

## COVID-19 Message from ISC - BC Region April 2, 2020 - Update#14

Good afternoon,

### Updates

Amidst all of the work in support of the COVID-19 situation, ISC BC Region also recently completed our fiscal year end process. As many of you know, year-end is a challenging time under regular conditions and this year presented some unique circumstances.

In this update we wanted to discuss one of the issues that came up as we reviewed our year and planned for next year: the ongoing operations of the Circuit Rider Training Program.

The safety of your water systems is a top concern for the Government of Canada. We want to assure you that the Circuit Riders are still available to provide advice and guidance to your water operators.

Circuit Riders are on stand-by 24/7 for on-call telephone emergency services and are available to provide on-site support to address operational emergencies related to drinking water or wastewater operations. First Nations can also access their Senior Engineer or Capital Management Officer for assistance related to any critical infrastructure required to support the health and safety of community members.

Questions regarding the continued services provided by the Circuit Rider team should be directed to [aadnc.bccicrtp.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.bccicrtp.aandc@canada.ca)

We appreciate the many questions you've shared with us in the past weeks, and, have worked to provide answers as quickly as possible. As we move forward, we want to hear directly from you about the questions and concerns that are still top of mind for you and your communities.

We hope that you will join us tomorrow (April 3, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.(PST) to participate in ISC BC Region's inaugural Town Hall Webinar, hosted and moderated by the First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS).

To register for the webinar, please visit:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jvsaGZRySve1GDMIDCF79g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jvsaGZRySve1GDMIDCF79g). Once you have pre-registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the webinar. Questions may also be submitted in advance directly to the [First Nations Administrators Network](#) Facebook page.

## Question of the Day

### **Q. What is Indigenous Services Canada doing to support food security in communities?**

A. We recognize that food security is a concern for many communities in British Columbia. Accessing food is a concern for everyone, but is intensified for those in remote areas or those who cannot afford bulk purchases.

Indigenous Services Canada has created a small Food Security Team to help outline the underlying issues and support communities in finding solutions to meet the needs of community members, particularly for those who are the most remote and vulnerable.

The Food Security Team is working proactively with partners including the Province of BC's Supply Chain working group, to respond to issues of availability of foods and critical supplies to identify ways in which communities can access bulk ordering of food and delivery where there is a shortage and distribution challenge. As we gather more information on this, we will promptly share it.

For example, we are looking to develop a food security framework and costing methodology to help identify where the system may be vulnerable and the types of supports that will be needed to address food security risks. We will work with other federal departments and Not for Profit organizations to identify initiatives that can support Indigenous communities on-reserve and in urban communities. This may include working with programs such as such as the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) food bank investments.

For food security questions or concerns, please e-mail [aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca), where your inquiry will be routed to a food security surge team member for response within 24 hours.

## 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](https://hopeforwellness.ca)

### Useful Links

#### First Nations Public Service Secretariat

<https://fnps.ca/covid-19>

#### First Nations Health Authority

[Summary Page of COVID-19 information and response](#)

#### 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.](#)

#### Public Health Agency of Canada

[Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in Canada: includes map and other data](#)

### Regional Contacts

We've set up a dedicated e-mail address if you have any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests, please e-mail: [aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca) . The e-mail address and other information are also available on the FNPSS website.

Thank you,

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**604-803-9476**

Indigenous Services Canada – British Columbia Region