

## COVID-19 Message from ISC - BC Region April 1, 2020 - Update#13

Good afternoon,

As many of you know, over the last few weeks, we have been sending out daily updates at the leadership level, providing information on programs and services available to First Nations during the ever-evolving COVID-19 situation.

On Friday, **April 3, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.(PST)**, we hope you are able to participate in ISC BC Region's inaugural Town Hall Webinar, hosted and moderated by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat. We see this Town Hall an opportunity to hear from community leadership and understand in particular, the top-of-mind issues we can focus our efforts on. To that end, we are seeking your interest to join us on our panel, as we address community leadership and answer any questions that may be directed at our respective organizations. An invite to the Webinar will follow shortly.

### **Updates**

In this update we want to address the top questions we've been frequently receiving the last couple days with respect to the Indigenous Community Support Fund allocations.

As you are aware, the \$305 million distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund consists of: \$215 million for on-reserve First Nations and self-governing communities; \$45 million for Inuit region; \$30 million for Métis Councils; and \$15 million for regional, urban, and off-reserve Indigenous organizations. The allocation of these funds were done in collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis Federation of Canada.

The bulk of the funding will flow to Indigenous communities, with maximum flexibility so they can adapt their response to local needs. The remainder will be set aside for regional, urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations to access by submitting requests to the Department.

First Nations in British Columbia have now received notice of their allocations and, understandably, you have questions.

### **Q. How was the allocation for my community determined?**

As shared Monday, the formula for determining each First Nation's allocation is calculated as a base amount in addition to other factors like population, remoteness and community well-being. We can tell you that the amount provided to each community takes into account a base amount of \$50,000 per community, the total population residing in community (based on 2016 Census population), and was adjusted for remoteness and Community Well-Being Index scores.

**Q. Does the funding calculation include total registered populations or on-reserve members only?**

Reliance on the 2016 Census means that the allocation is calculated with the total number of people living on reserve (called a “census subdivision” in the census data) whether they are members or not. The rationale is all people living in community are vulnerable due to COVID-19.

There will be more information provided in the coming days.

**Partner Info**

As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues parents are looking for resources for their children.

[The First Nations Education Steering Committee](#) is sharing the latest information from FNEESC, the First Nations Schools Association, and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association about impacts to their events or operations due to COVID-19, as well as links to external resources they hope will be helpful and informative for First Nations schools, First Nations communities, and partners.

While teachers and schools will have primary responsibility for continuous learning, government also launched Keep Learning BC on March 27, 2020: [www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning](http://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning)

This is a central place where families can find ideas for everyday educational activities, links to free learning resources, as well as how to help children learn and how to ensure their well-being while they are at home. The websites will be updated on a regular basis with new materials. As of March 31, 2020, more than 136,000 visitors have accessed the Keep Learning BC website – an average of 33,786 a day.

**National Information**

**Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html>

**Employment Insurance and Canada Emergency Response Benefit**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

[Public Health Agency of Canada: Infographics](#)

[The COVID-19 First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports](#)

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: [hopeforwellness.ca](http://hopeforwellness.ca)

## Regional Contacts

We've set up a dedicated email address if you have any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests, please email: [aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca) The email address and other information are also available on the FNPSS website.

Catherine Lappe  
Regional Director General

**604-340-7703**

Indigenous Services Canada – British Columbia Region

Bill Guerin  
Associate Regional Director General

**604-803-9476**