



## **Beausoleil First Nation** ***Emergency Control Group***

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**Monday, March 23, 2020**

### **Re: Social Services**

Ahniin Chimnissing,

### **Meal Program**

We continue to provide meal access to those in need of food assistance at this time. Our daily rotating meal provision is going well, improvements continue to be made where needed, allowing us to operate more smoothly with each day. Your patience while we work out the small issues identified is much appreciated.

### **Prioritizing Orders**

Although we have been aiming to provide a meal for all who make requests, we'd like to remind people that replenishing supplies is taking longer than usual due to the pandemic. Should we not be able to provide as many meals as ordered, we hope to be able to notify those affected. Please keep in mind the following groups are identified as a priority, a therefore will be at the top of the order list. We are kindly requesting at this time, that if people are able to sustain themselves or their household until their next shopping trip, if these persons/households can limit their requests for meals until they are in definite need. This will assist in having supplies last a bit longer.

Priority Groups: Elderly, Disabled/Mobility Issues and Self-Isolation

### **Ontario Works**

We have implemented a program wide exemption for the monthly requirement of submitting income reporting statements in person. Any changes to your monthly income and living situation can be reported via telephone or email with your caseworker.

Ontario Works benefits for the upcoming period of April 2020, will be issued on April 1, 2020, as scheduled; should there be any changes that effect the payment schedule, the community will be notified immediately.

Emergency Assistance Applications - Intake appointments will be scheduled with those individuals who make contact, intakes will be completed over the phone, and persons eligible will receive a payment accordingly. Please expect a call this week notifying you of your appointment time.

Discretionary & Mandatory Related Benefits, we will be taking requests for current & ongoing recipients in the same manner as emergency assistance (noted above)

Medical Related Travel - We will continue to provide transportation to those who receive these benefits from our office, taxis are arranged with pre-specified departure and return times, if you do not follow the schedule, or miss a trip, we will not rebook at a later time that day, your arrangements are your own responsibility should you choose not to follow the schedule; we will also be implementing a travel pass system in the near future in order to identify those who may require more trips due to medical needs.

Payment Pick-Up Process - We are requesting that those individuals who are in receipt of OW, and have not yet provided their banking information, to please do as soon as possible, we would like to move the majority of cases to direct bank deposit this month in an effort to decrease risk of transmission of illness, and avoid having people gather at the office on issue day; however for the small number of people who do not have bank access, we will be planning a payment pickup protocol in the coming week, which may require a staggered payment release, so please update your caseworker if your information requires updating

### **Volunteer Callout**

In order to provide assistance required by the community during this time of need, we continue to ask those who can assist us in any way, to contact our office. The following areas are where we require volunteers:

- Meal preparation
- Delivery of meals & Care Packages
- Shopping for program needs
- Managing incoming/outgoing calls

Contact Info:

Tel: 705-247-1180

Fax: 705-247-1179

Email: OW@chimnissing.ca

When leaving a message, please include:

-name, date, time, contact info

-reason for contact

-for emails & fax transmissions, please identify the program you're inquiring about as the topic, so it can be sorted appropriately

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we aim to continue to provide for your needs during this time.

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*PJ Sandy*

PJ Sandy  
BFNSS Director