

COVID-19 Message from ISC - BC Region March 23, 2020 - Update#6

Good afternoon,

We hope this e-mail finds you and your communities well. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves it is clear we are living through an extraordinary times. The Prime Minister told Canadians yesterday, Sunday March 23, that we're facing a situation without precedent. He provided assurance that the whole of the public service is working 24/7 to provide the help that is needed to this rapidly changing situation.

Essential Services

If communities become unable to provide any essential services to your members or you have immediate supply issues, please contact ISC BC Region as soon as possible at aadnc.iscbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca so that we can work together on solutions to ensure your community does not experience an interruption in the delivery of essential services or supplies.

ISC BC Region is working collaboratively with the First Nations Health Authority and Emergency Management BC to coordinate services and leverage each organization's capabilities. If you enter through the Emergency Management BC system, they will assign you a task number; however, all requests will be triaged in the same way: the first agency to receive the request will review it, and then they will work with the other partners to provide an answer back to communities. The partners aim to provide an answer back within 48 hours.

Funding Agreements

In recognition that the current circumstances have impacted First Nations' ability to respond to the reporting obligations under current funding agreements, the Department is temporarily suspending any automatic halts in funding due to arrears on recipient reporting. These actions do not remove the reporting requirements entirely but provides additional flexibilities for the due dates of these reports. Funding agreements for these funds were sent out (by e-mail) March 21-22, 2020.

If First Nations emailed their funding amendment approvals to their respective Funding Services Officer by March 23, 2020 (today), they should expect a direct deposit by April 1, 2020.

If First Nations e-mail their funding amendment approvals to their respective Funding Services Officer between March 24 and March 31, they should expect a payment by April 6, 2020.

Food Security

A number of First Nations have expressed concerns with regards to food shortage and food security, especially for the most vulnerable and elderly members who are self-isolating in order to protect their health. The Department is working closely with a number of agencies including the First Nations Health Agency and Emergency Management BC to ensure information and processes are streamlined as much

as possible and to respond to issues of availability of foods and critical supplies. Funds are available under our Emergency Management and Social Development authorities and will be released to the community under existing funding codes for immediate release. Additionally, ISC has a food security team whose responsibility it is to support communities in ensuring food security needs are met. For more information contact: aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

Information Sharing

In the interest of sharing this sort of information in a timely way we are pleased to see that the First Nations Public Services Secretariat has launched a [new COVID-19 resources page](#) on its website which includes information from ISC. You will find copies of all of our ISC BC Region updates stored there as well as information sheets from the Public Health Agency of Canada and links to Question and Answer documents prepared nationally and in response to regional First Nation leadership. They've also linked to the [First Nations Health Authority's COVID-19: BC First Nations Community Guide for Additional Supports](#) as well as the national ISC [First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports](#). While national in scope, should you have any questions concerning the guide, ISC BC Region will be more than happy to answer them. Please contact us at aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca.

Our sincere thanks to the FNPSS for this valuable resource.

Contact information

It is of utmost importance is that we are in regular contact. Despite our best efforts to reach out to every First Nation over the last week we have not had a response from some communities. As Band Offices close and First Nations enact their own emergency procedures so staff can work from home, we would ask that you share this e-mail to your contacts in the hopes we will hear from those communities we've been unable to reach. You can reach us at: aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca

Should you or your team need to reach out regarding specific programs or services within their respective areas, please contact the Executive Leadership Team:

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

For any COVID-19 health-related questions, please contact the First Nations Health Authority as follows:

- For general inquiries - COVID19@fnha.ca
- For FNHA and community health care providers (CHNs, HD, etc) or CDE planning questions - CDMgmt@fnha.ca
- For individual health care and COVID-19 questions, call 811 or your primary care provider.

We know these are unprecedented times, which is why we at ISC-BC Region want to reiterate that we are here for you.

Please be safe,

Catherine Lappe
Regional Director General
604-340-7703

Bill Guerin
Associate Regional Director General
604-803-9476

Indigenous Services Canada – British Columbia Region