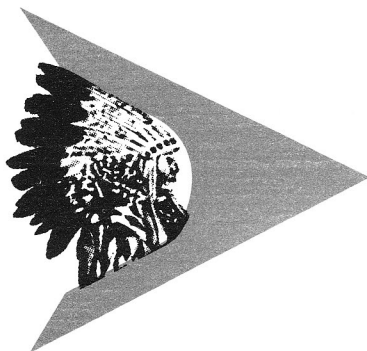


BOX 480  
LA RONGE, SK  
S0J 1L0  
PHONE: (306) 425-2183  
FAX: (306) 425-5559



# Lac La Ronge Indian Band

## Fire situation update July 7, 3 p.m.

### Highway 102:

- Highway 102 **REMAINS TOTALLY CLOSED** to traffic, with the exception of emergency personnel. This extends from the La Ronge Airport to Missinipe, and is by ministerial order. Non-emergency vehicles are NOT being allowed into the fire area, whether they are residents, tourists or media. **This is to protect people. As long as the fire situation in the corridor remains severe, the highway will be closed. You will be informed when it opens to regular traffic.** We as a band agree with Saskatchewan Environment's focus on protecting human life first, property second, although the firefighters are doing the best they can to ensure that homes, businesses and other property are not lost. It is difficult to predict when people will be allowed in. **Roadblocks are manned 24 hours a day.**
- We are working closely with all agencies, and will keep you informed of any changes in the fire and highway situation. **Our contact people in the communities – Brian Hardlotte and Lester Roberts in Stanley Mission, Kenny Ratt in Sucker River and Leon Charles in Grandmother's Bay – are our "eyes and ears" for first-hand information, and I want to thank them for their invaluable assistance.**
- There is a 24-hour toll-free hotline for information: 1-866-757-5911.
- **A fire ban remains in place for the entire Hwy. 102 corridor. Restrictions have also been placed on water use.**

### Stanley Mission:

- There approximately 70 residents left in Stanley Mission, working as firefighters and community watch people. There are also additional personnel assigned by the province.
- **Last night's rain was just enough to dampen the ground in the Stanley Mission area, not to quell the fires. However, cooler temperature and higher humidity will keep the fires from spreading further.**

- **The July 5 fire start – caused by dry lightning – has been named the Hunt Fire. It is located just west of Harvesting Bay, approximately 2 to 4 km from Stanley. As of 9 a.m., thick smoke and cloud cover have prevented any flights, either to analyze the fire's progress from the air or to provide orientation to ground crews attempting to get into the area by boat. The proximity of this fire to Stanley and the lack of information about its progress make the Hunt fire a big concern.**
- The Lynx fire continues to burn on both sides of the access road, Hwy. 915, near Four Portages. The fire has reached McDonald Lake, approximately 8 km from Stanley. Once crews are able to fly, backburning is planned.
- We have CONFIRMED REPORTS that **four trapper's cabins have been lost** out of a cluster of eight cabins on the south end of the Lynx fire.
- The McNichol fire is a large fire northwest of the community. This fire extends from west of Missinipe to the northwest side of Nistowiak Lake. The McNichol fire is not currently a direct threat to Stanley Mission. **Crews are making good progress to tie off the peninsula north of Holy Trinity Church.**
- A large sprinkler system has been set up around the perimeter of the community and hooked into natural water systems. It is on. Smaller sprinkler units have been set up around Holy Trinity and near trappers' cabins. As the fire threat to one spot diminishes, the smaller sprinklers are moved to other spots.
- The emergency operations centre has been set up in the band hall, where personnel are answering calls and providing food for the firefighters and volunteers.
- An escape plan is in place, with all personnel to go to the boat launch if needed.

### **Grandmother's Bay:**

- Seven firefighting crews, the majority of whom are from Grandmother's Bay, continue to work on suppression efforts on the Grandma fire. While the firefighters are very tired, they are pleased with what has been accomplished so far. **SERM has ground crews attacking from the south line, a bulldozer on the west, and are attempting to place ground crews and hoses on the north end to tie off that end off by catching it between two lakes.**
- There are approximately 70 people in Grandmother's Bay, including the Cumberland crews, the majority of whom are either firefighting, cooking, answering phones or doing community patrols to maintain the security of the homes and property in Grandmother's Bay. Leon Charles reports that there are NO PROBLEMS. If anyone has a pressing concern, he can be reached at the band office – 635-2069.
- Should it become necessary, there is an escape route (via the water), and boats are ready to go at a moment's notice. All of those in the area have been alerted that if escape becomes necessary, the siren on the fire truck will be turned on and all are to proceed to Nihithow Awasis School for immediate departure.

### **Sucker River and resort areas:**

- The fire in this area has been named the English fire. It has forced the evacuation of Sucker River (except for 16 people), Wadin Bay, English Bay and the

Nemeiben Lake campground. The fire has jumped Hwy. 102 and is burning on both sides of the highway near Nemeiben Lake.

- A "cat guard" – that is, bulldozers moving trees, etc. – has been built around the perimeter of this fire. "Hot spots" from the English fire caught along the guard last night, but these are all contained.
- The remaining residents are either assisting with the firefighting on the English fire, or serving as watchdogs, watching over the homes and turning away unauthorized vehicles. They are working hard to protect the community and surrounding area.

### **Hall Lake:**

- Contrary to rumours, Hall Lake is NOT under threat from any fire, and there is NO PLAN for a community-wide evacuation.
- Councillor Leonard Halkett encourages everyone in Hall Lake to keep their doors and windows closed, due to the smoke in the area.

### **La Ronge:**

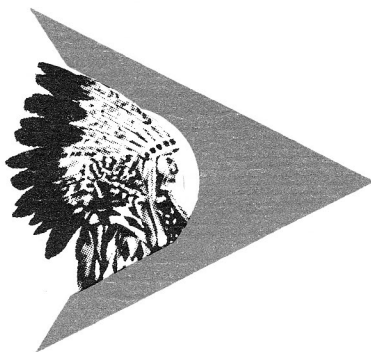
- The smoky conditions in La Ronge, Air Ronge and the surrounding reserves are caused by wind blowing in smoke from the fires in the area. There are no fires in the immediate vicinity.
- **An emergency radio transmitter is broadcasting repeated messages on FM 91.1. Tune in for updates on this station, as well as on MBC Radio and Cable Ronge.**
- **Contrary to some media reports, there is NO EVACUATION ALERT for La Ronge area at this time.** However, we encourage you to prepare an emergency bag with all required medications for people in your household (and refill any needed prescriptions ahead of time), a small favourite toy for any young children, and a change of clothing, personal toiletries (toothbrushes, etc.), eye glasses and health cards for all members of your household; leave instructions for care of any pets attached to the door of your home; and keep track of where all family members are and notify all of them where to meet in case of an emergency notice being issued. A full tank of gas in your vehicle is also a good idea.

## **EVACUATION UPDATE:**

### **La Ronge:**

- The operations centre in La Ronge is located at Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre (JRMCC). **The centre is exceptionally well-run, and as of 9 a.m., 2,159 evacuees (including a group from Missinipe) had moved through the centre.** It is manned by Mary Carlson, band staff, and councillors Pam Mirasty, Hillary Cook, and Doris Morin, with help from many volunteers who have assisted with registration, daily meals and entertainment. **In addition, elders requiring care are staying at the La Ronge Motor Hotel.**
- Mealtimes: breakfast 8-9:30 a.m., lunch 12-1:30 p.m. and supper 5:30-7 p.m. **ALL evacuees (including non-band members) are welcome.**

HEALTH SERVICES  
BOX 480, LA RONGE  
SASK, S0J 1L0  
PHONE: (306) 425-2183  
FAX: (306) 425-3544



# Lac La Ronge Indian Band

## Message from Chief Tammy Cook-Searson July 8, 12 noon

Tansi and hello to all of our community members, both those who have evacuated, those who are working so hard to help the evacuees here in La Ronge, Saskatoon and elsewhere, and those who have stayed behind in Sucker River, Grandmother's Bay and Stanley Mission to assist in the fire relief efforts.

First off, I want to say **thank you**. It has been nine days since the evacuation effort began. This has been a long ordeal for all of us, and I am so proud of you, and grateful to you, for your generosity, your compassion, your composure in this stressful situation and most of all your patience. Thank you to our volunteers and staff for all your work in assisting with the evacuation and all the tasks involved – registration, meals, recreation, communication, health care, counselling and more. Thank you to our firefighters for your incredible efforts in dealing with all of the fires, and thank you to our community watch people – our “eyes and ears”, who keep us up-to-date with first-hand information about the situation in each of our communities. Thank you to everyone who has lent a hand to mop a floor, comfort a child, prepare a plate of food, fill out a form or shelter a friend or family member. We could not have accomplished any of this without you.

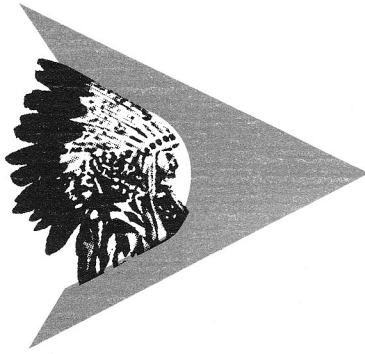
Secondly, I want to **reassure you** that we are doing everything we can to keep you both safe and informed. None of us want you to be away from your homes any longer than absolutely necessary. We as a band are working very closely with Saskatchewan Environment, Community Resources, Corrections and Public Safety, Highways, Government Relations, the Town of La Ronge and the Village of Air Ronge, and all the other agencies involved in resolving this situation. We want you to come home as soon as possible.

At the same time, I need to **caution you** – this fire situation is NOT resolved. Yes, there was rain in the La Ronge area and Stanley Mission, and this is excellent news. The planes and helicopters are flying, and they are able to attack and assess the situation from the air. The air is not as smoky, and it is easy to assume that because you can't smell them, the fires are out. This is not the case. Until we know that the highway is safe and the fires are under control, we ask you to remain where you are. Please trust us, and continue to be patient, as you have proven you can be.

Once again, thank you for everything. We will continue to keep you informed. Thank you for listening.

*Tammy Cook-Searson*

BOX 480  
LA RONGE, SK  
S0J 1L0  
PHONE: (306) 425-2183  
FAX: (306) 425-5559



# **Lac La Ronge Indian Band**

## **Fire situation update July 8, 5 p.m.**

### **Status of evacuation orders:**

- The STATE OF EMERGENCY REMAINS in effect but I am LIFTING THE EVACUATION ORDERS for Stanley Mission, Grandmother's Bay and Sucker River.
- The road is still closed to unaccompanied traffic, but piloted convoys into these areas are scheduled for 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. today.
- Wadin Bay residents may return home, but Government Relations asks that NEMEIBEN LAKE AND ENGLISH BAY RESIDENTS STAY PUT, as the fire zone near your communities is still too hot for safe travel.
- None of our communities are in danger at this time but there are still danger zones through the English fire, the Lynx fire and the McNichol fire. These fires are still not under control.
- Saskatoon evacuees will be returning tomorrow.

**Highway 102:**

- The roadblocks are still in place, but in the “danger zones” close to the fires, non-emergency vehicles will be travelling in convoys at specified times. Traffic between the zones will be kept to a reduced speed. These conditions are in place because of the smoke, the fire risk, and the firefighting personnel and equipment still working on and near the highway. Please drive safely.
- Smoke from these fires will continue to blow onto the highway and into the communities for the next few days, and firefighting efforts will be ongoing nearby, with equipment and hoses on the road. Please take any supplies (such as basic groceries) that you need in with you, as southbound traffic will be extremely limited for the next few days.
- We are working closely with all agencies, and will keep you informed of any further changes in the fire and highway situation. There is a 24-hour toll-free hotline for information: 1-866-757-5911.
- A fire ban remains in place for the entire Hwy. 102 corridor.

**Evacuation centres:**

- An emergency radio transmitter is broadcasting repeated messages on FM 91.1. Tune in for updates on this station.
- The operations centre in La Ronge at Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre (JRMCC) will continue to operate for the time being.



- Mail for Stanley Mission and Grandmother's Bay residents has been sent to the La Ronge post office for the last few days. We will update you when this changes.
- Health-related inquiries can be directed to the province's 24-hour toll-free health line: 1-877-800-0002. Calls to this number are answered by nurses.
- The Prince Albert Grand Council has set up a website for evacuees and family members. This site includes contact numbers, a message board, pictures and copies of our reports and those sent out by the province. Go to [www.pagc.sk.ca](http://www.pagc.sk.ca) and click on "EOC".
- If you want to contact someone who has been evacuated, call:
  - A) Athabasca Hall: 933-7381
  - B) Saskatoon Soccer Centre: 975-3410
  - C) JRMCC: 425-4852

Once again, the STATE OF EMERGENCY REMAINS IN EFFECT. More updates will be coming. Thank you for your patience.



Chief Tammy Cook-Searson