



# ANISHINABEK NATION

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## COVID-19 Update - April 20, 2020

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**A message from Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare:**

*I want to thank all of the frontline and essential service workers who are helping us through these challenging times.*

*It is at this time that we must continue to work as a collective to stop the spread of the coronavirus. I want to thank our Leadership for their tireless dedication, perseverance, and compassion to support our communities to try to keep them healthy and safe.*

*I ask those who can continue to stay home, to do so – the less we travel, the less the virus does too. The virus only travels because humans travel.*

*Stay home – remember the babies, youth and Elders need us to do our part to keep this virus out of our homes.*

### Indigenous

April 17

- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is calling for the federal government to approve its recently ratified custom election code so citizens can vote online for the upcoming Chief and Council election during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is planning to hold its Chief and Council election on June 27 by using the online voting option of the new custom election code the community ratified on January 30.
- Federal authorities are not addressing the country's worst prison outbreak of COVID-19 with the urgency it deserves, according to Indigenous leaders in British Columbia. This was reported after 55 prisoners at the medium-security Mission Institution tested positive for COVID-19 last week. 68 prisoners are now in isolation, with 21 of them Indigenous.

April 18

- The federal government will provide \$306 million in funding to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses suffering the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal financial institutions, which offer financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Metis businesses. The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association will administer funds.



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## Provincial

April 17

- The Ontario government is facing calls to take over operations at two of the hardest hit long-term care homes in the province, where at least 54 residents have died and 149 people have been sickened by COVID-19. Minister Fullerton dismissed one of these requests on Friday.

April 18

- Premier Ford has said that returning to normal without a vaccine for the novel coronavirus will put lives at risk.
- Ontario has instructed social assistance caseworkers to reinstate benefits to those who stopped receiving them after qualifying for the CERB.
- Mayor John Tory has said that Toronto could have a budget shortfall of as much as \$2.76 billion as it struggles to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Premier Ford announced \$20 million in funding for Ontario researchers trying to find a vaccine for COVID-19 on Saturday.

April 20

- 8 staff and 60 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 at a Brampton jail. The province is temporarily closing the facility effective Tuesday, April 21. Inmates are being transferred to Toronto South Detention Centre.
- Ontario modelling projections released today show the wave of new community spread cases of COVID-19 in Ontario appears to have peaked.
- New projections say Ontario is now expected to have fewer than 20 000 cases of novel coronavirus, substantially lower than the 80 000 projected by previous models.
- Health officials say more needs to be done in long-term care and group settings. During the projection announcement today, the Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario said that aggressive testing will continue to be necessary in long-term care homes.
- Officials say its difficult to predict deaths right now due to the drop in community spread met with growth in long-term care homes.
- Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and Minister Fullerton reminded everyone today that while new modelling is optimistic, there is still work to be done, and the public must continue to practice physical distancing.
- Ontario has passed the 12 000 mark in confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19.



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## Federal

April 17

- The national case total remains at 35 708, with 1 647 deaths.
- Efforts are under way to connect scientists with eligible Canadians to participate in clinical trials. Canadian Blood Services is looking for recovered COVID-19 patients specifically.
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1 million in new funding to connect workers with in-demand jobs in the agri-food sector to keep the nation's supply chains strong during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Canadian banks have processed more than 670 000 mortgage deferrals or skipped payments this month since announcing a measure to help consumers weather the economic hit from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Senate will not resume sitting until June 2 at the earliest. The work of three Senate committees will continue by videoconference or teleconference.

April 19

- The Canadian Civil Liberties Association says it's going to fight for citizens nabbed for municipal recreational infractions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The association has received more than 100 public complaints over the past 10 days from those who have been ticketed by bylaw or police officers for defying emergency management offences such as jogging on golf courses or exercising in parks.

April 20

- Prime Minister Trudeau's public address today focused on sharing information and condolences regarding the Nova Scotia mass shooting that occurred over the weekend. No new measures regarding the coronavirus outbreak were shared.

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