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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, March 23, 2020

(For Immediate Release)

Town of Prescott – Municipality Declares State of Local Emergency under COVID-19 pandemic

(PRESCOTT) After monitoring of the increasing impacts of COVID-19 on the Town of Prescott, careful consideration has led Mayor Brett Todd to declare a municipal State of Emergency in accordance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, at 1:00 pm on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Declaring an emergency affords the Town of Prescott additional powers to protect the health and safety of all individuals, families, businesses, and the vulnerable populations we serve.

“I am very proud of the number of Prescott residents that have been taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously and are practicing social distancing and isolation as necessary, and just staying home.” Said Mayor Brett Todd. “But I am concerned about the minority of citizens who are not following guidelines to flatten the curve and stop the spread. I am also concerned about the impact to us as a regional hub and as a border community now that we have significant numbers of travels returning home to Canada.

I am making this declaration not to further any sense of alarm but as a rallying call to show all residents in Prescott and the region that we are doing all we can for health and security during this challenging time. Take care everyone and do all you can to look after one another as we are all in this together.”

The Town of Prescott is working hard to protect the health and safety of all members of the community. Today’s decision is the latest step taken by the Town of Prescott in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Declaring a State of Emergency is an important measure in supporting the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health in facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

A State of Emergency was declared for the following reasons:

- To raise public awareness regarding the severity of the current pandemic situation;
- To preserve the rights of the Town of Prescott for future support should it become available;
- To ensure the organization can quickly respond to other unforeseen events, as required.

Residents are not required to take any action in response to the declaration of a State of Emergency. Residents are encouraged to do the following:

- Check official resources for COVID-19 updates (bottom of this page);
- Practice social distancing to help control the spread of the virus;

- Follow recommended measures to control the spread of the virus (such as washing hands frequently).

This declaration does not mean that businesses in the Town of Prescott must close. The decision to stay open is up to individual business owners and/or higher levels of government. Many businesses in Prescott are doing a commendable job in taking precautions to prevent the spread of the disease whilst continuing to serve our community.

Town of Prescott Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) continues to meet regularly to review and update precautions regarding COVID-19. All essential municipal operations and services continue to function and operate. The Town of Prescott will continue to monitor the ongoing situation and update the public accordingly.

There continues to be no identified cases reported in Leeds-Grenville-Lanark, however there are cases on our border, and it is believed that community spread is taking place. If you are experiencing any symptoms, please make use of the Ontario Self-Assessment Tool, telephone 1-866-797-0000, or contact the local public health unit.

In order to keep up to date with official information, please refer to the following sources:

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Public Health: <https://healthunit.org/coronavirus/>

Ontario Ministry of Health: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

As additional information becomes available, we will provide it through the Town of Prescott website and social media platforms.

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