



# Snuneymuxw

First Nation

[www.snuneymuxw.ca](http://www.snuneymuxw.ca)

April 24, 2020

Dear Snuneymuxw,

When the public health orders began, our Nation put in place an emergency process and systems that enhance the protection of health and safety for our staff and community. Governance work is anchored on the inherent rights and authority of our Nation, and notably the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada under the Treaty of 1854, and Government-to-Government relationship with British Columbia. Using these powers and authorities our Nation took the following steps:

1. Emergency office and facilities closure and authorization for staff to work from home (March 18, 2020)
2. Snuneymuxw Health Plan for Pandemic Preparedness, Response and Emergency (March 19, 2020)
3. Establishment of a Snuneymuxw Emergency Pandemic Response Team (March 19, 2020)
4. Emergency operating procedures and emergency assistance (March 19, 2020)
5. Declaration of State of Emergency including a Band Council Resolution (March 23, 2020)
6. Snuneymuxw Covid-19 By-Law (March 26, 2020)
7. Oath of Office and Delegation of Covid-19 By-Law Enforcement Officers (April 3, 2020)
8. Record of discussion with RCMP for enforcement support (ongoing)

I am proud to report that other First Nations are using our COVID-19 By-law as a template to help them govern through this pandemic. Our Nation is doing the best we can with responding to the challenges posed by the pandemic in a timely fashion however we must continue to work together in order to preserve through these challenging times.

It is critical that we follow the instructions for no gatherings and no public access to our reserves. The pandemic is a serious health emergency and we do not want to heighten the risk of an outbreak in our community. I know it is custom to our people for us to gather. But for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community, you are advised not to gather people at your residence or in our community at this time.

Please stay safe and be well.

Respectfully,

Chief Mike Wyse