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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Update from the City of Miramichi Mayor, Council, and Senior Management

Miramichi, NB – (March 13, 2020): The City of Miramichi City Council & Senior Management are actively monitoring the evolving situation concerning COVID-19. The City of Miramichi asks its residents to stay connected to the situation and remain informed of all COVID-19 updates by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of New Brunswick by visiting the following website:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus.html

The Government of N.B. has issued the following advisory for people who have travelled or will travel outside of the province:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus/InformationForTravelers.html

Important information can also be obtained from the Government of Canada through the following website link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

“Miramichiers need to understand that COVID-19 is now very close to home, and that it is inevitable that it will arrive in our community. We are asking all citizens to be aware of the risks and be active participants in efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This will help flatten the curve of infections and slow the spread” says Mayor Adam Lordon.

Senior Management of the City of Miramichi have been and will continue to meet to have plans in place to ensure that all essential City services remain operational while simultaneously taking precautions to protect City Staff and the community residents.

A Municipal Emergency Operations Center has been activated to Level 1, which means enhanced monitoring. They are monitoring all information coming in from Health Canada and the provincial Department of Health and will respond as required.

To aid in slowing the spread of the virus the following limitations will be place on operations of municipal facilities and city programs:

- The following city facilities are closed until further notice:
 - Golden Hawk Pool and Gymnasium
 - Lord Beaverbrook Arena
 - Miramichi Civic Centre
 - Linden Rec Centre
 - Miramichi Valley High School Pool and Gym (for city programs)
- Washrooms in municipal buildings will no longer be available to members of the general public.
- Customers will be encouraged to use alternative payment options for municipal services, other than in person payments. (ie: online banking, credit card payments by phone, payments through Service New Brunswick (SNB), etc).
- General “visiting” or tours of municipal facilities is suspended.

Residents are encouraged to follow the advice and directives from the Provincial Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, including yesterday's recommendation to postpone or cancel any large gatherings of 150 people or more.

We are also encouraging residents to follow the hygiene guidelines from Health Canada relating to the spread of COVID-19 including:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom and when preparing food
- use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- when coughing or sneezing, please cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand
- dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- clean the following high-touch surfaces frequently with regular household cleaners:
 - toys
 - toilets
 - phones
 - electronics
 - door handles
 - bedside tables
 - television remotes

Please know that the City of Miramichi has an emergency plan in place and is monitoring the situation constantly and thoroughly.

We will be continuously updating our City website with all this information as well as providing a link to the website of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for all Health-related updates.