



Head Office - Reserves 22A1/22A2

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Boozhoo,

We are sending out this update to our lot holders on beautiful Lac des Mille Lacs reserve lands 22A1, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. As you are all aware, in order to stop the spread of the virus, all levels of government have instituted restrictions and temporary by-laws to safeguard everyone. Many First Nations have also implemented total or partial shut-downs of their communities with measures such as; “no trespassing bans” or “restricted access allowed only for membership who live on reserve” or “curfews”, to name a few.

We are also all aware and understand that our First Nation does not presently have a permanent on-reserve population. We do not qualify for funding to support security for road closures or to monitor the entrance to our reserve. Our Community Cultural Complex (CCC) and staff are deemed non-essential, and in order to keep our staff safe, we closed the CCC until further notice. We have assigned another staff member to perform daily checks around the reserve and on all of the buildings. Once the pandemic is deemed under control and restrictions are lifted, the CCC will reopen and we will have our permanent staff members back at the Complex.

We are very proud of all our members and families that have cleared their lots, constructed or purchased permanent buildings, and prepared their lots for occupancy. We acknowledge that you have spent many long and hard days working towards your goal of attaining a safe and secure dwelling for you and your family. We are thankful that our members and families have demonstrated such passion and commitment to repatriating our lands. The lots and buildings are looking beautiful! We are all very proud of what you have accomplished! Way to go!!

We also understand that many are eager to continue moving forward with the completion of their lots and homes this year. Unfortunately, under these abnormal circumstances and in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our members, we are limited on what we can do on our lots during the pandemic and until restrictions are lifted. ***Our Construction Manager, Tom Lebel, will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding this matter. He can be reached at 807.631.7876.*** Note: We are also looking into the possibility of extending the 2-year timeline due to these delays. It's not what any of us want, but it's a reality that we are living with.

At this point in time, we strongly suggest that should you need to go out to your lot, you do so on a limited basis. We also suggest that you keep to the household rule, where you gather only with those that reside in your current home; and avoid placing yourself and others in possible risk of infection. A reminder goes out that the closest medical emergency contact is located in Upsala. We need to practice extreme safety precautions especially as we are remotely located. ***During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, should you need to go out to your lot, we ask that you contact Councillor Carmel Zoccole prior to going out to the reserve @ 807.622.9835 ext 232.*** This may assist in helping to keep you safe should an emergency arise, as we will be aware of who is out on the lands and keep a look out for you.

We are carefully monitoring all Federal/Provincial updates and will inform you of any changes. We are hopeful that restrictions will be further lifted in the upcoming weeks, once reports indicate that the spread of the virus has stabilized. We want to thank you once again for your patience and cooperation during these challenging times. We know it's hard on everyone, and especially when our summers are short in North-western Ontario. We are all doing a great job at containing the spread. We need to stay the course, and we will all come out of this for the better.

Should you have any other questions or concerns, email Councillor Carmel Zoccole at czoccole@lacadesmillelacs.ca and she will forward them to the members of the Housing Committee, and get back to you with an answer.

Respectfully, Your Housing Committee

Jackie Peters, Councillor Tracy Morrison, Councillor Carmel Zoccole, Mark Sawdo, Tom Lebel