



**Nisga'a Lisims Government**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nisga'a Lisims Government declares a state of local emergency on Nisga'a Lands**

**September 4, 2020 – Gitlaxt'aamiks, B.C.** – Today, the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive (the "Executive") exercised its authority under the *Nisga'a Emergency Program Act* (the "Act") to declare that a state of local emergency exists on Nisga'a Lands and in all four Nisga'a Villages, due to known occurrences of the COVID-19 virus on Nisga'a Land and the threat of further infection through contact if the situation is not contained (the "Declaration"). This Declaration allows NLG to use extraordinary powers under the Act to support the COVID-19 pandemic response on Nisga'a Lands. The state of local emergency will be in effect for 7 days, but may be extended or rescinded as necessary.

The Declaration was made by the Executive on the advice of the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority ("NVHA"), the designated health services provider of the Nisga'a Nation, following the recent confirmation that individuals residing on Nisga'a Lands had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. NVHA and the NLG Emergency Preparedness Committee recommended that certain temporary emergency measures be taken to limit the risk of the further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"The presence of the virus on Nisga'a Lands creates an imminent and serious threat to the health of Nisga'a citizens and other residents of Nisga'a Lands" said Eva Clayton, President of the Nisga'a Nation. "The Executive has determined that prompt coordination of action and special regulation of persons was necessary to protect the health and welfare of Nisga'a citizens and surrounding residents. The Declaration and the orders made under it set out the procedures that must be followed to prevent, respond to and alleviate the effects of the known occurrences of the COVID-19 virus on Nisga'a Lands", President Clayton added.

The orders made under the Declaration: (1) prohibit travel to and from Nisga'a Lands except as required for an essential purpose; (2) require residents of Nisga'a Lands and individuals permitted to enter or exit Nisga'a Lands for an essential purposes to provide information for the purposes of contact tracing and to self-isolate if those persons have come into contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19; and (3) prohibits gatherings on Nisga'a Lands unless authorized by NLG and, if authorized, limits gatherings to only 20 people or less for cultural or ceremonial purposes.

NLG is coordinating the measures to be taken in respect of the Declaration with the province, and will continue to work with the province to minimize the risks to the health of Nisga'a citizens, residents of Nisga'a Lands and all British Columbians.

"The declaration of the state of local emergency will allow our government to take the actions that are required to keep residents of Nisga'a Lands safe", said President Clayton. "The orders are necessary to

ensure public safety and are not optional, and are made today for the safety and well-being of our people and all British Columbians.”

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