



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 8, 2020

A message from Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare:

The threat the coronavirus poses on our communities and health is serious! Now is the time to act! Stay home unless you are an essential worker on the frontline!

We are in times never seen before.

We need everyone to follow the advice being given by medical professionals — no ifs, ands, or buts. If you are experiencing any of the coronavirus symptoms, please stay home and call your local health facility.

The next few weeks are critical to trying to get a grip on the spreading of the virus. This means that social and physical distancing is a must. Everyone has a responsibility in this effort to flatten the curve.

Miigwech to our frontline workers for their hard work in keeping us safe!

Indigenous

- Prime Minister Trudeau said today that needs of Indigenous communities for support during this period will be assessed and provided on a case-by-case basis.
- As construction continues on the Coastal Gaslink pipeline in northern British Columbia, Indigenous communities living near the route fear that workers could spread COVID-19 to the region. First Nations leaders, many of whom supported the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs' opposition to the project, are calling on the federal and provincial governments to shut down the construction.
- Indigenous Services Canada said yesterday that it is aware of 35 positive tests of COVID-19 in First Nations communities as of April 6.

Provincial

- The Ontario government will temporarily be allowing deliveries and curbside pickups of cannabis to mitigate issues presented by the closure of dispensaries.
- It was announced last night that the City of Toronto has now recalled over 60 000 masks, costing \$200 000, after it was determined that they did not meet the City's standards and health requirements. These masks had previously been distributed to long-term care homes.
- Ontario appears to be dwindling efforts to process COVID-19 test results this week. Data from the Ministry of Health shows there were just 2,568 new test results provided on Tuesday. This pace continued today, with Ontario announcing 3,237 new test results.
- Premier Ford said today that the lack of testing in Ontario right now is unacceptable, and that his patience is running thin on the matter. He said that every long-term care and healthcare worker must be tested, and that the province should be processing 13 000 tests per day at this point.



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- 8,000 people have already signed up on the new online database to match workers with positions in the healthcare sector.
- Ford announced today that Ontario is accelerating healthcare infrastructure to get hospitals and assessment centers built faster. The government is also introducing new measures to keep essential workers safe, including increased site inspections moving forward. Ford has called on retired labour inspectors to help ensure sites are up to code.
- Ford announced that this week, stores will be open Thursday, Saturday and Monday, but will remain closed Friday and Sunday for the Easter and Passover holidays.
- Minister McNaughton urged essential workers with a complaint about the safety of their workplace to call 1-877-202-0008 and report the issues.

Federal

- Prime Minister Trudeau said today that he is currently working with opposition to quickly resume the House and pass wage subsidy legislation.
- Cabinet will meet this afternoon. While most will be on the phone, Trudeau will attend in person.
- Businesses can now qualify for the wage subsidy if they show a decline of 15 per cent in revenue in March, rather than 30 per cent as previously announced. Businesses can also use the month of January and February of this year to show a loss of 30 per cent revenue.
- Charities and non-profits can include or exclude government funding when they calculate loss of revenue. Government will provide up to \$847 per week for each employee, and this will be retroactive to March 15, 2020.
- The federal government is currently working on further changes to the wage subsidy eligibility requirements to reflect their understanding that not all businesses operate in the same way.
- Trudeau will release employment statistics for March 2020 tomorrow, and has warned the public that it will not be easy to hear.
- The government is still looking for solutions to issues with the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, including the current ineligibility for homecare and gig workers, as well as people who have experienced reduced work to 10 hours or less per week.
- Trudeau announced today that the government is taking steps to help students and young people entering the job market. The Canada Summer Jobs program will now subsidize 100 per cent of the costs of hiring students. This will include job placements that continue into the winter. Employers will also be able to hire students part-time.
- While applications for Canada Summer Jobs closed on February 28, the program will work with Members of Parliament to identify organizations that provide essential services in the community, could provide youth jobs, but have not yet applied for the Canada Summer Jobs program.
- Canada received 500 000 masks last night from 3M and will be distributing them across the country where needed.



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- Canada has received more than 4 million applications for financial assistance since March 15, 2020.
- Trudeau is saying he will continue to press the United States for further support with medical supplies.
- The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Trudeau said yesterday that he is continuing to work with Canada's big banks to provide help for households to access credit.

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