



Metlakatla First Nation

COVID-19 Update - April 17, 2020

Message from Metlakatla Governing Council

In light of financial challenges facing many of our members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Metlakatla Governing Council has authorized the issuance of a **\$500 per member disbursement** to be paid in Canadian funds.

If you have moved in the past year, please contact communications assistant Erika Leighton at eleighton@metlakatla.ca or by calling 250-628-3234 to update your address to ensure you receive this payment. To provide assistance in a timely manner, we are asking that all new mailing addresses are received **by the end of day on Wednesday, April 22**, which will allow our staff to begin processing payments. Please note that this is intended to be a one-time payment and any future payments will be decided upon by the Metlakatla Governing Council as deemed necessary.

We continue to ask people to refrain from traveling back and forth between Prince Rupert and Metlakatla as much as possible and to utilize the grocery and supply delivery service being offered through our Health and Social Development departments. Because of the size and remoteness of the community, the impacts should the COVID-19 virus make its way to Metlakatla would be significant. This is also why it is so important to practice physical distancing, frequent hand-washing and to limit interactions with those outside of your immediate household.

We understand these are trying times and appreciate everyone's patience. Please direct questions or concerns to the Executive Director, who can be reached at executive.director@metlakatla.ca. Thank you and have a great weekend.

Executive Committee Decisions

1. Non-residents will not be permitted to enter the community and will be asked to leave.

This will be monitored by the Metlakatla Guardians.

2. Unless approved by Council, only health staff from Prince Rupert will be permitted in Metlakatla as required.
3. Fuel to support food fishing by our members will be delivered to the community by Public Works staff every Friday and will be distributed by staff.
4. Reception services are ongoing. However, the Band Office will remain closed to the public.
5. The Social Development Program and Health Department are reaching out to residents to ensure necessary groceries and supplies can be purchased and delivered. Deliveries by Public Works staff will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays and residents will be notified when their order has arrived.
6. Until further notice, regularly scheduled ferry service to the community is suspended.

Assistance for individuals experiencing COVID-19 Financial Challenges

Both the Federal and provincial governments have made available significant assistance to those who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 virus and business closures. These measures include assistance with rent, deferment of payment for ICBC and BC Hydro, a \$1,000 Provincial Emergency Benefit for workers who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and a \$2000 per month from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#CATC>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

Look for regular updates on the Metlakatla First Nation Facebook Page and at www.metlakatla.ca.

Please share this with those who may not have access to Internet or Social Media.