



S.A.Y. Lands Office

3rd Floor • #10 - 7201 Vedder Road • Chilliwack, BC • V2R 4G5

COVID COMMUNITY PROTECTION LAW - DRAFT (SUMMARY, May, 2021)

Purpose

The purpose of this Law is to provide for the protection of Reserve Lands, the environment, the health and safety of Members, and their families by imposing measures to reduce the risk of the spread of the COVID 19 virus on the Reserve Lands of S.A.Y. First Nations.

Background

There is an ongoing health emergency due to COVID-19. COVID-19 is a disease that can spread quickly from person to person and carries risks of fever, pneumonia, and in the most serious cases, death. COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Health experts have advised Council of the need to adopt social distancing, restrictions on public gatherings, and restrictions on the use of Reserve Lands to reduce the risk of spreading the virus on Skowale Lands and amongst Members and their families.

The following is a list of the key points in the Law:

- All Members, residents and visitors are required to follow provincial and First Nation guidelines on physical distancing, wearing masks and other protective measures.
- Non-members and vehicles can be ordered to be removed from Reserve lands if necessary.
- Gatherings are restricted to family members who live together or no more than two people unless Council grants a variance to allow larger gatherings for specific events such as funerals. Any variances will require full protection measures.
- Council may order restrictions on hours of operation for facilities and business and may in extreme situations order them closed for a period of time.
- Council may appoint enforcement officers to enforce the COVID restrictions.
- Tickets, fines and orders can be issued to people who are not following the law and guidelines.
- The First Nation is not liable for any damages or losses in relation to the law.
- Council can pass further regulations to implement the law.