

Hello everyone,

This week I wanted to touch base with you on Manitoba's latest restrictions that took place this Sunday. As you are aware, a spike in cases across the province has lead Doctor Roussin to implement additional lockdown measures which most significantly affect businesses across the province. I understand this news has not been pleasant to many local business owners within our community who are either struggling, or simply unable to comply with these latest public health orders and have been forced to close down.

To these business owners, I would like say you have the sympathies of myself and council. We understand that these restrictions have a much more significant impact on our local economy than major urban centres such as Winnipeg. When we lose a business it is not easy to replace so every business in the North is of great value. It is apparent that the cookie cutter approach has a lack of consideration for the sustainability of northern communities, and we will continue to advocate for our unique situation at the provincial level.

Keeping that in mind, please consider that these decisions were made by top doctors and medical professionals in the province who see these restrictions as an opportunity to stop this newest spike in cases. Not complying with these orders could not only further hurt your business, but also put the safety of our residents at risk as well. So please hang in there as we work with the province to find some common ground.

In the meantime, what you can do to help speed up this process of a return to normal is to get yourself and your loved ones vaccinated as soon as possible! All adults in our area are now eligible so please monitor the NRHA's website on a regular basis to find out when the next pop ups are happening. I do believe the pop ups in May for Flin Flon are walk in eligible so let's make sure we take full advantage of them.

In closing, with summer essentially here, yes I know there is still some ice on most of our lakes, I would also advice against any large gatherings particularly by our younger population who have yet to be vaccinated. It's not only illegal but some of you could be asymptomatic and further spread the virus unknowingly. The more we all do our part in controlling the spread, the shorter we'll have to deal with these crippling restrictions.

I firmly believe our only way out of this pandemic is through the vaccination program.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay happy, and stay healthy Flin Flon.