



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

April 17, 2020

Dear Citizens,

As we finish up the fourth week since Covid-19 was declared a pandemic in Canada, it is important to reflect on the positives as well as the challenges we have faced.

During difficult times we often come together and gain strength from each other. This is what Huu-ay-aht is doing right now. Citizens are leaning on each other, offering help shopping, sharing the fish they caught, and celebrating our culture together, thanks to technology.

Families are growing stronger by facing this pandemic together. Many people are finding they are getting back to basics and enjoying the time playing games with their family, taking walks together, or cooking and sharing the food they create. Others are using technology to stay connected to relatives they can no longer visit in person.

Our staff is working hard to meet the needs of our Nation. Together they are finding resourceful ways to work as a team even though they no longer get to see each other every day. They continue to get the job done and dedicate their time to helping where they can even when it means switching their focus from their regular responsibilities. Every week a small team contacts all of you so that we can be kept up to date with how you are doing through these difficult times.

Executive Council will continue to take measures to keep our citizens safe and our Nation healthy. This is the reason we declared a State of Emergency in March and have been taking steps to ensure our citizens are safe on our Traditional Territory, including Anacla.

We also appointed a Strategic Priorities Taskforce on March 30, 2020. This group will review and recommend legal and public health measures to assist and protect Huu-ay-aht citizens, employees, and others on Huu-ay-aht Lands.

One of the recommendations that came out of this group was that more steps must be taken to protect against dangers to public health in our community. Executive Council has directed that, in order to protect public health in Anacla, entry to Anacla will be denied to those who are not Anacla residents if:

- 1) Entry by individuals is for non-essential services
- 2) Entry by individuals if:
 - a. They may be or are experiencing symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19
 - b. They have confirmed or presumptive cases of COVID-19, or
 - c. They are not practising recommended physical distancing and hygiene measures.

We will continue to have checkpoints in place and will increase signage and health screening to make sure we uphold these commitments.



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Executive Council understands this will be difficult. Together we will get through this pandemic even though it will mean giving up a lot of what we once took for granted. We appreciate your dedication to doing your part. Without that we would not be able to keep our Nation safe and healthy.

With so many restrictions and challenges ahead of us, it is easy to see only the negative side to all of this and to focus on that. In times like this, it is often more productive to focus on what is within our own control, instead of the things we cannot change. This is the lens your leaders are using, and that is why we are putting so many measures in place to protect you. We cannot change that this virus is having an impact on our lives. We can only do our part to minimize the spread.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dennis Sr.