



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - March 30, 2020

Indigenous

- Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare is urging members of First Nation communities to stay home and limit exposure to the virus. He has said that regular contact with government officials remains in place to ensure he is given accurate and current information, and to secure necessary supplies and resources.
- In his daily address, Prime Minister Trudeau was asked if the TMX, which now belongs to the federal government, will continue work. The reporter indicated that indigenous committees are concerned about the health of the workers. Prime Minister Trudeau stated that he will follow up on this tomorrow.
- Minister Marc Miller is recommending that First Nations do not proceed with elections during the coronavirus crisis. He stated that Indigenous Services Canada will work with communities that choose to postpone elections to ensure there is leadership continuity.

Provincial

- On Saturday, March 28th, Premier Ford announced that penalties outlined in the March 27th announcement for price gouging would go into effect immediately. Retail businesses and individuals are now under an emergency order to not charge unfair prices for essential goods.
- On Sunday, March 29th, Ontario announced new measures to limit the spread of the virus on construction sites. This includes providing better on-site sanitation, communicating roles, responsibilities, and health and safety policies, enabling greater distances between workers and tracking and monitoring workers to protect public health.
- Ministry inspectors will be inspecting construction sites every day, and failure to comply with these new policies will result in a stop work order.
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation is providing flexibility to grantees for payment options during this time.
- The Ontario government is providing \$200 million in social services relief funding to help protect the province's most vulnerable people. These funds will be directed to municipalities, food banks, and homeless shelters.
- Premier Ford said today that he visited a medical supply house over the weekend, and wants to be transparent in saying that if a surge in cases comes in the next couple of weeks, our medical supplies will be seriously challenged. Ontario is in the process of securing massive amounts of new inventory.
- The Premier further urged people again to stay home, calling especially for those over 70 or with an underlying health condition to self-isolate.
- The \$5 million dedication made last week to delivering medication and food to seniors will now be doubled to \$10 million.
- Premier Ford warned that he will not hesitate to announce a mandatory stay-home order if so advised by the Chief Medical Officer and if people do not comply with recommendations to self-isolate.



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Federal

- Ottawa announced on Sunday, March 29th, a pledge of \$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide help for those impacted by school closures and reduced access to social support. The federal government will also boost aid for Canadian seniors, contributing \$9 million through United Way Canada to help seniors get groceries, medication and other critical items.
- Ottawa announced this weekend that anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be prohibited from boarding domestic air or rail travel.
- Prime Minister Trudeau released details today on the 75% wage subsidy announced Friday. This subsidy will be eligible for businesses that have experienced a revenue decrease of at least 30% due to the COVID-19 crisis. The number of employees will not determine eligibility. This applies to non-profits and charities, as well as companies of all sizes.
- The government will cover up to 75% of the first \$58 700 that each person earns, which will result in up to \$847 in income per week. This will be backdated to March 15th.
- Minister Morneau will provide businesses with technical details on this measure as quickly as possible.
- Prime Minister Trudeau encouraged businesses that are able to cover the remainder of employee salaries to do so. He also warned that there will be serious consequences if businesses try to “game the system”.
- For the time being, the provinces have not asked for the armed forces to respond. If that changes, the Canadian Armed Forces will be prepared to answer the call.
- Prime Minister Trudeau will be discussing options for the emergency plan at the next virtual meeting of the First Minister.
- Prime Minister Trudeau stated that he will not be postponing the upcoming raise in carbon tax.

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