

March 2020 Edition of Council Corner

Though it's been barely two weeks, it feels like an eon ago that on the evening of March 12th the Town of Nipawin hosted it's Open House, and I had the opportunity of presenting to a number of you a snapshot of the Town of Nipawin over 2018 and 2019 and thinking about the priorities for 2020 and beyond.



Yet here we are a short two weeks later talking about something called COVID-19 that is affecting everyone's life across the region, the province, the country and indeed the entire world.

Over the past days some things have changed so far as access to the Town Office and the closure of facilities and the delivery of services. What has **NOT** changed is that though facilities are closed you can still access the Town of Nipawin by calling (306) 862 9866 to have your questions and concerns answered.

To ensure staff safety, all Town of Nipawin Staff are generally working from home or through other technological means and therefore are still available, albeit in a different way.

I have today also posted a message to the Town of Nipawin website to assure residents that we are working for you.

“Due to the urgency around the COVID-19 pandemic changes are happening quickly and often. I want to assure residents that the Town Council and Administration is focusing on the safety of the citizens of the community in every decision that is made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our people and our business community are central to every decision.

In the best interest of everyone, and for the health and safety of our communities and for the protection of our valued employees, the Town of Nipawin will continue to provide services while ensuring that precautionary measures are taken and in place. You can still do business with the Town of Nipawin but in a slightly different way.

The Town of Nipawin staff will be available by telephone at (306) 862 9866 from 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 Monday to Friday or by email, to answer your questions. A contact list is available on the Town of Nipawin website at www.nipawin.com.

The Town's essential services, such as water supply and emergency and protective services are critical to everyone's wellbeing and the Town of Nipawin wants to assure you that they will go uninterrupted and that contingency plans are in place.

On behalf of the Council I would remind each of you to continue to protect yourself, your family, friends and others in our community by practicing physical (social) distancing. Please follow the mandated and enforced 14-day self-isolation if you have been travelling and stay at home if you are experiencing symptoms. There is a self-assessment tool online to help you.

Grocery stores and pharmacies remain open. However, if you are going to the store, send only one individual from your household to do the shopping and remember to respect others by practicing **physical distancing** while you are there or getting there. **That means staying two meters or about 6 feet apart.**

We are told that we cannot stop the COVID virus, but we **CAN** each do our part to slow it down so that our health system can keep up. As we work through this difficult time, my plea to each of you is to be kind, patient and respectful and to adhere to the physical distancing practices while you are in public and at home.

I remind myself often to “stay calm” and I offer that same advice to each of you. If you need to talk, I’m here and my contact information is listed below. In the meantime, let’s take care of ourselves and each other.

Thank you.”

I have been receiving questions in regard to people returning to the community. Individuals are concerned, for example, that a member of public sees someone whom they don’t think is self-isolating.

This is the advice I have been provided: If you are certain that an individual is not self-isolating as required by Order of the Province, you should advise the individual of the Mandatory regulations and let them know that if they don’t comply the RCMP may be contacted. If there still remains no compliance advise the RCMP.

There is a link on the Town of Nipawin website advising everyone of the mandatory self-isolation requirement and that non-compliance can result in a fine of up to \$2000.

By Minister’s Order, effective March 20, 2020, Mandatory Isolation is required...ALL persons that have traveled internationally SHALL go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of arrival back into Canada.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/public-health-orders>

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE is *everyone’s* responsibility. If you notice any unusual activity in your neighbourhoods or elsewhere, please report to the RCMP or use **the 1-800 Crime Stoppers / TIPS line (1-800-222-TIPS (8477))**. This ensures that the RCMP are aware and help keep our neighbourhoods as safe as possible.

I welcome conversations with anyone who has a concern or a bouquet. Please don’t hesitate to arrange an opportunity for Mayor and Council to hear your ideas. Call (306) 862 9866 to arrange an appointment or by email to mayorharper@nipawin.com.

NOTE: Anonymous concerns, written or by phone, will not receive response so please sign your concern and provide contact information.

Check out the Town of Nipawin’s website at: www.nipawin.com.

Link to the **Provincial COVID-19 self assessment tool** and other information is available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment>