



MEDIA RELEASE

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Chiefs Support NS' Declaration of a State of Emergency

Earlier today Premier McNeil declared a State of Emergency for the Province of Nova Scotia. In doing this, Premier McNeil and Dr. Strang, the Province's Chief Medical Officer, are taking necessary measures to ensure the safety of all people in Nova Scotia.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs are in full support of Premier McNeil's decision and want to stress to community members, that at this time, all Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia will be respecting the State of Emergency announcement.

"This is a very, very serious health matter and we will be cooperating fully with the decisions that Premier McNeil has put in place," said Chief Terrance Paul, Co-Chair of the Assembly. "It is essential that we do everything we can in our own communities to help prevent the spread of this virus."

Over the past week, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs have had daily calls to discuss plans in each of their respective communities and to support one another through this challenging time. Regular conference calls have also taken place with the Federal and Provincial governments to discuss the plans for the Nova Scotia and Canada.

"All of our communities have been doing their best to keep community members safe, protected and healthy," said Chief Sidney Peters, Co-Chair of the Assembly. "We want our community members and Mi'kmaw organizations to know that we support the decisions and efforts that you are making to help stop the spread of COVID-19."

While the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities may be taking different approaches during this time, each community is using their resources in the best way possible and relying on the support of local RCMP. It is important to note that during a State of Emergency, all citizens must listen to and follow the instruction given by authorities.

"Our Emergency Preparedness Teams, Health Centre and Band Staff been working long, hard hours to protect you and your families," continued Chief Peters. "We ask that you respect and comply with the advice given by Premier McNeil, Dr. Strang and your individual Chief and Council in order to keep our Elders and communities in good health and virus-free. The Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia must take all the safeguards necessary to minimize the risks to our people and communities."

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