**Poundmakers Lodge Treatment Centres Response to COVID-19**

As foretold by our elders a great sickness has returned. First and foremost we would like to send our prayers out to the community. May Creator keep you strong during these difficult times.

Poundmakers Lodge Treatment Centers is committed to doing our part in response to COVID-19. Poundmaker’s Lodge has temporarily discontinued admissions as a result of the pandemic. During this time, we are going to continue on-going support to our current clients, making sure they feel safe and secure.

For those clients in need, we have extended their treatment program and we will remain open for those clients so they continue to have a safe, secure environment.

If you are a former client who is struggling and need someone to talk to, our phone lines are open. We have trained professional counsellors to help you get through this difficult time. Please call us at 780-458-1884.

 Poundmakers has cancelled all family and friend visits, open self-help meetings, and open ceremonies until further notice. We have limited clients outside appointments, as well as cancelled all non-essential visits.

The health, safety and well-being of our clients, staff, and our community is our top priority. We are committed to helping public health leaders to contain this pandemic and provide a culturally safe space for clients to heal and recover from their addictions.

Given public information on the COVID-19 pandemic PML staff is ensuring all universal precautions to minimize impact on staff and our clients who have compromised health. Every precaution is being taken internally, including: Regular disinfection of all public areas. Client rooms, common areas are being sanitized by the cleaning personnel and staff on a consistent basis. All staff and clients are provided hand sanitizer throughout the building.

We are currently implementing information technology to provide tools to enable communication with family members and love ones on a regular basis through telehealth, facetime, skype and telephone.

We have posted and conducted educational sessions conducted by our nursing staff to reinforce the importance of personal hygiene. PML nursing staff are educating clients to ease stress and worry, and continue to monitor health of both staff and clients

Clients have been given the option to continue in treatment and sadly, a number of our clients have decided to self-terminate from the program due to COVID – 19 fears, PML has supported and will continue to support clients who have requested to self-terminate as a result of the pandemic. All clients exiting from the program, whether it is early discharge or graduation, are supported with an exit package including safety precautions, safety planning, Naloxone kits, Narcan spray and relapse prevention plans and most importantly cultural supports.

We will continue to conduct ceremony and we will continue to pray to the Creator that our community will be spared from this illness. Please know that you are in our prayers during this very difficult time.

Akahmeyimok,

Respectfully,

Clients, Elders, Board and Staff

Poundmakers Lodge Treatment Centres