

VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation



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CHIEF AND COUNCIL

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December 13, 2023

OPEN LETTER

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods

Chief and Council of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) remains committed to our responsibilities to promote and enhance the general welfare of the community, including our ongoing efforts to addressing the community emergency declaration made on April 20, 2023 with respect to the ongoing substance use crisis. We continue our efforts to promote healing and wellness among VGFN Citizens and within our community, including by working with our partners to reduce the supply of harmful substances in Old Crow and to ensure community safety and order is maintained.

Chief and Council wishes to remind VGFN Citizens and residents of Old Crow that they may contact the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit if you have any complaints of illegal drug trafficking and bootlegging activities occurring in the community.

The SCAN unit is a law enforcement agency within the Department of Justice with powers under the Yukon's *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* to receive and act on complaints from community members regarding drug trafficking and bootlegging activities. Where a complaint is received, the SCAN unit may take several measures, including opening investigations, gathering evidence, issuing warnings, and working with VGFN to facilitate an eviction from VGFN housing or VGFN Settlement Land.

A person may submit a confidential complaint directly to the SCAN unit by email at SCAN@yukon.ca, or by phone at 456-SCAN (7226) or toll free in the Yukon 1-866-530-SCAN (7226). A member of the SCAN unit will confidentially and discreetly contact you about your complaint. To learn more about the SCAN unit, please visit: <https://yukon.ca/en/scan>.

Chief and Council continues to be determined to do our part to help people without judgment through a harm reduction approach to the substance use crisis. We continue to encourage all VGFN Citizens impacted by this crisis, no matter your circumstances, to reach out and ask for help. This includes taking measures to stop illegal drug trafficking and bootlegging activities on VGFN Settlement Land, and to prevent those most vulnerable from experiencing further harm or violence.

Sincerely,

Chief Frost, Deputy Chief Reti, Councillor Frost, Councillor Linklater and Councillor Kyikavichik
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation