

TREE PLANTING 2020

What we're doing
to keep you safe
during the
COVID-19 pandemic.





THE IMPORTANCE OF TREE PLANTING

- Replanting will bring back forests ravaged by the 2017 and 2018 forest fires.
- New forests are essential to fighting climate change, which impacts the health of salmon and moose in our territory.

OUR TOP PRIORITY IS TO KEEP YOU SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC.

Saik'uz First Nation leadership will always do its best to ensure you and your loved ones are safe. It will continue to monitor the tree planting situation and adapt to any changes that occur.

Saik'uz First Nation leadership is devoted to the health of forests and the plants and animals within.



SAIK'UZ & BC

At the end of April 2020, the BC government approved the continuation of tree planting throughout the province. BC has since apologized to Saik'uz First Nation, acknowledging that it has not been a good partner to Saik'uz and that it should have been in discussion far earlier to ensure our community's safety would not be compromised.

Saik'uz is now part of a task force between Saik'uz, BC, and other Carrier Sekani First Nations to ensure that our positions on tree planting operations are respected, to make decisions around planting, and to ensure tree planters follow strict safety protocols to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to community members.

TREE PLANTING PROTOCOLS

- Tree planters will not have access to personal vehicles and will remain in camp once there.
- Any tree planter from outside BC will be held in quarantine to ensure they are COVID-19 free.
- Tree planting crews will not stop in or travel through any Saik'uz communities.
- Tree planting camps will have one designated person who will shop for the entire camp so as to limit contact.
- Each crew will have a coordinator who will enforce these precautions.
- Maps of tree planting locations will be provided to Saik'uz on a regular basis. This will ensure no one comes across tree planters unexpectedly when out on the land.



MOVING FORWARD

As the situation progresses, Saik'uz First Nation leadership will continue to review and adapt its strategies. Know that Saik'uz is in regular discussion with the District of Vanderhoof, the Carrier Sekani First Nations Task Force with BC, and all forestry licensees in Saik'uz territory. Saik'uz First Nations members will be kept safe from COVID-19 exposure throughout the 2020 tree planting season.

If you witness any breaches of protocol by tree planters, please report it immediately by contacting the Ministry of Farming, Natural Resources & Industry at Forests.ForestPracticesBranchOffice@gov.bc.ca.



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