



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Chiefs Ask for Community Support During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Over the past two weeks the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs (Assembly) has been following, discussing regularly and taking proactive measures to protect our communities from the spread of COVID-19.

Understanding that each Mi'kmaw community is unique in their demographics, there have been different approaches to the current situation in the various Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities. While circumstances may be different for each community, the Assembly is calling on the support of all community members during this very difficult time.

“We need everyone to do their part,” said Chief Sidney Peters, Assembly Co-Chair. “We all have a role to play in helping keep our people safe. There are precautionary measures being put into place, and now, more than ever, we need our members to respect those decisions.”

The Assembly requests that everyone follows the preventative measures being put into place in their own community to combat the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

“While many have been very understanding and cooperative, there are still individuals in our communities who feel that these measures do not apply to them,” said Chief Terrance Paul, Assembly Co-Chair. “We need everyone to understand that the decisions being made, and the rules being established in the communities, are for your safety and the safety of our Elders, children, and the immunocompromised.”

In Nova Scotia's State of Emergency, they have limited traffic to and from the Province as well as putting limitations on gatherings of more than five people. Nova Scotia businesses are also taking measures to keep their customers at a safe distance of six feet apart. The Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia are also implementing these actions plus more, as we feel our populations are at higher risk for spread and devastation.

The Assembly wants community members to understand that they all are very supportive of what each community is doing to stop the spread of COVID-19.

“We are unsure how long this will be the situation for our communities, the province, and the world,” continued Chief Paul. “Even though we may be isolated in our homes, we will get through this pandemic together”.

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