



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 6, 2020

Indigenous

- On Saturday, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that an additional \$10 million will be provided to Indigenous Services Canada's network of 46 emergency shelters.
- The province of Ontario is recommending First Nation communities tighten restrictions on who may enter their community after health officials released casualty projections that show tens of thousands could die in the province as a result of contracting the novel coronavirus.
- The Onion Lake Cree Nation is reporting its first case of COVID-19, the third case of the virus on a Saskatchewan reserve.
- Eabametoong First Nation in Ontario has confirmed its first case of the virus, despite imposing strict self-isolation restrictions, including a community-wide curfew.
- Indigenous Services Canada has not provided updated case numbers since Thursday, April 2, 2020. There are challenges for the federal department to get a full snapshot of the extent of the virus in First Nations across Canada. The department says tests for COVID-19 can be done in communities, but swabs are then sent to provincial labs to be analyzed.
- Six Nations of the Grand River, a large community of about 13,000 on-reserve members near Hamilton, has confirmed eight cases.

Provincial

- Ontario now has 23 childcare centres open to provide childcare to frontline workers.
- You can apply to receive \$200 for each child or \$250 for each child with special needs starting today. This is eligible to all parents with children age 0-12 for the \$200 benefit, and with children age 0-21 for the \$250 benefit for children with special needs.
- Parents can call the help line at 1-(888)-344-7700 for answers to all of their questions.
- Premier Ford told the public today that our supplies are very limited in terms of personal protective equipment, and issues acquiring supplies from the United States present a large obstacle. We currently have two orders for a total of 4 million masks set up with 3M, and have just recently been able to get 500 000 of these across the border. Getting the rest will be very difficult.
- Ontario currently has enough PPE for another week, and the 500 000 masks we have coming today will keep us in supply for an additional week after that.
- A company in Woodbridge, Ontario received approval from Health Canada over the weekend to start production on their design of a mask that is a higher grade than the N95. More details on the numbers we will receive from them will come in Ford's daily announcement tomorrow.
- Ontario has launched a new web portal to connect workers with employers to fill positions in the agri-food sector.



ANISHINABEK NATION

- Military troops and vehicles are moving to CFB Borden today, from which they will address calls for assistance in the fight against the virus.
- GO Transit is further reducing services temporarily after seeing a 90 per cent ridership drop during this period of self-isolation.
- Ontario cannabis stores will remain closed for 2 weeks, as they have now been deemed non-essential.

Federal

- Canadians with birthdays in January, February and March can apply today for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. You can do so online or call the toll-free number to apply. Canadians with birthdays in later months will be able to apply as the week progresses. It will take 3-5 days to receive payment of the benefit with direct deposit.
- 240 000 people had already applied for the benefit by 11 a.m. ET today.
- Trudeau said today that those working less than 10 hours or otherwise reduced hours will be given details of how the CERB will work for them later this week.
- The federal government is currently working on a solution for students in college or university wondering how they will find work this summer.
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has launched the Canadians Business Resilience Network to help businesses get through this period and to drive economic recovery afterwards.
- Canada's Chief Medical Officer is recommending people wear homemade masks in the instance that they must go out in public.
- Trudeau is continuing to negotiate with officials in the United States to keep the supply chain of personal protective equipment flowing.
- Canada is looking into disinfecting and reusing masks in hospitals. In the meantime, Chief Medical Officer Tam is asking that masks not be thrown away.
- The federal government is urging medical students and healthcare retirees to volunteer in the fight against COVID-19.
- On Friday, Canada signed an agreement with Amazon to manage distribution of medical equipment throughout the country.
- Trudeau announced on Saturday that Canada will be investing \$40 million to Women and Gender Equality Canada, with up to \$30 million to address immediate needs of shelters and sexual assault centres. The government will also use \$157.5 million to address the needs of Canadians experiencing homelessness.

Allan Dokis
Director of Policy and Communications
allan.dokis@anishinabek.ca