

April 21, 2020

Good day to all residents of Norman Wells,

Today, I would like to thank those folks who are usually out of the public eye but who continue to meet our many needs.

Thank you to our dedicated health centre staff, from nurses to caretakers, staff at the long term care unit, personal support workers, and cooks. To the staff at Yamóuri Inn, who continue to feed those who can't cook very well or just need help to stay nourished through the take-out service. Thank you as well to the Town staff and contractors who are trying to dry out our town; removing snow, pumping water from ditches, clearing roadways while cursing the recent snow. The mud is a norm for this time of year, really no one to blame here, we just have to deal with it and remember that warmer weather is coming. A big thank you also to our contractors who are out there delivering water and collecting our garbage and sewage every day, Thank you to the staff running our water treatment plant, a tough job at this time of year with so much run off and silt in the river. Thanks to the staff in our two grocery stores. Shelves are stocked and fresh produce and meat is continuing to come in. Thank you the airlines servicing our community during these stressful times, along with the freight handlers and folks at NavCan. Thank you to those folks who deliver fuel to heat our homes, supply power so we can continue to watch way too much television. Thank you too to the staff at the gas station, keep dropping these prices guys. And the hardware store staff where it is one person at a time entering for service. Thank you for the service offered by our liquor store staff.

A big thank you to Management at Imperial Oil for making five houses available to the Town for those who may be required to self isolate in our community. Thank you to our MLA, Minister Paulie Chinna, for her continued offers of government assistance; we will take advantage of these offers at the appropriate times. Thank you to our SDEC and Mackenzie Mountain School staff for working diligently on behalf of our students. We know that connection is a big part of learning and we see that you are working hard to maintain those important connections. A giant thank you to the Volunteer Fire Department and community volunteers for the Birthday parade at the weekend. I noticed fire trucks, dump trucks, ENR and RCMP vehicles, along with dozens of local business and residents' vehicles in the parade and obeying all the safety rules relating to mixing. Too bad it was so darn muddy. But this allows the birthday children an outlet for fun since birthday parties are not possible at this time. Thank you to our police officers for always being there.

And again, thank you residents of Norman Wells for keeping your distance and following the advice we have received from the NWT Chief Public Health Officer. We are going to beat this monster, but it is going to take time. So please keep your guard up, do not relax, be diligent, be safe, and be smart. We in all three northern territories have been very lucky so far, but remember hundreds of people are dying each day in southern Canada and thousands more around the world. We do not need any such statistics. Do your part that is all your community asks of you.

Mayor Frank Pope

