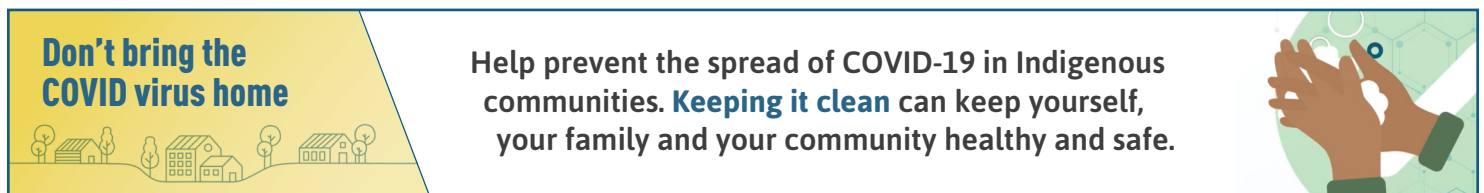


COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #30 / April 28, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Another month is drawing to a close and recovery and a return to normalcy is on everybody's mind right now. We know the effects of the outbreak are just beginning to be felt in many First Nations in BC and we cannot speculate how things might evolve. Our health officials advise that a "new normal" will look and feel different than our lives before. We all need to continue safe COVID-19 practices such as maintaining physical distancing, washing our hands and avoiding crowds and following public health advice. By continuing to work together in our response and planning we can limit the spread of the virus and keep our loved ones safe.



Don't bring the COVID virus home

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. **Keeping it clean** can keep yourself, your family and your community healthy and safe.

UPDATES

Since the outbreak, Indigenous communities have been leading the response to protect the health and wellbeing of their communities, including closing community borders and practicing physical distancing.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, **today announced** that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have come together and agreed to a set of common principles for restarting the Canadian economy, based on shared understanding and appreciation of what science and experts are telling us. They will work out the criteria that need to be in place before we can go back to work and school, or see neighbours and friends.

The Government of Canada and its partners are exploring a gradual approach that protects the health of Canadians, including high-risk groups, as well as the need to ensure public health capacity for future waves of the virus, while at the same time continuing to support a range of economic sectors and Canadian workers.

Whatever approach is adopted, it's expected that the Province and health officials will engage Indigenous communities about roles and responsibilities as they develop and implement de-escalation plans

and that appropriate adaptations for conditions and circumstances in First Nations communities need to be considered.

Support for Off Reserve Members

We continue to hear your concerns about the wellbeing of your off-reserve members and want to provide updates about some of the supports available.

The **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)** gives communities the ability to fund according to their priorities and needs. It can, for example, provide support for:

- Goods to community members who are in preventative isolation or quarantine;
- Support for Elders;
- Support for children: learning packages (school supplies, workbooks, educational flashcards, etc.)
- Security costs* and more

** Security costs would be eligible under the Indigenous Community Support Fund as a preparedness measure. Where possible, it is recommended that First Nations consult with law enforcement and health professionals for guidance regarding how measures can best address public health objectives.*



While the amount provided to each community takes into account a base amount of \$50,000 per community, the total population residing in community (based on 2016 Census population), and is adjusted for remoteness and Community Wellbeing Index scores, the flexibility of how to spend the allocation rests with First Nation leadership.

Additionally, as mentioned in yesterday's update, the \$15 million dedicated as part of the ICSF for regional, urban, and off-reserve Indigenous organizations nationally has now been allocated. Over 450 eligible proposals were received and 94 programs will be

supported in their efforts to provide services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres or off reserve during this challenging time.

On March 18, 2020, the Prime Minister announced a new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. These measures will provide up to \$27 billion in direct support to all Canadian workers and businesses.

As information is rapidly changing we strongly encourage you to visit the **federal** and **provincial financial supports** websites often for the latest information.

PARTNER INFORMATION

Provincial school update

While some Canadian students will be heading back to classrooms in as soon as two weeks, the Province of British Columbia isn't giving a timeline for when that might happen in the province's public schools.

Minister of Education Rob Fleming was joined by Stephanie Higginson, president of the B.C. School Trustees Association, for a briefing today where they gave an **overview on how teaching has continued while most students have stayed home**.

The decision to suspend in-class learning was made on March 17. Since then, resources have launched online for students to continue learning at home.

Flooding risk downgraded

We note that flood warnings have been downgraded in BC as conditions ease but remain aware of the extraordinarily high snowpack remaining. First Nations communities and members preparing for spring flooding, our provincial partners have put together **guidelines for flood response during the COVID-19 event**. Including best practices for sandbag production while practicing safe physical distancing. We are working closely with First Nations that are affected by localized flooding to support them through these concurrent emergencies.

FREE WEBINAR

ISC BC Region Town Hall #3 with FNSA and FNEC

Please join FNPSS in welcoming Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General of ISC BC Region, who will be joined by Tyrone McNeil, President of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEC), Edith Loring-Kuhanga, President of the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA), accompanied by representatives of the BC Ministry of Education, to speak about First Nations' education in BC given the current COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar will be approximately 60 minutes and allow for moderated Q&As from participants.

Registration: This event **requires pre-registration**. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link to join the webinar.

Friday, May 1, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

REGISTER HERE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We believe we are better when we share our knowledge. We are pleased to share resources and updates being offered by communities:

- **Skeetchestn Indian Band has posted resources for those in urban settings or living away from home**
- **Message to Community from Elder Albie Charlie – April 18, 2020**

QUESTION OF THE DAY

Can Indigenous families to apply to Jordan’s Principle for laptops?

Jordan’s Principle helps First Nations children get support as recommended by a professional to meet an identified health, education or social need. The aim is to ensure all First Nation children living on and off reserve have equitable access to government funded services for a wide range of health, social and educational needs. To confirm, the considerations for Jordan’s Principle funding have not been modified for Covid-19. As always, Jordan’s Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative continue to be available to address unmet needs of First Nations and Inuit children on the basis of normative standards or substantive equality, cultural appropriateness and best interests of the child.

We look at each request on a case by case basis and do not follow a standard, formula-based or universal funding approach. The needs of specific children (0-19 years of age) should be outlined in the request and the request should match the needs identified as well as clearly identify why the needs cannot be addressed by the existing services and supports (i.e. how this is an unmet need and a gap in government funded services and supports). Applicants will be asked to provide the required documentation from a professional to show how funding for the requested product, service, or support will meet the identified need. Email communication from professionals will be accepted in consideration of the unique circumstances of COVID-19. Visit canada.ca/jordans-principle for more information about the process and eligibility requirements.

If First Nation schools and communities are concerned about First Nations students having access to the technology and connectivity required to continue their education, ISC is providing First Nations with financial support through the **Indigenous Community Support Fund**. This funding is flexible and can be used by communities for a variety of purposes, including educational and other support for children.

The Province of British Columbia is also **offering technology loans** giving more children the opportunity to learn at home, including more than 23,000 computers and devices are being loaned out in every part of the province.

SHARE HOW COVID-19 IS IMPACTING YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE

Statistics Canada is collecting data on an ongoing basis to better understand the impacts of COVID-19. Your response will provide insight into the challenges we all face as the COVID-19 situation evolves in Canada. This week’s survey is: **Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians – Your mental health.**

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete. Your participation is important!



NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention and risks**
- The Government of Canada has made announcements regarding financial assistance for those who will be impacted during these unprecedented times – these individuals and business are encouraged to apply for assistance. You can find further information on how to apply for financial or economic support at: Canada.ca/coronavirus and [Questions and Answers on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#).
- For a great description of what flattening the curve means, consider watching [Prime Minister Trudeau's video tweet](#)
- **Public Health Agency of Canada**
- **Resources for Canadian Businesses**
- **Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada**

USEFUL LINKS

- Economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. As information is rapidly changing we strongly encourage you to visit the [federal](#) and [provincial financial supports](#) websites often for the latest information.
- First Nations Health Authority – [Information for community leaders](#)
- **COVID-19 BC Support App and Self-Assessment Tool**
The app will let you receive the latest updates, trusted resources, and alerts. The Self-Assessment Tool is built in.
- With the help of BCFC, the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has posted a [COVID-19 Resources for All BC Individuals](#).

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests: aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

FREE WEBINAR

Accessing supports for BC First Nations during COVID-19 (with Canada Revenue Agency and Heiltsuk Nation representatives)

Please join the First Nations Public Service Secretariat in welcoming representatives from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Heiltsuk Nation who will be speaking about how to access COVID-19 supports for First Nations individuals on and off reserve. Many of you have raised questions about how individuals can access benefits and this webinar will provide many of the answers of more frequently asked questions. Karen Martin and Saverio Desantis of the CRA will be joined by Mary Leslie, of the Heiltsuk Nation. This 45-minute session will include a short presentation from each of the speakers on accessing supports for on- and off-reserve BC First Nations during COVID-19 and ideas for moving forward. Presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion.

Registration: This event **requires pre-registration**. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the webinar.

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

REGISTER HERE