



Fort McKay Métis Nation



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

March 20, 2020

Media Release

Re: Access to Fort McKay Community

In a joint meeting held today in Fort McKay between Fort McKay First Nation Chief Mel Grandjamb and Fort McKay Metis President, Ron Quintal and their respective council members, it was agreed to come together as one nation and work jointly to keep the COVID-19 virus away from our community.

The virus known as COVID-19 has been advancing around the world and has made its way to our doorstep. We have learned that there is a confirmed case in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and specifically in Fort McMurray.

The Fort McKay First Nation and their community members have always relied on our land for security and as a refuge. Today we are exercising our Sovereign Rights and will be controlling access into our lands. Checkpoints will be immediately set up; only community members, essential services and staff will be let in, **no visitors will be allowed into the community.**

These measures serve to decrease pathways for the COVID-19 virus into our community and to protect the health and safety of all our Members. As a progressive and proactive First Nation Community we rely on our ability to plan and implement measures appropriate to a variety of threats.

As a community we have endured extreme winters, fires, flood threats and have thrived in our homeland surrounded by one of the largest industrial operations on the planet. Together as a nation we will persevere and manage through this emerging situation.

We ask that the business community and the public respect our decision to create distance between our nation and the threat of the COVID-19 virus.

For Media Inquiries please contact:

Bill Duncan
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Fort McKay First Nation
communications@fortmckay.com
780-370-4970

P.O. BOX 5360 • Fort McMurray, AB • T9H 3G4 • www.fortmckay.com