

May 1, 2020

Good day to you all,

Again thanking those of you still obeying all the rules. I know you are starting to get antsy; spring is almost here, you are isolating at home, bored out of your mind, kids driving you nuts or you driving your kids nuts. Remember however, the NWT has only had five cases of COVID-19 and no deaths. Norman Wells should be proud. We have god willing had no such cases. That is thanks to the combined efforts of all of you, our industry partners and the GNWT Health & Social Services.

I give a lot of the credit for this success to the Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola. She is front and centre making these decisions protecting us from the virus. Our territorial government meanwhile has been rather lackluster during the past few weeks. Our municipalities need the annual funding that supports our operations to be put in place. This will allow us to get on with our many programs on behalf of our residents once the lock down is lifted and help us to create much needed employment opportunities. The federal government needs to release much needed infrastructure dollars, which will allow our local contractors to get much needed work and hire back employees.

I would now like to address the small minority of you who continue to disregard the safety of our residents. Those of you who still congregate and party. And then there are those of you inviting people from other communities in to your homes, breaking the most stringent of safety rules. This is not only harming the health of our residents but also the health of your own children. It looks like bootlegging and a total disregard for your fellow residents is taking priority. We all know who you are, so please clean up your act and think of other people for a change.

We are hearing a lot of concern about the actions and demeanour of our newly formed Public Health Officers. Hopefully as these officers become more familiar with their new roles, cooler heads will prevail and these officers will use their authority to educate, not berate citizens. For those of you who feel unfairly "cautioned" you can call 811 or email [protectnwt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:protectnwt@gov.nt.ca) should you have a complaint on how you were treated.

Should we manage to keep the virus out of the Territories for the next few weeks, our government will have sound reason to slowly open up our businesses and give us a "Get Out Of Jail Free" card, slowly allowing us to get back as close as possible to life as we knew it before COVID-19.

I truly thank you all for your demeanour and acceptance of the rules during these difficult never before seen days we are living through, and have been for the last few weeks. For those of you who have had difficulty living within the rules the rest of us have endorsed, now is your opportunity to show that you do care, that you are good citizens. Respect the no parties, no visitors from out of town and enjoy your life along with the rest of us until we are free again.



Mayor Frank Pope