



For Immediate Release

Garden River First Nation takes proactive measures to protect the community in anticipation of the COVID-19

Garden River First Nation, ON, March 16, 2020 – Garden River First Nation Chief & Council held a special meeting via teleconference on March 15, 2020 regarding COVID-19. Our risk for Algoma continues to be LOW, however, Chief & Council are implementing proactive measures for the overall safety of our citizens.

Garden River is implementing social distancing practices to reduce transmission of infection and therefore, Garden River Chief & Council has ordered closure effective March 16, 2020 to April 5, 2020 of the following:

Garden River Child Care Centre
Garden River Bingo Enterprises
Garden River Recreation Centre
Community Centre
All social activities, group programs and events

Garden River First Nation staff who can work from home will do so effective immediately. These departments include Finance & Administration, Economic Resources & Community Development, Housing, Lands & Resources, Membership, Garden River Education Centre, and Garden River Child & Family Services.

Essential services will continue and include the following:

Garden River Fire Department & First Response
Garden River Public Works (Garbage removal, highway maintenance services etc.)
Garden River Water Department
Garden River Wellness Centre/Dan Pine Healing Lodge (restricted accessibility and service)
Niigaaniin and Food Bank (restricted accessibility and service)

To access services during closure, please see department contacts.

DEPARTMENT	MANAGER /Acting	PHONE	EMAIL
Chief Andy Rickard		(705) 989-5447	arickard@gardenriver.org
Garden River Wellness Centre	Pam Nolan	(705) 946-5710	pnolan@grhc.ca
Garden River Housing Emergency	Greg Solomon	(705) 253-0225	gsolomon@gardenriver.org

Garden River Education Centre	Dianne Roach	(705) 759-1771	dianne.roach@gardenriver.ca
Niigaaniin & Food Bank	Eileen Thibault	(705) 254-8318	Hasolomon@gardenriver.org ethibault@gardenriver.org
Child & Family Services	Luanne Povey	(705) 450-5071	lpovey@grcfs.ca
Water Department	Cody Boissoneau	(705) 971-1210	cmboissoneau@gardenriver.org
Public Works	Darcy Lesage	(705) 257-8001	dlesage@gardenriver.org
Fire Department	Steve Nolan	(705) 253-1870	
Communications	Amy Sayers	(705) 206-3070	asayers@gardenriver.org

During this difficult situation, Garden River will continue to work with our Health Department and COVID-19 task force team to deal with ongoing matters and events as they unfold. We encourage you to please take time to read the handouts from the Wellness Centre as it is important that we take preventative measures to limit exposure of COVID-19 in our community.

Weekly conference calls will take place with Chief and Council on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and with the COVID-19 Taskforce. Social distancing will be in effect for conducting business from governance to administration.

Garden River Chief & Council is keeping our vulnerable in mind as some members may be limited in resources and/or accessibility to obtain essential supplies. To help alleviate this concern, the GR Fire Hall has been identified as the location to accept donations. The Fire Hall is open 24 hours and can accept donations at any time. Donations can be toiletries, non-perishable foods, etc.

Thank-you for your patience and understanding and keep an eye out for further updates via social media and handouts.