

Municipality of Clyde River P.O. Box 89 Clyde River, Nunavut XOA 0E0 March 25, 2020

Dr. Michael Patterson
Chief Medical Officer of Health for Nunavut
Department of Health
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 1000
Iqaluit, NU
XOA 0H0

RE: URGENT REQUEST FROM THE COMMUNITY OF CLYDE RIVER, NUNAVUT

Dear Dr. Patterson,

I am writing to you with an urgent plea from Clyde River, for your direct and immediate assistance regarding the prevention of the spread of the Covid-19 virus to our community.

We request your immediate action to support us with the following:

- 1) While the recent travel restrictions imposed for Nunavut are a welcome and positive step, we would like to extend the travel restrictions for our community. We request that all passengers coming from all communities (not just those entering the territory) be subject to the 14-day quarantine or restricted from entry. Enough people have been flying in and out of Nunavut for the last several weeks that the virus could already be in the communities, so it could enter with passengers arriving from anywhere.
- 2) We want testing for the virus for our entire community immediately. Testing is the only way to know the true situation for our community members. Complete and early testing will allow us to address any isolation and/or care needs and act quickly. We have limited resources. Testing is the only way to ensure we can use those resources effectively and prevent any spread.
- 3) Acting on our most immediate needs, with a focus on prevention, we request your support in arranging for an immediate bulk shipment of hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to Clyde River. We do not have any left in the community. We have our local firefighters volunteering at our only store to keep customer numbers down and they are assisting with wiping down carts, baskets, and providing Covid-19 prevention information to customers. We know that having each customer use hand sanitizer



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before entry would be an extremely effective measure, as well as using it at home and with children. We need a new, bulk supply sent now.

4) We require immediate access to funds in order to prepare for response. We need funding now in order to safely adapt and run critical community programming (e.g. breakfast and food distribution programs), support core operations for our wellness centre and other supporting organizations, purchase PPE, convert our hotels to isolation spaces and housing for 'super spreaders', and other essential actions.

You may know that our community has recently gone through a severe flu. Over 200 students and many teachers were absent from school. That event lasted several weeks, and showed us how a virus can impact our community. But that is nothing compared to the potential of Covid-19. We are also aware that there is already an active investigation into Covid-19 in Clyde River. We have to act now.

Yesterday afternoon our Hamlet Council met and passed motions supporting all of the above demands. I am writing to you with full authority and appeal as Mayor of Clyde River and on behalf of the whole community. These issues are urgent for us and they come from knowing our own community, our own needs and capabilities, consultation with health workers who are assisting us, and what will work best in terms of immediate actions as we grapple with this ever-evolving situation. I am reaching out to you here, expecting your quick response, and I am prepared to start talking to the media in order to draw attention to our situation and calls for assistance and action.

I ask you to please respond to this letter within 24 hours, to discuss with me how we can work together to meet these requests. You can reach me at (867) 924-6669.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jerry Natanine

Mayor

Clyde River, Nunavut