

**Message from the Council of the LGD of Pinawa
April 2, 2020**

On April 1, at a Special Meeting of the Council of the Local Government District of Pinawa, Council unanimously passed a resolution to close the following:

All Public Buildings are closed to the public. This includes the LGD Administration Office, the Public Works Building, the Water Treatment Plant, the Pinawa Community Centre, the Pinawa Public Library, and the Vanier Centre.

In addition, the resolution included the closure of all trails including the Ironwood Trail, the Alice Chambers Trail and the Trans Canada Trail, the Suspension Bridge, the Channel Float, the Orville Acres Arena including the outdoor rink, the Pinawa Public Pool and Beach, Play structures in our playgrounds, the Picnic Pergola and all picnic tables in public areas.

This extraordinary decision is taken with very significant discussion and certainly with the best interests of the residents of Pinawa. It is based on the messaging from the Provincial Government. I urge everyone to go to the Provincial webpage at www.gov.mb.ca and click on the COVID-19 icon. It will take you to a webpage where you can access the latest information including daily bulletins and you can also watch the latest press conference. There are at least 1 a day and sometimes 2. There are also links to all past bulletins and press conferences as well as links to the Canadian and World websites. The provincial messaging yesterday was clear:

Dr. Brent Roussin, Provincial Chief Medical Officer

If you have a person in your community with the COVID virus, Stay Home!

If you don't have a person in your community with the virus, Stay Home!

If you must go out to buy groceries or pickup prescriptions, then practice Social Distancing.

The conclusion from this is that people should only be leaving their homes for essential purposes. Clearly, using trails is not an essential need at this time. If people were following the provincial guidance, Council would not have had to make a decision of this nature. However, visitors to our community are already coming and having picnics in the pergola, congregating at the Suspension Bridge, and in the Sunova Mall common area (not in the Solo Market, or the post office, or the Credit Union where good social distancing measures are implemented). There are reports that visitors to the Whiteshell Provincial Park are very significant with parking lots being full.

Another key message from the April 1 Press Conference is that there is now evidence of community transmission of the virus. That means people have contracted the virus and it is not linked to travel or to someone who already was known to have the virus. That means people are now transmitting the virus without knowing it. So far, that is a small number of cases that are all in Winnipeg. However, do we want people coming to Pinawa from Winnipeg who may not know they are carrying the virus?

Pinawa has many vulnerable residents (aging and/or underlying medical conditions) and it is Council's obligation to protect the health of those people. Council is unanimous in making this extraordinary decision and are comfortable that we would rather take this pre-emptive measure now rather than months from now, wishing we had done more.

We would appreciate the support of the Friends of the TCT in helping to protect our community.

Blair C. Skinner

Mayor of the Local Government District of Pinawa

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