

April 17, 2020

Good afternoon to all of our residents,

We are now about a month in to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am very pleased with the way you have all towed the line and met the recommendations issued by the GNWT's Chief Public Health Officer, ensuring the safety of yourselves, family and friends.

These are difficult times. It is spring and the sun is shining. In normal times, we would be having picnics, sitting on the deck, waiting for the spring migration of geese and ducks, and enjoying the songbirds. However, for now, I assume that you, like me, are starting to get a feeling of cabin fever.

We do not know how long this state of emergency will last, but I implore on you to continue to be safe and to stay healthy. When at the stores or post office, observe the two-metre distance, when walking in town please do the same. Please refrain from house parties or indoor gatherings. If you do have a bonfire or outside gatherings, enjoy the fresh air, but be safe and observe the recommended spaces between each other.

Thank you to Imperial Oil and their contractors for cooperating with our suggestions by chartering in workers from the south and staying clear of the town site. These times are tough on all of us but, in the end, we will win out over this virus.

If we in Norman Wells continue to meet the recommendations we may get through this unscathed, but that is up to all of us being smart collectively. That means supporting one another through events like the community birthday parades and supporting our local businesses. It also means reminding one another when our actions may not fall in-line with the current guidelines set out to protect us all.

Liquor Restrictions came into effect yesterday. These restrictions are in place to protect not only our immediate community of Norman Wells but our larger Sahtu community. We are all in this together and need to support these temporary regulations in order to limit the spread of the virus.

We welcome home students who have returned early from their studies. We are glad to have you safely back in our community.

What makes Norman Wells home is our care for one another through thick and thin. Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable spring.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay smart.



Mayor Frank Pope