



# *North Peace Housing Foundation*

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June 3, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

As other parts of Alberta begin to relaunch, it continues to be important to maintain strong protections in place within Lodge settings to minimize the introduction and risk of virus transmission and spread. Due to recent updates to the Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders regarding restrictions in the Province's lodges and other Seniors Care facilities, we are providing this information regarding our policies.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) was clear that because seniors' health remains a top priority, it is necessary for restrictions to remain in place for the time being. She encouraged residents to stay on-site except in the case of necessity (e.g. medical appointments, spending time outdoors). If leaving the facility in cases of necessity, she stressed the importance of maintaining physical distancing, wearing a mask at all times and asking anyone you may be with to also wear a mask, ensuring safe transportation and maintaining good hand hygiene. Health assessment screening of all residents returning to and re-entering the Lodge continues to be a requirement.

Dr. Hinshaw also recommended that you continue to interact and connect with friends and family through phone and other technologies. We are happy to assist in setting up online calls, FaceTime, Skype and chats, and have the facilities and equipment available. Please feel free to call us to help set this up for you.

We would like to clarify that access to the Lodge and to residents has not changed. On-site visitation is still limited to designated essential visitors plus one (1) and visits still must be scheduled ahead of time with Lodge Management. Continuous masking and physical distancing are still required at all times. We ask that people do not share phones, hug, hold hands, etc. I understand that this has been very hard and can personally relate; I have not hugged my parents in months and have only visited following physical distancing rules. It has been very hard on everyone.

When leaving the Lodge in the case of necessity, transportation must be done as safely as possible. We will communicate the Province's Safe Transportation expectations to residents and families as appropriate. Residents and families are responsible for contributing both to their own safety and to the safety of the other residents and staff at the site to which the resident will return.

If transportation is within a private vehicle (e.g. if resident drives self or when a family member picks up a resident), the resident or family member will ensure that the vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected prior to the resident entering, with focus on high touch surfaces (e.g. handles, steering wheel, window controls, armrests, seat belts, etc.). The driver and all passengers must be masked, and the driver and

resident/passengers will sit as far apart as possible, minimizing the number of passengers in the vehicle (e.g. one driver with resident sitting as far away as possible).

The North Peace Housing Foundation retains the ability to take a risk-based approach in requesting that residents isolate above the requirements indicated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with Zone Medical Officer of Health. Examples of factors that may impact a requirement to isolate upon return include attending a facility/location with a known COVID-19 outbreak, not maintaining physical distancing when out, and not wearing a mask continuously.

Residents must remain vigilant in their actions to protect themselves and others. While these expectations are intended to safeguard seniors and other vulnerable individuals for the duration of the pandemic, the CMOH also recognizes that socialization and activity are an important part of quality of life in a Lodge setting. With that in mind, all indoor and outdoor activity group sizes have been increased to no more than fifteen (15) people, while ensuring the space can accommodate all physical distancing requirements. Some previously cancelled activities will be re-introduced, and some recreation supplies may be re-introduced based on the needs of the residents and the ability of staff to disinfect before and after each use.

These policies are based on maintaining the safety of our seniors. With your support, we have been able to avoid outbreaks at any North Peace Housing Foundation lodge or seniors apartments, and it is only with the cooperation of our residents and their families, plus continuing vigilance and careful consideration of our actions and behaviors, that we will be able to keep seniors safe.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of these efforts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Menssa".

Tammy Menssa  
Executive Director