

APRIL 2021

NATION NEWS



**HOW THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS
KEEPING COWESSESS SAFE AMIDST
THE PANDEMIC**

GET TO KNOW YOUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

UPDATE BY JENNIFER PELLETIER, FORMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Cowessess First Nation Justice Department oversees the operations of the Peacekeeper program, Restorative Justice initiative, Fine Option program, Animal Control and the Fire Department.

To keep the community safe during this COVID-19 pandemic Cowessess had set up our Frontline Safety Workers project as well the Border Monitoring initiative. These projects were initiated in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 and to provide services such as contact tracing, education, hand sanitization, temperature check service as well as providing masks when needed.

Frontline Safety Workers are situated at the Cowessess Gas & Grocery 1 and at the Cowessess Post Office. Their role is to document customers, where they came from, provide and ensure hand sanitization is followed and that customers are wearing masks. They also have to ensure that the number of individuals allowed in the building is followed accordingly. Currently, we cover two shifts at the store, 7 days a week and 1 shift at the Post Office, 5 days a week. We have 3-4 regular workers.

Border Monitoring stations were set up in the



community at the end of November and we have stations located at the north entrance and south entrances on the #605 grid. The role of border monitoring is to record and report who is entering the Community. Border Monitors will document the traffic, ask the COVID questions, and request reason for entrance to the Community. As we are minimizing the risk of COVID within our community, therefore limiting our visiting in the community. We will provide masks, if requested. Border Monitors will have access to confidential information but they are well aware and they will maintain that confidentiality. We have 14-16 Border Monitors until the threat of the spread is considered under control.

We have our Peacekeepers that are patrolling our

Community 20 hours per day, seven days a week.

We have increased the number of Peacekeepers and patrolling times with two vehicles during the evening shifts and one vehicle during the day. Peacekeepers patrol and monitor the community area driving through the community and checking all buildings. Peacekeepers also deliver information for the various departments and assist wherever they can. We have a total of eight Peacekeepers.

In April we also welcomed Kevin Lerat as the new Program Director of Justice as the former Director, Jennifer Pelletier, moves on to a new and exciting role with the organization as the Administrative Nation Navigator.

CCEC NAVIGATING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

UPDATE BY PRINCIPAL NATASHA ISAAC

When the pandemic struck in March of 2020, everything happened so quickly! One day we were enjoying teaching and learning with all of our students in the building, then the next day we were packing our laptops and teaching materials. We didn't know what we were preparing ourselves for. CCEC was closed on March 19, 2020 and remained closed until mid-September of 2020.

It was a highly emotional time for CCEC students, staff and families. We sprung into action quickly. The CCEC staff immediately started discussions about providing learning opportunities for CCEC students. Without providing and maintaining this connection, it would potentially impact their growth and development as learners.

With some quick thinking and collaboration between our Director of Education Sandy Pinay Schindler, and myself, we were able to secure 52 Chromebooks for our high school students in grades 9-12 by the end of April 2020. Some of our team members at CCEC, along with the help of our CFN Peacekeepers, were able to get these devices delivered to the homes of all our high school students in a timely manner. This is where our online learning journey began! Providing online learning came with many challenges, not only to our students and families, but to our CCEC staff. It is from these challenges that we were able to create diverse and new opportunities for both staff and students to learn and grow together.

In the beginning, we did not have enough devices for online learning because every school in North America and beyond was ordering devices, creating a worldwide shortage. As well, our staff was not equipped with the proper skills required for engaging, online learning with their students. Despite the challenges, the CCEC staff persevered and they have been making progress in all areas of remote learning.

CCEC UPDATE CONTINUED

To date, we currently have devices in the hands of all our Kindergarten to Grade 12 students who are attending CCEC. We are very fortunate to have these devices available to us and we thank everyone who played a part in getting us to this point in our learning journey! Returning to school in cohort groups back in September of 2020 has been a blessing. Even though we would certainly like to be in school full time, keeping our children and community safe is our main priority. Our children bring so much happiness to our learning environment. We are grateful that we were able to implement a safe, thorough return to school plan.

To date, our teachers continue to utilize technology in their classrooms to help their students gain the necessary skills they need in order to do their work from home. The online platforms have their challenges, but we take it one day at a time. Upon reflection about where we started to where we are now, has shown how flexible and responsive our learning community can be. It has been a learning curve for us all, but together we continue to improve the learning opportunities for our students during a worldwide pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to mention one of the biggest highlights for us throughout these times. In March of 2021 we were able to achieve an 80% turnout rate during our Kindergarten to Grade 9 parent teacher online meetings. This brought us so much joy as educators, and we truly are CCEC proud!!

COVID VACCINE INTERVIEW: LORETTA DELORME

Q. Were you afraid to get the vaccine?

A. A little bit, as soon as I received the call I decided to get it.

Q. What was it like getting the vaccine?

A. I didn't feel a thing.

Q. Did you have any reactions?

A. No reactions but anxiety was high.

Q. How do you feel now that you have gotten the vaccine?

A. I feel good about the vaccination. I feel safe.

Q. What message do you have for people about keeping the community safe?

A. Get the vaccination!!



HAVE YOU HEARD? WE'RE ON THE AIR! JOIN THE PARTY AND TUNE INTO PARADISE RADIO 98.1FM WITH DJ TY DELORME AND YOUTH REPORTER LOGAN STEVENSON



98.1FM

**FOR STORY IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS OR GENERAL FEEDBACK CONTACT:
COMMUNICATIONS.GENERAL@COWESSESSFN.COM OR CALL: 306-696-2520**



[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COWESSESSFN](https://www.facebook.com/cowessessfn)