

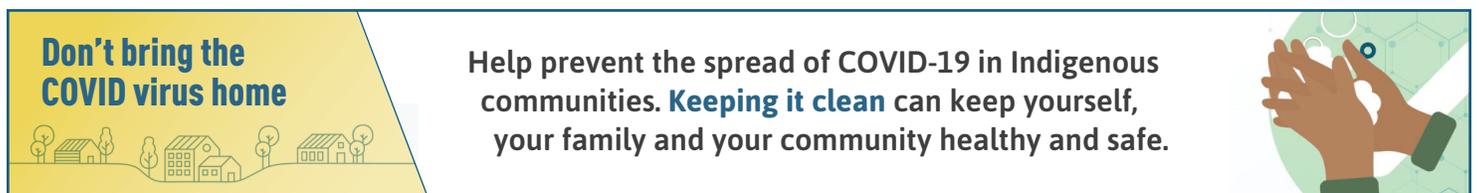
COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC BC REGION

UPDATE #26 / April 22, 2020

Good Afternoon,

In these challenging times we have all been doing our best to self-isolate and help **flatten the curve**. Just by reinforcing health messages about the importance of washing your hands, coughing and sneezing into your arm, throwing out used tissues right away, disinfecting shared surfaces, and avoiding touching your face, you can help keep your family safe and protect your community's most vulnerable members.

Please check out this new video on how you can help **prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your community**. By taking these steps, you can keep yourself, your family and your community healthy and safe.



Don't bring the COVID virus home

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. **Keeping it clean** can keep yourself, your family and your community healthy and safe.

UPDATES

Recent events also remind us of the importance of visitors and returning community members to self-screen for exposure and symptoms of the COVID-19 virus prior to visiting or returning and the need to practice physical distancing when they do return.

Additionally, many BC First Nations are looking to restrict movement in and out of your communities to contain the spread of COVID-19.

A message from our partners at the First Nations Health Authority discussed the benefits and risks of check points and community closures as an additional measure to potentially decrease the burden of illness resulting from the pandemic. If you missed it, the letter from the office of Chief Medical Officer noted that the benefits and risks of check points vary, and it shared an **Ethical Decision-Making Framework** from the Province of British Columbia to help guide you in your response

decisions. This Framework includes a checklist and decision-making tool that communities may find useful to use to work through this important decision to run a checkpoint or not.

The list below provides additional information on resources available to assist with community planning and response to COVID 19:

- **Emergency Management Assistance Program**
- **The COVID-19 First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports**

And a word of encouragement – we know many of you are working flat out to address the needs of your communities. The result of all your hard work is the gift of time. Time to come to terms with a new way of working and time to plan and prepare your communities for the potential of future outbreaks.

Support for Post-Secondary Students

The Prime Minister of Canada today announced **support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19** which will include increasing existing distinctions-based support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students pursuing post-secondary education by providing an additional \$75.2 million in 2020-21.

The \$9 billion plan also includes launching:

- the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which would provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.
- the Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Calculator

On Tuesday, the Canada Revenue Agency launched a wage subsidy calculator, an online tool to give employers details about subsidy claims. Business owners who plan to apply for the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** can use the tool on the agency's **CEWS webpage** to help them calculate the amount they'll be eligible for and preview their subsidy claims.

The wage subsidy helps cover payroll costs by providing eligible employers with 75% of wages up to \$847 per employee per week, for up to 12 weeks. The measure aims to prevent job losses during the pandemic and encourages employers to re-hire workers who were previously laid off.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

How can I apply for a Status Card?

While the Status Card counter in BC Region is closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19, applications are being accepted by mail. Forms are **available on-line** and the mailing address is listed on the forms and/or instructions.

What if my Status Card is lost or stolen?

Email InfoPubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and add LOST or STOLEN in the subject line and we can help you get a replacement card or proof of Indian status.

NATIONAL INFORMATION

- **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](#).
- For a great description of what flattening the curve means, consider watching [Prime Minister Trudeau's video tweet](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Resources for Canadian Businesses](#)
- [Transport Canada – COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- **Family Violence Prevention Program**
- **Virtual Doctor of the Day**
- **First Nations Public Service Secretariat**
- **First Nations Health Authority**
Summary of COVID-19 information and response.
- **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.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

We've set up a dedicated email for any non-health COVID-19-related questions and requests:
aadnc.isbccovid19.aandc@canada.ca

The email address and other information are also available on the [FNPSS website](#).

SERVICE CANADA READY TO HELP

If you're facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, there is support available for individuals and businesses. Get the support you need: [Canada.ca](#)

**CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE
BENEFIT (CERB) CONTACT INFORMATION**

 **1-833-966-2099**

