

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #66 / November 16, 2020

Good afternoon,

We hope this update finds you and your communities well. With numbers of COVID-19 climbing in some regions, it is all our responsibility to do all that is necessary to ensure we can protect our most vulnerable citizens, maintain capacity within our health-care system, and continue important essential activities. Thank you all for continuing to do your part to protect your Elders, vulnerable members and communities.

The Government of Canada has flowed almost \$167 M to BC First Nations and urban and off reserve organizations to date. This is in addition to the \$36.43M in federal support for public health and health-related funds that have flowed to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to support communities in their response to COVID-19. With the intake for the application-based funding under the **Indigenous Community Support Fund** now underway, there is a new opportunity for communities to address additional funding needs. We are so appreciative to have connected last week with the hundreds of people who participated in our two technical webinars in support of the application-based funding process.

Please see **Update 65** for some of the frequently asked questions from our first webinar on November 6th or **here** for a regularly updated list of questions asked. You can also watch past webinars on the **First Nations Public Service Secretariat YouTube channel**.

The deadline to submit an application is **November 30, 2020**, as funding must be disbursed by the department by December 31, 2020. Applications can cover activities through to March 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, or wish to submit an application, please contact the ISC BC Regional office at aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

ICSF TECHNICAL WEBINAR RECORDINGS

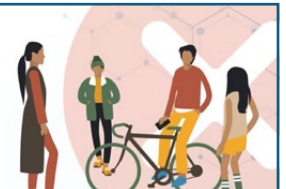
- ▶ **Webinar #1 for First Nations** (Nov 6)
- ▶ **Webinar #2 for First Nations** (Nov 10)
- ▶ **Webinar #3 for Indigenous organizations** (Nov 12)

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

HERE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE RECEIVED LAST WEEK:

- **What level of detail are you looking for in the proposals? Do you only require the application form and supporting documents?**

In an effort to streamline this application process, a simple, fillable application form has been developed and we are available to assist applicants in determining what level of detail to provide. Generally, your proposal should



describe how your proposed activities address urgent and immediate COVID-19 needs in your community or population being served. Applications will be assessed against selection criteria which include:

- **COVID-19 risk:** how will the proposed activities address urgent, immediate community needs to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and containment efforts?
- **Readiness:** are there any obstacles to starting your project?
- **Human impact:** does the project directly address the impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous populations (such as isolation, transportation, food security, safe places, health and safety) while preventing, protecting, mitigating, responding to, or recovering from the pandemic?
- **Prior funding:** has your community already received governmental funding for the identified COVID-19 need? (For example, did your community receive funding as part of the FNHA's public health response, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) reimbursements, or prior ICSF funding? If so, please indicate how your community has identified needs over and above what was previously received.)

The information contained in the application form should explain how your project meets the assessment criteria outlined above.

For further information about the selection criteria please visit www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1603990521589/1603990645077.

● **When you refer to funding already received, does that include the “top up” we have received for members receiving Income Assistance?**

Yes. The ICSF application-based funding is intended to support additional needs that funding received to date has been insufficient to cover. So, if your proposed project is to support Income Assistance recipients, we need to understand what the additional need is and how it meets the assessment criteria (COVID-19 risk, readiness, human impact, prior funding).

● **Access to traditional foods are difficult for vulnerable populations. Would harvesting and distributing food be eligible? We also would like to provide care packages to the homeless and community members off reserve.**

We recognize food security is a high priority and food security, harvesting and the distribution of food can be eligible for on/off reserve supports. The application would need to demonstrate how the proposed activity meets a need not already addressed in community. Proposed activities should complement existing services in the community, not duplicate them.

Eligible food security activities include:

- direct financial and material support for vulnerable community members, including support for the procurement of food, provisions, and other necessities of life
- measures to address food insecurity, including the procurement, transport, and distribution of foodstuffs, of prepaid cards and cash disbursements, and provisions to enable community members to participate in local harvest activities

● **What about on-reserve perimeter security costs? If some portion of checkpoint monitors' wages are being covered by FNHA, could any uncovered portion be covered in this funding?**

Under public health response funding, the First Nations Health Authority was able to support eligible on-reserve perimeter security costs between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2020. Applications for costs after September 30, 2020 should be submitted under the Indigenous Community Support Fund needs-based funding process. Please note that ISC has adopted the same approach that the First Nations Health Authority developed for perimeter security. Further information is available in the First Nations Health Authority's [COVID-19 Community Support Guide](#).

● **Is this the same as the funding that was given for the Urban/Off Reserve funding that was distributed around May/June? If yes, can it be applied for again?**

This application process will include both on and off reserve supports and yes, is a second round that can provide additional resources for First Nations and organizations that received funding in the first round.

Please note we are not carrying forward applications that weren't funded previously, and we are not automatically extending projects that were funded. First Nations and organizations are welcome to submit a new application using the current ICSF needs-based **application form**. Be sure to explain how your proposal is reducing COVID-19 and how it covers activities going forward for the period from October 2020 to March 2021.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

ISC is offering a webinar on **Wednesday, November 18, 2-3pm**, to follow up on the recent call for proposals for the Community Opportunity Readiness Program Prioritization Framework (CORP-PF) national process. This is a repeat of the CORP-PF webinar held November 12, 2020.

CORP-PF is an economic development funding program that supports community-owned business start-up or expansions, and economic infrastructure projects. Members of ISC BC Region's Economic Development Team will provide an overview of the program, review the intake and review process, explain shovel-ready criteria, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

To join the webinar, please use the following coordinates:

Join Zoom Meeting or **Dial-in: 778-907-2071**

Meeting ID: 821 1191 0702

Passcode: 040342

● **Would the implementation of a safety plan qualify as an eligible ICSF activity? For example, if a Nation wants to continue to deliver employment and training in a blended fashion (online and hands on). A clear safety plan for the hands-on-work is urgent.**

The implementation of a community safety plan may be an eligible activity under ICSF. Your proposal should describe how your proposed activity addresses urgent and immediate COVID-19 needs in your community.

PARTNER INFO

Eligibility for Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

The Canada Revenue Agency has recently provided clarification of who can advise individuals to self-isolate and still be eligible for the new Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit. Of note, if a First Nation has set-up various measures and controls for community residents to self-isolate in regards to COVID-19 symptoms, if the individual has tested positive, or has been in contact with suspected or confirmed cases, the individual would be eligible for the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** providing they meet all the eligibility criteria.

The CRSB website identifies those who can advise an individual to self-isolate as:

- your employer
- a medical practitioner
- a nurse practitioner
- a person in authority
- the government
- your public health authority

First Nation leadership could fall under bullet 4, 5 and possibly 1 as well.

For Questions and Applying for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit as well as the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), you can call the following numbers:

- For general information about these benefits, call 1-833-966-2099
- To apply by the automated toll-free line, call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041

Rent freeze extended, pending increases cancelled

The Province of BC has **extended the freeze on rent increases until July 10, 2021**, under the powers of the Emergency Program Act and COVID-19 Related Measures Act. Increases set to happen on Dec. 1, 2020, are cancelled, along with all pending increases through to July.

The Province originally froze rent increases on March 18, 2020, with the ban set to expire Dec. 1. All renters who have received notice their rent was set to increase after the March 30, 2020, ban, including increases set for Dec. 1, should disregard those notices and continue to pay their current rent amount until July 10, 2021.

If landlords or renters have questions, they are encouraged to contact the Residential Tenancy Branch at 1 800 665-8779 or by email: HSRTO@gov.bc.ca.

Universal Broadband Fund

The Government of Canada is pleased to announce that the **Universal Broadband Fund (UBF)** intake is now open. More information including the program guide, application templates, and FAQs on the program are available on the [website](#). Please note if you have trouble accessing the ISED Broadband Connection secure website try using Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge for access.

The Government of Canada is working hard to connect all Canadians to high-speed Internet as soon as possible. The UBF has been designed to connect Canadians living in rural and remote communities to high-speed Internet at speeds of at least 50/10 Mbps. The program will be funding Canadian entities to extend broadband infrastructure in areas that do not currently have access this level of high-speed Internet.

Have a new project that you could complete quickly if you had some extra financial support? Does it improve service in an eligible area?

You can apply to the **UBF Rapid Response Stream**. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

In addition, please see the **National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map** to learn more about broadband coverage and services across Canada. This map allows you to find out about service providers and federally funded broadband projects currently underway, and the status of connectivity on the streets and roads in your local area.

You simply need to zoom-in very closely on the map and select the “Rural Roads Coverage” check box of the Layer Selector option in the menu options to the left of the screen.

Additional information and resources for Universal Broadband Fund applicants and potential applicants can be found on the **Universal Broadband Fund applicant page**.

Questions? Please contact 1-800-328-6189 or email: get-connected@canada.ca.

USEFUL LINKS

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Indigenous communities** – developed by ISC, this page provides health and financial support information for Indigenous communities.
- Find information on how to apply for financial or economic support from the Government of Canada at: Canada.ca/coronavirus.
- With the help of BCFC, the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has developed **a series of one-pagers on COVID-19 support and resources**.

- **Taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention and risks**
- 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.
- **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.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

- **Regional Director General**
Catherine Lappe / 604-340-7703
- **Associate Regional Director General**
Bill Guerin / 604-803-9476
- **Director, Community Infrastructure**
Paula Santos / 604-790-8451
- **Director, Programs and Partnerships**
Wendy Rogers / 604-363-8117
- **Director, Lands and Economic Development**
David Russell / 604-817-2644
- **Director, Funding Services**
Jody Kaden / 236-334-4742
- **Director, Child and Family Services**
Chiara Taylor / 778-668-9067
- **Director, Community Development**
James Moxon / 604-367-8241
- **Director, Corporate Services**
Harold Powell / 604-219-1737

