



Update from Chief and Council

The COVID-19 virus has been declared a Pandemic by the World Health Organization and it is spreading at an alarming rate and Canada has restricted non-essential travel by citizens to contain the virus. The province of British Columbia has restricted certain non-essential activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ditidaht First Nation "community" (Malachan IR#11) assert title over the whole of our territory and declare this a **public health emergency** with respect to the continued growing numbers of the virus that it is now affecting Indigenous communities. The "community" has the authority and jurisdiction to create a public health order to restrict non-essential activities for the health or safety of our citizens and residents.

Ditidaht has had the Emergency Operations Centre running since March 2020 and we hereby order the following activities now prohibited:

- a) Gatherings of more than 5 people; with the exception of funerals, which can have up to 10 people;
- b) Coming within two meters (6 feet) of any person who is not regularly residing with you;

Chief and Council recommend that any individuals with respiratory symptoms (such as fever or cough) self-isolate (stay inside their home) for 10 days and for at least 24 hours after symptoms have FULLY resolved.

Chief and Council further recommend minimizing trips outside of the community as follows:

- a) Essential Shopping only **once** a week
- b) Scheduled/required medical appointments allowed with approval from Patient Travel Clerk
- c) Staff that go into town for the community food distribution shopping and business requirements

We appreciate everyone's assistance in following these guidelines as we work together to keep the community safe from the COVID-19 virus.

Please be advised that Council is thinking of the members that do not reside in Malachan, and we are still waiting to hear if the proposal under the 'Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off reserve Indigenous Organizations and Communities' \$250,000. Ditidaht First Nation has contacted ISC with no response to date. They are likely inundated with emails and doing their best to respond. Their website does say: "Over 450 proposals were received and 94 were approved for \$15 million in funding. The assessment considered proposed activities, groups, budget, impact and local or regional factors". We realize this is frustrating, but every department and government agency is doing the best they can. Please reach out to your local Friendship Centers to see if they were approved funding for food security for urban members.

Ditidaht First Nation Council has put forward \$40,000 for members that do not reside on reserve to receive a grocery card; and another \$30,000 for the food fish that our fishing crew has been working extremely hard to get our food source out to urban communities.

Continued - Update from Chief and Council

ISC provided some funding under the Emergency Management Assistance Program to all First Nations in British Columbia. This is to provide some initial funds for immediate costs related to Emergency Operation Centers (e.g., overtime, equipment rental), shipping of food or other necessities, continuation of essential services (e.g. that preserve life, health and basic societal functioning), social and cultural supports, and costs to meet the needs of vulnerable persons in isolation who are unable to access usual support networks. Ditidaht First Nation was given a grant for \$119,920 and we have been using these resources to keep the community safe at home by providing weekly food hampers in order to keep any trips to town to once a week; we have the Emergency Operations Centre up and running since March 16, 2020; and we have monitoring shifts at the entrance of Malachan to ensure that only those who normally reside at Malachan gain access to the community. Operation of the Nitinaht Store is for essential food items and our motel and campground have been shut down since March 2020.

There are members that usually come to do some food fishing and we wanted to let the members know that they will have access to launch their boats at Gus Bay for everyone's safety.

As of April 27th, ISC is aware of the 115 confirmed positive COVID-19 tests on First Nation reserves in Canada and the 27 confirmed cases in BC.

Let's all work together – stay home and practice social distancing when you must go out for essential services.

Please stay home and help flatten the curve.

Thank you.

Chief & Council

Emergency Operations Coordinator



UPDATE FROM NTC EDUCATION DEPT.



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLESAHT
YUUT:UʔIT:ʔATH

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To NTC Students, families, and First Nations offices,

RE: 2020 Graduation and Scholarship Ceremony

On behalf of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council we would like to acknowledge the continued efforts and resilience of Nuu-chah-nulth students in post-secondary and K-12 education and their families who are enduring the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has proven to be a difficult time as public health directives from BC's Provincial Health Officer include social distancing which has prevented School Districts and Post-secondary institutions from delivering education services in classroom settings.

In addition, BC's Public Health Officer has placed restrictions on gatherings of people for events of over 50 people at a time. This has prevented families from coming together to celebrate and to provide support to one another during a difficult time. Please know that we are sympathetic, and we are all enduring these challenges together.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council recognizes the seriousness of COVID-19 and the dangers that it presents to our families and our communities. NTC's President, Judith Sayers, NTC's Vice-president, Mariah Charleson, and the NTC's Board of Directors have met to determine the safety of proceeding with the 2020 NTC Graduation and Scholarship Ceremony. **The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council has come to the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 NTC Graduation and Scholarship Ceremony until further notice.**

This postponement comes after consideration of the possible risks to the health of NTC students, graduates, families and communities as we act to reduce the possibility of transmission of COVID-19.

Please keep in mind that these measures are **necessary and are temporary** while we do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. NTC will continue to provide supports for students in both the K-12 and post-secondary system as we navigate this pandemic and will provide further updates as they become available.

It is regrettable that we will not be gathering as planned. We all look forward to a time when we will be able to gather to recognize the achievements, brilliance, talents and the strength of Nuu-chah-nulth students and to show our appreciation for their gifts and achievements.

Sincerely,

Ian Caplette,
Director of Education, Training & Social Development

UPDATE FROM THE DITIDAHT SCHOOL

Since the closure of DCS, students and staff have shifted to online and distance learning. Primary students are receiving a work package each week, and high school students are enrolled in classes through Google Classroom. In order to make sure all our high school students have access to their online lessons and materials; we have provided a laptop to students who require access to technology. We understand that this is a challenging time and in response to this atypical situation, we have modified learning expectations in each class to support students adjusting to their new learning environment. Our hope is that students and families will participate in distance learning to the best of their abilities.

In addition to online classes and learning packages, DCS has provided a \$5000 contribution to help with community shopping. We have also made counseling services available 7 days a week, and all students and parents are able to communicate with teaching staff online for guidance and support. This new path of education has been a learning curve for everyone, and we thank the community for their patience and understanding at this time. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please email Emily at maclennane@ditidahtschool.ca. If you are interested in the language program, please check out learnditidaht.ca

Treaty Update

The Ditidaht treaty table reached a milestone June 2019 having signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP). The AIP is largely drafted in final agreement language and is accompanied with three framework agreements respecting co-management on key subject matters, including engagement on provincial decisions, management of the Pacific Rim National Park reserve, and environmental assessment.

After taking the month of July off from negotiations, we were keen to return to the table to commence Stage 5 negotiations on the Treaty, but negotiations were suspended in September when the federal election was called. For the first time ever all negotiation work across Canada was suspended from September through November.

During that time period we continued internal work in terms of formulating positions and doing background work to prepare for the resumption of negotiations on chapters like provincial parks, provincial and federal environmental assessment, the framework and approach to the engagement side agreement, co-management for federal parks, and initial strategies and visioning for the marine side table.

The Parties resumed negotiation meetings in December and have since then been furthering their approach on substantive matters such as the Federal Parks Side Agreement, dealing with marine management issues, and preparing for negotiating the Engagement Side Agreement with the Province.

We are now negotiating the final issues in Stage 5 of the BC Treaty Process.

For further information, please contact treaty chief negotiator G. Jack Thompson at 1-888-745-3366.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all our members, our staff who have been working above and beyond for our nation as we work through these unprecedented times. All of this is new to each and every single one of us.

Please be kind to your neighbors, family and the staff as they are all doing what they can to assist all membership during this time. The Chief and Council are working with many parties on trying to get the resources they can for our membership, and we need to acknowledge that it all takes times.

Jeneen Hunt, thank you so much for wearing several different hats for our community and assisting us in getting the members in and out of the community help. Karen Mack, thank you for working on the gift card distributions, they are definitely a help to many of our members. Fisheries crew, Darryl Tate, Paul Sieber and Garret Edgar thank you for all your hard work on food fishing for the members. This is a time-consuming job, and sometimes not in the best weather conditions. Thank you.

Let's all stay strong, work together and help each other out while we work our way through these times.



Date modified: 2020-04-15

SERVICE CANADA READY TO HELP



We are ready to help Canadians through the COVID-19 outbreak. For a complete list of programs, services and resources available through the Government of Canada visit: Canada.ca/coronavirus

**Canada COVID-19 Support App**
Get the Canada COVID-19 app (iOS or Android) for COVID-19 information, recommendations, and resources.

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)	 Automated help line: 1-833-966-2099 Service Canada CERB call centre: 1-833-699-0299 CRA My Account and CERB call centre: 1-800-959-8281  Canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI)	 Applications on or after March 15 Automated help line: 1-833-966-2099 Service Canada CERB call centre: 1-833-699-0299 Applications prior to March 15 Service Canada EI call centre: 1-800-206-7218 TTY: 1-800-529-3742  Canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html
CANADA SUMMER JOBS	 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105) or your funding representative  Canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html
WORK-SHARING & TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM	 1-800-367-5693 (TTY: 1-855-881-9874)  Canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html  Work-Sharing: EDSC.DGOP.TP.REP.RES.WS.POB.ESDC @servicecanada.gc.ca
NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAM	 1-800-277-9914 and select "0" (TTY: 1-800-255-4786)  Canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/new-horizons-seniors-community-based.html  Western Canada and Territories Region (BC, AB, SK, MB, YT, NWT, NU) W-T-NHSP-PNHA@servicecanada.gc.ca



Ditidaht First Nation

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Ditidaht
FIRST NATION

We are on the
Web!
www.nitinaht.com

Did you Know...

We have an official Facebook page. This Facebook page is our OFFICIAL nation Facebook Communication page with current and important information.

If you are on Facebook, please join the page and monitor it for up-to-date information.

Please note: This page is to provide information. If you are looking for specific answers to questions, please contact the appropriate department directly via the administrative contacts listed below.

[@ditidahtfirstnationofficial](https://www.facebook.com/ditidahtfirstnationofficial)



REMINDERS:

Address updates:

Please ensure all your contact information is up to date by sending it to Karen Mack, Ditidaht Membership Clerk/IRA at 1-888-745-3366, ext. 225 or by e-mail to adminassistant@ditidaht.ca, and to Shelley Chester, Ditidaht Treaty Coordinator at 250-755-7824 or by e-mail to dtdots@shaw.ca.

Keeping your contact information current also ensures important information is delivered in a timely manner.



GET IN TOUCH

Important Contacts

Executive Director: Jeneen Hunt (executivedirector@ditidaht.ca)

Executive Assistant: Karen Mack (adminassistant@ditidaht.ca)

Chief Treaty Negotiator: G. Jack Thompson (jthompson@ditidaht.ca)

Housing Manager: Chris Barker (chris_barker_87@hotmail.com)

NRO Manager: Paul Sieber (psieber@ditidaht.ca)

Fisheries Manager: Darryl Tate (dtate@ditidaht.ca)

Ditidaht Community School Principal: Emily MacLennan (macleannane@ditidahtschool.ca)

Community Services Manager: 1-888-454-0022 (local 250-745-3331)

Asaabus Daycare Manager: Crystal Amos (ditidahtdc@hotmail.ca)
