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As you may now know, the Council is implementing a complete lock down of Mobert effective at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

This lock-down means that residents of Mobert who work at Barrick will not be able to travel back and forth to the mine from Mobert after 8 p.m. tomorrow; instead, you will need to remain in Mobert, or take up residence in another community.

The purpose of this lock-down is to protect our most vulnerable residents in Mobert from potentially coming in contact with the COVID-19 virus.

As a result, all scheduled shifts after the day shift on Tuesday, March 24 are cancelled for the next 14 days.

Please be advised that out of concern for our non-resident workers and their families, the offer that is being extended to our employees living in Mobert will be available to you.

If you feel concerned about the health and safety of your families and yourself, after tomorrow's day shift, you will not be required to report to work for the next 14 days. You will be paid for this time off. Please advise your supervisor and myself at ceo@whitelakelp.ca of your intentions.

This situation will be re-evaluated over the next week or so and we will advise you of any changes.

All our staff need to be aware that circumstances in Ontario and Canada are changing rapidly and that Ontario today announced an order that all non-essential businesses in Ontario will be required to close by midnight Tuesday, March 24. We do not know if this will effect the mines, but it may.

The current arrangement is for 14 days only and may not be available after this time. Canada has announced other supports for workers whose employment has been affected by the pandemic, and we will provide information and support on these if and when it is necessary.

This difficult measure is intended to keep the virus out of Mobert. We hope you will understand that we cannot control the movement of people on the mine site, Marathon and other communities. We can only manage our own borders, and that's what our leadership is doing.

We really need your cooperation at this time. We have been in regular contact with mine management and are urging them to consider shutting down their entire operations as other companies have, but we cannot force them to. It seems that the mine has implemented many protective measures, and it's a relief that there are no confirmed cases at this time in our community or any of the surrounding communities.

We have limited staff and many of our staff are working hard to provide emergency support in the community. Please understand that we just won't be able to answer all of your calls or messages quickly.

However, the situation is changing daily and rapidly. Ontario is going to announce new measures tomorrow concerning the closure of non-essential businesses and we not sure yet how this will impact the mine. Please keep watching this site for further updates.

For further information, please email to : ceo@whitelakelp.ca

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