

## First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

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### **Your Assistance Ensuring Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Health and Well-Being During COVID-19**

To whom it may concern,

As you may know, the Yukon Territory has entered its second phase of re-opening after putting in place a number of safety measures for protection against COVID-19. The Yukon has fortunately remained free of new cases for many weeks now. It is our hope and intention to continue this success in combatting the virus going forward by managing the risk of its renewed spread effectively.

While we are hopeful that current measures in place will accomplish this goal, as a self-governing First Nation, we, the Chief and Council of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun ("FNNND"), remain extremely concerned about the potential spread of COVID-19 to our citizens, particularly our elders and other citizens who are at greater risk to the virus' most dangerous consequences. Stopping COVID-19 from infecting our citizens in the first place is our greatest protection against the uncontrolled spread of the virus within the community; once the virus is here, challenges in relation to ensuring self-isolation and social distancing, as well as in relation to providing adequate medical care to people infected, will limit our ability to reduce its spread amongst our citizens. As a result, we continue to utilize every tool available to us under the FNNND Final Agreement and the FNNND Self-Government Agreement, as well as our section 35 Aboriginal rights, to prevent our citizens from coming into contact with this deadly virus.

However, like other governments across Canada, we cannot protect our citizens alone. Given that the Yukon's borders are now conditionally open and that the work season continues to move forward, FNNND Chief and Council have passed a new resolution (attached) to ensure the continued safety of our community and citizens. In particular, this resolution asks that all mining and industrial operators working within FNNND's Traditional Territory:

- provide FNNND with their updated COVID-19 protocols, including, specifically how each operator plans to prevent potential exposure of COVID-19 to FNNND citizens and the community of Mayo; and
- report immediately to FNNND any incidents which may have a bearing on the health of local communities, in addition to following all applicable measures.

We expect that all operators have put in place safety measures to minimize the risk of transmission. These will include social distancing, mandatory mask-wearing, increased sanitization, and other measures for work sites as well as protocols for ensuring minimal contact during travel to and from work sites. In particular, FNNND requests that plans be in place prior to any individuals traveling to or from any work areas, to ensure that supplies

like groceries and fuel are acquired without contact in communities. We are requesting that companies/operators provide to FNNND these plans/protocols no later than two weeks after receipt of this letter.

In addition, if any employee/operator is experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and has had contact with any community members within the preceding 14 days, we request FNNND be immediately notified in addition to following all applicable guidelines and quarantine measures. In both these instances, contact should be made initially with the FNNND Lands and Resources Department (Josee Tremblay - [landsmanager@nndfn.com](mailto:landsmanager@nndfn.com) - ext. 144). We remind proponents and operators that they must notify FNNND of their planned activities before initiating work each season. These requested COVID-19 communications are additional and supplemental to all regular communications we expect of proponents.

Like you, we are concerned with both the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is truly an extraordinary circumstance, and one that requires all of us to work together to ensure that the most devastating impacts of COVID-19 are avoided. We hope that you will work with us to help protect our citizens from this deadly virus. If there is anything we can do to similarly ensure the health and well-being of you and your employees, as well as the members of the broader community, please let us know, as we would be happy to assist.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Mervyn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Simon Mervyn  
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

Cc:  
Premier Silver  
Deputy Premier Pillai