

# COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #44 / May 25, 2020


Good Afternoon,

We hope you had a restorative and safe weekend. It's hard to believe it has been 11 weeks since ISC BC Region enacted its business continuity plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.


While the Province of BC is officially in Phase 2 ( Mid-May onwards), people are being reminded to stay close to home and avoid any travel between communities that is not essential.

We encourage everyone to continue to follow the advice of health officials: wash your hands, practice physical distancing and **consider wearing a non-medical mask** when in places where physical distancing is not possible.

**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

On Friday we shared the news that the Government of Canada would be providing an additional \$75 million to organizations that aid Indigenous peoples living in urban and off-reserve areas. In mid-March, \$15 million of the \$305 million from the **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)** were allotted to off-reserve organizations. More information about the new funding will be available soon.

The ICSF is part of Canada's **COVID-19 Economic Response Plan** to support Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance now open for applications

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau announced today that applications are now being accepted for **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)** for small businesses. Over the course of the program, property owners will reduce rent by at least 75 per cent for the months of April and May (retroactive), and June, for their small business tenants. CECRA will cover 50 per cent of the rent, with the tenant paying up to 25 per

cent and the property owner forgiving at least 25 per cent. As of today, applications will be accepted through the **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) website**.

### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

The Prime Minister also reminded Canadian businesses to take advantage of the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** which helps businesses keep employees on the payroll and encourages employers to re-hire workers previously laid off, and better positions businesses to bounce back following the crisis. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy which subsidizes wages at a rate of 75 per cent, up to \$847 per week per employee, for eligible employers that have been hard-hit by COVID-19. CEWS applies to wages from March 2020 to August 29, 2020 to give workers the support they need during these difficult times.

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**NEW** – Find **COVID-19 support** and other programs and services for your business. Just simply **answer a few questions**.

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## Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** is also helping meet the cash needs of Canadian households so individuals can pay for essentials like housing and groceries during this difficult time. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), a benefit of \$2,000 every four weeks for up to four months for eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. Workers can also continue to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting CERB.

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**NEW** – You may be eligible for support through other programs as well. **Answer some questions to find financial help during COVID-19.** While we cannot guarantee your eligibility, we can point you to the program details.

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## Universal Sick Leave in Development

The Prime Minister also spoke today about the Government of Canada's intention to work with provinces to provide 10 paid days of sick leave per year. He noted that workers shouldn't have to choose between taking sick days and paying bills. In a question and answer session with reporters he said it could be introduced in October or November in time for the beginning of flu season. We'll provide more information as it is made available.

## PARTNER INFORMATION

### BC grads, students to be celebrated by local artists, performers

So many of our students didn't get the graduation ceremony they envisioned at the end of their high school studies. **The Province of BC has announced its support for a WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 event** – a virtual graduation and end-of-school celebration intended for BC's 61,000 Grade 12 graduates, along with kindergarten to Grade 11 students. It will showcase some of BC's best known singers, athletes and performers.

"I know this is not how graduates expected to celebrate their achievements, but that doesn't diminish the

occasion," said Premier John Horgan. "Their parents, teachers and all British Columbians are proud of them. After they leave school, the whole world is there for them to explore. It will be a smaller world at first, but it will grow. As Dr. Bonnie Henry says, 'It is for now, not forever.' Congratulations to the class of 2020." The WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 event will air at 10 a.m. (Pacific time) on May 26 on WE's **Facebook page** and **YouTube channel**.



### First Nations Health Authority appears before Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

On Friday, our partners at the First Nations Health Authority **appeared in a virtual meeting of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs**. Richard Jock, Interim Chief Executive Officer (starting at 15:04) commented on the success BC First Nations have with their tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the province and with the federal government. He said the partnerships and relationships have allowed the FNHA to respond to the pandemic with innovations like the **Virtual Doctor of the Day**. He said improvements are still needed in point-of-care testing and mechanisms to deliver personal protective equipment (PPE). Dr. Shannon McDonald, Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and Chief Charlene Belleau, Chair, First Nations Health Council, also appeared.

### Indigenous Innovation Initiative

The **Indigenous Innovation Initiative** is seeking bold ideas to advance equality for Indigenous peoples across Canada, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in urban, rural, remote, and Northern regions.

Indigenous women and gender diverse innovators and Indigenous women and gender diverse-led projects will be given priority. Projects can apply for seed funding amounts of between \$100,000 to \$250,000 to develop and test their bold ideas. Interested creators can submit their expression of interest now until June 9, 2020.

### Province supports tourism marketing organizations to be ready for recovery

Fifty-nine BC community destination marketing organizations (DMOs) severely impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions will be **supported with a \$10-million grant** from the Province. BC's community DMOs are not-for-profit organizations that promote tourism to their regions. They rely on funds generated by the municipal and regional district tax (MRDT), which is charged to visitors by hotels and other types of accommodation. This investment to boost the tourism sector's recovery is meant to help create jobs and spur economic growth throughout the province. In 2018, tourism contributed over \$20.5 billion in revenues to BC's economy.

## 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](https://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**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

- **Takla Nation** posted about a student award parade happening on June 19. They also reminded everyone to complete the BC COVID-19 survey before the May 31 deadline.
- **Boothroyd Band** posted media lines from the Public Health Agency of Canada about the use of non-medical masks. They also posted info from FNHA about how to access dental care during COVID-19.
- **Okanagan Indian Band** posted 10 tips to Firesmart your home and a video.
- **Siska Indian Band** posted info about not leaving hand sanitizers and alcohol disinfecting sprays in vehicles.

### SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Your input is important as we develop our action plans to re-start services, the economy and our lives.

## USEFUL LINKS

- For information about economic measures to help stabilize the economy, please 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.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca).

