

April 27, 2020

Good day to all of you, I hope the cold snap at the end of last week did not shock you too badly as we approach getting in to some warm muddy spring weather.

I am pleased that the majority of you are adhering to the public health orders as directed by the NWT Chief Public Health Officer; washing hands often, keeping your distance, refraining from having visitors or visiting/large gatherings of more than ten persons, and being smart in your every day endeavours. I know how tough that is. I have family members in my yard sitting in their vehicles talking to us by phone. Thank goodness their dogs can at least come in and visit. All of this is hard to take but has kept us healthy and alive. Keep in mind that tens of thousands of people have been stricken from this virus worldwide including many people in all of Canada's provinces. This virus attacks the rich, the famous, the poor and people from all walks of life. We must support the measures being kept in place no matter how much we dislike them until our public health authorities say we can relax, even if it is one small step at a time. Please continue to be vigilant, be safe and be healthy and do not let your guard down.

A big shout out to all of our businesses large and small, most of you are hurting, revenues have dropped or disappeared completely, and some of you have had to close your doors. For those of you still operating and keeping some of our people employed thank you. To workers on reduced hours or laid off, our thoughts are with you. Big thanks for the businesses still providing services despite the very low return. I hope that during these tough times you are supporting local businesses when you can rather than Amazon or other southern mail order companies. We need our local businesses back up and running after we defeat the virus, but we must keep them solvent however we can until then. Roberta Bighetty, Norman Wells' Economic Development Officer at the Sahtu Business Development Centre, has recently reached out to Norman Wells's businesses to ensure they are aware of the programs in place to support them. Businesses can contact Roberta at 867-446-1392.

Just to clarify something that was brought to my attention. Transient workers on the Imperial Oil site are meeting all the rules imposed on them. Currently they are flying in by charter after being tested in Edmonton. They do not go through the terminal, they are on the work site or in camp and are not visiting town. All other Imperial Oil workers and their families are residents of our community and must be shown the same respect, as you would expect from other people. Be kind to your neighbours please, this is not a time for unjustified finger pointing. We are a community where we get along, raise families and call Norman Wells home. Where better to be during these very difficult times? Let us all live up to Canada's new words of hope "STRONG TOGETHER!"



Mayor Frank Pope