

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #39 / May 11, 2020

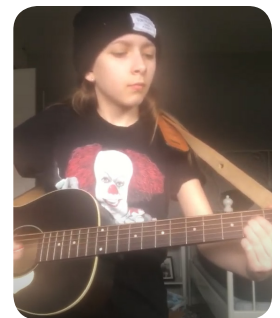
Good Afternoon,

We will be living with COVID-19 for some time. While the numbers across BC are generally positive, we want to reiterate that we all need to follow public health guidelines and advice, such as maintaining physical distance, washing our hands and avoiding large gatherings.

We recognize that the onset of COVID-19 in some communities may have been delayed by remoteness but we remain encouraged by the actions taken by you and your communities to keep everyone healthy and safe. These efforts continue to be essential to slow the spread of COVID-19 within communities and among individuals. We all need to remain vigilant.


In that spirit, as first shared Friday, this past April, Xyólheméylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society) asked all Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia to create posters and videos to describe their feelings about social distancing and COVID-19. We introduced you to the first place winner Emma-Lee Kelly last week.

Today, **watch 13 year-old Bella Fitzgerald, who tied for second place in the contest share her "COVID-19 Blues."** Bella is from Leq'a:mel First Nation and lives in Maple Ridge. She is in eighth grade at Garibaldi Secondary and loves music, acting and performing.

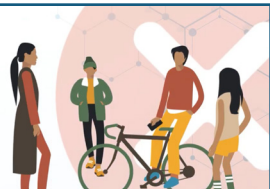


To see all the winning entries, **please click here**. Many thanks to Xyólheméylh for sharing.

Stay the course
help limit the spread of COVID-19



Please watch this animated video:
Physical distancing: Stop the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities



UPDATE

On Saturday, May 9, 2020, Minister Marc Miller commended First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities for doing an incredible job in responding and preventing outbreaks. "Their collective work in this is critical and our commitment to support them and making sure they have what they need and are able to continue to protect their community members remains steadfast," said Minister Miller.

The Minister also recognized that Indigenous leaders and organizations are justified in calling for better data to be collected and disseminated to them about the impacts of COVID-19. He said that data collected should

also include First Nations people living off reserve and for this to be realized, help must come from provincial governments and public health agencies.

Minister Miller spoke to the work of Dr. Janet Smiley, a Métis research scientist and physician at the Centre of Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Dr. Smiley is currently working, along with many other partners, to collect data that will allow for better understanding and modelling of COVID-19 cases in Indigenous populations in Canada. As part of the efforts to support better distinctions-based data collection, the Government of Canada is providing

\$250,000 to implement COVID-19 tracking and response platforms for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

This project will include the development of a COVID-19 consortium comprised of federal, provincial, territorial, First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners. Their data analysis will help inform the response to COVID-19 by Indigenous communities, with the support from the federal government.

Support for Business

The Prime Minister announced **new measures today for large and medium-sized businesses** so they can keep their workers on payroll. The Government of Canada will establish a Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. Support through the LEEFF, includes protection of taxpayers and workers. Companies seeking support must demonstrate how they intend to preserve employment and maintain investment activities. Recipients will need to commit to respect collective bargaining agreements and protect workers' pensions.

These measures are in addition to the **Government of Canada's support of Indigenous businesses announced April 18, 2020**. Relief measures included in the new package include short-term interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions for eligible Indigenous businesses. They will support current and former clients of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs), and small and medium enterprises outside of the AFI network. In BC there are 11 AFI's:

- **Aboriginal Business & Community Development Centre** (Prince George)
- **All Nations Trust Company** (Kamloops)
- **Burns Lake Native Development Corporation** (Burns Lake)
- **CFDC of Central Interior First Nations** (Kamloops)
- **Haida Gwaii Community Futures** (Massett)
- **Métis Financial Corporation of BC** (Surrey)
- **Native Fishing Association** (West Vancouver)
- **Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation** (Port Alberni)
- **Stó:lō Community Futures Corporation** (Chilliwack)
- **West Vancouver; Tale'Awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation** (West Vancouver)

- **Tribal Resources Investment Corporation** (Prince Rupert)

The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) will be one of the main delivery partners to implement these measures and will work through its established network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) to support all Indigenous businesses in BC.

These measures are part of the Government of Canada's **COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**, which has helped protect Canadian jobs, and committed billions in support to Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the pandemic. This includes an extension on the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy**, which allows businesses to keep workers on the payroll.

PARTNER INFORMATION

Home Safety for Spring

With warmer spring temperatures, those living in low-lying areas or near the water should consider preparing for the possibility of flooding. The Province of BC has shared **some tips to help you and your family get ready for potential flooding**. The key steps include:

- **Protect your home** – move equipment and other assets to higher ground where possible, and clear perimeter drains, eaves troughs and gutters
- **Create grab-and-go bags** – put together individual grab-and-go bag for each member of your household with the essentials they will need if asked to evacuate
- **Recognize the danger signs** – if you live near a waterway, pay close attention to any change in water colour or rapid change in water level (especially a drop) as those could be signs of a problem upstream

And as everyone is staying home much more than they usually do, minimizing fire risk at home is more important than ever. A good place to start is to test your smoke alarm and make sure it works. If you do not have a smoke alarm, it may be a good idea to install one. You should also make a home fire escape plan and practice it. You can find more **home fire prevention tips in the announcement from the Province of BC**.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

- **Ahousaht First Nation** posted info on Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response plan.
- **Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government** posted messages about reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- **Homalco Indian Band** posted messages about staying home, staying safe and social distancing for community members.

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.

NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **Practical advice, articles and information to help you #GetReal about how you really feel**
- **Taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **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**.
- **Public Health Agency of Canada**
- **Resources for Canadian Businesses**
- **Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada**

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SURVEY

Share your ideas and input!

B.C. is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with a co-ordinated province-wide approach. Our priority is to protect British Columbians and ensure we can effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 questionnaire topics include:

- Responses to government measures, actions, and decisions
- Current levels of concern
- Personal and job impacts
- Use and need of information sources

Share your feedback by completing the online questionnaire.