we sometimes don't understand what it takes to heal ourselves. To help heal some of these past atrocities ALIB is going to follow some of the other communities by having a "**Calling Home our Spirits**" procession from the Kamloops Indian Residential School to Sexqeltqin community. This idea comes form Councillor Brandy Chelsea when she experienced from the grandmother's group and relatives who have had experience traumas from the past surface in the present. The drums and our Secwepemc songs will guide us along the way.

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We took this to Kukpi7 Harvey McLeod of Upper Nicola Indian Band who went through this process and had some very good advice that will assist us greatly. There is a committee setup to begin looking at all that will be needed to get us through this before June 21, 2021. The is where Kukpi7 McLeod and his Administrator has helped and guided us to begin the process and planning for this healing event. Through drumming and traditional singing to acknowledge our relatives, ancestors, the removal of our language, culture we hope to offer a healing walk for survivors, family and friends since we have all been affected by the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

ALIB is going through some changes in our health centre and some in our administration. The health director and a long-time contractor have moved on to other positions and we are advertising for new staff for the department of our health. Our respected Secwepemc nurse has retired, and we are also in search of a nurse to take over for our now retired nurse who as been with us for about fifteen years. The plans for the new multi-purpose facility are moving ahead and is still on schedule to begin this spring. Our architect has been working with our major project team and C&C regularly and we anticipate a ground breaking ceremony in May.

As most can see there is a duplex being built behind our community at the site of our new subdivision. These are our members working on the building included in this is our trainees who are youth in carpentry, cement works, and trades as we build our homes for the community. The sitework was completed by a band member with his equipment and also operated by members. All around, members are working to plan and build quality homes we can be

proud of for many years. This is a proud moment for our community.

In closing, it is our hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Easter holiday. It may not have been the same or what we wanted but I hope that the bunny or chicken brought you a lot of eggs! The band offices are opened for now, depending on COVID-19 reports in the next while will indicate if we are forced to take other measures but for the time being we are open.

Please, lets stay calm, be patient, and stay safe along with your families. This will be over with some semblance of what was normal before. Hold on awhile longer, our families are worth the wait. We are survivors, our past leaders prepared us for this, lets not let them down.

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Kukpi7 Cliff Arnouse

working for culture, healing.

