



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

October 8, 2020

Dear Citizens,

It is hard to believe we are entering the eighth month of this pandemic. Looking back, we have made a lot of tough decisions and changes that helped keep our citizens and organization safe. It is the role of the Executive Council to do what we believe is in the best interests of our community. When it comes to COVID-19, that means looking out for your safety and health.

We are proud of the measures we have taken to ensure we are doing our part to minimize the spread of this virus. During the busy summer months, we protected our remote community and its residents with gates and security. The gates will remain in place to restrict access to Anacla and Pachena Beach as we head into the quieter fall and winter season.

We also ensured our staff stayed safe during this time by limiting the number of people in the office and enabling virtual meeting and remote workstations. Because of the procedures and practices in place at our offices, the recent positive COVID-19 case within our staff was contained and our staff and citizens were protected. These measures will stay in place until we see signs that the pandemic is coming to an end.

All along we have asked our citizens to do their part to minimize the spread of COVID-19. As we head into fall, the weather is starting to cool, and our thoughts shift from summer fun to inside comforts and holiday gatherings. Unfortunately, currently, our province and many other provinces are seeing a resurgence of COVID cases. It is therefore more important than ever to closely follow recommendations made by provincial health professionals. This includes:

- Frequent hand washing,
- Physical distancing from people outside your bubble or
- Wearing a mask when that is not possible,
- Keeping your gatherings small and limiting the people in your circle.

This weekend Thanksgiving will kickstart the holiday season. This is traditionally a time to gather with our loved ones, but this year we must change the way we celebrate Thanksgiving. Instead of inviting your family and friends over for a large turkey dinner, keep your gatherings small by inviting only people in your immediate circle.

If we make the right decisions now, we may find by December our province has flattened the curve enough to allow us to include more loved ones in our Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

Please have a good long weekend and a happy Thanksgiving. We are all in this together, and we are *Huu-ay-aht Strong*.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dennis Sr.