



May 22, 2020

Hello once again,

Stubborn ice keeping the town cool but finally the sun is out and we are getting some much-appreciated heat.

While Town staff have been busy with seasonal work and prepping facilities for reopening; Town Council has been updating by-laws and planning for better use of our dump. These changes will come with some public education explaining dump operations and use. We are also seeking community input to our Town Plan. Finance staff have also been busy redoing our annual budget. As a result of COVID-19 several of our funding sources have dried up leaving us with shortfalls in program delivery funding. We do, however, hope to proceed with a ditching and road upgrade program on Mackenzie Drive out towards the DOT Lake sub-division. Council will meet next week to finalize plans for opening facilities with rules put in place as directed by the Emerging Wisely plan. This will include our outdoor facilities such as Jackfish Lake and our playgrounds and our indoor facilities such as the fitness centre. I did want to let you know how proud Council are of our staff work efforts and initiatives during these tough times. While it isn't business as usual, our staff have redirected efforts to areas to support town operations and our COVID-19 response. Everyone is busy and we can see the results of their efforts around Town.

Currently Jackfish Lake camp and picnic areas are closed pending the road drying up and some much needed maintenance completed. The Town is developing a picnic area at the gazebo located on the road to the new quarry about 8 km out of town off of the Canyon Creek road. This area is not open as it is currently under maintenance. Once available for day use the community will be notified.

I am still hopeful that we can celebrate this fall by holding a bigger and better Black Bear Jamboree. The Town has invited Imperial Oil to consider partnering with us while they celebrate 100 years operating in Norman Wells. What a party that could be!

In closing, I hope that we can get past this virus which has locked us down for the past few months and that no second wave comes along. Our government under the direction of Dr. Kandola have done a great job on behalf of all NWT residents. I am all for opening things up internally while still being vigilant at borders and entry points in to the north. Summer is almost with us and the river is a highway. This could be a weak spot in our attempt to keep northerners safe and healthy. I look forward to the GNWT's plans to control this. We need to hear of these plans now.

Have a great weekend folks; enjoy the sunshine and the warmth it brings. Remember the social distancing guidelines of one grizzly bear or six feet. I had a brain fart yesterday and gave a hug to someone! This was quite rightly brought to my attention and I do apologies for this blunder.

Cheers! Frank

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Frank", written in a cursive style.