

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #68 / November 26, 2020

Good afternoon,

Ever noticed how golden the light is during the late autumn? The days are short, the nights are long but the sun, when it shines, is a real treasure. We hope that you and your communities are enjoying the moments of sunshine and staying safe and healthy.

A reminder that the call for proposals deadline for the **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)** is November 30, 2020. For more information, see the box on the right.

This week marks National Addictions Awareness Week. As you'll read later in this Update, the **First Nations Health Authority** advises practicing lateral kindness can help support those who are experiencing addiction; a timely reminder in a year when overdose deaths are far outnumbering those from the pandemic.

As you know, the Province has **extended the provincial state of emergency**, allowing health and emergency management officials to continue to use extraordinary powers under the *Emergency Protection Act (EPA)* to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response. The state of emergency is extended to December 8, 2020.

In addition, the Province is aligning its measures under the EPA with the Provincial Health Officer's guidance that masks must be worn in indoor public places. Masks are now required to be worn by all British Columbians, 12 years and older, in indoor public settings. Furthermore, individuals and businesses in BC, must significantly reduce social interactions and travel. More details about the ministerial order are **available here**.

Lastly, this week, Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry provided some words of hope during one of her daily updates which we'd like to share with you. "As we approach the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year, we should remind each other that it is also the day that we begin to turn back toward the light. By pulling together now we can overcome the challenges before us."

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND (ICSF)

The call for proposals deadline for the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) is November 30, 2020.

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 call for proposals specific to your community, please contact our office at aandc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca

Application and supporting information:

- **Application**
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Indigenous community Support Fund Webinars**



ICSF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Here is a selection of the frequently asked questions about the ICSF that we've been receiving:

● **Is the purchase of plexi-glass an eligible cost under First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) or the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)?**

Yes it is. For plexi-glass retrofits for community buildings located on-reserve, First Nations can apply through the ICSF process if the minor capital amounts that were recently provided are unable to meet the full extent of your COVID-19 needs.

If your First Nation requires plexi-glass to address a health-related need, contact the FNHA to discuss. Further information is also available in FNHA's [COVID-19 Community Support Guide](#).

Depending on the use, plexi-glass is an eligible cost under both FNHA and ICSF.

Organizations located off-reserve can apply for plexi-glass and similar minor improvements for COVID-19 safety under the urban funding stream of the ICSF. Applications should demonstrate need and account for any other funding that may have been provided for this purpose.

● **If our community provides a food distribution service to members, including traditional foods, can we use ICSF to help cover the wages for individuals to do the distribution?**

Incremental wage costs may be eligible under the ICSF. For example, if a First Nation has had to hire additional staff to respond to the needs of COVID-19, that additional cost may be eligible. Your application should demonstrate how the proposed activities respond to an urgent or immediate COVID-19 need that has not already been addressed in the community. Additionally, your application should address how the proposed activities address a gap as opposed to duplicating any existing programs or services.

● **Our community is proposing to purchase food and set-up a grocery store in efforts to ensure food security for members. Is this activity eligible under ICSF?**

The purchase of food and other minor capital, such as a freezer or fridge to support the set-up of a community grocery store may be eligible if the intent is to support food security. Please note that the ICSF is not intended to subsidize for-profit enterprises, and a variety of other programs and supports have been made available for businesses (e.g., Indigenous Community Business Fund, for example). In situations where food will be resold at a grocery store for profit, only incremental costs resulting from COVID-19 would be eligible (e.g. the extra costs associated with shipping food so that goods continue to be accessible and affordable).

Your application should demonstrate how these proposed activities address an immediate need and help to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in your community. You may, for example, want to include information about how food will be safely distributed to members. Proposed activities should complement existing services, not duplicate them.

● **If we have already prepared our Budget Summary in a separate Excel document, is that acceptable for the application submission or do we have to complete this section in the application form?**

It is acceptable to submit a separate budget document as an attachment to the application. Ensure that all of the required budget information is included in your document and that you enter the total requested amount in the application form.

● **I applied for funding on the first round of ICSF urban and off reserve call for proposals and none of my applications were supported. Is there support available for this new proposal call to help me better prepare applications?**

We would be happy to discuss your proposals with you, please contact the ISC BC Regional office at aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

UPDATES

Rapid Housing Initiative

The COVID-19 crisis has underscored the need for safe, secure housing for all Canadians in order to shelter at home.



As you may be aware, the Government of Canada, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has launched a new Rapid Housing Initiative on October 27, 2020, that will invest \$1 billion to create up to 3,000 new permanent, affordable housing units across the country.

The Rapid Housing Initiative aims to quickly develop new modular multi-unit rentals, convert non-residential buildings into affordable multi-residential homes, and rehabilitate buildings that are abandoned or in disrepair into affordable multi-residential homes. Costs to purchase land and buildings will also be eligible under the new initiative.

The Rapid Housing Initiative necessitates a quick process to support households' efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, recognizing that expected timelines and minimal project requirements may be challenging to meet in Northern, remote and Indigenous communities, additional flexibility may be provided to Indigenous recipients to account for their unique local context.

The initiative will deliver funding under two streams, each containing \$500 million in available funds. **Stream two** is open to Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, and non-profit organizations. Interested parties will need to submit a proposal through the Canada and Mortgage and Housing Corporation's application portal. Applications are being accepted until December 31, 2020 and selected applicants will have 12 months to complete their project from the date of their contribution agreement.

To find out more about the Rapid Housing Initiative, which includes specific application guidelines, please visit: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/nhs/rapid-housing-initiative.



COVID-19 SCAMS: PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

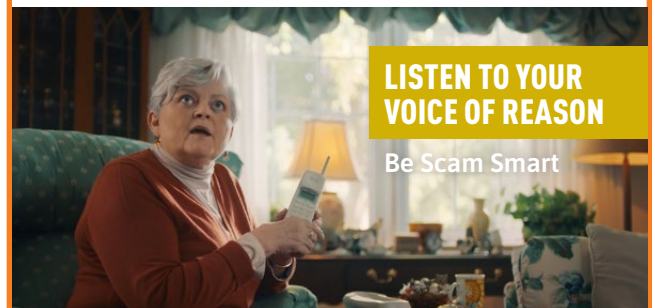
Indigenous Services Canada has become aware of a number of scams that are targeting Canadians.

Scammers are contacting individuals to inform them they have tested positive for COVID-19. Upon notification, the caller requests personal information from the would-be victim, including their social insurance number. Callers may also try to use high-pressure tactics in the hope of convincing individuals to sending them money. **Please note, health officials do not request any type of financial information.**

Please be aware of these scams, and, if targeted, please share this information with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report the caller through the **Fraud Reporting System**.

For further information:

- **WHO Myth Busters**
- **COVIDCanada Misinformation News Dashboard**
- **Polygraph.info**
- **FactCheck.org**
- **Politifact Coronavirus Fact Check**
- **Poynter.org Coronavirus Facts and Misinformation**
- **Google Coronavirus Fact Check Explorer**



Canada Revenue Agency opens applications for the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) opened the **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)** on November 23, 2020 to applications from qualifying organizations. These organizations can now apply directly for the subsidy for the period from September 27 to October 24, 2020 through the CRA My Business Account, or Represent a Client portals. Applications for the second CERS period (October 25 to November 21, 2020) will open on November 30.

Qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly limit their activities under a public health order may be eligible for additional **Lockdown Support** of 25 per cent of eligible expenses.

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.

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER

If your members are looking to apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) they can **do so online** or by calling 1-866-274-6627.

Agents are available Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Canadian Local Time, except on statutory holidays.

PARTNER INFORMATION

National Addictions Awareness Week 2020

This week marks National Addictions Awareness Week, and this year's theme, "Change begins with me," focuses on how we can support those who are experiencing addiction. Overdose deaths are killing people at a higher rate than the COVID-19 virus – and the pandemic is making this public health crisis even worse. The **First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)** is responding with ways to get informed, get help, and support others – with facts, with services, and with compassion.

The FNHA urges us to remember the importance of practicing lateral kindness as a way to support others, and meeting people where they're at. It notes that "within the context of substance use, this includes being mindful of the way we think, speak and act towards people who use substances. We know that shaming, blaming, and stigmatizing people not only doesn't help, it harms. In other words, being kind can actually save lives!"

Their website also provides this **resource on destigmatizing language** from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction.

Culturally safe help is available for crisis-response services through KUU-US at 1-800-588-8717.

You can access culturally safe care through the **FNHA's Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service**, which provides BC First Nations people and their family members (even if non-Indigenous) with access to specialists in addictions medicine and psychiatry.

To learn more about harm-reduction services and information, visit www.fnha.ca/harmreduction.

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.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

