



This document highlights resources First Nations communities and entrepreneurs can access to help provide food to their members living both on and off reserve.

## Food Banks and Related Supports

- Some [Friendship Centres](#) operate food banks, meal distribution services and grocery pick-up and delivery services
- [BC211](#) is a great resource to find free meals, food delivery and other resources across BC
- Additional funds to respond to the increased demand for food have been given to Canadian food banks and supports such as [Food Banks Canada](#), [Breakfast Club of Canada](#), [Second Harvest](#), [Community Food Centres Canada](#) and [Salvation Army](#).

## Jordan's Principle

If there are unmet needs of First Nations children related to COVID-19, families can apply to Jordan's Principle to seek additional funds. If a number of families within a community are facing a similar situation, communities can submit a group request.

These requests will be considered on their own merit and will not follow a standard, formula-based or universal funding approach. Due to COVID-19, it will be taken into account that professionals may not be available to provide supporting documents.

Contact the BC region by email at [sac.principedejordancb-bcjordansprinciple.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.principedejordancb-bcjordansprinciple.isc@canada.ca) or the Jordan's Principle Call Centre at 1-855-572-4453.

submit a request

more info

## Toolkits and Information for Communities

- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) – [Planning for Food Security, A Toolkit for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (including an appendix on grant funding available for short- and long-term food security)
- FNHA – [Sharing the Harvest during the Pandemic](#), Safety Precautions for Distributing Traditional Food
- Cando – [Building Self-Reliant Communities](#), including a list of simple solutions and technologies to address food security concerns
- Pan American Health Organization – 5 steps for building a [communications plan for implementation for a severe pandemic](#)
- Indigenous Services Canada's [On-line Resources for Indigenous Communities – Food and COVID-19](#)

## First Nations Knowledge Sharing

*"To keep our members home, we are providing food distribution weekly to reduce the times that members travel to town for essential services."*

– Jeneen Hunt, Executive Director, Ditidaht First Nation



[Learn more and view recordings](#) from First Nation to First Nation webinars on topics including food security.

Many of these resources were recommended by BC First Nations. Share what you are doing in your community with the [First Nations Administrators Network](#) on Facebook.

! If you have any concerns about not having enough food for children, Elders and/or anyone in your community, please email [aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca).

! If you have any non-health COVID-19-related questions or requests, please email: [aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca)

## BC Centre for Disease Control

- [Information about community gardens](#) (community users and coordinators)
- [Information about food safety](#) (for the public) while at a grocery store and at a restaurant
- [Information about food banks and food distribution](#) through charities offering meals and food hampers
- [Information for food businesses](#), including grocery stores, restaurants and other food premises
- [Information for farmers' markets](#)

### Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative

**WHAT:** Maximum of \$500,000 per project, per year or a maximum of \$2.5 million over 5 years through a cost-sharing arrangement between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the recipient that is ready to launch agriculture and food systems projects and/or complete community readiness and pre-development support activities.

**WHO:** Indigenous communities and governments (includes band and tribal councils, governments of self-governing First Nations), Indigenous for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, associations, cooperatives and institutions and Indigenous businesses, partnerships and joint ventures.

**WHEN:** Applications are open until September 30, 2022 or until the funding is gone.

**HOW:** Contact AAFC by telephone at 1-866-367-8506 or by email at [iafsi-isaaa@canada.ca](mailto:iafsi-isaaa@canada.ca) for eligibility and application details.

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more info

### Additional Financial Supports

- COVID-19-related emergency expenditures may be funded through the [Emergency Management Assistance Program \(EMAP\)](#) which has been temporarily adapted to respond to COVID-related emergencies.
- There are several financial resources and benefits that can help individual community members meet their food needs (available to status / non-status and on / off reserve). Learn more from the FNPSS COVID-19 At-a-Glance [Resources for All BC First Nation Individuals](#).
- Various environmental and health centric organizations offer grants and information related to health, food security, community gardening, responsible or traditional use of resources and other community food support activities.
  - » [MakeWay – the Pacific](#)
  - » [Island Health](#)

### Increased Public Health Support

**WHAT:** Financial support for activities on the land to support physical isolation and food security, and for people self-isolating on the advice of a medical professional to help ensure continued self-isolation.

**WHO:** First Nations communities and organizations that deliver community-based services in response to COVID-19 public health needs.

**HOW:** The community submits a request to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). Call 1-800-317-7878 for more information.

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more info

### Fishing and Hunting COVID-19 Updates

- Check the [Province of BC website](#) for updates before going fishing or hunting.
- [Information for workers in the fisheries industry related to COVID-19](#) is available through Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

### Employment Insurance Fishing Benefits

**WHO:** Self-employed fish harvesters who rely on EI fishing benefits in the off-season may benefit from temporary EI fishing benefits.

**WHEN:** Available as of September 27, 2020 (in effect for 1 year).

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more info / apply

**!** Some COVID-19 related supports are no longer available, including the Indigenous Community Support Fund, the Surplus Food Rescue Program, the B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program and the Fish Harvester Benefit and Fish Harvester Grant.

### Please Note

This is not a comprehensive list of programs, benefits or resources for First Nations in BC, and the information provided is subject to change.

Please refer to the [Federal](#) and [Provincial](#) websites for the most up-to-date information.

If you have feedback on this document, please contact [info@fnps.ca](mailto:info@fnps.ca).