



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION

EC 2020 – 223

SUBJECT: **On-line Classes until the End of the School Year
– 2019-2020**

PROPOSED BY:

Sarah Pashagumskum

WHEREAS the World Health Organization declared on March 11, 2020 the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) to be a pandemic;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a serious and real threat to public health which requires the immediate application of appropriate measures by all levels of government;

WHEREAS section 118 of the *Public Health Act* allows the Government to declare a public health emergency in all or part of the territory of Québec where a serious threat to the health of the population, whether real or imminent, requires the immediate application of certain measures to protect the health of the population;

ACTION:

Carried unanimously

WHEREAS the Government of Québec issued on March 13, 2020 Order-in-Council 177-2020, declaring a public health emergency throughout the territory of Québec and took a number of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the closure of schools and childcare services;

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WHEREAS subsequent Orders-in-Council maintained and prolonged the public health emergency and added additional measures, while various Ministerial Orders of the Minister of health and social services also added additional measures;

WHEREAS Ministerial Order 2020-013 of April 1st, 2020 deals with the restrictions to access to certain regions, including the Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James region which basically corresponds to Category I and II lands under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA);

WHEREAS some teachers employed by the Cree School Board have left the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee in order to be with their families in regions outside of the regions where access is restricted;

Doreen Blackned
SECRETARY GENERAL



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WHEREAS, in view of the upcoming goose break, it is expected that more teachers will leave the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee in order to be with their families in regions outside of the regions where access is restricted;

WHEREAS such teachers will no longer be in a position to come back to the Cree communities during the public health emergency;

WHEREAS, as reflected in a letter dated April 22, 2020 to the Chair of the Cree School Board, the Director of Public Health of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay considers that:

ACTION:

Carried unanimously

- 1) the upcoming ministerial “plan de déconfinement” does allow for adjustments based on the epidemiological situation of each region;
- 2) isolated regions such as Eeyou Istchee would be coming last (in terms of ending confinement), given the fragility of our health care system, and the vulnerability of our population. Therefore, postponement of school reopening in our region can easily be justified by the increased risk of outbreaks in school setting due to:
 - a) the challenges of respecting physical distancing and respiratory etiquette measures, both inside and outside schools, particularly in the younger age-groups;
 - b) the fact that COVID-19 has been shown to be less severe (even at times asymptomatic) in children, hence leading to virus transmission going unnoticed within this population;
 - c) The added logistical challenges of requesting that all teachers traveling back to the region self-isolate for 14 days
- 3) this assessment, based on current COVID 19 situation, could change as the situation evolves and could be reviewed periodically at the request of the Cree School Board;

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WHEREAS the goose break extends until mid to late May;

WHEREAS preventive measures shall be put in place in order to avoid a situation which would present a threat for the health of the population, to prevent contagion or contamination, and to prevent a threat to the health of the population from worsening or to decrease the effects of or eliminate such a threat;

RESOLVED:

ACTION:

Carried unanimously

THAT there will be no in-person instruction for all schools and centres for the remainder of the current school year;

THAT only on-line classes and our on-line platforms will be used for continued learning for the remainder of the school year;

THAT the Community Education Administrators and School Principals are mandated to ensure the packing of classrooms, the storing of material, the ordering of didactic material, and other end of year school closure activities, in a way that respects physical distancing, in order to:

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- a) Prepare and implement new measures for safety and health for the new school year;
- b) Prepare and implement proper cleaning procedures in preparation for the new school year;
- c) Order the necessary technical devices for the new school year.

THAT the Director General and the concerned Directors of the Cree School Board take all measures in order to carry out the foregoing;

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THAT the Chairperson, Director General and Secretary General ensure that copies of the present resolution be shared with the Director of Public Health of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the Cree Nation Government as well as with the appropriate Québec authorities, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Social Services;

ACTION:

Carried unanimously

THAT the Chairperson and Director General continue to collaborate with the Director of Public Health of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the Cree Nation Government as well as with the appropriate Québec authorities, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in order to periodically review the situation.

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Doreen Blackned
SECRETARY GENERAL