



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**To:** Saugeen First Nation

**From:** Chief Conrad Ritchie

**Date:** December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Re:** Information Release  
State of Emergency Community Update N<sup>o</sup>.: 1

---

**Saugeen First Nation, ON** – The Community Safety Task Force ('Task Force') convened an inaugural meeting on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The following is an informational update:

**Intention of the State of Emergency**

The intention of the Declaration of State of Emergency ('Declaration') is to create broad community awareness related to the ongoing drug epidemic which introduces criminality, violence and contributes to the tragic loss of lives.

**Duration of Declaration**

The Declaration will remain in force and effect until such time that the overdose rates stabilize to the provincial average.

**Risk Management**

- lack of funding for additional resources to assist with enforcement and/or deterrence
- lack of funding to develop a sustainable community critical incident response team model (to provide frontline and community debriefing)
- lack of funding to recruit registered social workers and traditional healers to work with community members and families in response to the unnecessary loss of lives the result of a continued supply of drugs and weapons into the community
- lack of attainable housing that has many community members experiencing real and chronic homelessness – further increasing drug use, theft, and food insecurity
- lack of recognition of Nation laws that contribute to the safety and wellbeing of the community
- lack of funding to advance a land-based treatment facility that is Indigenous based and augmented with Western treatment modalities
- lack of youth and Traditional programs

- lack of trauma-informed practices

### **Opportunities**

- Contact Federal and Provincial Crown Prosecutor's Office re: discussion related to recognition of Band Council Resolutions (BCRs)
- Supportive Outreach Service (S.O.S), is a proactive and accessible partnership of community care providers. Together, social workers and health care providers, S.O.S offer bi-weekly clinics for vulnerable people suffering from mental health and substance use issues. Outreach services include health and medical care, peer support, mental health and addiction support, harm reduction education and supplies, housing and shelter system navigation, vaccination, clothing, and food.

### **Building Community and Organizational Capacity**

- Naloxone and Safe Harm Reduction Equipment – SFN Personnel
  - Trained SFN Personnel can facilitate community training sessions.
- Naloxone Authorized Distributor Department Training
- Critical Incident Group Debriefing – SFN Personnel
  - Short-term group intervention process that focuses on an immediate event and is one of several methods that may be utilized to lessen the likelihood of people experiencing symptoms of trauma and stress after a critical incident. This group debriefing process provides a place for participants to talk and share experiences, and for the facilitator to teach and provide information about the impact of critical incidents. While participants of this workshop will learn how to facilitate a group debriefing, they will also learn how to discern when debriefing is appropriate for a group and when it might not be a suitable intervention.
- Trauma-Informed Care – SFN Personnel
  - This is not trauma counselling, and rather is training to create trauma informed workplaces/community

### **Action Items**

- advertise for interested community members to join the Task Force
- consult with Indigenous Services Canada
- convene meeting with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO)
- discussions related to youth programming contributing to capacity building and resiliency
- discussions surround land-based treatment opportunities
- engage Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO) for the provision of mental health and traditional healer supports
- engage Ontario Health (West) for discussions related to funding sustainability for the Rapid Access and Addiction Medicine Clinic (RAAM)
- initiate community and organizational capacity building

- initiate contact with Emergency Management Ontario re: Declaration
- initiate exploratory discussions with OPP Liaison re: jurisdictional enforcement

**Partnership News**

- The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), a collaborating partner on the Task Force, has confirmed that they have intercepted a shipment of fentanyl that was destined to arrive in Saugeen First Nation. The quantity seized is equivalent to 1,000 doses of fentanyl.

**Next Update:** Friday December 23, 2022.

-30-