

REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE CANADIAN RANGERS ON THE LOWER NORTH SHORE

Blanc-Sablon, April 20th, 2020 – The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord, in collaboration with federal, provincial and local authorities, announces the arrival of reinforcements on the Lower North Shore to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in this remote territory.

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Rangers, will provide logistic and general labour support to health care services. They will also bring the necessary equipment and take care of the logistics related to the implementation of COVID-19 testing and investigation zones in the identified locations. They may also provide community support to vulnerable people or those in confinement, and support local COVID-19 awareness programs in communities to promote physical distancing.

Here are some potential responsibilities of the Canadian Rangers on the Lower North Shore:

- Assist the staff of the CISSS de la Côte-Nord in the organization of the furniture and equipment necessary to set up non-traditional sites;
- Set up temporary camps;
- Report any signs of psychological distress detected in a citizen or a community;
- Provide logistic service for people in confinement with no resources;
- Patrol in the communities to raise awareness about the current public health measures among citizens and merchants, and reassure them by informing them;
- Implement awareness-raising points;
- Raise awareness among people who want to travel between villages;
- Report any non-compliance with the mandatory self-isolation.

The Canadian Rangers are a specialized sub-component of the Canadian Armed Forces. They provide military presence in northern and coastal regions of Canada. Their mission is to observe and to report unusual activities.

Remember that you must stay two metres away from other people at all times and avoid direct contact for greetings, such as handshakes and hugs. If you have fever or cough, self-isolate at home. Hygiene measures, such as washing your hands for 20 seconds and coughing into your sleeve, remain the best ways to protect yourself and people around you against infections.

The CISSS de la Côte-Nord wants to thank the population for its engagement and emphasize the importance of following isolation, prohibited gatherings and social distancing measures recommended by the Government of Québec.

About COVID-19

If you are worried about COVID-19 or if you show symptoms such as fever, cough or breathing difficulties, you can call **1 877 644-4545**, toll-free. For more information: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/coronavirus>. You can also get more information specific to the region on the website of the CISSS de la Côte-Nord: <http://www.cisss-cotenord.gouv.qc.ca/en/public-health/covid-19/>.

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