

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION


UPDATE #57 / July 15, 2020

Good Afternoon,


We hope you and your communities are staying healthy and well. In this update, we're sharing the story of Keyvin Waterchief, a young Siksika man who was diagnosed with COVID-19 a few weeks ago. He unknowingly passed it along to other members of his family, including his elderly grandmother who is in ICU. **Listen to Keyvin's story in his own words**, as told to Windspeaker Radio.

Please continue to physically distance, wash your hands frequently, and follow other COVID-19 measures. Stay safe, stay calm and be kind.

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



UPDATES

CERB extended by eight (8) weeks

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has been **extended from 16 weeks to 24 weeks** for workers who:

- stopped working due to COVID-19, or
- are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits, or
- have exhausted their Employment Insurance regular benefits or Employment Insurance fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

EXTENDED

ARE YOU:

- ✓ A parent staying home to take care of your kids?
- ✓ A family member providing support to a person with a disability?
- ✓ An international traveller that is self-isolating?

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF YOU:

- ✓ Stopped working due to COVID-19 and earn no more than \$1,000 within the 4-week benefit period
- ✓ Earned \$5,000 in 2019

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CESB available for recent high school graduates

The **Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)** provides temporary income support to post-secondary students and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are facing a different job market this summer due to COVID-19. With this benefit, students could get \$1,250 per month for up to four months. Eligible students with disabilities or those with children or other dependents can receive \$2,000.

Applications for the third period of the CESB opened on **July 6, 2020**.

If you recently graduated high school and are enrolled in a post-secondary educational program that starts before February 1, 2021, you **may be eligible** to start applying for the CESB. To be eligible for the CESB, you must be actively **looking for work**.

Eligible high school graduates who graduated after June 7, 2020, can apply for period 3 and period 4 of the CESB inclusively. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2020.

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HOW TO APPLY:

- **Step 1:** Create a profile with the CRA by calling 1-800-959-8281 to register your SIN (for students who have never filed a tax return). If this doesn't apply to you, go to step 2!
- **Step 2:** Register for CRA's **My Account**, as it is the fastest and easiest way to complete your CESB application.

Note: you don't need to wait for your My Account security code to apply for the CESB.
- **Step 3:** Sign up for **Direct Deposit** to have CESB payments deposited directly into your bank account. Financial institutions across the country are also allowing Canadians to sign up for CRA direct deposit through their bank portals in a few easy steps.

To learn more about the CESB and to apply, go to **Canada Emergency Student Benefit**.

Extension of Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

As part of his **July 13 update**, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** will be extended until December "to give greater certainty and support to businesses as we restart the economy." We will share details when they become available.

THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY (CRA) OUTREACH PROGRAM

Help make sure your members are getting the benefits and credits they are entitled to.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRA outreach officers are available to help you.

Complete the online form to make arrangements for a presentation by phone. For other ways to file your taxes, go to **doing your taxes**.



Gradual reopening of Service Canada centres

The Government of Canada is working to gradually reopen Service Canada Centres to help serve most Canadians living within 100 km of a Centre, and to support those who face barriers to accessing eServices. Our priority is the health and safety of all Canadians and our staff, while maintaining service to the public. You can still access most of Service Canada's programs and services from the comfort of your own home. SIN, EI/CERB, CPP and OAS **can all be applied to online**. If you do need to visit a Service Canada centre in person, please make a request for an appointment by **filling out their service request form**.

Emergency Funding for COVID-19 Safety Measures in Forest Operations

On July 10, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Seamus O'Regan, announced the federal government's intent to provide up to **\$30 million to offset additional costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures for small and medium enterprises in the forest sector**, including tree-planting operations. Canada intends to work with the provinces and territories to deliver this funding, which will preserve jobs for forest sector workers, including approximately 7,000 tree planters this year.

More specifically, the investment will help cover extra costs for things like sanitizing stations, additional accommodations and/or transportation, facilities and services to maintain social distancing, and personal protective equipment. In addition, the funding will help support the scheduled planting of 600 million trees.

PARTNER INFORMATION

New health funding information available online

Program and application details related to the recent \$285 million COVID-19 public health support funding announcement are now available at the following web link:

- [Accessing additional public health support for First Nations and Inuit communities during COVID-19](#)

Indigenous Tourism BC app update

Some Indigenous businesses are beginning to reopen, while others remain closed or are operating at reduced hours. Indigenous Tourism BC's (ITBC) app provides the most up-to-date information on what's open, current hours of operation, and new protocols around visiting communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit [ITBC's website](#) to find out more about the app, and tips on [how to travel responsibly](#).

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](#).

NATIONAL INFORMATION

- [Accessing student financial benefits and support during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- [Accessing financial benefits and support during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- [On-line Resources for Indigenous Communities – Food and COVID-19](#)
- [Service Canada Programs and Services – for youth](#)
- [Service Canada Programs and Services – for seniors](#)
- [Service Canada Programs and Services – for businesses](#)
- [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](#)

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests: aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

