

# COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #50 / June 8, 2020

Good Afternoon,

We hope you and your communities continue to be well. This is our 50th update to you since ISC - BC Region enacted our business continuity plan back in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As this is a milestone of sorts, we wanted to thank you for the positive feedback we've received about these updates. We also want to let you know that going forward we will be providing these updates twice a week rather than three times a week, adding additional ones should it be necessary. As always, we are committed to the timely sharing the information you need to keep you and your communities safe and supported.

**Don't bring the COVID virus home**



**Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. Learn how to wear a non-medical mask or face covering properly.**



## UPDATES

### Changes to travel restrictions for immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents

The Canada Border Services Agency is announcing an easing of travel restrictions that could allow families divided by international borders during the COVID-19 pandemic response to reunite.

As of June 8, foreign nationals who are immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and who do not have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or who do not have reason to believe they have COVID-19, will be **exempt from the prohibition on entry to Canada if entering to be with an immediate family member for a period of at least 15 days.**

Foreign nationals who are admitted into Canada pursuant to this exemption **must quarantine for 14 days.**

All foreign nationals who have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 continue to remain prohibited from entering Canada.

### Supports for Off-Reserve Members

We are still frequently asked what supports are available for members who live off reserve.

For those of you looking for additional supports for off reserve members, the \$350 million **Emergency Community Support Fund** through **Employment and Social Development Canada** is specifically for charities and non-profits to respond to COVID-19. The investment will flow through three national intermediaries that have the ability to get funds quickly to community organizations that serve vulnerable populations. That could include urban Indigenous and off-reserve organizations, and potentially Tribal Councils. Proposals are already being accepted and can support a variety of activities that address a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused by COVID-19, such as:

- increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications
- scaling up help lines that provide information and support

- helping vulnerable Canadians access government benefits
- providing training, supplies, and other required supports to volunteers so they can continue to make their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 response
- replacing in-person, one-on-one contact and social gatherings with virtual contact through phone calls, texts, teleconferences, or the Internet

For more information on how to apply please visit:

- **United Way Centraide Canada**
- **Canadian Red Cross**
- **Community Foundations of Canada**

You can **learn more about this and other benefits online** or through our office at: [aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca).

## PARTNER INFORMATION

### Order extended to enable use of technologies during COVID-19

The Province of British Columbia is extending a temporary ministerial order until Dec. 31, 2020, to continue to **allow health-care workers and other public sector staff to use communication tools not normally permitted for use during the COVID-19 state of emergency.**

British Columbia has the strictest privacy and data-residency laws in Canada. It is one of two provinces with legislation requiring the personal information of its citizens to be stored in, and only accessed from, Canada. These protections also mean common communication and collaboration software tools, which are routinely allowed in other provinces and are useful in the fight against COVID-19, are not normally permitted for use by BC public-sector staff.

Renewing the ministerial order means health-care bodies like the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and health authorities can continue to use software and technology that has

## FREE WEBINAR: CIRCLE DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY FUNDING FOR WILDFIRES

Join the dialogue with Emergency Management BC (EMBC), BC Wildfire Services (BCWS), First Nation Emergency Social Services (FNESS), and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), for a circle discussion on funding available for First Nations for wildfires and other emergencies. With wildfire season quickly approaching this webinar will be an informal conversation on the available support for communities.

Join:

- Wendy Rogers, Director of Programs and Partnerships, ISC
- Duncan Stephen, Manager, Emergency Management, ISC
- Jamie Jeffreys, Director of Strategic Engagement, BC Wildfire Services
- Kayla Pepper, Director, Indigenous Community Relations & Partnership Engagement
- Stephanie Papik, Director, Strategic Integration of Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Safety and Humility, EMBC
- Jeff Eustache, Manager Forest Fuel Management Department, FNESS

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

**1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**REGISTER HERE**

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link to join the webinar. We will also send out follow up information to your email.

If you have questions for the circle, please send them to [Heather.Fehr@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Heather.Fehr@gov.bc.ca) in advance of the webinar, and we will incorporate them into our dialogue.

proven useful in their life-saving efforts to protect British Columbians from the spread of COVID-19.

The temporary measure also enables schools and post-secondary institutions to provide increased online learning opportunities for students who may be displaced or unable to attend in-person classes.

## Library renewal project for Coast Mountain College

The Province of BC has announced a \$4.4million **library renewal project at Coast Mountain College (CMTN) in Terrace** that will create construction-related jobs for regional businesses and tradespeople. It incorporates Indigenous design and child-friendly spaces. .

“In these challenging times, our government is working to ensure that we are doing everything possible to support British Columbians in every part of the province,” said Melanie Mark, BC’s Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

The project design team worked with Coast Mountain’s First Nations Council and sought the input of students to design space that supported the college’s First Nations students in its function and reflection of local First Nations culture. The design includes an Indigenous reading circle crafted from local cedar. Work is expected to begin this summer.

## THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY (CRA) OUTREACH PROGRAM

Help make sure your members are getting the benefits and credits they are entitled to. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRA outreach officers are available to help you. **Complete the online form** to make arrangements for a presentation by phone. For other ways to file your taxes, go to **doing your taxes**.

# Outreach Program



## Funding available to support volunteer projects in BC Parks

BC Parks is making \$240,000 available this year for volunteer and other community-led projects that support conservation and recreation. Under the **Park Enhancement Fund**, volunteers and community groups can apply for up to \$5,000 per project for 2020-21. Each of the six BC Parks regions has been allocated \$20,000 to support conservation projects and \$20,000 to support recreation projects. In past years, funding has gone to projects that include controlling invasive species, gathering conservation data and installing interpretive signage, as well as building huts, docks and trails.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

- **Skeetchestn Indian Band** shared information on a BC Rural and First Nations Health and Wellness Summit (virtual) on Jun 29-30.
- **Council of the Haida Nation** shared an updated version of their “Resources and Economic Supports Available During COVID-19” guide.
- **Squamish Nation** invited members to submit drawings or messages in support of frontline workers. The submissions will be posted on the Squamish nation billboards.
- **Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc** shared the link to the “A Kidney for Grand Chief Stewart Phillip” campaign.
- **Tobacco Plains Indian Band** shared information on their 2020 Virtual Indigenous Peoples Day.
- **Tsawwassen First Nation** shared information on the “Lifeguard” app, designed to reduce overdose deaths by calling 9-1-1 if the user does not respond to an alarm after a certain amount of time.
- **Kim Baird**: “An interesting take on what’s happening in Tsawwassen. I would say that this relationship is still a work in progress, but is definitely a step forward ‘Can this B.C. First Nation’s partnership with police offer a path for peace and justice elsewhere?’ [theglobeandmail.com/canada/british...](https://theglobeandmail.com/canada/british...)”



## QUESTION OF THE DAY

### What should First Nations consider when planning to resume/reopen some of its services?

Further guidance in planning and recommended safety measures is available through the **First Nations Health Authority** and WorkSafe BC, including a general guide on **COVID-19 and returning to safe operation; frequently asked questions; occupancy limit poster; and handwashing poster**. The WorkSafe BC 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, it's recommended a building's water system 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.

## NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **Accessing student financial benefits and support during the COVID-19 outbreak (NEW)**
- **Accessing financial benefits and support during the COVID-19 outbreak (NEW)**
- **On-line Resources for Indigenous Communities – Food and COVID-19 (NEW)**
- **Service Canada Programs and Services – for youth (NEW)**
- **Service Canada Programs and Services – for seniors (NEW)**
- **Service Canada Programs and Services – for businesses (NEW)**
- **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**

## SERVICE RESUMPTION PLANNING GUIDE

The First Nations Health Authority has created a **service resumption planning guide** to help your community planning for the next phase of COVID-19 response. This means providing support to help their community members live safely with the ongoing presence of COVID-19 until an effective vaccine and/or treatment are found.

The guide is built on the **7 Directives** and **Shared Values** and the recommendations of the British Columbia(BC) Public Health Office (PHO), the BC Ministry of Health (MOH), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), WorkSafeBC and the Regional Health Authorities (RHA).



## 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.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca).

