



## SQUAMISH NATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 - UPDATE #2

The following changes are being implemented based on Federal and Provincial instructions and extra precautions to prevent the spread and impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19).

### Service Changes:

- The Squamish Nation is **not** closed. There will be service changes and resources redirected.
- The Squamish Nation Health Centre is advising to call first before seen by a health professional. Their number is 604-982-0332.
- **North Vancouver Elders Centre will remain open, but all elders' gatherings and events are cancelled.**
- The NV Youth Centre will be open from 3-4pm daily to provide food/meal and connection with youth, however, there are no activities/outings scheduled. This will be reviewed daily based on needs of youth and we can open more hours as needed while supporting social distancing.
- All regular Family and Child Development Programs with Ayás Méhmen will not be operating from March 16 – 27, 2020.
- Ayás Méhmen Staff will remain connected to families they are working with and reach out to them to see how they are doing and providing supports within social distancing (through Phone, Facetime, Text, Email)
- **Squamish Nation offices will remain open**, but many staff will be working from home.
- Most staff will be asked to work from home for next two weeks and possibly longer.
- Until further notice, **all gatherings in Squamish Nation buildings cannot exceed 50 people** and people must be two meters apart when gathering. This includes cultural gatherings and funerals.
- All Programs currently running at the Trade Training Centre are still in session. No new programs will start at this time. Contact during the day is the building number 604 980 7946



- Eslha7an Learning Centre – Closed. We will reopen based on SD 44 for ELC programs.
- Stitsma Career Centre - Closed, for service or questions please call NV Frances Stegner 604 345 2126, for SV Devan Williams 778 327 8129
- Income Assistance – Partial Closure. We will be giving out cheques on March 25 for reduced hours at Eslha7an building NV and SV at T Hall. Contact Angie August at 604 657 3739 if needed.
- Xwémelch'stn Etsimxwawtxw (Capilano Littles Ones) - Closed as per regular Spring Break March 16 – 27. Will reopen based on status of Covid – 19 status. We will reopen based on SD 44.
- Post-Secondary Program - Office closed. Contact is Lisa Newman (nee Paull) at 604 338 4129 if needed.
- K -12 Supports – Office Closed. Contact Cherie Baker for High School 778 939 9148, Vanessa Small Legs for Elementary 604 908 3265, Inclusive Education Catherine Wairimu 604 318 1569
- General Education, Employment and Training inquiries – Paul Wick 604 848 8745
- Community Operations will be open as usual.

However, all requests from Membership will be scrutinized to determine if the issue needs immediate attention or can wait. All heating and plumbing issues will take priority and be addressed by Field Repair staff. Comm Ops will do its best to avoid sending in contractors if at all possible.

- Counselling (concurrent, mental health & addiction) and support work provided by Heather Andrew, Shannon Eberts, Eileen Guss and Shayna Sander (Squamish Valley) will be offered on the Phone, Skype, Facetime. Exceptions will be considered if there is crisis in the community.

**If you are experiencing personal crisis**, we recommend that you call Kuu-Us Crisis Line. Kuu-Us provides a First Nations and Indigenous specific crisis line available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll-free from anywhere in British Columbia.

KUU-US Crisis Line Society 1-800-588-8717

- 24 Hour Crisis Phone Service



- Risk Assessments
- Safety Monitoring

**New Services:**

- Ayas Menmen is preparing a food distribution with increased quantity than usual to support our families. Distribution will include cleaning supplies. More information to be announced.
- **If family members cannot assist**, Members Services and Squamish Valley Operations will be offering with grocery delivery for elders during weekdays. Staff will be directed from other departments to assist. Please call (604)-505-3776 or (604) 374-1126 to arrange.
- Member Services will prepare for a distribution of canned fish for Elders and next week frozen fish distribution for members. More information to be announced.

**Important Information:**

- Please take official information from the Squamish Nation Facebook Page or Squamish Nation website. The spreading of false or unverified rumours are not helpful during this time.
- The Nation is **not being shut down**. Staff will be working from home when possible or re-directed to other departments to assist.
- The focus is on continuing to maintain core services and redirecting to special services to assist those most vulnerable during this time.
- Community Funerals may require changes to community customs should they occur in terms of size and attendance.
- **We strongly urge all members request mail delivery for DB** in April if you have not already requested this or have not set-up direct deposit. The deadline for registering for direct deposit has passed, unfortunately. **Please request this by March 27th, 2020.** Please call 604-982-8607 to arrange.

DB distribution will happen on April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. We anticipate 1200-1500 people picking up. We ask members to come on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> if possible.

A limited number of members will be allowed in the Elders Centre and



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Totem Hall for pick-up at a time. Staff will be routinely cleaning the building and washing hands.



## MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP:

**Dear Squamish People.**

We wish to express that challenging times are upon us.

Covid-19 presents a serious risk to the health and wellbeing of our community, region, country, and world unless we take an aggressive stance. This means we must change our normal behaviours to weather this coming storm.

But we need to take extra precautions to lessen the potential impact.

Please try to remain calm, helpful, and kind to all during these times. Our message isn't meant to scare but prepare. We want to be cautious, careful, and prepared.

All Squamish Nation citizens are encouraged to practice **aggressive social distancing**. Stay at least 2 meters away from others. Reduce gathering with people as much as possible. Isolate yourself for 14 days if you've returned from an international trip. If you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, contact 811 to arrange testing and isolate yourself.

Also consider order food instead of eating in a restaurant. Do not attend any gatherings, concerts, or events. But enjoy the outdoors if you can. But try to practice aggressive social distancing for next two weeks until further notice.

**Aggressive social distancing is needed to “flatten the curve” of Covid-19 cases.** Without aggressive social distancing, our elderly and those with health issues are at risk of death if the virus keeps spreading. In addition, without aggressive social distancing, our health care system and hospital could be overwhelmed.

We need all members to be diligent and work together to reduce cases happening in our community.

The Squamish Nation will make decisions to protect our most vulnerable and at risk and we will do what we can to focus resources on the most vulnerable.

We suggest all pay attention to official announcements from the Federal and Provincial governments.

We thank you for your patient, understanding, and support.



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**Co-Chairs**