



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 21, 2020

Indigenous

- Hospitals facing urgent COVID-19 needs are banding together to close funding gaps for their institutions and workers. The national campaign, known as The Frontline Fund, is raising money to help hospitals source personal protective equipment and ventilators, fund drug trials and vaccine research, and provide mental health support to staff. 10 per cent of funds will also go towards the northern territories and Indigenous health.
- Ontario is also providing \$40 million to help community organizations with COVID-19 related costs. This will go through the Residential Relief Fund to assist developmental services, child welfare, victims' shelters, and organizations delivering social services to vulnerable First Nations individuals and families.

Provincial

- The Ministry of Labour saw 1,440 complaints about workplace safety related to COVID-19 in March, up from only 14 in February.
- The City of Ottawa has announced spending of \$11.4 million to bolster the city's shelter system and agencies supporting the capital's homeless population.
- The province is partnering with the Ontario Community Support Organization, investing \$11 million to deliver groceries, medicine and other necessary items to our seniors and those with disabilities.
- Premier Ford has encouraged people to reach out to the elderly in their lives and offer help.
- This week, Ontario has doubled Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payments for 194,000 low-income seniors. This will result in an increase of up to \$166 per individual and \$332 per couple each month. This increase will remain in place for the next 6 months.
- More details will soon be announced regarding increased measures in group homes to protect against the spread of the virus.
- An announcement regarding Ontario's plan for first steps in reopening the economy will be made in the coming days. Premier Ford has confirmed that benchmarks will be set for when certain steps can be made in reopening industries. These will be determined by the Chief Medical Officer and his team.
- Minister Smith confirmed today that there will be a six-month extension for families receiving one-time payments for children with autism.



ANISHINABEK NATION

Federal

- The federal government is now establishing an Emergency Community Support Fund. This will consist of a \$350 million investment to support community organizations and non-profits. Part of the money will go to small, independent organizations and the rest will go through national organizations such as United Way and Red Cross.
- Prime Minister Trudeau has announced the launch of a new calculator to help companies determine the amount they may claim through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. This mechanism is available today on the Canada Revenue Agency's website.
 - The new online calculator is meant to help companies know how much money they will receive in the coming weeks and how much they can afford to borrow from financial institutions while waiting for federal subsidies.
- Trudeau said today that he is working with partners and industry leaders to highlight gaps and challenges and find solutions for those who find themselves without medical benefits at this time.

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