



Cowichan Tribes

5760 Allenby Road
Quw'utsun Territory
Duncan, BC V9L 5J1
250-748-3196 | cowichantribes.com

Media Statement on 1st Death of Cowichan Tribes Member in Relation to COVID-19

Cowichan Tribes (January 26, 2021) – Today, Cowichan Tribes Chief William Seymour made the following statement:

I am deeply saddened to share that a member of our community has died in relation to COVID-19. The loss of any member of Cowichan Tribes is deeply felt by everyone in our community.

Due to patient confidentiality and out of respect to the family, I cannot disclose any details about this individual. I ask that all media and everyone to give the space and opportunity for the family and our community to grieve and support each other during this difficult time.

The next few weeks will be critical in our fight against COVID-19. I urge all Cowichan Tribes members and citizens of the Cowichan Valley to remain vigilant and continue to respect the Cowichan Tribes *Shelter In Place Order* (which has been extended until February 5), and follow all Provincial Health Orders and guidelines related to COVID-19. Please follow public health protocols by staying at home except for essential reasons, wash your hands, wear a mask, maintain 6 feet apart, and avoid gatherings.

If you have any related symptoms, get tested and self-isolate. To book an appointment for testing call 1-844-901-8442. If you have questions or need assistance, call our COVID-19 Community Navigators at (250) 715-3339 or Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre at (250) 746-6184. These also include mental health and economic supports in place to help individuals who are struggling or self-isolating.

If you need to talk to someone, you can also call the Vancouver Island Crisis Line 1-888-494-3888 (24-hour line) or text 250-800-3806.

In line with our Cowichan Tribes Teachings to honour and respect the family and their grief we are taking a break in providing updates on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases so that we can reflect on improving our overall plan and approach for our Membership.

It is important to emphasize that the COVID-19 virus can be found in every community. It can affect anyone and at any time. Racism and discrimination has no place in our society, and we must work together to help each other through this unprecedented time and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I want to thank every individual for doing their part to protect our community and each other. Together, we will get through this. Huy tseep q'u.

William Seymour



Chief, Cowichan Tribes

-30-

Media Contact: Derek Thompson, A/General Manager, Cowichan Tribes, 250-748-3196