



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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Ndilo Administration:

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April 20, 2020

Dear Members,

Re: Request for Assistance for COVID-19

This is to confirm that we received and reviewed your messages. At this time, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is not providing any cash payment to our membership. As per YKDFN Council directives, YKDFN will not be doing any IBA payments at this time or in the near future, as the IBA funds are locked in a Trust Fund.

Our COVID-19 response funding was provided from outside contributors to our Community Wellness Division for YKDFN membership households that are low income and in vulnerable circumstances residing within Chief Drygeese Territory, Dettah, Ndilo, Yellowknife, with food hampers, gift certificates, as well as family and individual wellness services.

This pandemic is above our control and we are seeking additional federal assistance to provide essential services and support to our communities in crisis deeply impacted from lack of COVID-19 preparations, social and families distancing, life disruptions, stores food and supplies scarcity, overcrowding houses, homelessness, school closures, increased unemployment rates, high substance abuse, increased potable water and wastewater service requests, and among other situations. We temporary closed some YKDFN departments and cancelled programs with only limited staff available to continue operating our First Nation administration, provide essential services and maintain communities.

Though, we made the YKDFN Land Assistance available to all membership regardless of residency. This is provided to safely isolate and go out on-the-land during this pandemic with some financial support. Information and application are attached.

If you require further support, it is best to contact your local Income Support or Security Program for assistance, as all territories and provinces are providing individuals and families in their respective areas with rent subsidies and food assistance. Also, apply to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or Employment Insurance as the Federal Government has made it available and waived some requirements. These are the same agencies our membership is accessing.

Please continue social distancing, so that we can get through this Pandemic safely together.

Sincerely,

Chief Edward Sangris
Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Dettah

Chief Ernest Betsina
Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Ndilo