

SKIDEGATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER UPDATE 20 March 2020

On 11 March 2020, Canada declared a pandemic in response to the potential impact of COVID-19.

On 16 March, Skidegate activated the *Skidegate Pandemic Plan* and established Skidegate Health Centre as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Robert Russ is the Incident Command Lead with Lauren Brown serving as the Health Lead.

The Skidegate Pandemic Plan is a joint effort of the Skidegate Band Council, Skidegate Fire Department and Health departments. We are tasked with ensuring the ongoing protection, health and safety of the people during this crisis. The plan is activated and is feeding directly into the provincial emergency program and has provided us with a task number, which is essential for tracking emergency response expenditures and identifying the Province's commitment to provide third party liability protection. We have direct lines of communication daily with both First Nations Health authority and Northern Healthy Authority.

Our immediate priorities are establishing our structure; establishing a process for responding in an efficient way to the volumes of information received; and, getting relevant, up-to-date information out to the public in a timely manner.

An immediate and important responsibility of our EOC is ensuring our elderly and immune compromised community members are taken care of during this challenging time. Therefore, we are focusing on establishing a list of frail and vulnerable elderly. Our home care department is operating at essential only. If anyone in Skidegate needs a grocery run, pick up, or medication pick up, please call our EOC at the Skidegate Health Centre: **250-559-4610**. Our operations Chief, Kyle Marshall will connect you to a volunteer who will respond.

The natural and immediate response of our Haida community is to gather and support each other through visiting and food. However, the potential impact of COVID-19 is calling on us to respond differently – in isolation and to stay away from our loved ones and friends.

Our collective memory remembers the past diseases that almost wiped our people; there is a lot of fear and unknowns. Please listen to the advice of health experts who are strongly recommending that we isolate, stay home and wash our hands frequently. Please remember the resiliency and strengths of our people.

Barbara Stevens, EOC Liaison