NIPISSING FIRST NATION
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The Land, the People, the Future

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NOTIFICATION OF SECURITY INCIDENT

NFN Ransomware Attack

May 28, 2020 – On May 8, 2020, Nipissing First Nation administration discovered that it was the victim of a ransomware attack that affected the administration computers and server.

A ransomware attack involves unknown cybercriminals using malicious software to lock or encrypt computers or computer networks until a ransom is paid, and when it is, digital keys, or methods of decryption, are provided.

Unfortunately, ransomware attacks and the payment of ransoms are becoming increasingly common around the world. Universities, government departments, municipalities, non-profits, businesses, banks, hospitals, and law enforcement - ransomware has targeted all sectors. Very recently, the governments of Nunavut and PEI, and a number of First Nations in Ontario have been victims of ransomware attacks. Many more remain unreported and never publicly disclose the attack.

The global incidence of cybercrime, particularly ransomware, has increased dramatically in recent weeks as cybercriminals are exploiting the chaos surrounding COVID-19.

The ransomware attack against NFN locked the administration server, affecting every department. NFN staff interrupted the attack once discovered and immediately shut down all servers, discontinued remote access, and began working with an independent cybersecurity firm to mitigate the attack and to conduct an investigation. The investigation and remedial work remains ongoing.

At this point, **there is no evidence that personal or confidential information has been released**. NFN has also immediately made investments in the security of its information technology systems and has begun a review of its IT Governance as a part of its response.

NFN administration has a policy of transparency with its members and will continue to provide updates as any new information becomes available.

Nipissing First Nation is bound by legislative requirements at both the provincial and federal levels regarding the protection of personal privacy in different program areas. As such, the security incident has been reported to relevant federal and provincial partners and privacy offices. A notice has also been mailed to all NFN members, lessees and partners in accordance with applicable legislation.

If you have any questions regarding this incident, please send an email to ITincident@nfn.ca and we will follow up at our earliest opportunity. If you prefer to speak with someone on the phone, please contact Dwayne Nashkawa, Chief Executive Officer, at (705) 753-6978.