VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation



CHIEF AND COUNCIL

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VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

COUNCIL RESOLUTION 08-09-2023 - #43

RE: OLD CROW EMERGENCY EVACUATION ORDER DUE TO WILDFIRE AND SMOKE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ON SETTLEMENT LAND

WHEREAS:

- A. If Council reasonably believes that an 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;
- B. 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;
- C. On August 3, 2023, Council passed resolution 08-03-2023 #42 which, pursuant to the Act, made and brought into effect:
 - a Community Emergency Declaration based on upon the active and imminent threats posed by wildfires and wildfire smoke near and around Old Crow on Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Settlement Land (the "August 3, 2023 Declaration");
 - (2) a Community Emergency Order establishing certain temporary measures necessary to address the active and imminent threats posed by wildfires and wildfire smoke near and around Old Crow on Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Settlement Land (the "August 3, 2023 Order");
- D. The August 3, 2023 Order included the issuance of an evacuation alert to the residents and occupants of Old Crow;
- E. The threat of wildfires and wildfire smoke has elevated since the August 3, 2023 and Government of Yukon Emergency Measures Organization and Wildland Fire Management now recommend evacuation be ordered; and
- F. Council now reasonably believes that the efficient and orderly evacuation of residents and occupants of Old Crow is now required to prevent against serious injuries, damages or loss of life to persons on Settlement Land.

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

Community Emergency Order

- 1. Sections 1(a) and 1(b) of the August 3, 2023 Order are repealed and replaced with the following Community Emergency Order made by Council pursuant to section 7 of the Act to establishing the following special temporary measure in relation to the August 3, 2023 Declaration:
 - (a) All persons except peace officers, emergency personnel and other persons with authority to remain in Old Crow (including those persons authorized by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government) shall immediately evacuate Settlement Land in accordance with the public notices and directives to be issued and communicated to all known current residents and occupants by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (the "Evacuation Order");
- 2. For greater certainty, sections 1(c) and 1(d) of the August 3, 2023 Order remain in effect notwithstanding the Evacuation Order.
- 3. This Evacuation 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 until further notice. This Evacuation Order may be amended at any time during the duration of the August 3, 2023 Declaration pursuant to section 9 of the Act.
- 4. Any person who does not comply with this Evacuation Order commits an offence under the Act and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term of six months.
- 5. A person acting pursuant to this Evacuation 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 Evacuation Order.

THIS RESOLUTION being duly approved by a consensus of the Council at a meeting duly convened on August 9, 2023 at Old Crow, Yukon.

Chief Pauline Frost

Acting Deputy Chief Crystal Linklater

Councillor Debra-Leigh Reti

ouncillor Harold Frost Ir.