

VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT
Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation



CHIEF AND COUNCIL

P.O. Box 94
Old Crow, Yukon
Y0B 1N0

Phone: (867) 966-3261
Fax: (867) 966-3116
Web: www.vgfn.ca

VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION 08-03-2023 – #42

RE: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND ORDER TO RESPOND TO WILDFIRE AND SMOKE THREAT IN OLD CROW

WHEREAS:

- A. Several wildfires near and around Old Crow and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (“VGFN”) Settlement Land have been burning since July 2023;
- B. VGFN traditional knowledge of wildfires indicate that the threat posed by the active wildfires is serious and imminent;
- C. Vuntut Gwitchin Government (“VGG”) has established a wildfire emergency operations centre at the Old Crow community hall (the “VGG Emergency Operations Centre”) and wildfire emergency management team (the “VGG Wildfire Emergency Management Team”);
- D. The continuing and active wildfire situation, deteriorating air quality situation and exposure to wildfire smoke poses significant risks to the health and well-being of the community and residents of Old Crow on VGFN Settlement Land, including by threatening access to essential services such as food and emergency medical transport;
- E. Further emergency equipment and supplies in Old Crow is required by VGG to help address, mitigate and prevent the risks including additional firefighter resources, emergency social services, evacuation assistance, clean air environments, shelter supports, and alternative air support if regular flight operations at the Old Crow airport cease;
- F. Yukon Government Wildland Fire Management has notified the VGG that it has no further resources available to allocate to Old Crow to address the active wildfire and smoke risks;
- G. If Council reasonably believes that a community emergency exists on Settlement Land, then Council may make a Community Emergency Declaration pursuant to section 5 of the Community Emergency Act (the “Act”) declaring that a Community Emergency exists within the meaning of the Act; and
- H. If a Community Emergency Declaration is made under the Act, and Council reasonably believes that certain special temporary measures are necessary to address the existing Community Emergency, then Council may also make a Community Emergency Order under the Act to establish such special temporary measures.

THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION RESOLVES THAT:

Community Emergency Declaration

1. This Community Emergency Declaration is hereby made by Council pursuant to section 5 of the Community Emergency Act in relation to imminent and active risks posed by wildfires and wildfire smoke in Old Crow on VGFN Settlement Land.
2. This Community Emergency Declaration shall come into effect immediately upon this Council resolution being published in accordance with section 5 of the Act and will remain in effect for a period of 90 days unless terminated earlier or extended pursuant to section 6 of the Act.
3. The Vuntut Gwitchin Government further requests the Government of Yukon's urgent assistance in preparation for escalating conditions, potentially to include additional firefighter resources, emergency social services, evacuation assistance, clean air environments, shelter supports, and alternative air support if regular flight operations at the Old Crow airport cease.

Community Emergency Order

1. This Community Emergency Order is hereby made by Council pursuant to section 7 of the Act establishing the following special temporary measures in relation to the Community Emergency Declaration set out above:
 - (a) The residents and occupants of Old Crow shall be under Evacuation Alert until further public notice issued that the Evacuation Alert has been cancelled or escalated to an Evacuation Order.
 - (b) No person shall access or enter upon Crow Mountain and Crow Mountain road without the prior approval of a member of the VGG Wildfire Emergency Management Team at the VGG Emergency Operations Centre; and
 - (c) Council is authorized to make emergency payments not to exceed a total of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars), necessary to defray VGG's increased expenditures to address the emergency, including for provision of essential goods, services and resources on Settlement Land, such as accommodation, food, clothing, emergency social services, additional firefighter resources, evacuation planning and assistance, air filtration systems, shelter supports, and alternative air support if regular flight operations at the Old Crow airport cease. Council may increase the authorization for emergency payments with future orders. The authorization for emergency payments includes all related expenditures incurred since the initial notification of the incident dated July 28, 2023, prior to the coming into effect of this emergency declaration.
 - (d) Council designates the following individuals as 'Commanding' Community Safety Officers under Section 10 of the Community Emergency Act, and the 'Commanding' Community Safety Officers are authorized to designate any other person as a Community Safety Officer:
 - a. Roger Kyikavichik
 - b. Iris Notley
2. This Community Emergency Order will come into effect immediately upon this Council resolution being published in accordance with section 8 of the Act and will remain in effect for the duration of the Community

Emergency Declaration set out above. This Community Emergency Order may be amended at any time during the duration of the Community Emergency Declaration pursuant to section 9 of the Act.

3. Any person who does not comply with this Community Emergency Order commits an offence under the Act and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term of six months.
4. A person acting pursuant to this Community Emergency Order is not liable for any act done in good faith in the reasonable belief that the act was necessary to comply with it, including for any damage caused by interference with the rights or personal property of others, and are not subject to proceedings by way of injunction or mandamus in respect of acts done or not done in respect of the Community Emergency Order.

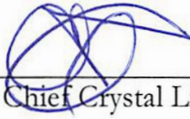
THIS RESOLUTION being duly approved by a consensus of the Council at a meeting duly convened on August 3, 2023 at Old Crow, Yukon.



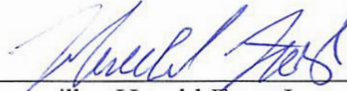
Chief Pauline Frost



Councillor Debra-Leigh Reti



Acting Deputy Chief Crystal Linklater



Councillor Harold Frost Jr.