

## MEMORANDUM

TO: First Nation Chiefs, Leadership Council  
FROM: Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald  
DATE: May 1, 2020  
RE: ORC WEEKLY UPDATE

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Wahcheeyay, Aanii, Boozhoo, She:kon, Shekoli,

As Ontario announces their efforts to open up the economy, in stages, First Nations must remain cautious as cases continue to rise in our communities, even if incrementally. My team and I have had another busy week. Our concentration has been on a number of areas that have been identified as priorities through meetings and calls with the Leadership Council and Chiefs.

### **COVID-19 CASES AND PREVENTION**

#### **COVID-19 CASES:**

- Globally = 3,371,975
- Canada = 53,657
- Ontario = 16,608

#### **COVID-19 First Nations in Ontario:**

- Total Confirmed = 61 (35 on-reserve)

Note: Please see the Summary Report for more detailed information on the COVID-19 cases in First Nation communities.

### **PROVINCIAL MEASURES TO CONTAIN SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Highlights this week include: Ontario is offering Pandemic pay of \$4 extra per hour on top of existing hourly wages. Ontario Parks and public funded Schools will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020. Ontario also released their framework for reopening Ontario that include guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces, in a three phased approach.

### **FEDERAL MEASURES RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

In a move to begin easing restrictions around COVID-19 to restart the economy, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments came together on April 28 and agreed to a set of common principles for restarting the Canadian economy through a gradual and phased approach.

## **ORC OFFICE PANDEMIC GOALS**

I have developed a set of Pandemic Goals and a Chart which are attached. You can see that the higher purpose is to *preserve and protect the health, well-being and lives of First Nation Members during the COVID-19 pandemic*, with an overall goal of achieving zero new confirmed COVID-19 cases in First Nation communities. This means we need to take strong actions if/when a case(s) arises in a community.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**

We are developing a Pandemic Action Plan in partnership with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) that will help guide communities needing assistance with pandemic planning as well as giving them direct access to registered and nurse care practitioners.

## **EMERGING ISSUES**

We are doing follow-up and tracking in a number of areas, including: private sector assistance for First Nation PPE needs; a moratorium on mining claims; recreational activities that put First Nations at risk; food security; and, obstacles First Nations face regarding on-line education.

## **WEEKLY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TELECONFERENCES**

We continue to host meetings every Thursday at 10:30am with the Leadership Council and Chiefs to address issues of the Ontario Region. What is new: we switched to using the Zoom platform for our meetings and will continue with it going forward.

Reminder:

- Please email your questions in advance of the weekly meeting to: [COVID19@coo.org](mailto:COVID19@coo.org)
- Questions must be submitted by Tuesday at 5:00pm

We are implementing this process to create more space for the Chiefs as we acknowledge that not all Chiefs can join and some are experiencing connectivity issues. As before I will still open the floor for questions on the call as well.

Ninanaskamon. Kisahkeetin.

Wishing you Peace beyond all understanding,



Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald