



Bigstone Cree Nation – Office of the Chief

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STATEMENT OF CHIEF AND COUNCIL

On behalf of the Bigstone Chief and Council I wanted to take this opportunity to address the Bigstone Cree Nation membership and wish you all a Merry Christmas. We also wish you all a safe and happy new year! With the challenges we sometimes face over the holiday season, we also wanted you to reach out to many existing programs, services and supports provided by essential services and staff that continue to work hard over the holiday. We as Chief and Council have been meeting with many departments and entities to ensure their support is available to our members. Although we have been in a transition of orientation, administration, operations, and our political positions we assure you that we have been working on a path forward while educating ourselves on past initiatives, commitments, business ventures, and political positions in all levels of government.

In the past three months we have been developing a strategic plan, reviewing organizational structures, reviewing policies, bylaws, society acts, governance, agreements, board structures, administrative process and identifying priorities. The reason for these actions is to ensure that we as Chief and Council have a foundation to move forward from, while planning for the remainder of our term in office.

In the new year, we will be happy to announce new initiatives, updates, events and provide feedback to the communities while giving the opportunity to our members to be part of a collective voice that is needed to give direction to your Chief and Council. We will also take the opportunity to meet with you at several events as we engage with you in all Bigstone communities.

Politically we have been making connections with all levels of government including the M.D. #17 of Opportunity, First Nations Governments, Provincial Government and Federal Government. We as Chief and Council have a very important role in identifying a political position that will benefit our members while making decisions that are in the best interest of our nation. We also recognize there are political decisions being made at a provincial level that effect our Treaty Rights and continue to tread carefully.

In closing we want to thank the membership for their patience and continued support as we take steps to improve in many areas such as communication, employment, housing, process, supports, and all challenges we face now and into the new year. We want you to know we are doing our best and take our roles very seriously while also trying to find a balance in our own lives to ensure we can continue to support the members that we truly care about.

On behalf of Chief and Council of Bigstone Cree Nation, we wish you health, happiness and best wishes this holiday season!

Hiy Hiy, *Andy Alook*

Chief Andy Alook – Bigstone Cree Nation