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Dene Nation Implements Flood Relief Command Centre to Support Historic Levels of Flooding Across the Territory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Yellowknife, Northwest Territories – May 12, 2021] – This week, the Dene Nation has responded to the historic levels of flooding across the territory establishing the Dene Nation Flood Relief Command Centre, to serve as a central point for operations, information gathering and dissemination, and coordination with local governments, outside contractors, mutual aid, and volunteer organizations.

“To be quite frank, we have not seen a situation this dangerous in many, many years. We knew we had the capacity and the networks to act swiftly, so we’re offering targeted support,” said National Chief Yakeleya. “People are struggling, both those who have been evacuated and those who haven’t been able to cross the waters safely. In light of these changing circumstances, we are coordinating daily meetings where we are working to establish and execute a series of clearly defined long-term and short-term objectives. The Command Centre has been designed to be agile, flexible, and responsive and will continually adapt and evolve in order to best meet the needs of communities, and individuals impacted by the floods”.

The Dene Nation Command Center has been designed to provide guidance to ensure that service to victims of flooding is being optimized through a central intelligence arena for decision makers and response team personnel to gather critical information, coordinate response activities, and manage personnel as the emergency evolves. The location is adhering to strict COVID-19 public health protocols and is equipped with effective technology to allow for uninterrupted communication between staff and response teams.

“Ultimately, our first priority is the safety and security of the victims. Our second is to keep track of all of our activities and processes to draft an emergency response manual, so we can apply our lessons learned to other incidents, to ensure our people are not disproportionately affected by changing weather patterns across the territory into the future” concluded Yakeleya.

For more information, visit the Dene Nation Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/DeneNation>

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