

Colville Lake residents embrace on the land activities as way to self-isolate

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A solid number of residents from the Sahtu community of Colville Lake have headed out on the land as a way to self-isolate and avoid exposure to the Coronavirus. So says, Behdzi Ahda Band Manager, Joseph Kochon.

It appears to be working as there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in the community.

Kochon did not have exact numbers of residents who have gone back to the land but says that "several families" have so far, with more to follow. Kochon says the band has been able to help some folks heading out on the land.

"We are using up some funding but it is still not enough. We are waiting for more funds to help more families," Kochon said. He adds that the band is expecting funding from the federal government as part of its Coronavirus aid package.

Kochon says, 'it has been a bit of a challenge because the area has received more snow than usual but adds that residents have been busy breaking trails.

Kochon says he believes residents of Colville Lake have been obeying the directions of Dr. Kami Kandola, the Chief Public Health Officer of the NWT when it comes to avoiding people gathering in the same place.

Having said that, Kochon says people are able to greet their neighbours and check on their well-being from a distance when they are shopping for food and other supplies at the local Co-Op store.

"Overall people are just continuing to haul wood and harvest their caribou."

There are currently almost no flights in or out of Colville Lake but Kochon says there are no drastic shortages of anything at this time.