



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
April 17, 2020

BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Statement on Prevention of Violence Against Women Week

(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC – April 17, 2020) – April 12-18, 2020 is **Prevention of Violence Against Women Week** in British Columbia. “While we are all working hard to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through physical distancing, we know that staying at home is not always a safe option. Gender-based violence has been found to increase in times of stress, especially during disasters like the pandemic we are living through now. It is important to know that physical and emotional abuse is never okay,” stated Regional Chief Terry Teegee. “Many front-line services continue to be here for anyone who may be in a difficult or dangerous situation. You are not alone, and support is available. Physical isolation does not need to mean social isolation. Stay connected and reach out in a safe way.”

“I would also like to sincerely thank all of the caring front-line organizations and dedicated individuals who provide much-needed and valued support to those experiencing gender-based violence. The services and advocacy you provide deserve recognition this week, and every day. Mussi cho.”

For help or for more information, please access these supports and resources:

- If you are in immediate danger or fear for your safety, call 911.
- First Nations Health Authority <https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/when-staying-home-is-not-safe?fbclid=IwAR1Ge0vM8-zWArPRkfQPhRRzFDYaT1I0YlB8V6Zym2Q3Mdvh8nIo0iO2QH8>
- Ending Violence Association of BC Need Help information <https://endingviolence.org/need-help/>
- Crisis Centre <https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/fnha/>
- VictimLink BC <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/victimlinkbc>

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For further information, contact:

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