



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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BCAFN Celebrates Easter Weekend During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, BC – Apr. 9, 2020) – BC Assembly of First Nations' (BCAFN) Regional Chief Terry Teegee and staff are celebrating Easter weekend in new ways during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to connect with each other during holidays and special occasions, but everyone must be creative and cautious to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy and safe. Of particular concern are our Elders who hold our oral histories, languages, traditions and who are precious members of our communities.

“Physical distancing has been working and it is critical that we avoid gatherings, including small family gatherings. Please pay attention to our health care professionals who have advised all citizens to stay home, avoid travel and do not put yourself or others at risk,” stated Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

“There are many safe ways to celebrate and connect, including participating in on-line ceremonies utilizing the latest technology and social media tools, making phone calls and using facetime as alternatives.”

With the warmer weather and the upcoming holiday weekend, concerns have been expressed by leaders in rural communities to keep people a safe distance apart and a number of strategies are being employed, including the recent closure of provincial and federal outdoor recreational parks and facilities. Religious leaders across the province have also been engaged to find alternative and creative ways to celebrate religious gatherings such using Zoom and Skype meetings for their congregations.

If you have health questions about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) go to the First Nations Health Authority website at www.fnha.ca. The First Nations Leadership Council has a new website (www.fnlc.ca) where you can find information and links for resources, supports and news during the pandemic.

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For further information, contact:

Annette Schroeter, Communications Officer, cell phone (778)281-1655.

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