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For Immediate Release

Travelers from outside of province asked to self-isolate before entering any Labrador Inuit community

In an effort to control the potential spread of COVID-19, the Nunatsiavut Government is once again asking individuals coming from outside the province to self-isolate for at least 14 days before travelling from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to any of the five Labrador Inuit communities.

Reports of individuals travelling to some Labrador Inuit communities from other areas of the country are raising concerns and, in some cases, creating panic and fear. While the Nunatsiavut Government has no authority to mandate individuals to self-isolate before entering the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, it is asking travelers to please respect its wishes. “Now is not the time to take any chances,” says President Lampe. “We have to do whatever we can to make sure we keep COVID-19 from entering any of our communities.”

All non-essential travel to Nunatsiavut is being discouraged. Those who travel to any Labrador Inuit community from outside of the province are mandated to self-isolate for 14 days. Those who fail to adhere to provincial public health protocols should be reported to the appropriate authorities, says President Lampe.

“While we understand the need for essential travel to our communities, especially for health-care workers, it is important these individuals take all necessary precautions to avoid contact with residents as much as possible,” says the President. “These essential workers have to follow directives from the province’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. They are required to self-isolate within the community whenever they are not working, and are not permitted to go to stores or interact with others unless they have self-isolated for at least 14 days.”

Individuals whose travel costs are covered by the Nunatsiavut Government, including students, are required self-isolate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for 14 days before entering the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area. Arrangements have been made to ensure accommodations are provided to those required to self-isolate.

As the holiday season approaches, President Lampe is reminding Beneficiaries of the importance of following all public health protocols, by maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks, practicing good hand hygiene, and refraining from gatherings outside family units.

“This holiday season will be much different, as we continue to deal with the stress of this pandemic,” says the President. “As we close out the year, we must remain vigilant by continuing to make sacrifices in order to ensure we keep our families, friends and communities healthy and safe.”

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