

March 30, 2020

Good day to you, our residents,

These are difficult times for us all. Your Council, staff and EMO committee are working long and hard on your behalf. We are doing all we can possibly do to protect you, our residents and fellow community members, from the deadly COVID-19 virus. We are currently working within guidelines as dictated by NWT Government Legislation. We have to put our faith in the policies and protective direction as dictated through this legislation. (we will continue to post all relevant information on our website). Our Emergency Measures Team is working diligently on your behalf. The committee is formed by a representative cross section of our community residents, businesses and service providers. This committee will be regularly communicating with the Government of NWT Emergency Operations Center. It is up to us as community members to do our part in protecting each other.

A few people continue to gather in groups, have house parties with multiple participants, and ignore the directives and advice for yours and for all of our safety. The information is on bulletin boards, radio, and television, but some of you are disregarding this sound advice. People are dying worldwide and at this point Norman Wells may be one of the best places on earth to be in during this crisis. To maintain this status we have to be smart and act smart collectively.

We are continually monitoring residents and workers coming into our community. Imperial Oil workers are here to ensure that the field is secured prior to our annual Mackenzie River break up and to keep the field running, this includes the provision of power. We do not need an environmental disaster to go along with the virus we are fighting. We are also working to secure housing in the community to allow people the ability to self isolate in safe houses here at home. Our health centre staff are working diligently on your behalf and are prepared for whatever comes our way.

Rather than use Facebook conversations, which can create panic and further concern among our population, should you have sound, constructive suggestions on how we can do better please get off of Facebook, give your head a shake, look in a mirror and call someone; a member of Council, Council, staff or a member of the EMO Committee, all of who will welcome your constructive suggestions and bring them to the table. You can help, we are all in this together, so please think twice and be positive. Negative vibes work against all we are trying to accomplish.

Above all, heed the recommended protective things you can do to not only keep yourself safe but your family and your friends as well. Please take this seriously! Get smart, use common sense, and do not get caught up in gatherings of people. Do your part please, because if you do not, then do not be surprised if bad things happen to you, your family, you friends and fellow community members. If you do your part then our caregivers, service providers, police officers have less chance of burn out. Let us collectively keep our town safe and defeat this virus.

My wife and I are in an extreme at risk category ourselves and are putting our faith in the processes as laid out before us and in the coming together of our community.

Stay healthy and safe,



Mayor Frank Pope
Town of Norman Wells