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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
ᐃᒥᐢᒋ

Eastmain
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Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
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Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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March 18, 2020

Public Update on COVID-19

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The leadership of Eeyou Istchee has implemented a communication tool so that the Cree Nation Government leadership, Chiefs of all communities, the leadership of the Cree Health Board, the Cree School Board can share information every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and we will be sharing these bulletins after every meeting at 2pm.

1. Eeyou Istchee remains the safest place in Canada for community members to be. The virus is not present in Eeyou Istchee, Val-d'Or or Chibougamou. The actions being taken by the Government of Quebec have contained the virus at this time. 5 Tests for the virus have been issued as precautions in Eeyou Istchee and the first result has already come back negative.

    a. The **Cree Health Board** is maintaining regular services. Adaptations are made to operations to ensure that there is no interruption in services. For example, the carrying out of as many appointments and consultations over the phone as possible.

    b. The Health Board is setting up measures and protocols to isolate and manage any COVID19 cases should they arise. Protocols are in place should medivacs be required for patients with the virus. The **Public Health Department** are professionals and are well organized for this.

    c. The **Cree School Board** has taken measures to minimize the risk to staff in the communities and to provide assistance to students in the South. Students from the South are being assisted to return home should they wish. Special monitoring is in place for staff returning to a community.

    d. Band offices across Eeyou Istchee are **adapting** their hours and operations to ensure that services continue to be maintained throughout Eeyou Istchee;

    e. The Cree leadership will be working on a list of "Best Administrative Practices" to continue to protect the Eeyouch of Eeyou Istchee.

2. Transportation to and from Eeyou Istchee is being monitored

    a. There is nothing to justify at this time limiting access to Eeyou Istchee;

    b. The regular flow of goods and service confirm that there is no need for panic purchasing, Eeyou Istchee is well protected.

    c. Community members are asked to limit travel to essential travels only so that it is easier to monitor the flow of traffic in Eeyou Istchee:

        i. Everyone from Eeyou Istchee, including those arriving in Eeyou Istchee from anywhere in Canada, is asked to practice social distancing and precautionary measures:

            1. Wash hands often

            2. Avoid physical contact

            3. Avoid large gatherings

            4. If you have symptoms (fever or cough), stay home

        ii. If someone is coming from outside Canada, they are asked to stay home for 14 days;

        iii. If someone has arrived from outside Canada with symptoms or knows that they were in contact with someone who was confirmed with the virus you are asked to call the clinic for a consultation.

    d. Companies, contractors and administrations in the territory are monitoring workers, employees and staff through surveys and verification of temperature to ensure that people who are not well stay away from job-sites, mine sites, or other working environments.

3. Local leadership and Regional leadership will inform each other immediately should there be any changes: Eeyou Istchee is the safest place to be right now.

4. It was understood during yesterday's Board/Council livestream where Dr. Richer, the Public Health Director for the Cree Health Board was providing an update on COVID-19, that many community members have questions. The Cree Health Board, in collaboration with the Cree Nation Government, will be hosting another livestream for the public tomorrow March 19th, 2020 at 1:30 pm. Community members will be able to join the conversation during a live broadcast on the Cree Nation Government's Facebook page.