



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 1, 2020

A message from Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare:

We strongly urge our citizens to stay home. The seriousness of the coronavirus disease continues to grow. We need to listen to the recommendations from health professionals and that means to stay home. Our frontline workers are doing what they can to keep us all safe— we need to do our part to help. The next few weeks are critical to try to control and minimize the spreading of the virus. This means that social/physical distancing is paramount now more than ever. Our families are far too important to take any chances!

Indigenous

- Minister Miller announced today that, as of March 31st, Canada has shipped 225 orders for personal protective equipment to Indigenous communities. This includes hand sanitizers, N95 masks, isolation shields and gloves.
- Miller also announced that calling in the army is one of the measures being considered to help First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities contend with COVID-19.
- Manitoba First Nations have called on the RCMP and the Armed Forces to monitor COVID-19 checkpoints. This group also wants northern Liquor Marts to stop or limit the selling of alcohol.
- First Nations in the Northwest Territories will be getting just over \$6 million, while the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation will be receiving \$5.85 million to address coronavirus concerns. The funding is part of the \$305 million that the federal government has dedicated to helping Indigenous communities through the crisis. This is in addition to the \$2.6 million announced by ISC on March 30th to support on-the-land trips as a way to self-isolate.
- **Kids' Help Phone usage has tripled during the COVID-19 crisis. The organization is seeking more volunteers, especially Indigenous volunteers who can identify with the specific concerns of Indigenous youth.**
- As more Manitoba First Nations continue to close access to their communities, doctors are preparing to treat their on-reserve patients virtually. Ongomiizwin – Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing at the University of Manitoba – is coordinating the response plan for approximately 20 remote Northern First Nations. Special precautions will be taken for the doctors who will still be deployed in special circumstances to First Nations.
- The national organization that represents Inuit in Canada is calling for air transportation to be designated an essential service in Canada's 51 Inuit communities for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) president Natan Obed says flight services in the North have already been "drastically reduced" due to increasingly strict travel restrictions put in place to stop the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Some commercial routes between northern communities and southern urban centres have been completely suspended.



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Provincial

- Ontario confirmed 426 new cases today, marking a 21.7 per cent increase in the total number of infections and the largest single-day spike in the province so far. This brings the provincial case total to 2 392, including at least 41 deaths.
- Ontario has begun constructing its first temporary makeshift hospital to increase capacity and address needs related to COVID-19.
- Today, our Chief Medical Officer told all municipalities to enforce self-isolation for anyone confirmed or suspected to have the virus, and anyone in close contact to those people.
- A company in Ontario is currently testing an N95-equivalent mask. If it succeeds, the business will be able to produce millions of masks.
- Ontario is investing \$50 million in a new Ontario Together fund, all of which will go to supporting companies that are repurposing their production to help Ontario attack COVID-19.
- Premier Ford said that new personal protective equipment being produced by Ontario companies will hopefully be ready within the next three or four weeks.
- A large supply of personal protective equipment from the federal government is expected within the next day or so.
- The essential businesses list is being reviewed every day, and adjustments will be announced within the next day or so.
- 300 inspections of construction sites have taken place in the last three days, and three sites have been shut down. Ontario has also sent out 160 orders to comply.
- There are currently 145 people in ICUs in the province, with 95 of them on ventilators.
- Minister Elliott gave further clarification on orders regarding long-term care today. While it is prohibited for people to visit long-term care homes or for residents to come and go, residents will be permitted to leave and stay with their family after being cleared for COVID-19. In these cases, residents will not be able to return to their respective long-term care facilities until the COVID-19 crisis is over.

Federal

- Canada's total case count is now 9 539, with 111 deaths.
- Canada's death toll jumped by 35 per cent from Monday to Tuesday of this week. Quebec, the province with the most cases of COVID-19, says it is running low on key medical equipment.
- Over 250 000 people in Canada have now been tested, with 3.5 per cent of them confirmed as positive for COVID-19.
- Prime Minister Trudeau is encouraging employers who are able to pay their employees the remaining 25 per cent of their salaries that will not be covered by the federal wage subsidies.
- There have been 1.3 million requests for EI in the last two weeks.



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- People will be able to apply for EI through canada.ca and receive the benefit by mail or direct deposit. For people already receiving EI, their applications will be automatically enrolled in the CERB. Those receiving the wage subsidy cannot receive the CERB. You must confirm once a month that you are still without a job.
- Trudeau has spoken to the house leader and speaker about recalling Parliament to pass emergency legislation.
- There are no current plans to invoke the Emergency Defence Act.
- Minister Morneau's Announcement on Wage Subsidy Details:
 - The program will subsidize 75 per cent of the first \$57 800 of each employee's wage. Eligibility will not be based on the size of your business.
 - Eligibility will be based on revenue in March, April, and May of 2020 compared to the revenue in the same period of last year. Businesses who have seen a loss in revenue of at least 30 per cent by these standards will be eligible. Employers will need to reapply for the program each month.
 - Non-profits, charities, and the hospitality industry will also be eligible.
 - Canada will be working with sectors in the coming days to make sure that the implementation of the program is effective.
 - Employers who use this subsidy must do everything they can to provide the last 25 per cent of wages to their employees. Employers should get ready to rehire workers.
 - If businesses use this money for fraudulent purposes, they will face high penalties.
 - This is the largest economic program in Canada's history. The federal government estimates this measure will cost \$71 billion, and will reduce the cost of the CERB to \$24 billion.

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