


COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

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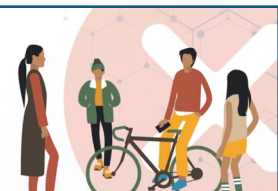
Good Afternoon,

On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, the provincial state of emergency was extended an additional two weeks to support continued co-ordination of BC's COVID-19 response. While expected, it means we are now in the longest state of emergency in British Columbia's history. Persevering through these challenging times has become an exercise in endurance which imposes risks to our health and wellbeing. Indeed, a **recent survey** by Angus Reid Institute found 50 per cent of Canadians say their mental health has deteriorated over the past several weeks because of the pandemic. So, in this update we want to encourage you all to take care of yourselves while you keep your communities safe and healthy. There are tips and strategies on the **First Nations Health Authority website** and below. As Dr. Shannon McDonald, Acting Chief Medical Officer with the FNHA says "we could all use extra helpings of inner strength and resilience right now!"

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

Staying strong during tough times with the "medicine of resilience"

Dr. McDonald also provides **wellness advice** on the FNHA website. She recommends following the FNHA's **four wellness streams**: 1) **Eat Healthy**; 2) **Be Active**; 3) **Nurture Spirit**; 4) **Respect Tobacco**. (If you smoke cigarettes or vape, you're at a **higher risk of both lung disease and COVID-19**.) In addition to maintaining a healthy routine, she suggests individuals **stay connected** with others by video call, email, text, phone, or other apps like the **Facebook Social Distance Powwow**, which has 186,000+ members sharing videos of wonderful cultural activities and good-news stories.

Additional \$650M in COVID 19 aid bound for Indigenous communities

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced **new funding** to provide critical support to Indigenous

families and communities during this crisis, based on needs that have been identified. The funding includes:

- \$285 million is new funding to support rapid public health responses in Indigenous communities when faced with an outbreak of the virus.
- \$270 million to supplement the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program to address increased demand on the program, which will help individuals and families meet their essential living expenses. It will also help hire additional staff to better serve First Nations communities and connect individuals to other government programs.
- \$44.8 million over five years to build 10 shelters in First Nations communities and two in the territories to help women and children fleeing violence.

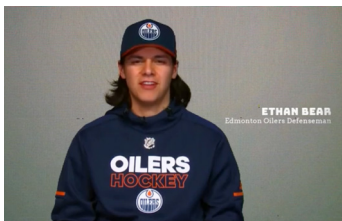
Today's investment builds on the work already being done through the **\$305 million Indigenous Community Support Fund, and the additional \$75 million announced**

last week for communities and organizations working with Indigenous peoples living in urban areas and off-reserve.

We'll provide more information about the new funding and what it may mean for your communities as it comes available.

#ProtectOurElders campaign launched

The #ProtectOurElders campaign was launched on May 28, 2020 and features a series of videos from Indigenous role models living in Canada. National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Ashley Callingbull, Sarain Fox, Ethan Bear of the Edmonton Oilers, and Zach Whitecloud of the Las Vegas Knights are helping share the importance of physical distancing and hygiene to protect Elders in First Nations communities. Organized by the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation in Alberta, the campaign encourages Indigenous youth to participate by posting a video sharing what actions they are taking to protect Elders and including the hashtag #ProtectOurElders. Youth can also enter a **contest to win** one of four Zoom calls with either Ashley Callingbull, Sarain Fox, Ethan Bear or Zach Whitecloud. Contest closes June 30, 2020. To follow the campaign visit protectourelders.ca.



Financial Planning Advice for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners

Worrying about finances can be an added layer of stress during these troubling times. To help, the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, has announced that the Government of Canada will support the launch of a four-week hotline service called the Business Resilience Service. This service will

help entrepreneurs and small business owners in need of financial planning advice, particularly those who may not have access to an accountant. The service will also be open to not-for-profit organizations and charities. The hotline is a national, bilingual service operated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST). The toll-free number is 1-866-989-1080.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Many of you have asked if the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** will still be taxable if it's received by someone with status living on reserve.

Working with our partners at the Canada Revenue Agency we've confirmed that the CERB a person receives will be treated in the same way as their total income that entitled them to the CERB. This total income is their total income for 2019 (period 1) or the 12-month period prior to the date of their application (period 2). Therefore, if their total income that entitled them to the CERB in either period 1 or period 2 is exempt from income tax under section 87 of the Indian Act, their CERB will also be exempt.

If their total income that entitled them to the CERB is partially exempt from tax in both periods, their CERB will also be partially exempt. The CERB will be treated as exempt in the same proportion as the total income of the period that is more advantageous to them.

If their total income that entitled them to the CERB in one period is partially exempt and the total income in the other period is taxable, their CERB will be treated as exempt in the same proportion as the total income of the period that was partially exempt.

If their total income that entitled them to the CERB is taxable in both periods, their CERB will also be taxable.

NEW - You may be eligible for support through other programs as well. **Answer some questions to find financial help during COVID-19.** While we cannot guarantee your eligibility, we can point you to the program details.



PARTNER INFORMATION

Water Considerations When Re-Opening Buildings

The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association has released information on the safe reopening of buildings after a period of shutdown or low occupancy. They've included 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. Utilities are encouraged to adapt the fact sheet to make it their own. The CWWA encourages you to add your own name and logo with theirs or just use this as a basis for your own fact sheet. They are distributing this in a ready-to-go pdf format as well as in MS Word so you can edit and adapt.

INDIGENOUS YOUTH RISE 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

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Your input is important as we develop our action plans to re-start services, the economy and our lives.

Province celebrates British Columbians with disabilities

British Columbia kicks off its third annual AccessAbility Week with **\$500,000 in grants to not-for-profit organizations for local accessibility projects**.

The grants, which range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 depending on a project's size and scope, will be distributed by Disability Alliance BC (DABC). A call for proposals will be posted on the DABC website in summer 2020, and grants will be awarded by the end of the year. Projects can include accessible education and learning, sports and recreation, arts, culture and tourism, community participation, emergency planning and response, and accessible employment. Last year, 14 organizations received funding for accessibility projects in their communities.

Remember these updates are also published on the **First Nations Public Service Secretariat website** with all the embedded hyperlinks so you can search past editions if needed and click through!

WORKSAFE BC COVID-19 INFORMATION

- **Industry safety (B.C.'s Restart Plan, Phase 1)**
Agriculture, Construction, Forestry, Health care, Hospitality, Manufacturing (see also: Meat processing), Municipalities, Retail, Small business, Transportation
- **Returning to safe operation (B.C.'s Restart Plan, Phase 2)**
New: Child care; Gyms and fitness centres.
More info: General guide to reducing risk; Arts and cultural facilities; Education (K-12); Health professionals; In-person counselling; Offices; Parks; Personal services; Real estate; Restaurants, cafes, and pubs; Retail; FAQs; What workers should expect
- **Resources**
COVID-19 Safety Plan template and more resources
- **Additional information**
General health and safety; Reporting and payment deadlines; Claims



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

- **Tsawwassen First Nation** shared a video from their Tuesday Book Club: “Good Night World: Animals of the Native Northwest”
- **Yale First Nation** invited members to submit recipes for a community cookbook.
- **Williams Lake Indian Band** shared a notice from the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council calling for entertainers who wish to perform for a National Indigenous People’s Day celebration.
- **Huu-ay-aht First Nations** has created a Zoom Friends Group for youth to keep them connected to each other during COVID-19.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

I have concerns about the mental health of my community members. Who can help them?

Community members can call the First Nations Health Authority’s 24/7 culturally safe KUU-US Crisis Response Services at 1-800-588-8717 (or 250-723-2040 for child and youth / 250-723-4050 for adult and Elder).

Another option is the Hope for Wellness Help Line (1-855-242-3310). Online chat is available at [hopeforwellness.ca](https://www.hopeforwellness.ca). For any other COVID-19 health-related questions, or for further information, the First Nations Health Authority would like you to use the following:

- 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.

If someone needs immediate assistance: you can call 9-1-1 or the BC Suicide Prevention & Crisis Centre: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433). Or visit your nearest hospital.

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.

