



**VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT
Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

Chief and Council

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June 8, 2023

OPEN LETTER

**SCAN IN OLD CROW TO ADDRESS DRUG TRAFFICKING AND
BOOTLEGGING ACTIVITIES**

Concerned citizens, we want you to know that we hear you and our message is clear: Chief and Council has a duty to protect the general welfare of the community and to ensure community safety and order.

Chief and Council of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) issued a community emergency declaration on April 20, 2023, to recognize that the ongoing substance use crisis has impacted and devastated individuals, families, and the community as a whole, and to mobilize the resources necessary to respond to the crisis, including substance use and overdoses.

As part of our overall work towards a healthier community and First Nation, VGFN Chief and Council, with the support of the Executive Committee of Elders, is taking active measures with our partners to reduce the supply of harmful substances in Old Crow and to ensure community safety and order is maintained. These active measures include inviting the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit to deal with complaints of illegal drug trafficking and bootlegging activities occurring on VGFN Settlement Land.

The SCAN unit is a law enforcement agency within the Department of Justice with powers under the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act to receive and act on complaints from community members regarding drug trafficking and bootlegging activities. Where a complaint is received, the SCAN unit may take several measures, including opening investigations, gathering evidence, issuing warnings, and working with VGFN to facilitate an eviction from VGFN housing or VGFN Settlement Land.

If you wish to confidentially submit a complaint to the SCAN unit, you may contact the SCAN unit by email SCAN@yukon.ca, or phone 456-SCAN (7226) or toll free in the Yukon 1-866-530-SCAN (7226). A member of the SCAN unit will confidentially and discreetly contact you about your concerns. To learn more about the SCAN unit, visit: <https://yukon.ca/en/scan>.

Chief and Council continues to be determined to do our part to help people without judgment through a harm reduction approach to the substance use crisis. We continue to encourage all Citizens impacted by this crisis, no matter your circumstances, to reach out and ask for help. This includes taking measures to stop illegal drug trafficking and bootlegging activities on VGFN Settlement Land, and to prevent those most vulnerable from experiencing further harm or violence.

Sincerely,

Chief Frost, Deputy Chief Reti and Councillor Frei Njootli

With support of the Executive Committee of Elders

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation