

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #67 / November 20, 2020

Good afternoon,

November is drawing to a close and many of us are looking ahead to a very different holiday season. We want to say that as trying as these times are, we notice and respect how well First Nations in British Columbia are managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Bonnie Henry **announced Thursday** that she is extending an earlier order limiting social gatherings in the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions until December 7, and making it apply province-wide. As we all plan how to be safe and festive in the weeks ahead, please know the health of your communities and members remain top of mind for us.

Just a reminder that the **call for proposals deadline for the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) is November 30, 2020**. However, we encourage applicants to submit proposals as soon as possible as proposals will be reviewed as soon as they are received. This application-based funding is to help Indigenous communities and organizations prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19.

If you have any questions about the proposal call, please contact the Indigenous Services Canada BC Regional office at aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca

In this update we will share some more of your questions from our technical webinar sessions earlier in the month. The **complete Q&A document** is hosted on the First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) website. You can also watch the webinars on the **FNPSS YouTube channel**.

Don't bring the COVID virus home



Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. **Learn how to wear a non-medical mask or face covering properly.**



ICSF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

● How much funding can you apply for under ICSF?

There is no funding limit per se, but your application must demonstrate that costs are reasonable and are based on need, and that ICSF or other COVID-related funding is insufficient to meet these needs. The funds available (\$159,827,361) under the application based stream of ICSF are for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities as well as Indigenous organizations serving Indigenous peoples, including in those living in urban centres and First Nations community members living off reserve.

Additionally, your application should demonstrate how your project activities meet the need to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Funding applications should cover the period till March 31, 2021 and costs should be incremental to the allocations provided directly to First Nations in the first and second rounds of ICSF. Please call us if you are considering a large request to help us understand community need.

● **Do we need to include a Band Council Resolution (BCR) with our Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) application?**

No. A BCR is not required for your ICSF application.

● **Will outstanding reports be taken into consideration in the decision-making process when selecting successful applicants under ICSF?**

Outstanding reports will not be considered in the decision-making process for ICSF applications. We encourage you to submit an application if your community requires support to address immediate and urgent COVID-19 needs.

● **If there are ICSF funds left over after the March 31, 2021 deadline are they returned to ISC? Does this funding affect our 10-year grant if we don't spend all of the funds?**

It's important that your application demonstrate how the funds will be spent to meet the needs you are identifying. If circumstances prevent you from spending the funds as you intended, please let us know as soon as you can so we can work with you to find other eligible expenditures.

Any unspent Indigenous Community Support Funding will not affect your 10-year grant.

● **Are perimeter security costs eligible under ICSF in off-reserve areas?**

No. Perimeter security costs are eligible under ICSF, but are limited to First Nation reserves.

● **Will an applicant receive a reply if their ICSF application is approved prior to December 31, 2020?**

Yes. ISC is reviewing ICSF applications as soon as they are received and you will be notified as soon as your application is approved.

● **We're looking at purchasing used RVS to self-isolate members. Will purchase of RVs be acceptable option under the ICSF eligibility guidelines? What about help purchasing a medical vehicle?**

RVs would be viewed as major capital and would not be eligible under ICSF. We recommend you contact the regional First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) team to see what might be available through their funding for self-isolation infrastructure. Specific information drawn from their FNHA COVID-19 Community Support Guide regarding community self-isolation states:

- Adaptation and addition of community space for self-isolation, quarantine and/or other COVID-19 related purposes. Items for consideration may include the following:
 - » Retrofits of appropriate existing community infrastructure. Quotes may be required depending on the scope of proposed retrofits.
 - » Rental or purchase (if cost-effective), of travel trailer, ATCO trailer, and/or modular trailers (including costs for transport and set-up).
 - » Purchase/rental of supplies required to activate community spaces for self-isolation and surge capacity (e.g. beds, linens, cleaning).
 - » Infection prevention and control items (e.g. soap, sanitizers, disinfectant, masks).

With regard to medical transportation, that again would be viewed as major capital and our partners at the FNHA look to BC Ambulance to provide this service. Further information is also available in the **FNHA COVID-19 Community Support Guide**. The FNHA does consider support for the retrofit of vehicles, like adding plexi-glass barriers to vehicles used to transport peoples for non-urgent medical care and COVID-19 testing. Again we recommend you contact them to see what support might be available.

For plexi-glass retrofits for community buildings, you CAN apply through this process if the minor capital amounts that were just recently provided are unable to meet the full extent of your COVID-19 needs.

UPDATE

Indigenous Community Business Fund (ICBF)

The **Indigenous Community Business Fund (ICBF)** now supports costs associated with the adaptation, planning and reopening of community-owned businesses impacted by the pandemic.

Eligible costs include:

- costs required to comply with provincial health regulations
- retraining
- marketing
- technology
- professional services
- planned maintenance and repairs that the business is unable to carry out because of cash flow problems.
- other reasonable operating costs

Funding for costs outlined above is available to community-owned businesses where financial support will prevent layoffs, bankruptcy or permanent closure. Activities to be funded must demonstrate they are in response to the pandemic, be consistent with public health orders and assist the business to remain viable.

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

All ICBF applications for community-owned businesses in tourism and hospitality sectors will be assessed for approval by our delivery partners, Indigenous Tourism Association of BC together with Aboriginal Financial Institutions. This includes applications for both operational support as well as the adaptation activities noted above.

Applications from businesses in Tourism and Hospitality sectors can be sent to info@IndigenousBC.com. For more information, please contact Gail Joe at (604) 505-7762 or Gail@IndigneousBC.com.

For all other sectors please send your application to the Indigenous Services Canada Economic Development Unit aadnc.bcecddev.aandc@canada.ca.

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER

You can apply for your **Social Insurance Number (SIN)** [online](#).

Agents are available Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Canadian Local Time, except on statutory holidays. Call 1-866-274-6627.

CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT NOW OPEN TO BUSINESSES USING PERSONAL BANKING ACCOUNTS

The **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** is available to businesses that have been operating out of a non-business banking account. To be eligible, businesses must have been operating as a business as of March 1, 2020, must successfully open a business account at a Canadian financial institution that is participating in CEBA, and meet the other existing CEBA eligibility criteria. The deadline to apply for CEBA is December 31, 2020.

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Bill C-9, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy)* received Royal Assent on November 19, which implements new, targeted support to help hard-hit businesses. These measures are intended to help businesses get through the second wave of the virus so they can protect jobs, continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery. The measures adopted as part of Bill C-9 are:

- The new **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy**, which will provide direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage interest support to tenants and property owners until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The new rent subsidy will support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop by providing support up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Claims can be made retroactively to September 27, 2020.
- The new **Lockdown Support**, which will provide an additional 25 per cent through the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy for qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly restrict their activities under a public health order issued under the laws of Canada, a province or territory (including orders made by a municipality or regional health authority under one of those laws). Combined, this will mean that hard-hit businesses subject to a lockdown could receive rent support of up to 90 per cent.
- The extension of the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** until June 2021, which will continue to protect jobs by helping employers keep employees on the payroll and re-hire workers. The wage subsidy will remain at the current rate of up to 65 per cent of eligible wages until December 19, 2020.

- 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.iscbccovid19.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

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**