



Netmizaagamig Nishnaabeg

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For Immediate Release

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Mobert, Ontario

The Chief and Council of the Netimizaagamig Nishnaabeg (formerly Pic Mobert First Nation), today enacted additional precautionary measures in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Chief and Council are asking residents to stay indoors as the rest of Canada and Ontario are being asked to do to prevent the spread of the covid-19. If you do go out, practice social distancing 6 feet apart or 2 meters. As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, “**Enough is enough!**”

1. CURFEW IN EFFECT TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE - KIDS, FAMILIES AND OUR ELDERS. 10PM TO 6AM DAILY

First, Chief and Council has implemented a **curfew effective on Monday, March 23, 2020** commencing at 10 p.m. The curfew applies to all residents of Mobert of all ages and will require all persons to remain in their homes between **10 p.m. nightly until 6 a.m. the following morning.**

To be clear, **NO ONE** should leave their residence during these hours, except to access urgent or emergency medical aid, during these hours. We ask residents to please abide by these procedures for the safety and health of our community.

To be clear, this is to keep our community and members safe. We ask you all to think of our kids, elders, and vulnerable people who have compromised immune systems and other serious health issues. We must work together to fight for our future and for the lives of the people who we love.

2. TEMPORARY LOCKDOWN – WE NEED TO BE VERY SURE TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS ON RESERVE EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2020 AT 8PM.

Second, Chief and Council decided to put the community on total **lock-down effective at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.** A full community lock down means that residents will not be permitted to travel between Netimizaagamig Nishnaabeg and any other community. Residents of Netimizaagamig Nishnaabeg will not be permitted to leave the community at any time, except to access urgent or emergency medical aid.

Further, residents who choose to leave after 8 p.m. on March 24, 2020, will not be permitted to return to the community until this order is lifted. It is anticipated that this could be in place for several weeks. Chief and Council, along with staff team, will ensure that residents are provided with food and other essential services. Further details on this will be posted over the next 24 hours.

We ask residents please do everything you can to help us keep our community members safe. That's where you need to ask yourself, "Am I doing everything I can to keep people safe?"

We need you now, your power is here with us – please stay indoors, stay in isolation for 14 days if you are under quarantine and practice social distancing and wash hands. There is power and strength in isolation, this is where we need you. Please stay home as much as possible and 6 feet apart only if you must go out.

3. MEASURES DURING FULL LOCKDOWN

Until the lock-down takes effect, only residents are allowed to enter the community until the full lock-down takes effect, and **any persons entering are subject to a mandatory screening**. The screening will include requiring evidence of residency, completing a screening questionnaire and being subjected to infrared scan to identify a potential fever.

Deliveries that are determined to be providing essential services to the community (e.g. heating oil, propane, septic pumping services, food and medical supplies) may continue to be exempted from the entry ban, with the condition that drivers have no contact with residents, and only with precautionary conditions including an escort in and out of the community. Emergency and essential medical personnel will also be allowed into the community to respond to emergency situations, but with extreme precautions and an escort.

Access by non-resident patients of the OATC clinic will be allowed subject to screening procedures and only with mandatory escorts. Patients will not be allowed any other stops in the community and will need to leave directly and immediately after their appointment.

Persons who are denied access to the community will be asked to immediately leave, and any persons who attempt to enter the community after being refused entry, will be reported to the police and charged with trespassing.

4. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND STAYING INDOORS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Chief and Council are also asking resident members continue to stay indoors and if you are out, you **MUST** practice social distancing, including avoiding any non-essential visits, practicing frequent hand washing and keeping at least 2 metres (about 6') away from others as much as possible. Based on the experience of other countries globally, social distancing has been proven to be an effective means of slowing the spread of the virus and "flattening the curve". This is the only effective way to keep our community members safe.

5. SELF ISOLATION

Carriers of this virus do not necessarily present any symptoms at all, and citizens are reminded that although there are no known cases currently present in the community, the entry of a single case would be catastrophic causing illness and fatalities.

If you are already in self isolation and think you are fine because you have no symptoms, you will not know until at least 14 days. This is why we are asking you to self-isolate and monitor yourself and stay away from others. We do not want to take any chances with the lives of our community members and the kids and elders.

Chief Johanna Desmoulin said, “We know that these further measures are difficult and distressing but they are absolutely necessary to protect our citizens and prevent the spread of this dangerous virus within our community.”

The Emergency Pandemic Team continues to meet on a minimum daily basis to monitor local, regional and provincial/national developments, and to propose, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of local measures. A 24-hour road block manned by security officers is in place at the entrance to the community, and police authorities are providing patrols and other support as required.

Chief and Council and staff team want to extend their thanks to all of our residents who are doing the right thing and following these procedures; you are part of the solution to protect our community. We appreciate and honour your efforts.

Finally, Chief and Council wishes to extend its most sincere thanks to our pandemic team in the community who have been delivering services and supports on the ground. You are valued and appreciated and doing an incredible service to your community.

Chief and Council will continue to monitor the circumstances closely and will provide notification of any changes to this decision and related procedures as they are approved. The First Nation offices are either closed or on limited operations for essential services until further notice.

For further information, updates and key contact information, please visit our web-site (www.picmobert.com) or our Facebook page.

Chief & Council
Pandemic Response Team
Netimizaagamig Nishnaabeg (formely known as Pic Mobert First Nation)