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Best Holiday Wishes to Staff, Council members and Nation Members,

I am grateful for the opportunity to take this moment to reflect on this past year getting caught up living in the challenging times of the novo coronavirus pandemic. A worldwide health crisis none of us have ever expected or lived through before. No matter how small or large you may think your contribution to the Organization has been, the truth is everyone has had a significant role in keeping the daily operations functional in serving the community members and watching out for our families and communities. It has not been an easy journey, and I am most certain we are all feeling the fatigue of working from home, working from the office, working from the field, working the frontline services, and working as the support to the frontline. Despite the roles, we have had during these tough times our resilience kept us moving ahead collaboratively to keep the Dene Tha' spirit strong throughout this time of uncertainty. On top of the health crisis, we also have had many losses in our communities and my sincere condolences, prayers and thoughts goes out to everyone. May God's blessings and support for each other keep you well.

This Christmas will be different from what we know. With the Covid-19 restrictions in place, it is up to each of us and our families to make Christmas unique and special in our own way to keep the spirit alive. For those with family away from the community I encourage you to stay in touch with each other through telephone calls, text messages, or virtually through FaceTime, Skype, Facebook, and whatever way possible to each of you. Darlene and I have downloaded the WhatsApp, and we will be sharing Christmas dinner over video with our family members living elsewhere. It allows us to stay connected while keeping each other safe. I encourage you all to find what will work for you and make it fun and memorable for everyone.

I want to send everyone a sincere abundance of gratitude for all the care and kindness you have shown to each other and the communities. For everyone during this Christmas holiday season I encourage you to take the time to take care of yourselves and be kind to yourselves and each other. This is the time to relax and recharge your spirit as we go into 2021. Stay safe. Stay strong. Follow the Covid-19 Health Guidelines. Together we are Dene Tha' Strong.

Wishing you all a Happy, Blessed and Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.

Sincerely,



Chief James Ahnassay