



## HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee (NEPC)

**May 15, 2020 – UPDATE**

The Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee continues to meet weekly to provide and receive updates in respect of the Nisga'a Nation's response to COVID-19. The Nisga'a Nation is doing a fantastic job at following provincial health orders with social and physical distancing, washing your hands and avoiding non-essential travel. As we enter the May Long Weekend **WE MUST STAY THE COURSE** and continue!

### **NVHA COVID-19 Testing:**

The Nisga'a Valley Health Authority ("NVHA") began testing for COVID-19 on March 1, 2020, first prioritizing the elderly in each Nisga'a Village and then those that may show signs and symptoms of COVID-19. **At May 13, 2020 NVHA had tested 79, of which 75 have come back negative with 4 pending.** There remains to be no known cases in the Nass Valley which proves what we are all doing is working. If you or a family member show cold or flu-like symptoms, please contact your local health centre to arrange for testing.

### **Nisga'a Highway 113 – CHECK POINT PLAN:**

The Committee adopted a Nisga'a Highway 113 Check Point Plan on May 13, 2020 with the intent of having it implemented as soon as possible. The Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure ("MOTI") and approved on May 15, 2020.

Next steps for implementation of the check point plan will include the hiring of personnel with traffic control certification, acquisition of safety work wear and highway signage and equipment. Implementation of the Plan will commence with one check point on Highway 113 on the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park and another on the Cranberry Connector entering Highway 113. Funding for the implementation of the Plan will come from NLG's Indigenous Community Support Fund allocation announced on April 23, 2020.

### **FUNDING:**

There continues to be social media dialogue on the spending of COVID-19 funding allocated to NLG, each Nisga'a Village and each Nisga'a Urban Local. If you would like to know how each of these entities is utilizing the Indigenous Community Support Fund, please contact your respective Nisga'a Village and Nisga'a Urban Local offices.





The Indigenous Community Support Fund is described as follows on the Indigenous Service Canada website:

*“These new funds will provide Indigenous leadership with the flexibility needed to design and implement community-based solutions to prepare for and react to the spread of COVID-19 within their communities. These funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to:*

- *support for Elders and vulnerable community members*
- *measures to address food insecurity*
- *educational and other support for children*
- *mental health assistance and emergency response services*
- *preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19”*

**As we enter May Long Weekend, we must continue to:**

- ✓ **Social Distancing:** Stay Home, refrain from any type of large social gathering, both indoor and outdoor alike – gatherings of more 5 people outside household is prohibited, 5 or less people should still social distance
- ✓ **Self-Isolate:** If you are returning from a major urban center outside of the Nass Valley, self-isolate in your home for a minimum of 14 days – this applies to all household members
- ✓ **Wash your Hands:** Frequently wash with warm lathering soap and/or hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds. Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces regularly with 1:10 bleach solution.
- ✓ **Non-Essential Travel:** Avoid any Non-Essential travel at all costs and stay home

**In the Spirit of Sayt-K’ilim-Goot,**

**NISGA’A EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE:**

NISGA’A Lisims Government, NISGA’A Valley Health Authority, SCHOOL District #92 (Nisga’a), RCMP Lisims Nass Valley, GITLAXT’AAMIKS Village Government, GITWINKSIHLKW Village Government, LAXGALTS’AP Village Government, GINGOLX Village Government

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