



Community Brief – June 17, 2020

New Announcements

NWT moves to Phase Two of Emerging Wisely; changes to travel rules

On June 12th, the GNWT moved to Relaxing Phase Two of Emerging Wisely – the territory’s plan for relaxing the COVID-19 public health rules. The Chief Public Health Officer also made changes to the NWT’s travel rules for residents and visitors. Up to 50 people can now gather outside, more businesses and organizations will be able to open indoors with new safety rules in place, and offices will be able to have a no more than 25 people per floor as long as they are set up for physical distancing of at least two metres. For more information:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/phase-two-emerging-wisely-launches-travel-restrictions-amended>

[Backgrounder - Amendments to Travel Restrictions](#)

[Public Health Order - Amended Travel Restrictions and self-isolation protocols](#)

[Public Health Order - Relaxing Phase 2](#)

Checkpoint program changes to fit the needs of the Fort Smith area

The NWT has placed a checkpoint at the NWT-Alberta border in the Fort Smith area to protect our territory from COVID-19. The program includes passes for NWT and Alberta residents in the area to continue their common activities between Fort Smith, Fort Fitzgerald, Smith’s Landing, and other nearby communities. NWT residents from outside of Fort Smith are also able to use this program and have vacations in the area. For more information, visit

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/checkpoint-program-evolves-fit-unique-needs-fort-smith-area>

School reopening plans and what learning will look like for the 2020-2021 school year

Education, Culture and Employment Minister R.J. Simpson met with Northwest Territories Education Leaders and the NWT Teachers’ Association by telephone on June 16, 2020 to talk about plans for schools to reopen and what learning will look like for the 2020-2021 school year. For more details:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/school-reopening-plans-focus-flexibility-learning-approaches-2020-2021-school-year>

SEED program to help businesses deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic

NWT businesses can now apply for the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) program to cover costs such as: structural changes required to protect employees; building improvements; investments related to shifting operations online; and the purchase of

personal protective equipment for employees. To find out more:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/seed-program-help-businesses-pivot-response-covid-19-pandemic>

GNWT announces over \$2.9 million in new funding for NWT aviation companies

The GNWT has announced that it will give \$2.944 million to airlines and rotary wing operators in the territory. The GNWT is providing this funding to airlines and rotary wing operators during COVID-19 to make sure that communities continue to receive deliveries of food and medical supplies. For more information: <https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/gnwt-announces-over-29-million-new-funding-nwt-aviation-companies>

Government of Canada

Prime Minister announces extension of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

The federal government is extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) by eight weeks, so that Canadians have the help they need as they go back to work. This extension will make the benefit available to eligible workers for up to a total of 24 weeks. For more information: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/06/16/prime-minister-announces-extension-canada-emergency-response-benefit>

More small businesses can soon apply for the Canada Emergency Business Account

As of June 19, 2020, more small businesses can apply for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This means that small businesses run by owners and other types of businesses may now be able to apply for this program. For more information, go to:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/06/more-small-businesses-can-soon-access-the-canada-emergency-business-account.html>