



Metlakatla First Nation

COVID-19 Update - April 24, 2020

Message from Metlakatla Governing Council

The Metlakatla Governing Council is pleased to say that the member assistance cheques, totaling \$500 per member, were put in the mail earlier this week. Should you not receive your cheque in the coming weeks, please contact Communications Assistant Erika Leighton at eleighton@metlakatla.ca or at 250-628-3234 to confirm we have your correct address.

Regularly schedules have been established for the distribution of food and fuel for Metlakatla residents. In the near term, groceries and supplies will be delivered on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fuel, which is provided to assist those who do food fishing, will be distributed and recorded by Public Works staff on Fridays between 10 a.m. and noon on Fridays. Please note that the fuel distribution is intended only for fishing purposes and for Metlakatla residents to reduce the number of people traveling back and forth between Prince Rupert and Metlakatla.

We would like to continue to encourage everyone to adhere to the health best practices, including maintaining physical distancing of six feet, frequent hand-washing, restricting in-person contact to those within your immediate household and limiting non-essential travel. Through these actions we can all prevent the further spread of COVID-19, which has already claimed more than 90 lives in BC and more than 2,000 in Canada.

As well, we would like to remind everyone about the importance of ensuring you **understand all of the conditions of the benefits** being offered by the Provincial and Federal Governments, banks and utilities. Some of the benefits are taxable in this tax year and others have payback plans and conditions.

Stay safe and have a great weekend everyone.

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 Finance Challenges - PLEASE NOTE CONDITIONS

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/departement-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.