

# ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION



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## **Chief and Council Update May 7, 2020**

Chief and Council are taking this opportunity to provide members with an update on efforts to protect members from the COVID-19 virus. On April 2, 2020 we took the extreme measure of declaring a State of Emergency (Order No 2) to limit contact with the large number of people who were visiting our community. Most retail stores were to close as of April 3, 2020.

On May 4, 2020 Order No 5, was issued to open up some retail operations. Cannabis stores, because of the high traffic they attracted, were to remain closed except for deliveries and curbside pickup. All stores were asked to submit physical distancing plans by May 6. The shops were inspected and plans were approved on the condition that minor infractions be corrected. We were impressed and want to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance provided by the staff in all stores.

Unfortunately, Chief and Council could not allow the Pot Shoppe and Greener Grass dispensaries to reopen as they were deemed not to meet social distancing measures, were operated by non-members, and did not fit our community standards. A letter was provided to the owner of the Pot Shoppe outlining additional reasons why the shop could not open. Its proximity to the Roseneath School and the fact that it was a 24-hour business, were major concerns. On May 7, 2020 Chief and Council took the unprecedented step of hiring a security company to discourage clients from entering these two dispensaries as well as ensuring that clients did not disrupt traffic on County Road 45. Security will remain there for the time being. OPP constables were on site in the event their assistance was needed. Because the owner of the Pot Shoppe said she was going to open in defiance of our order staff were asked to deposit cement blocks on Divisions Street to block entrance to the shop. Division Street is an AFN owned road.

Again, Chief and Council want to express their gratitude for the patience and understanding of members, retail store owners and staff and others during these difficult times. We will keep you informed as any further developments occur.

Chief and Council

Alderville First Nation

*Proudly working together to build a prosperous and healthy environment that promotes independence, honours and respects our values, and enhances our way of life.*