



UPDATE FROM CHIEF REG NIGANOBE

MARCH 25, 2020

Aanii/Boozhoo,

I hope everyone is enjoying the self-isolation and family time. I'm sure the children will remember this, not as a time for fear, but as time spent with their parents. I hope everyone has found their self-isolation stride by now and either started new hobbies and books or resumed hobbies and reading which they didn't have time for.

Let me begin by stating that we do not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our community. We are aware that various people have returned from outside the country and are self-isolating for 14 days as a precaution. We thank those individuals for their cooperation and for caring for our community, welcome home. Should you require anything at this time and have not made arrangements with family to help deliver essential items or check on you, please contact Director of Operations at (705)356-1621 ext. 2204.

It's been great seeing everyone practicing their social distancing and enjoying traditional activities. I've seen tree tapping, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and casual hiking with those that are able to get outside. I've seen cedar being delivered, sewing, and craft making with those indoors. Although this virus has locked us down for now, it certainly hasn't locked down our resolve and spirit to continue to carry on our Mississauga identities.

We are opening the foodbank to all community members both on and off reserve. Please access the service if you are short on food or supplies. Please use our teachings and customs of only taking what you will need. We will continue to receive bulk shipments for the food bank so it will be stocked for the months to come. To access the foodbank please call ahead with what you will need, and arrangements will be made for delivery or pick-up with as little social interaction

as possible. This is to ensure we are maintaining the recommended social distancing. Please call Kelly at (705)356-1621 ext. 2242 to make arrangements.

In the coming week we have planned a meal delivery for the community, supper will be delivered at your request. April 2 we will have a meal delivery cooked and ready to eat at no charge. April 10th we will also have a meal delivered (fish) at no charge. Details will be released next week on contact info and meal to be prepared. Please look for flyer or Facebook posting.

At this time, we also ask that people discourage outside visitors from entering our community. For your health and community health, please request that visitors refrain from entering Mississaugi until the end of this pandemic. At this time, we consider all play parks to be closed as advance precaution to spreading of the virus. The stores within the community have been asked to take extra precautions and we thank them for their cooperation in doing so.

Health Department Operations continue to function. Doctor visits and clinics that can be done via phone conference will be completed in that manner. Please refer to package delivered to see what services are operational and which are rescheduled to minimize contact during this time.

Public Works continues to operate to maintain roadways, garbage collection, and operate water facilities.

Red Pine Lodge continues to be closed to the general public and the staff continues to service Elders. If any Elders require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Tanya Bates with any needs you might have. Tanya can be reached at (705)356-5578

Chief and Council continue to meet in regard to COVID-19 as well as plan and coordinate with Pandemic Planning Group. The Band Office remains open although all staff are currently working from home. If you do attend the Band Office, please ring the doorbell located outside. You will be screened by a community nurse prior to entering. The screening is done to prevent the spread of the virus as precautions for the Health Staff located inside. The screening consists of a few simple questions.

Finally, we are weeks into this self-isolation, and the community is doing well in keeping COVID-19 at bay. With no confirmed cases we hope to maintain that with

the actions we have been using so far. Please continue to use soap and water each time you go out. Please continue to practice social distancing. Please continue to look for periodic updates from the MFN Health Department as well as reliable sources with accurate info on COVID-19 safety. Right now, social distancing and self-isolation is the greatest tool we have in combating this virus. Mississaugi is currently doing an excellent job at maintaining the social distancing and we should look to improve upon that. In the coming weeks continue to stay indoors or being only with the family you are secured indoors with when venturing outdoors. Please for your safety and the safety of your community, remain indoors and practice social distancing for the time being. Hibernate like our relations the bears. We can do this; we can all get through this together with our community unity and effort. Please look for more updates in the days and weeks to come.

Miigwetch for your cooperation. Miigwetch to our health team. Miigwetch to our public works. Miigwetch to the essential staff at the Administration complex. Miigwetch to everyone and anyone far and wide around Mother Earth who is keeping supply chains running and shelves stocked. We will do our part and remain at home to keep this virus from spreading.

Chi Miigwetch to all our relations at this time.

Miigwetch

Chief Reg Niganobe