

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Update on May 2020 Ransomware Attack

December 2, 2020 – On Friday, November 27th, NFN was alerted to the possibility that some of the data that was stolen in the May 2020 Ransomware Attack had been posted to the dark web.

NFN took immediate steps to investigate this report, which was confirmed later in the evening by the OPP. We continue to work with the cybersecurity firm we engaged following the ransomware attack in May to investigate this new report and take action to protect our community members, staff and stakeholders.

We have confirmed that the information posted is from the May 2020 Ransomware Attack, which has already been resolved. There is no evidence of a new attack on our I.T. systems based on extensive scans and diagnostic testing.

What We Have Done

Since the ransomware attack in May, NFN has taken the following actions to mitigate the risk of any future data breaches.

- Invested heavily in our I.T. infrastructure to make it as modern and secure as possible.
- Strengthened our data systems by implementing additional safeguards.
- Implemented cloud-based Office 365 software to avoid the need to store information on networks and servers that can potentially be compromised by hackers.
- Created an I.T. Governance Steering Committee to work with our cybersecurity firm to implement I.T. enhancements, protocols and safeguards.
- Provided staff training and communications about best practices to protect personal and organizational information, including how to identify spam/phishing emails that can potentially put our organization at risk.

What You Can Do to Further Protect Yourself

- Sign up for a free Credit Alert account, such as the free service offered by TransUnion:
www.transunion.ca/assistance/fraud-victims-resources
- Monitor your bank and credit card accounts for suspicious activity and notify your bank immediately if something seems off.
- Change passwords for your online banking accounts and anywhere else your personal and/or financial information is stored (i.e. CRA My Account, Service Canada, etc.). Use strong passwords that are difficult to guess by combining letters, numbers and special characters.

More resources are available on the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada's website:

<https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/technology/online-privacy-tracking-cookies/online-privacy/protecting-your-privacy-online/>

Next Steps

We will continue to provide updates as any new information becomes available. 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 Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Officer, at (705) 753-2050.