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May 6th, 2020

At the time of this writing it is the morning of May 6th. The river is running clear of ice and there is a light spring rain that freshens this morning. It has been a stressful 48 hours for many of our Hay River residents. Especially our family, friends and neighbours from West Point and Vale Island. Whether by good luck or good grace we have been blessed by a positive outcome to our concerns about flooding. There may still be some high waters coming but we believe the worst is behind us.

There are so many individuals, groups and organizations to thank. Those who have given tirelessly to protect our community. That said this is not the time for self-congratulations. There will be plenty of time for that as we assess our performance with a view to ever improve our planning to serve the best interests of our citizens. We will be recognizing the tremendous effort, dedication, and time offered by so many over the next days.

Today I want to recognize all the citizens of Hay River who stepped up. Under already difficult times and restrictions we came together as a community to work together to overcome an additional challenge. A challenge that comes every year with the threat of flooding. This year however was so different on so many levels with the curse of a virus impacting every decision that went into the Emergency Response Plan.

In particular, I want to thank the residents of Vale Island and West Point for their understanding and cooperation during the evacuation. Am I surprised by this community spirit?

Not at all!

Hay Riverites prove time and again that during times or crisis we all come together to support each other. I am so proud to have the honour to serve as your Mayor.

Once we have concluded our preliminary assessment of events over the last few days I will communicate with you again to give you accurate information and details as it relates to our and your evacuation efforts.

For today it is back to work for myself, council and administration as we the navigate the waters of the pandemic and what we can do to bring back some normalcy to our lives and the impacts the last 6 weeks has had on our families and business community.

Stay home, stay healthy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kandis Jameson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the Mayor.

Mayor Kandis Jameson