

# COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #52 / June 16, 2020

Good Afternoon,

This is National Public Service Week in Canada. At Indigenous Services Canada it is a time when we reflect on our work as public servants and our belief in the important mandate of this department. We hope our commitment is evident during the COVID-19 pandemic period, in previous emergencies, and in our daily interactions. How we work, how we listen and how we partner is part of our ongoing efforts to support the rights and self-determination of Indigenous peoples. We want to thank you for sharing your successes with us and for your patience and willingness to reengage when we get it wrong. Together we believe we can help create a more just and sustainable future for everyone. If there is anyone you want to recognize for their efforts please share your thoughts via twitter with the hashtag #NPSWISCBC and we'll share via Tweet Beam with the ISC staff.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding work of First Nations administrations who work tirelessly for their communities. Your resilience and dedication are always appreciated, and during COVID-19 we know you have been instrumental keeping your people safe while delivering your usual services.

We also encourage you to check out what the **First Nations Public Service Secretariat** is doing to celebrate First Nation public servants during NPSW: a **one-day virtual discussion forum** to support the important public servants who work in First Nation communities with the help of more than 30 Government of Canada volunteers and, a **contest to recognize First Nation public servants that excel**. Posts showing the hard work and dedication of Band Staff and others in public service in their communities using the hashtag #couragetoexcel on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter up until National Indigenous Peoples Day will be entered in a contest to win.

**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.**



## INDIGENOUS GRAD 2020

**Calling all Indigenous Graduates, their families and fans!**

Recognize Indigenous graduates from kindergarten to high school to college to university, and everything in between. Share images, videos, reflections on social media with the hashtag **#IndigenousGrad2020**. The collected media comes together at the **Indigenous Grads 2020 website** and will be showcased June 26 via an online live stream.



## UPDATES

### CERB to be extended

Eligibility for the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit** is to be extended by eight weeks. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau formally announced today that people who are unable to return to work due to ongoing impacts of COVID-19 will continue to receive the \$2000 a month benefit. The Prime Minister also said that the Government of Canada will look at international best practices and monitor the economy to see what changes if any can be made to the program so that more people are properly supported.

This extension will make the benefit available to eligible workers for up to a total of 24 weeks.

If your members have questions about their eligibility for CERB or any Government of Canada benefit, program or service, the Service Canada Community Outreach and Liaison Service is available to offer support. Please contact 1-877-631-2657.

### 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**.



## PARTNER INFORMATION

### Support for child care continues during COVID-19 recovery

The Province of British Columbia has announced it is **extending support for its temporary emergency funding program (TEF) for licensed child care centres** until August 31, 2020. This funding helps to ensure essential-service workers have access to safe, reliable child care and parents can return to work as the economy restarts and more B.C. businesses open.

It also ensures that child care centres hold spots, free of charge, for their existing families who may choose to stay home with their children through the summer.

Since its implementation on April 1, 2020, the Province has invested more than \$150 million through the TEF to support over 4,500 child care centres, representing over 115,000 spaces, both open and closed.

### Improved Access to Vital Services for Youth

Youth around British Columbia and their families will have faster, easier access to mental health and substance use services and supports with **eight new Foundry centres to be developed throughout the province**.

Eight new Foundry centres will be opened and operated by the following local, community-based lead agencies:

- Burns Lake: Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Comox Valley: John Howard Society of North Island
- Cranbrook: Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Child and Family Service Society
- Langley: Encompass Support Services Society
- Squamish: Sea to Sky Community Services Society
- Surrey: Pacific Community Resources Society
- Port Hardy: North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre Society
- Williams Lake: Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre Association

The new locations, as with all Foundry centres, will offer increased access to integrated health and wellness services for young people aged 12 to 24 in both rural and urban communities. Each centre will offer primary care, youth and family peer supports, walk-in counselling, mental health and substance use services, and social services all under one roof, making it easier for youth to get help when they need it.

## Local meat supply increasing in Alberni Valley, Kootenays, Robson Valley

More locally raised meat will be available for restaurants and retail outlets following provincial government **efforts to establish a more resilient BC food system**.

The meat will be available in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, as well as Electoral Area D of the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Electoral Area H of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

The updated Meat Inspection Regulation encourages the growing “farm-to-fork” trend in many B.C. communities. These changes follow BC Ministry of Agriculture consultation that began in March 2018 with ranchers and livestock producers, abattoir operators and local governments.

## LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has **launched a second call for proposals under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund**. The Fund aims to strengthen food support organizations and to help improve access to safe and nutritious food for Canadians at risk. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been allocated. Projects valued at up to \$250,000 will be accepted.

### Indigenous groups are encouraged to apply!

To apply online, download, complete and submit the **Project application form (PDF)**. Or you can apply by email to **[aa.fc.foodprogrammes-programmesalimentaires.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aa.fc.foodprogrammes.alimentaires.aac@canada.ca)**.

## Better access to gaming grants help communities during pandemic

The Province of British Columbia has announced **changes to the Community Gaming Grants (CGG) program** to make it easier for non-profit organizations to adapt and continue to provide vital services during the pandemic.

Applications for the human and social services sector, which includes food banks, shelters, domestic violence supports, hospice, counselling services and others, are opening mid-June 2020. Other changes to the CGG program include: flexibility in requirements; the ability to include new programs in an application to respond to COVID-19 specific needs; and, guidance on how to apply for grants given current uncertainty about whether programs such as annual fairs may be postponed or cancelled.

The \$5-million capital projects portion of the CGG program is also being adjusted to address some of the financial challenges that organizations are facing due to COVID-19. Funding for 2020-21 will prioritize capital project applications that are facing increased demand for services due to the pandemic, as well as organizations that need to make modifications to facilities to support physical distancing, such as installing protective shields and barriers, kitchen reconfigurations, and renovations to expand handwashing and hygiene stations.

The Province will also give priority to new applicants and increase the amount it covers from 50 per cent to 80 per cent of the total cost of eligible capital projects directly related to COVID-19, up to a maximum of \$250,000.

## Raising awareness of elder abuse is key to prevention

In case you missed it, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was Monday, June 15. In honour of the day, **the government of BC announced it has provided \$1.89 million to help raise awareness of senior abuse**. The funding will also help create educational programs to protect seniors from physical, emotional and financial abuse.

## 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** shared a video on “Healing anger and tools for conflict resolution,” made by the Qwi:qwelstom Wellness Team.
- **Quatsino First Nation** shared information on an Orange Shirt Day t-shirt design contest.
- **Cowichan Tribes** shared information on their class of 2020 graduation parade that is planned for June 30. They also shared a few tips on how to safely gather and practice culture during a pandemic.
- **Homalco Indian Band** shared Island Health’s call for blood donation.
- **Huu-ay-aht First Nations** shared information on a weekly Zoom “zentangle” – a meditative art therapy that anyone can do.
- **Tseshah First Nation** launched an online Tshehaht language class and had a live Q&A with members on economic development. They also noted that Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council will be providing status card assistance again, by pre-arranged appointment, starting June 15.

## 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**.

## NATIONAL INFORMATION

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

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

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

