

COVID-19 Message from ISC - BC Region April 6, 2020 - Update#16

Good afternoon,

This weekend saw some important new information released regarding COVID-19 supports including:

- [The release of the Indigenous Community Support Fund website.](#)
- [Support for those experiencing homelessness and fleeing gender-based violence.](#)

The Prime Minister also announced important information about how to access the Canada Emergency Revenue Benefit (CERB). To help manage this, the Government of Canada has set up specific days to apply through the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Please see the [following guidelines](#):

If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your best day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 7
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	April 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	

To deliver payments to Canadians in a fast and easy way, the CERB is being jointly delivered by Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency. To begin the application process, there are a few simple questions to answer. The answers you provide will help direct you to the service option that best fits your situation. Please read these [questions and answers](#) for more details.

Updates

In today's update we wanted to draw your attention to the Indigenous Community Support Fund call for proposals for Regional and urban Indigenous organizations.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. The \$305 million Indigenous Community Support Fund was created to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities related to COVID-19.

As you are aware, \$215 million of the \$305 million fund will be directed to First Nation and self-governing communities (see Update #11) . Of the funding available, \$15 million is dedicated to regional, urban and local Indigenous organizations that provide critical services to Indigenous Peoples. This call for proposals allows Indigenous organizations providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres or off reserve to access funding from the Indigenous Community Support Fund to prepare for and react to the spread of COVID-19.

These funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to:

- support for Elders and vulnerable community members,
- measures to address food insecurity,
- educational and other support for children,
- and emergency response services,
- preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Who can apply under the new call for proposals:

- national, regional and local Indigenous service delivery organizations supporting Indigenous peoples living in urban centres
- national, regional and off-reserve Indigenous organizations supporting their members living away from their communities (for example, Indigenous representative organizations and Tribal Councils)
- other Indigenous organizations or communities providing services to Indigenous peoples living off reserve or in urban centres that are not eligible for funding under the distinctions-based streams of the Indigenous Community Support Fund (for example, non-status groups and independent communities)

The deadline to submit an application is April 13, 2020 at 9:00 p.m. Pacific Time (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time).

Please visit the [call for proposals](#) for full details on how to apply and the selection criteria used for this call. If you have questions regarding this program please email aadnc.icsfru-fscaru.aandc@canada.ca. Indigenous Services Canada staff are available to assist you with the submission of your proposal.

In addition, many First Nations in BC are concerned about the economic impacts that have – and will continue to – impact communities. We are doing our best to address those concerns and respond to questions as they arise.

Question of the Day

Q: We depend on the tax/rent we receive from businesses on lease land, who are going to be affected. The band depends on this revenue stream to run the band and pay off loans. They are in the midst of having to lay off some of their staff. Will banks allow for delayed loan repayments?

A: [On March 17, 2020](#), Bank of Montreal, CIBC, National Bank of Canada, RBC Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Bank committed to work with personal and small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges such as pay disruption due to COVID-19; childcare disruption due to school closures; or those facing illness from COVID-19. The supports announced by Canada's six largest banks include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products. Other financial institutions have made similar commitments. Individual Canadians or business owners facing hardship are encouraged to contact their bank directly to discuss options that could be available to them.

For more information, please contact your financial institution directly.

Partners

Premier's task force to support B.C. economy during, after COVID-19

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0046-000618National Information](https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0046-000618National%20Information)

National Information

Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585928331845/1585928356443>

Canada announces support to those experiencing homelessness and women fleeing gender-based violence during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/canada-announces-support-to-those-experiencing-homelessness-and-women-fleeing-gender-based-violence-during-the-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-pandemic.html>

Trudeau announces \$100M to help address urgent food needs to those in need, including Indigenous communities. #cdnpoli #covid19

<https://twitter.com/CBCOlivia/status/1246095185748135938>

Prime Minister announces support for food banks and local food organizations

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/03/prime-minister-announces-support-food-banks-and-local-food>

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

Useful Links

Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585928331845/1585928356443>

Family Violence Prevention Program

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100035253/1533304683142>

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 email address if you have any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests, please email: aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca The email address and other information are also available on the FNPSS website.

Thank you,

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