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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 19, 2020**

To DFN Community Members, Band Members and Neighboring Communities

**Re: COVID-19 Safety Measures**

The Dzawada'enuxw First Nation (DFN) Elected Council following recommendations from the Dzawada'enuxw First Nation Emergency Management Team hereby enforces that current Safety Measures will remain in effect during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We understand that the province of BC has a multi-phased restart plan and we acknowledge that plan, however at this time our community infrastructure in Kingcome Village is not equipped to respond to an outbreak of the COVID-19.

The safety of our community members is of the utmost importance; therefore, the following safety measures will remain in effect until further notice:

- It is strongly recommended that community travel in and out of the village to other communities be refrained from unless it is of a Medical Emergency or death of a family member; should travel be required, members of the household are requested to self-isolate for a period of 14 days upon return home;
- Weekly charters of the Vancouver Island Air Plane Service and Sea Wolf Water Taxi Mayumi will continue; Leanne Moon, Lucy Puglas and Marijo Willie are the Food Security Team for the community that must be contacted in order for space to be reserved on either plane or boat;
- All river travel boat operators and assistants meeting planes, boats and the monthly Fuel Barge must wear Protective Masks and Gloves and are requested to wear these upon picking up freight until the river travel is complete (up the river); wiping down of boats and vehicles after freight delivery is also recommended;
- It is strongly Recommended that all groceries and freight be sanitized before being carried into the homes;
- It is strongly recommended that households continue to practice Social Distancing (minimum of 6 feet) as often as possible with other members of community;
- Our borders remain closed to non-residents.

We understand the frustrations and feelings of limitations of these safety measures. We must proactively as a community continue to remain vigilant in taking all the necessary precautions to avoid and mitigate the possible introduction of the COVID-19 to our community.

On behalf of the Elected Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willie Moon".

Willie Moon  
Council Chair  
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation