

COVID-19 Message from ISC - BC Region March 14, 2020 - Update#1

Good afternoon,

I hope this e-mail finds you and your community well in this stressful time.

We understand this is a rapidly evolving situation and want to ensure you're aware that ISC is and will continue working with First Nations, the First Nations Health Authority, and the provincial government to take every precaution and prepare for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

On Monday, staff from Indigenous Services Canada, BC Region, will begin phoning all First Nations in BC to determine immediate concerns, in relation to critical infrastructure (services and/or supplies), or other service-related needs, and work with them accordingly.

Additionally, effective immediately, Indigenous Services Canada, BC Region, is directing its staff to cancel **all non-essential travel** to First Nations and to conduct meetings virtually. We are hoping that by reducing all non-essential travel, we can be proactive in our efforts to limit potential transmission.

However, for any essential travel, such as that related to the operation or maintenance of critical infrastructure, please contact Paula Santos, paula.santos@canada.ca, Director Community Infrastructure at [604.790.8451](tel:604.790.8451) to discuss your specific situation so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Should you have any COVID-19 health-related questions, please contact the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) at: CDmgmt@fnha.ca

Please contact me at (604) 803-9476 or by e-mail at bill.guerin@canada.ca, if you have any immediate concerns. Early next week we will provide a central contact point for you and your teams to ensure all requests are tracked and responded to promptly.

Thank you,

Bill Guerin
Associate Regional Director General
Indigenous Services Canada – British Columbia Region