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Holidays Edition 2020 **NEWSLETTER**

Christmas season is upon us once again. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone, Season's greetings. During this holiday season, let us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with our family and friends. May everyone have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.

Let us also remember the families that have lost a loved one during the year. Let us pause and take a moment to whisper a prayer, that God may bring comfort and strength. Please be mindful not all families are fortunate to provide gifts to their children during this holiday season, I encourage each community member to share the gift of giving by giving to the less fortunate.

This year was indeed challenging as COVID-19 remains in our surroundings. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all frontline workers, emergency workers, doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers, and all community members. I know these hard times were difficult, the result of your commitment and collaboration has indeed kept our community safe. We are strong, healthy, united, and blessed people!

With love & prayers

Chief, Clarke Shecapio

Wachiyehk!

Throughout this season, and as we move into a new (hopefully better) year I would like to wish everyone in our community a restful Christmas Holidays with their loved ones.

Despite the current situation on the global pandemic our organization still managed to keep our essential services running throughout the year. The departments will be posting their schedules to the public which essential services will be running during the 2020 Christmas Holiday season. Our offices will be closed from December 21, 2020, to January 8, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to give employees a much-needed rest period. I would like to remind everyone on the importance to continue to be vigilant to prevent the spread of the virus by following the Public Health recommendations.

I hope that you and your loved ones will find time to gather during the Christmas Holidays. We wish you strength, health, and happiness during this holiday season!

Merry Christmas!

Brenda Weistche, Director General

Merry Christmas

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Watchiya! This is a brief summary of activities in the finance department during the holiday season.

Our main activity during this time is to have the payroll processed for all permanent employees and some casual employees required to work. I monitor the bank accounts to ensure that all accounts have enough funds to meet obligations. Some of the staff may come in to take care of a specific task during the closure but we try to avoid calling in employees since it is a time for them to be with their families.

As we close out this difficult year, on behalf of all my finance staff, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best Wishes to Everyone for 2021!

Steve Diamond, Chief Financial Officer

The Cree Nation of Waskaganish is blessed to have dedicated employees. Their hard work makes us who we are. May this Christmas season bring you and your families enough joy to remember and laughter to last a lifetime. Have a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year in 2021.

Just to give you an update for closures of our local projects for December 2020 and resumption of work in January 2021 are the following:

Rupert River Pool Complex will be closed during holidays on December 18, 2020, and resumption on January 5, 2021

Water Treatment Plant Chemical Storage will be closed on December 15, 2020 and resumption on January 11, 2021

Residential Housing project for 2019-2020 will be closed in mid-December 2020 and no resumption of work of this project.

Radio Station will be available for occupancy at the beginning of December 2020.

On behalf of our Department, we wish you all a safe holidays and God bless.

Bert Moar, Director of Natural Resources and Development

Greetings to Members!

The holiday season is approaching and time spent with family and friends is irreplaceable. I was reminiscing about 2020 a lot to be grateful to my office staff and the maintenance department, who work extremely hard to provide our tenants and entities the best service and produce 24/7 service even during the holidays. The funding repairs too many homes, the continual support from the Cree Nation Government, Indigenous services Canada, Canada Housing Mortgage Corporation, our Chief and Council, and the affiliate tasks colleagues. The collaboration between the entities and the support of many tenants keeps the housing program sustained and healthy.

In closing, the Housing Department wants everyone to have a safe Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year in 2021!

Thank you!

Marty Cowboy, Director of Housing

On behalf of the Department of Social Health Development, we would like to issue a special holiday greeting to all our members and to inform you of any upcoming holiday programs within our department.

During the holidays the Youth Council will be hosting the annual Year-end Festivities; however, due to COVID 19 safety protocols, it will be different from previous years. More information will be made available in the coming weeks by the Youth Council along with the YEF Coordinator.

Let's continue to stay safe, and respect all safety measures to ensure safe, and enjoyable holidays for everyone in our community.

From all of us here at the Department of Social Health Development, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. God bless,

Jordan Stephen, Director of Social Health

Wachiya everyone,

This year had been a very unique and challenging year for everyone. Everyone was affected by the pandemic and especially our workers in community services. We had to adapt to the changes with the new protocols that had been set by Public Health and Government regulations. We remained operational and will continue to be operational 24/7 to protect our people and our community.

Although we reiterate the covid-19 preventive measures constantly, we always need to remind ourselves to properly follow the protocols and regulations that are in effect. If we continue to practise safety measures, we can stop the pandemic. There will be a time when we can live our lives normally and tell stories of what we needed to do to protect ourselves.

Governments in other countries are praising our efforts for keeping out the virus from our region. We should continue to be vigilant. Preventive measures are the key to our safety. Until then, we work constantly to protect you, your family, your friends, and your relatives.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ryan Erless, Director of Community Services

Season's greetings and warmest wishes to all!

During the holidays, we encourage you to stay safe and stay active. Some of our sports & recreation facilities will remain open during the Christmas break. The outdoor rink should be ready soon. To encourage families to spend time together in an outdoor setting, lights will be installed at the sliding hill near the RC Mission house. The Rupert River Sports Complex, Gathering Place gymnasium and Fitness Center will also be open on a modified schedule.

Enjoy your time with friends and family. But please remember to stay safe, unfortunately covid-19 is still here. Take this opportunity to relax at home and recharge. Hopefully 2021 will bring back the normal we all miss.

Merry Christmas!

Charles J. Hester, Director of Sports Culture & Leisure

Greetings everyone,

The Holiday season is looking different this year as gatherings, traditions and events are being reimagined with COVID-19 health precautions in mind. The Eeyou Administration Office is closed due to the pandemic from December 21, 2020, to January 8, 2021. Some departments have prepared schedules for their employees during the holidays to ensure necessary services are available.

The Human Resources Department and the other departments will resume regular operating hours on January 11, 2021.

We realize these precautions are not easy. Please know we appreciate all you have done to keep yourself, your family/friends, and the community safe over the past months. Following precautionary measures will keep us safe to enjoy many holiday seasons to come.

Wishing you all a safe and joyful Christmas, enjoy your time with your family and friends. God Bless.

Sincerely,

Betty Blueboy, Director of Human Resources

Greeting community members

As we know winter is vastly approaching and weather conditions can be very unpredictable. I encourage members to be careful and to be safe.

Here are some tips:

**** Dress properly and wear anti-slip footwear to avoid falls.***

**** Shovel snow from your household steps and de-ice stairs.***

**** Supervise children when they are sliding and avoid sliding near roads.***

**** Put away personal belongings to avoid being damaged by snow removal crew.***

**** Install winter tires before deadline December 1st.***

**** Respect all traffic signs and speed limit.***

**** Wear reflective clothing when walking at night(s).***

I wish everyone a blessed holiday season. May this Christmas bring you comfort, joy, peace and happiness to last throughout the coming year! "God Bless you all and be safe"

Willie Shecapio, Director of Public Works

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