

# COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

## UPDATE #24 / April 20, 2020

Good Afternoon,

We know that you are receiving a lot of information from many sources and we hear your concern that important information risks being buried. Please know our goal is to provide you with you a curated summary each day to help inform your decision making and identify resources of benefit to your community and all your members whether they live on or off reserve.

**Stay the course**  
help limit the spread of COVID-19



## UPDATES

On Saturday **the Prime Minister announced significant support specifically for small and medium size Indigenous businesses.** Further to the measures we highlighted in Update 23, relief measures included in the new package include short-term interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions for eligible Indigenous businesses. They will support current and former clients of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs), and small and medium enterprises outside of the AFI network. In BC there are 11 AFI's:

- **Aboriginal Business & Community Development Centre (Prince George)**
- **All Nations Trust Company (Kamloops)**
- **Burns Lake Native Development Corporation (Burns Lake)**
- **CFDC of Central Interior First Nations (Kamloops)**
- **Haida Gwaii Community Futures (Massett)**
- **Métis Financial Corporation of BC (Surrey)**
- **Native Fishing Association (West Vancouver)**
- **Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (Port Alberni)**
- **Stó:lō Community Futures Corporation (Chilliwack)**
- **West Vancouver; Tale'Awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (West Vancouver)**
- **Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (Prince Rupert).**

The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) will be one of the main delivery partners to implement these measures and will work through its established network of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) to support all Indigenous businesses in BC. More details will be announced in the coming days at [nacca.ca/covid-19](https://nacca.ca/covid-19).

The total package is \$306.8M, divided as follows:

- \$180M for interest free loans. Repayment will be returned to the federal government.
- \$60M for non-repayable contributions (grants) to businesses for operating expenses
- \$27.0M to support the operations of the 59 AFIs across the country. These AFIs rely on loan repayments to cover their operational costs. In absence of loan repayment, they do not have funds to function.
- \$38M as a contingency fund to address urgencies.
- \$1.8M as operational support to the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association

It's worth noting that Indigenous businesses that have existing relationships with the major banks may choose to get support through them. It is your choice but you will not be able to get support from both sources.

1 / 3



Indigenous businesses that do not work with the network of AFIs, such as band-owned businesses and micro-entrepreneurs can look to further announcements in the coming days.

### BC business COVID-19 support service

Small Business BC has launched the B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service, in partnership with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada. This one-stop resource has been created to answer questions about supports available to businesses from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners.

The Support Service will be operated by Small Business BC and advisors are available Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm (Pacific time) and Saturday from 10am to 4pm at 1-833-254-4357. Inquiries can also be emailed to [covid@smallbusinessbc.ca](mailto:covid@smallbusinessbc.ca), or raised on our live-chat feature available at [covid.smallbusinessbc.ca](https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca).

### Free Webinars

Cando is providing free webinars every Wednesday in April. Topics include how to use digital tools to work remotely and how to access federal government procurement opportunities.

For more information: [edo.ca/news/events](https://edo.ca/news/events)

## SERVICE CANADA READY TO HELP

If you're facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, there is support available for individuals and businesses. Get the support you need: [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca)

**CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
BENEFIT (CERB) CONTACT INFORMATION**

**☎ 1-833-966-2099**

## PARTNER INFORMATION

### New Collaborative Framework

The Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Health Authority announced a **new collaborative framework** today in support of people living in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in BC. The framework outlines immediate actions to improve health-care services and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Housing options for people looking to self-isolate near their families while remaining in their home communities;
- Options for accommodation near larger centres with more medical services;
- Access to **Virtual Doctor of the Day**, a program that connects First Nations members and their families in remote communities to a doctor or nurse practitioner using videoconferencing; and,
- Increased mental health supports in communities.

### Flooding Preparations

Further to Friday's update about the supports available for First Nations communities and members preparing for spring flooding, our provincial partners have put together **guidelines for Flood response during the COVID-19 event**. Including best practices for sandbag production while practicing safe social-distancing.

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) has also clarified that to protect the supply of personal protective equipment (PPEs), availability is prioritized for health care workers and first responders providing direct client services.

The FNHA does have a how-to page on **homemade facemasks**. For more information please contact at [COVID19@fnha.ca](mailto:COVID19@fnha.ca) or see **their website**.

## QUESTION OF THE DAY

### What resources are available to First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in BC coping with COVID-19?

First Nations individuals living on or off reserve have access to other measures provided through the Government of Canada's **COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**, including the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). For more information on the range of supports available please visit **Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Indigenous communities** for information on resources and further links to:

- **How to protect your health and your community**
- **Support for Indigenous individuals**
- **Support for Indigenous organizations and communities**
- **Support for Indigenous businesses**
- **How we have prepared**

The provincial government has also put in place a range of measures to support individuals. For information on provincial resources available, I encourage you to visit **COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information** to review what other financial benefits, tax credits and services may be available to individuals offered by the province of British Columbia.

## 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.

## 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**

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

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

The email address and other information are also available on the **FNPS website**.