



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

NSTC Pledges Additional Support for NStQ Members Facing Health Restrictions in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley

(November 9, 2020) Williams Lake, B.C. [Secwepemculew] The leadership of the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (NSTC) is reassuring members of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (NStQ) in the Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver areas that additional support to meet the challenges of the recent public health order will be available.

On Saturday (November 7th) BC's provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry held a news conference where she said that a "dangerously high and rapid increase in cases" of COVID-19 would mean, among other things, that non-essential travel would be strongly discouraged to and from certain areas of the province. Those areas include the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions, with the exception of the central coast and Bella Coola valley.

The Urban Outreach staff from the NSTC have been providing essential grocery delivery to members in these areas to address food insecurities throughout this pandemic. To date 165 members and their families have been helped by the additional monthly delivery. NSTC Leadership spokesperson Kukpi7 (Chief) Willie Sellars says that members in these areas can count on additional support from home.

"One of the core values of Secwepemc people is sharing what we have as a collective and caring for those in need," states Kukpi7 Sellars. "The public health order in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley create additional barriers to our members in these regions and NSTC leadership would like to reassure them additional support is available to meet the challenges in the weeks ahead. Staying connected with family is a very important part of staying healthy, and we would like to make sure that's possible for members facing restrictions in these areas."

The NSTC COVID food security program is supported by the Red Cross, United Way and Indigenous Services Canada and has been used to fund the purchase of food, personal protective equipment and other important items for NStQ members. The province-wide program is administered by NSTC Urban Outreach staff.

NStQ members are encouraged to contact Mike Tarbaj, the Urban Outreach Liaison for Vancouver/Fraser Valley, to get more information on the food supplement program and the additional support being offered.

For more information:

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