



May 11, 2020

Dear Colleague;

We are facing a deadly outbreak of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan's North West. There are more people suffering with the coronavirus per capita in our region than anywhere else in Canada.

We pray this never happens to you, in your community. It is frightening and exhausting. Some of our elderly have already passed, and we are fearful to lose other loved ones.

We are writing to offer our help if COVID-19 ever does take hold in your community. We'll share what we're doing to keep people in our communities safe, including children, families, and the elderly. Over the past weeks, we've developed a pandemic response model that can be used anywhere.

As Municipal Governments, and First Nations and Métis leaders, we have come together as never before, to unite and share resources in the region. We created the North West Communities Incident Command Centre, and we've been able to put many community-based responses into action quickly. A daily call with all our community leaders has allowed us to support each other, coordinate our own responses to help our sick and vulnerable, and be clear about our region's needs when communicating with provincial and federal ministers and officials.

We have very limited health care facilities in the North West, and we have people who deal with homelessness and mental health challenges. We understand other communities do, too.

In this time of crisis, we have organized community members to help people infected with COVID-19 and their families. We are working hard to address basic food needs in our communities, as it is impossible to reach normal grocery stores with travel now restricted. Our strategies to provide PPE to our municipal workers and employees in essential services started slowly, but are now paying off. We are collaborating with checkpoints to keep the virus from spreading. We launched a website to share important information at www.the155.ca

I wish you good health always. And at the same time, if you ever need our experience, now or in the future, we are ready to help.

Sincerely,

Rick Laliberte

Commander, North West Communities Incident Command Centre
