



## Wahta Mohawks

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### Council Update April 21, 2020

Chief Philip Franks

During a convened teleconference call this morning, it was agreed to continue with a closure order for retail business in Wahta until May 13, 2020. The decision comes after discussion of the current situation, including recognizing the concerns of local tobacco retailers and the loss of business.

Ontario is suggesting that the province may have reached its peak in Covid-19 cases given the cooperation of citizens and the measures that have been taken to date. The peak would indicate that we could now see a decline in the spread of the virus. This can only be achieved by continued vigilance in social distancing and unnecessary travel. The extension of the closures here falls in line with the responsibility of everyone to help bring the pandemic under control.

Council is paying attention to the situation in other First Nation communities who have taken similar measures to ensure their community members remain safe from the virus as well as doing their part in containing the spread within the general population. Should there be any necessary discussions regarding relaxation of the closures in the meantime, Council will be convening to address any developments. Discussions will be based on public health advice from the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit and the Medical Officer of Health from the province.

Once again we understand the issues these closures inflict on businesses and their customers, but at this time the measure is necessary to ensure we do not witness a resurgence of the upward climb of cases that would prolong the way of living we have had to deal with, possibly into the summer.

A council resolution dated today is being prepared and will be posted as soon as possible.

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Chief Philip Franks