

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #51 / June 11, 2020

Good Afternoon,

We hope this update finds you and your communities well. Yesterday, BC formally extended the provincial state of emergency to June 23rd as part of its COVID-19 response. The move reminds us that even as we start to see some aspects of normal life return, we need to move slowly and carefully forward to protect those who need it most and reduce the chance of a second wave. It will continue to be a team effort.

If you missed it, the #ProtectOurElders campaign features a series of videos from Indigenous role models living in Canada sharing the importance of physical distancing and hygiene to protect Elders. The campaign is also asking Indigenous youth to participate by posting a video showing what actions they are taking. To follow the campaign visit protectourelders.ca.

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.



UPDATES

Additional support for Indigenous businesses and the Indigenous tourism industry

Today, Minister Marc Miller announced **additional funding for Indigenous business and tourism as part of Canada's COVID-19 relief measures for Indigenous communities**.

New funding totaling \$133 million will go towards two initiatives to help Indigenous businesses weather the pandemic and recover. Of these additional funds, \$117 million will reach more community-owned First Nation, Inuit and Métis businesses including microbusinesses, who are not eligible for existing business support measures. Indigenous communities rely on these businesses to provide revenue for important services, and to create meaningful jobs.

In addition, a new stimulus development fund will provide \$16 million to support the Indigenous tourism industry. The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada

will administer the fund to businesses across the country that have lost revenue due to COVID-19.

Government of Canada launches second call for proposals under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has **launched a second call for proposals under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund**. The Fund aims to strengthen food support organizations and to help improve access to safe and nutritious food for Canadians at risk. The second call for proposals will support small and large community-led projects at facilities such as urban gardens, community kitchens, food banks, and greenhouses. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been allocated. Projects valued at up to \$250,000 will be accepted. This second call for proposals could also support a cluster of organizations who are ready to enhance their regional food systems.

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Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organizations that have been in operation for at least two years as a legal entity capable of entering into a legally-binding agreement. Furthermore, applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to maintain the proposed operations beyond the funding period.

Eligible applicants consist of:

- community or charitable organizations
- Indigenous groups
- not-for-profit co-operatives

Eligible projects should be mostly infrastructure specific, community-driven and dedicated to improving access to safe and healthy foods for Canadians at risk of food insecurity.

Hand Sanitizer Safety Warnings

Health Canada has **recalled several hand sanitizers because they contain industrial-grade ethanol**. Frequent use of these products may result in dry skin, causing irritation or cracking. Industrial-grade ethanol contains impurities not found in the type of ethanol approved for use in manufacturing hand sanitizers. In addition, chemicals that may not be approved for use in hand sanitizers are added to industrial-grade ethanol. Report any health product **adverse reactions** or **complaints** to Health Canada.

Health Canada has also issued an **advisory about the risk of poisoning from hand sanitizers sold in beverage**

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**.

**Outreach
Program**



TIPS FOR SAFELY USING HAND SANITIZER



- Always follow the label directions on hand sanitizers.
- Store these products away from beverages and keep them out of the reach of children.
- Always supervise children when they use hand sanitizer.
- If hand sanitizer is swallowed, call a **poison control centre** or get medical help right away.
- Report any health product **adverse events** or **complaints** to Health Canada.

containers. Many companies have increased their production in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but are finding that appropriate packaging is limited. Some manufacturers are using water, wine and liquor bottles instead. The products' labels and branding may also be similar to the labels and branding of known alcoholic beverages or bottled water, so consumers could confuse hand sanitizer for water or other beverages. Ingesting hand sanitizer can cause serious harm, particularly in children, because of the high alcohol content.

Additionally, the BC Centre for Disease Control recently posted updated COVID-19 information related to **children using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and visiting playgrounds**. If you are using hand sanitizer, read labels carefully as some products are for adult use only and cannot be used by children, pregnant or breastfeeding women. Hand sanitizer is not recommended for use on infants.

Children under two years of age should not wear masks. For young children over the age of two, masks are generally not recommended as they can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.

Playgrounds are important spaces for getting exercise and having fun. Although going to a playground is low risk for exposure to COVID-19, there are things kids can do to make sure they stay safe: wash hands before and after playing; don't share toys; avoid crowded playgrounds and minimize physical contact.



Campaign To Help Businesses Reopen Safely Amid COVID-19

The Government of Canada **has partnered** with the **People Outside Safely Together (POST) Promise program**, an initiative launched by Canadian private sector organizations to help businesses across the country reopen safely.

The “POST Promise” is a voluntary commitment that business owners and managers can make by following five key public health actions that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Maintaining physical distance
2. Washing and sanitizing hands
3. Cleaning and disinfecting regularly
4. Staying home if unwell and self-monitoring for symptoms
5. Practising respiratory etiquette (including wearing a mask when physical distancing is difficult)

By displaying the “POST Promise” logo, participating businesses can reassure customers that they are doing their part to help protect Canadians’ health and safety.

PARTNER INFORMATION

Resources for Service Resumption

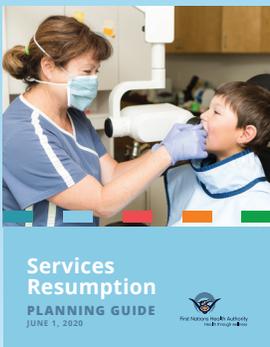
During the gradual re-opening of some sectors and services, we’d like to acknowledge and highlight the work of our partners at the Province of BC, the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Leadership Council who have published excellent resources to support this period of transition. Resources have been designed specifically for **leadership, youth, businesses, students, First Nations schools, and individuals** who have been impacted by this event.

Key places to find these resources include:

- **FNLC Resources Lists**
- **Information for health directors and community leaders**
- **Process for a Confirmed Case in a FN community**
- Provincial Restart Resources, including information about Indigenous supports, can also be found here: **Restart BC Plan**

UPDATE US?

Has your First Nation recently re-opened its Administration Office, and closed its Emergency Response Centre? If so, please contact your Funding Services Officer so we’re in step with you as you get back to non COVID-19-related business.



SERVICE RESUMPTION PLANNING GUIDE

The First Nations Health Authority has created a **service resumption planning guide** to help your community planning for the next phase of COVID-19 response. This means providing support to help their community members live safely with the ongoing presence of COVID-19 until an effective vaccine and/or treatment are found.

The guide is built on the **7 Directives** and **Shared Values** and the recommendations of the British Columbia (BC) Public Health Office (PHO), the BC Ministry of Health (MOH), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), WorkSafeBC and the Regional Health Authorities (RHA).

The BC First Nation Business Development Association

The BC First Nation Business Development Association announced the inception and development of the **First Nation Business Development Association (FN BDA)**. The FN BDA is comprised of BC First Nation owned Development Corporations. The initial members of the Association represent nearly 50 BC First Nations and are a diverse group of successful First Nations owned entities from throughout the Province of BC.

Province takes action to support return to sport

British Columbians will be able to get back to playing sports sooner with the Government of BC's **action to protect amateur sport organizations from COVID-19 liabilities**. The Province has issued a ministerial order to protect amateur sport organizations, their employees and volunteers from liability if a participant in their sports program is exposed to COVID-19 as a result of participation. That liability protection would be in place as long as they follow applicable guidance, such as **viaSport's Return to Sport** protocols and public-health guidance on how to prevent the spread of the virus. This guidance includes encouraging proper handwashing, regular disinfecting, limiting shared equipment, physical distancing measures and the use of wellness questionnaires and health self-assessment tools.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

How can Band Administration and members protect themselves from the many scams that seem to be around?

BE AWARE OF INCREASED SCAMS AND FRAUD THREAT LEVELS

The **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre**, and the **Canadian Centre for Cyber Security** are warning all Canadians of an increase in the number of scams and fraud attempts (many through deceptive emails that appear to be from known and legitimate senders) and are alerting

of an elevated risk to the cyber security of Canadian organizations and individuals.

As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, fraudsters will try to profit from the confusion and uncertainty created. This increased threat level suggests that all of us need to raise our level of vigilance.

TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT FRAUD

- Inform employees of the increased threat level and the types of situations where scam or fraud attempts may be suspected. For example, be suspicious and confirm any email communications that ask for (or require action in respect to) personal or business information, financial or banking information – **regardless of the source of the email**.

PUT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES IN PLACE

- Develop a clear and straightforward protocol for how suspected scam or fraud attempts are to be scrutinized to determine if they are legitimate or not. For instance, if a request seems suspicious, employees can be instructed to first do an online search to independently verify its authenticity, or, even better, call the presumed sender to **validate verbally** when key financial information or a financial transaction is involved. A second person can review the results before further action is taken.

STRENGTHEN CONTROLS

- Review and strengthen the approval processes in place. Ensure that a second layer of approval is put in place for situations where risk and materiality are relatively high.

ACT PROMPTLY IF AN INCIDENT OF FRAUD OCCURS

- It's recommended that Indigenous Communities and partners potentially affected contact the appropriate policing authority and any other partners or suppliers that could be impacted by the situation (e.g., financial institutions, Departments, Tribal Council, business partners, etc.)
- A report to the Assessment and Investigation Services Branch of CIRNAC and ISC can be made at aadnc.cnap-nacc.aandc@canada.ca or by phone at 1-855-504-6760.
- A **report to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Center** could also be made.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We believe we are better when we share our knowledge. We are pleased to share resources and updates being offered by communities:

- **Binche Whut'en First Nation** shared a memo from Chief and Council that talks about the gradual return of staff back to their office.
- **Squamish Nation** shared information on their high school and post-secondary students summer work experience program.
- **Lheidli T'enneh** shared that messages from their Chief and Elders were recorded last week and will be shown at virtual grad ceremonies in the area.
- **Tseshah First Nation** shared that their playgrounds are reopening today. They also shared a statement from the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council regarding access to the Hahuuti (territory) during the pandemic.
- **Takla Nation** shared a Facebook live update on their checkpoint and ongoing health recommendations.

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

