



Grand Council Treaty #3

Office of the Ogichidaa

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Dear Treaty #3 Leadership:

You are invited to attend the First Nations Social Emergencies Focus Group planned for May 8 & 9 (half day only), 2018 at Couchiching First Nation. The Grand Council #3 is hosting this event, with partners Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, along with federal and provincial governments.

A similar focus group was held in January 2017 at Wauzshushk Onigum. The upcoming focus group is a follow-up meeting and is intended to provide an update of the work completed since 2017, and to provide a forum to review the draft First Nations Guide for Responding to Social Emergencies. The Guide is intended to be a tool for First Nations to use in the event of a social emergency. It will provide a step-by-step approach for responding to social emergencies, clarification of roles and responsibilities of the parties, and an inventory of service providers for each respective area/region. Please find attached a draft focus group meeting agenda, which is subject to change.

As you may know, the Joint Emergency Management Steering Committee Manual (JEMS) has been in place for many years in relation to natural disasters in First Nation communities, however, there has been no coordinated process or clear funding mechanism in place in relation to social emergencies in First Nation communities. As a result, the development and implementation of the First Nations Guide for Responding to Social Emergencies is an important development, which requires First Nations review and input.

Travel costs will be covered for invited participants that are able to attend. Please contact Debbie Lipscombe at debbie.lipscombe@treaty3.ca and 807-548-4214 as soon as possible to confirm your participation in order that travel arrangements can be made.

Sincerely,

Gary Allen
Executive Director