

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #43 / May 22, 2020

Good Afternoon,

We hope this was a good week for you. At ISC-BC Region we've been collectively observing Indigenous Awareness Week while most of us continue to work remotely. The week has featured a virtual smudging demonstration on Zoom, a **how-to-make bannock lesson on YouTube**, as well as sharing a rich list of recommended **reading** and **viewing** options with our staff.

As always, the well-being of you and your communities is top of mind. Like you, we are having discussions with staff about what an eventual return to the work place might look like, even as we continue to build our capacity to work effectively from home.

In this update we want to share some of the health and safety information already available to help guide our re-opening decisions. Additionally, further to Wednesday's update, we want to share the second chapter of **a traditional oral story about mouse** from the Westbank First Nation. It's a timely message that even small things can make a big difference. Thanks again to Councillor Jordan Coble and his production team.

Stay the course
help limit the spread of COVID-19



Please watch this animated video:

Physical distancing: Stop the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities



UPDATES

Additional Support for Indigenous Peoples Living in Urban Centres and Off Reserve

As you may have heard yesterday, the Prime Minister announced an additional \$75 million in new funding for Indigenous organizations that provide services to Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and off reserve. This is in addition to the \$15 million announced on March 18, as part of the Government of Canada's **Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF)**. More information about this new funding will be available soon.

Other emergency aid programs including the \$2,000 per month **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** and the 75-per-cent **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** are also available to eligible applicants no matter where they live.

Another source of support is potentially available for members running businesses, up to **\$306.8 million was announced in April to help small- and medium-sized Indigenous businesses**, and the Indigenous institutions that offer financing to those businesses.

For more information on the federal supports available, check out these **new posters** from Service Canada: **Seniors; Youth; and Businesses**.

Planning for a Safe Re-Opening

Yesterday evening Labour Minister Harry Bains and Al Johnson, Vice President of Prevention Services for WorkSafeBC, answered questions about safely re-starting BC's businesses at a **virtual town hall**.



WorkSafe BC is partnering in the B.C. government's phased approach for reopening BC businesses by developing resources for industries as they prepare to reopen, including a **general guide on COVID-19 and returning to safe operation; frequently asked questions; occupancy limit poster; and handwashing poster.**

The site includes tips that may help you plan for the eventual reopening of Band Administration offices or other operations shuttered as part of your pandemic response.

Other resources are also available to help inform re-opening decisions. 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 building's water system needs to be flushed to replace stagnant water within the system with fresher, treated water to minimize the risk of microbial growth in plumbing.

Health Canada has published a **list of hard surface disinfectants** that are likely to be effective for use against COVID-19. This list is updated regularly. Although they do not claim to kill viruses such as COVID-19, cleaners play a role in helping limit the transfer of microorganisms.

In addition, the Public Health Agency is providing information on the **recommended use of non-medical masks.**

PARTNER INFORMATION

The COVID-19 Emergency Support to Community Organizations program delivered by the Red Cross is **now open for applications.** This support is part of the \$350 million **Emergency Community Support Fund** Canada announced to help charities and non-profit organizations adapt frontline services for vulnerable Canadians during COVID-19.

Indigenous Peoples' organizations are able to apply in addition to non-profits, non-government organizations, faith-based organizations and other organizations that are addressing a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused by COVID-19 (or are supporting vulnerable populations and meet the eligibility criteria).

Supports include:

- Providing grants to community organizations to help them continue providing vital support to vulnerable groups;
- Training on preventing disease transmission, as well as providing personal protective equipment (PPE), training and supports to ensure community organizations can continue their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 response.

Determining eligibility is the first step.

Please contact the Red Cross at

covid19communitysupport@redcross.ca if you are unsure whether your organization or proposed initiative could be considered eligible to apply.

INDIGENOUSYOUTHRISE COVID-19 SUPPORT FUND

The We Matter **#IndigenousYouthRise COVID-19 support fund** is a grant to support Indigenous youth and promote community wellness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Support Fund offers up to \$500 for online projects that occur in Canada and are Indigenous Youth led (ages 13-30).

How to Apply:

- The deadline to apply is June 15, 2020
- Send your questions and completed application to **grants@wemattercampaign.org**



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

- **Cowichan Tribes** shared a message from the Chief regarding emergency response sites to help members living on the street during the pandemic. They also shared a few posters about COVID-19 preventative measures.
- **Takla Nation** posted answers to frequently asked questions about “low alert” (the current phase of COVID-19 response in the community).
- **Tsawwassen First Nation** shared week seven of the TFN At-Home Workout Routine. Stay fit and stay happy while you’re staying safe.

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

- For information about economic measures to help stabilize the economy, please 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**.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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

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

