



NEWS RELEASE

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Chief and Council take immediate action to ensure safety of members following listeriosis-related death of infant from community

NELSON HOUSE, Manitoba – *September 19, 2008* – Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Chief Jim Moore announced today that NCN's government has taken immediate action to notify and protect its members, following notification of a listeriosis diagnosis in a six-week old infant from Nelson House prior to the infant's death.

"This is a very tragic situation for the young family in our community and on behalf of all our Members, I offer sincere condolences for their loss," Moore said. "The deceased infant is Alexiss Matilda Carlada McDonald-Moose, daughter of Rachel McDonald and Trenton Moose."

"Following notification of the listeriosis diagnosis on Wednesday, NCN's government took immediate action to distribute a public health notice to all 428 households in Nelson House and talk to the residents in their homes. We also assisted them with inspecting their refrigerators for processed meat products identified as part of the listeriosis recall."

The door-to-door canvas started Wednesday evening with volunteers and concluded Thursday with recruitment of NCN government employees. Processed meats listed for recall were found in five homes, including the home of the deceased infant. However, tests to determine the strain of listeriosis involved in this case, and whether or not it is related to the recalled products, are still underway and will not be available for up to two weeks. Young infants are listed among the four most vulnerable groups for listeriosis-related illnesses.

NCN Members, particularly in households where recalled products were found, have been advised to be on the lookout for any listeriosis-related symptoms, which were described in the public health notice distributed.

"This situation naturally creates a lot of anxiety for our members, considering that it can take up to 70 days for symptoms to appear," Moore said. "We'll continue to monitor the situation in the community and maintain contact with government agencies investigating the listeriosis situation."

Funeral arrangements for Alexiss are planned for Monday, September 22 in Nelson House.

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For more information, please contact Chief Jim Moore at (204) 484-2332.