

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

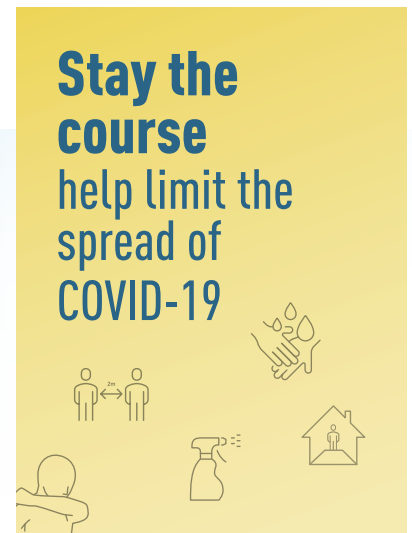
UPDATE #23 / April 17, 2020

Good Afternoon,

It's been over a month since ISC BC Region started sending these updates out each work day. Our ongoing communication is part of Canada's commitment to be a trusted partner in your efforts to mitigate the impact on your communities. As we look ahead to the weeks ahead, let us know what's working and what you need more – or less of. You'll find expanded contact information at the end of this update. In the meantime, be well, stay safe and follow public health messages.

The measures you're taking in community will make the difference in protecting your members, in particular your Elders and knowledge keepers. It's a challenge of leadership for the whole community. There are numerous resources available on line – from posters, fact sheets to videos – on how to **Help reduce the spread of COVID-19** and **physical distancing: Actions for reducing the spread of COVID-19**.

Additionally, the Nisga'a Lisims Government is holding a **video contest to promote COVID-19 precautionary measures**. The theme is "Don't bring the COVID virus home" and we think that is an excellent motto for all of us.



UPDATES

Many of you have told us about your concern for your First Nation-run businesses and ventures.

Be assured that Indigenous Services Canada is working with the other federal departments and the Province to review options to support Indigenous businesses, including tourism businesses, to ensure that they are also getting crucial support at this time.

It's important to note First Nations have access to measures provided through the Government of Canada's **COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**, including support to workers and businesses.

Yesterday, the Government of Canada expanded its previously announced loan program, which offers businesses up to \$40,000 in a government-backed loan, will now be available to businesses with payrolls worth between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million. Previously, the interest-free loan was for those with payrolls worth

between \$50,000 and one million. Up to \$10,000 of the loan is non-repayable. To date, 195,000 loans amounting to about \$7.5 billion have been approved since the loan program opened for applications a week ago.

The Government of Canada also intends to introduce the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses**.

The Province of British Columbia has also announced new measures today to provide **new tools to ease the burden to business impacted by COVID-19** while looking to the recovery ahead.

Additionally, there is a document on the **FNPS site** as that details the many ways First Nations can **access financial benefits and supports during the COVID-19 outbreak**.

Tips for Working Remotely

Are you looking for tips on how to transition your businesses to remote work? BC-based Animikii has some advice including **16 tools to ease the transition to remote work for Indigenous organizations**. In addition to recommending different web-based solutions for your team to work, they also offer advice on what to do if you don't always have access to the internet.

Animikii is 100 per cent Indigenous-owned and a Certified Aboriginal Business (by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business).

Tenant and Landlord Assistance

Further to yesterday's bulletin with more information on the \$500 supplement available through the

BC Temporary Rental Supplementary Program, ISC has learned BC Housing will be sending out more details to all First Nations directly to explain the eligibility for members on-reserve. This includes:

- Loss of job due to COVID-19;
- Reduced Income by 25%;
- Rental Agreement in place.

It is a temporary measure for three months. Income Assistance recipients and/or Persons with Disabilities designation are not eligible.

The tenant must fill out the application. BC Housing will work with and pay directly to the landlord. A dedicated email address will be provided specifically for First Nations to contact.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

What support is available for First Nations communities and members preparing for spring flooding?

With warmer weather and melting snow packs there is a risk of localized flooding in some areas. Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is the first point of contact for all emergencies including flooding. Should your community be threatened please contact EMBC's 24/7 emergency line at: at 1-800-663-3456. EMBC Regional Offices are also conducting virtual seasonal readiness meetings. **Contact your regional office** for more information.

The following steps should be implemented now as preventative measures:

- Clear all ditches; culverts in particular major stream and creek crossings need to be clear of debris
- Draw down natural reservoirs for irrigation purposes, in preparation to receive melt water from the upstream watershed
- Check conditions of flood protection works including dikes and erosion control structures
- Begin a monitoring process and review any emergency response plans

- Listen to the various provincial reports and be aware of the potential for flooding in your area.
- Review your evacuation processes and develop plans for how to isolate people that have been evacuated; local commercial accommodations should be open and would be good to discuss / rehearse a process with a local venue
- Discuss how typical flood procedures / practices would be carried out in the context of maintaining a two meter separation between individuals.

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc has also compiled information and resources on personal flood preparedness on **their Facebook page** including the need to prepare a grab-and-go-bag in case you have to evacuate. We appreciate that some communities have already experienced localized flooding, a significant challenge to manage above pandemic planning. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are concerned about potential flooding.

For information about the availability of personal protective equipment and more information about how to practice safe social distancing during times of emergency please contact the First Nations Health Authority at **COVID19@fnha.ca** or see **their website**.

NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **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](#).
- For a great description of what flattening the curve means, consider watching [Prime Minister Trudeau's video tweet](#)
- **Public Health Agency of Canada**
- **Resources for Canadian Businesses**
- **Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada**

USEFUL LINKS

- **Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities**
- **Family Violence Prevention Program**
- **First Nations Public Service Secretariat**
- **First Nations Health Authority**
Summary 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.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests: aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca

The email address and other information are also available on the [FNPS website](#).

Executive Leadership Team

Should you or your team need to reach out regarding specific programs or services within their respective areas:

- **Regional Director General**
Catherine Lappe / 604-340-7703
- **Associate Regional Director General**
Bill Guerin / 604-803-9476
- **Community Infrastructure**
Paula Santos, Director / 604-790-8451
- **Programs and Partnerships**
Wendy Rogers, Director / 604-363-8117
- **Lands and Economic Development**
David Russell, Director / 604-817-2644
- **Funding Services**
Angela McCarthy, A/Director / 604-209-1251
- **Child and Family Services**
Chiara Taylor, Director / 778-668-9067
- **Community Development**
James Moxon, Director / 604-367-8241
- **Corporate Services**
Viola Gressel, Director / 604-367-8136
Harold Powell, A/Director / 604-219-1737

