

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #40 / May 13, 2020

Good Afternoon,

As we approach the long weekend, we've been hearing that many of you are feeling nervous about the potential for outsiders wanting to enter your communities. We are also concerned and have been working with other federal departments, like the Canadian Coast Guard and RCMP, to reinforce the message that now is not the time to go boating and visit small communities on the British Columbia coast. BC's Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has also stated that people need to stay away from First Nations communities this long weekend. "I will also say we need to be very mindful of our Indigenous communities and First Nations communities in BC many of whom are understandably wanting to protect their own communities in ways that may seem different for us but it's their decision and we need to support those decisions. So don't think about going to a First Nations community unless you're invited. And I think that's something we need to be very sensitive to over the summer as well."



As first shared Friday, this past April, Xyólheméylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society) asked all Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia to create posters or videos to describe their feelings about social distancing and COVID-19. **Eleven year-old Nikita Hance tied for second place for her video with its strong stay home message.** To see all the winning entries, [please click here](#). Many thanks to Xyólheméylh for sharing.

Don't bring the COVID virus home



Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. **Keeping it clean** can keep yourself, your family and your community healthy and safe.



UPDATE

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced additional support for seniors. The measures include providing a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). This measure would give a total of \$500 to individuals who are eligible to receive both the OAS and the GIS, and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19. For more information on OAS and GIS, please contact Service Canada at 1-877-631-2657.

The Government of Canada has taken a number of actions to support seniors through the outbreak of

COVID-19, such as introducing the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**, a benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers, including seniors, who have lost their income due to COVID-19. Pension income does not affect eligibility to the CERB. The government also extended the eligibility of this benefit to individuals who earn up to \$1,000 per month, as well as workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19. These measures are part of **Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan** with supports for individuals and businesses.

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Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

PARTNER INFORMATION

COVID-19 And The Re-Opening Of Buildings

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association has released a **COVID-19 fact sheet on safely re-opening buildings**. You may find it relevant and helpful as you consider the reopening of Band administration buildings. It lists the steps to be taken after any period of shutdown or low occupancy. For example, a buildings water system must be flushed to replace stagnant water within the system with fresher, treated water to minimize the risk of microbial growth in plumbing.

Smartphones to better connect vulnerable

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction issued a news release yesterday with information about a **program to provide smartphones to better connect vulnerable individuals**. Through the Homelessness Community Action Grant program and a partnership with 7-Eleven, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) has been able to secure 3,500 smartphones to be distributed by community organizations who provide services and support for vulnerable people. The smartphones can connect to Wi-Fi and include a pre-loaded \$10 7-Eleven data card, so people have instant access to internet. The smartphones provide vulnerable people better access to vital online resources and services, including arranging medication and safe supply delivery and virtual doctor meetings.

Buy BC e-commerce brings local foods, beverages online

The B.C. government is providing **\$300,000 to support industry-led Buy BC e-commerce activities**. The funding helps farmers, ranchers and food and beverage processors market their products online, making it easy for British Columbians to Buy BC all over the province, while maintaining physical distancing and safe practices. Online applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, from May 15 to May 29, or when the funding is fully subscribed.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SURVEY

Share your ideas and input! B.C. has flattened the curve and we are preparing to carefully re-start services, the economy and our lives. Your input is important as we develop our action plans.

Share your experience during the COVID-19 pandemic

QUESTION OF THE DAY

I've heard members are being targeted by scams as they try to claim their Canada Emergency Response Benefit. How can I help protect them?

Text messages are circulating saying recipients have received a deposit for the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**. Please advise your members these texts are a scam. Do not reply or click on the link, delete the text and warn others. This is the latest attempt by unscrupulous fraudsters to get personal information and money by posing as the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

KNOW HOW TO RECOGNIZE A SCAM

There are **many fraud types**, including new ones invented daily.

People should be vigilant when they receive, either by telephone, mail, text message or email, a fraudulent communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requesting personal information such as a social insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or passport number.

These scams may insist that this personal information is needed so that people can receive a refund or a benefit payment. Cases of fraudulent communication could also involve threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA. Other communications urge individuals to visit a fake CRA website where they are then asked to verify

their identity by entering personal information. **These are scams** and people **should never respond** to these fraudulent communications or click on any of the links provided.

To identify legitimate communications from the CRA, be aware of these guidelines and know **what to expect when the CRA contacts you**.

The CRA may:

- notify you by email when a new message or a document, such as a notice of assessment or reassessment, is available for you to view in secure CRA portals such as My Account, My Business Account, or Represent a Client
- email you a link to a CRA webpage, form, or publication that you ask for **during** a telephone call or a meeting with an agent (this is the only case where the CRA will send an email containing links)

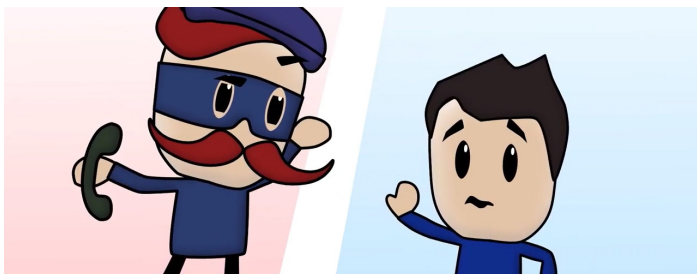
The CRA will never:

- give or ask for personal or financial information by email and ask you to click on a link
- email you a link asking you to fill in an online form with personal or financial details
- send you an email with a link to your refund
- demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, bitcoin, prepaid credit cards or gift cards from retailers such as iTunes, Amazon, or others
- threaten you with arrest or a prison sentence

Please let members know that if they are applying for the CERB, they should make sure they have the right link or phone number. Here are the two ways to apply:

- Online at Canada.ca/Coronavirus
- By automated toll-free phone at 1-800-959-2019

Tips are available to help protect community members from fraud and **slam the scam**.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We believe we are better when we share our knowledge. We are pleased to share resources and updates being offered by communities:

- **Stó:lō Nation** posted its final pandemic video update with info on BC's Restart Plan.
- **Tsilhqot'in National Government** posted its daily COVID-19 update, and info on status cards and safety precautions for distributing traditional foods.
- **Okanagan Indian Band** posted a video with info on the their Education Supplement.

NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **Practical advice, articles and information to help you #GetReal about how you really feel**
- **Taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **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](#).
- **Public Health Agency of Canada**
- **Resources for Canadian Businesses**
- **Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada**

USEFUL LINKS

- Economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. As information is rapidly changing we strongly encourage you to visit the **federal** and **provincial financial supports** websites often for the latest information.
- First Nations Health Authority – **Information for community leaders**
- **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.
- With the help of BCFC, the First Nations Public Service Secretariat has posted a **COVID-19 Resources for All BC Individuals**.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For the first time ever, Canada's national energy regulator will have an Indigenous Advisory Committee, representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis interests. The **Canada Energy Regulator invites Expressions of Interest from interested parties** across the country as it seeks to form a council that reflects Canada's diversity of Indigenous communities, languages, genders, geographies, and skills and expertise. The Expression of Interest process will close May 31st, 2020.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests:
aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

