



F O R T W I L L I A M F I R S T N A T I O N

Memorandum

To: Fort William First Nation

CC: Chief Peter Collins, CEO Michael Pelletier Jr., and Director Karen Bannon

From: Shannon Crews

Date: March 25, 2020

Re: Coronavirus COVID-19

Situation:

In response to the growing concerns related to the Coronavirus COVID-19 the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Government Ontario has suspended all access to the Ontario Works, Employment & Training (OWET) building, these efforts have been taken to protect the health and well-being of all Fort William First Nation members, including staff and clients in the Ontario Work, Employment & Training sector.

During these exceptional times you can expect the following actions and precautionary measures effective immediately for the Ontario Works Employment & Training office.

Actions:

- The Ontario Works Employment & Training Office will be closed to the public
- The Ontario Works Employment & Training Office will be on a rotation schedule and will have limited staff on site, many staff will be working from home, these precautionary measures have been implemented to keep within the recommendations to socially distance, and keep 6 feet apart.
- We have suspended the need for in-person contact by authorizing risk-based approaches to eligibility determination and other verification requirement – intake applications will be done over the phone.
- Reducing the burden on program staff- modifying certain program requirements, participation requirements will not be enforced during the pandemic.
- Reducing the burden on the healthcare system- extensions to current Special Diet Allowances, and medical transportation/supplies without the endorsement from a health professional
- Employment and Training – Participants required to remain away from their training sites as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, who are actively participating

in sponsored training either on the job or in school continue to receive any pre-approved training and support allowances during this period of isolation, stay at home recommendations.

- All Employment Training activities are on hold until further notice.

Our highest priority is the safety and well-being of our participants and community. We will continue to monitor this situation as we proceed.

If you have any concerns and or questions please contact Fort William First Nation Social Services at (807) 622-6791.

Respectfully,

Shannon Crews

Ontario Works Manager

Fort William First Nation Social Services