

June 6, 2022

Dear Flood Evacuees,

To the families affected by the recent Chateh flood, we send our thoughts and prayers. Living in hotels and camps isn't an easy thing. The Emergency Management Team was hopeful of re-entry for Zone 3; Trailer Court, school & assembly areas; however, after much deliberation with the team, it has been decided that a re-entry for Zone 3 is not feasible at this time due to health & safety concerns. The following services need to be in place before welcoming members back into the community to ensure a safe and secure return:

1. The Chateh Health Centre is still under inspection and has not been cleared by FNIHB to reopen its operations. Additionally, the staff will require appropriate accommodations before returning to work as their homes are still under evacuation mandate.
2. The RCMP detachment is not operational and also is in need for inspections and clearance. The policing staff are stretched to their limits as they are providing services in Rainbow and High Level at the evacuation centres. Currently they are unable to provide 24/7 policing as their residences have water damage. Their cleanup and repairs fall under Services Canada, which will take time to get approval for the repairs.
3. A request was submitted today to Indigenous Services Canada to obtain ISC Headquarters approval for additional resources: request to contract additional paramedics to be in Chateh until the health centre re-opens.
4. Zone 2 (main townsite) is being assessed to identify action items that are needed to be complete in order to re-open the health centre.

Zone three (Trailer Court) has the least impact and is still on target to re-enter first. There are a number of action items and steps to be conducted by the EMT to ensure emergency and essential services are available prior to re-entry. The Team understands how frustrating being away from home is and the toll it has on mental health. We respectfully ask for your patience and please know that the step procedures followed are for the health and safety of our people. Re-entry will happen shortly after all required services are restored.

To those affected by the flood, stay strong. We will get through this as we have before. We have gotten through everything else, with the help of one another, the emergency workers, and the government agencies. Through our collective perseverance we will get through the frustrations of waiting, clean up, repairs, and getting through the phased re-entry of each zone one at a time. We understand the personal sacrifice you have endured to be away from your homes, and we will continue to work hard to return you and your loved ones home as quickly as we can. So, do not give up, and do not give in, things will get better. We are at the mercy of mother nature and have no control of this, and this time, it has struck much more than anyone could have imagined.

The next EMT update will be Thursday, June 9, 2022, and we pray that we will be on target to give you better news.

Sincerely,

Emergency Management Team