



## HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee (NEPC)  
Response to BC's 'Restart Plan'

**May 7, 2020** – In its weekly meeting yesterday, the Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee (the "Committee") discussed and planned its response to the Province of British Columbia's announcement on its 'Restart Plan'. As lead agency in the Committee's response to COVID-19, the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority strongly recommends that the Nisga'a Nation be very cautious in loosening the COVID-19 restrictions within the Nass Valley.

"The cautious approach that the Nation has taken thus far in regards to protecting the Nation from COVID-19 has proven to be effective in reducing the risks associated with the Pandemic" said NVHA Chief Executive Officer Brandi Trudell-Davis.

In referencing historic occurrences of communicable diseases within Indigenous populations and application of current health disparities, the Nisga'a Nation continues to be at a higher risk for transmission and complications associated with COVID-19.

The Committee will continue to work with the Province to ensure that the opening of the schools, recreation sites and parks does not place the Nation in a vulnerable position.

"The health and safety of our residents on Nisga'a Lands is our primary focus" said Trudell-Davis. "NVHA will not recommend the loosening of COVID-19 related restrictions without clear evidence that this is in the best interests of Nisga'a citizens and residents on Nisga'a Lands."

The Committee will continue to monitor the Province's four-phased Restart Plan, **however at this time will maintain closure of the Provincial Lava Bed Memorial Park, all other Nass Valley tourist destinations and public buildings within the four Nisga'a Villages.** NLG's Department of Compliance & Enforcement will continue to monitor all sites to ensure compliance with the closure.

### 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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