



Wahta Mohawks

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CHIEF AND COUNCIL UPDATE: April 14, 2020

Chief Philip Franks

Update on Business Closures

During a conference call Tuesday morning, April 14, Wahta Council has elected to extend the closure of retail businesses on the Territory for another week, until Wednesday April 22. Council is watching health surveillance from the North Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit and do not see a decrease as of yet regarding the number of positive COVID-19 cases that are being reported in Ontario as well as locally.

The decision will be reviewed again next Tuesday morning, and will consider provincial regulations as a guideline to follow with respect to essential businesses such as convenience stores and take out foods.

Council thanks you for your patience in this effort to keep community safety at the forefront.

Local Situation

In Ontario today there were 483 new cases reported. This high number might be attributed to the increase in testing, however it does show the spread of the disease. One quarter of the positive cases in Ontario are through community transmission.

As of yesterday there were two cases in Muskoka Lakes Township reported with one death due Covid-19. Of the total of 13 in Muskoka there are 6 cases reported in Gravenhurst. As opposed to not long ago, the rate of cases is rising in this area and emphasizes the need to be especially careful by staying home whenever possible. If going out for supplies or work, ensure that you remain vigilant, including handwashing as much as possible and using a sanitizer until you can do the washing.

Hunting and Fishing

I received an email letter this morning from Chief R. Donald Maracle on behalf of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council kindly requesting sister communities, Wahta, Oneida, Akwesasne, Six Nations, Kahnawake, and Kanesatake to not go to Tyendinaga for the annual fishing and hunting this year. Tyendinaga is working to minimize traffic into their community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wahta Emergency Control Group

The control group continues to meet three times a week to deal with community services and any news updates that may occur. The administration has been doing an excellent job in trying to meet the needs of the community as this pandemic continues.

More updates will follow on a regular basis, Nia:wen for your attention,

Chief Philip Franks