

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Thursday, April 16

AFN Alberta is summarizing updates and information we are receiving on our website. All our previous bulletins can be found on this page as well. <http://www.afnab.ca/News-and-Events/Coronavirus>.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Test Results

ALBERTA	April 15	April 16	Change
Negative (#s of Tests)	85,502	*	*
Positive	1,996	2,158	(+162)
Fatalities	48	50	(+2)
Recoveries	914	*	*

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta*

Calgary zone - 1,242(+) Edmonton zone - 402 (+)
Central zone - 74 (+) South zone - 36 (+) North zone - 107 (+)
Unidentified zone - 9

*Due to technical issues with the reporting application, only the preliminary numbers are available [for April 15 and 16]. Updated case information, including zone cases and recovered will be provided once the problems have been resolved. (alberta.ca)

New Restrictions and Measures

- Alberta [expanded](#) COVID-19 testing to **anyone with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, or a sore throat.**
 - Anyone who is sick **must** stay home and take the [COVID-19 self-assessment form](#) to arrange testing. (Calling 811 no longer required to schedule testing).
- International travellers now have to quarantine in a hotel if they don't have any other options.
- A provincial fire ban is now in effect, as well as a ban on Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. **Indigenous people may use OHVs on public land for traditional purposes.** (additional information in the Alberta update).

First Nation-specific Updates

- Service Canada has a dedicated toll-free phone line for First Nations members needing help with their CERB applications. Call 1-877-631-2657

- Canada asked for written submission on the potential use of the *Emergencies Act* to be submitted by **today**. Regional Chief Poitras shared regional concerns and considerations in a letter to Ministers Miller and Bennett. (*Details provided below*).
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: Communities can request PPE from ISC/FNIHB through the communicable disease inbox:
sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca
 - Alberta Health Services (AHS) is also helping fill supply gaps. Communities can put in weekly requests for PPE through AHS. Contact:
ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca.
- AHS Indigenous-specific questions/concerns/requests can be emailed to
ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca.

National and Regional Updates

- The federal government is both increasing and decreasing the eligibility threshold for Canadian Emergency Business Assistance (up to \$40,000 government backed loan). Businesses between \$20k-\$1.5m in total payroll for 2019 are now eligible.
- Canada is expanding the CERB to reach those earning low income (<\$1000/mo), seasonal workers, and those who have run out of EI.
 - Federal government is also looking at boosting wages for those making under \$2500 a month in essential roles such as long-term care workers.
- Premier Kenney announced \$53M in funding for a mental health support plan to help Albertans cope with the COVID-19 crisis.
- Alberta is [making](#) PPE available to non-AHS facilities such as pharmacies, social service centres, and independent medical clinics.
- The Alberta Mental Health helpline is available to anyone needing to talk about their struggles - 1-877-303-2642

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

***UPDATED* Canada Asks for Input on Enacting the Emergencies Act**

Last Friday, Regional Chief Poitras received a copy of a letter to the National Chief from Ministers Bennett and Miller, regarding the potential for the Government of Canada to invoke the *Emergencies Act*. Canada asked for written submissions to be sent by Thursday, April 16. **Today, the Regional Chief sent a letter to the Ministers providing regional concerns and considerations on the use of the *Emergencies Act*, with a particular emphasis on Treaty.** Her letter is attached to this update. **Key Highlights:**

- **Information lacking and consultation required:** First Nations require more information from the Government of Canada on the precise scope of any proposed declaration of a public welfare emergency under the *Emergencies Act*. The Government of Canada must

consult First Nations directly as the signatories to Treaty and the holders of section 35 rights.

- **Impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights:** The use of the *Emergencies Act* may impact Treaty and Aboriginal rights. In particular, First Nations in Alberta have serious concerns the potential fall-out on the Nations' right to self-government.
- **Treaty promises must be fulfilled:** Treaty 6 includes promises of assistance to First Nations in times of "pestilence" and to keep a "medicine chest" for the use and benefit of our peoples. The Crown has an obligation arising from the Constitution and the honour of the Crown to proactively ensure these Treaty promises are fulfilled regardless of the decision it makes with respect to the *Emergencies Act*. The *Emergencies Act* is not required for the federal Crown to uphold its Treaty promises.

As mentioned in previous updates this week, the AFN National Executive participated in a Tuesday conference call with the Ministers and the Prime Minister to further discuss this matter. The Prime Minister confirmed that Canada will not be moving forward with applying the *Emergencies Act* at this time and, ideally, never. Regional Chief Poitras stressed that any consultation on this matter must occur with individual First Nations as signatories to the Treaty and holders of section 35 rights. She also raised the following key points:

- For the first time since Treaties were signed, many First Nations in Alberta have enacted the famine and pestilence clause and the medicine chest clause contained in their respective Treaty. They need to be supported based on identified needs, according to the provisions of Treaty and they must be consulted directly.
- The *Emergencies Act* is silent on First Nation jurisdiction, if the Act were invoked how will the First Nations jurisdiction and authority be addressed? There are many questions with respect to the scope of the Act that needs to be clarified.
- Should the provinces not consent to the *Emergencies Act* and decide to enact their own Emergency Management Act (AB), in which First Nations are deemed municipalities, how will the federal government deal with First Nations in this instance?
- Our Nations are experiencing issues with accessing funding to support off reserve members. Many off-reserve members do not have a lot of resources for food and accommodation. The lack of technology and Internet services is also a deterrent for off-reserve members to access funds online that have been announced. Will there be more funds allocated to deal with off-reserve members?
- Overcrowding and lack of housing on reserve is a huge concern that needs to be addressed immediately in response to the Pandemic.
- First Nations are using their own source revenue to fund their pandemic response, will they be fully refunded for all the resources expended during this time?
- First Nations need to be at the table where decisions are being made about them. They are the rights holders and they have the authority and sovereignty over their communities and their citizens.

The Prime Minister confirmed that he has asked Minister Miller to work on additional funding measures to support First Nations' response to COVID-19. In particular, both the Prime Minister and Minister Miller acknowledged that the \$15 million allocated for Indigenous organizations serving off-reserve/urban Indigenous populations is inadequate. ISC is working on supplementing these applications through other existing funding envelopes.

Additional Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

April 16 Daily Bulletin:

ISC Alberta Region is sending daily updates during the week to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. yesterday's bulletin (April 16) is attached. It includes the following information.

- Update on testing criteria
- Service Canada outreach support centre
- Hospital visits
- Links to national information
- Windspeaker radio spots

Free Webinar: Consultation in the Age of COVID-19 | Friday, April 7 10 am to 11 am

MLT Aikins is inviting First Nations to their third webinar series tomorrow "tailored towards helping Indigenous governments navigate emerging issues related to COVID-19."

As the Federal Government ramps up efforts to provide support to Indigenous governments impacted by COVID-19, the duty to consult should be appropriately considered in the decision-making process. This webinar will cover a broad range of topics relating to consultation including: provincial and federal approaches to consultation, strategies for Indigenous governments, regulatory issues, and the effect of COVID-19 on Impact Benefit Agreements."

[Click here](#) to register.

Information Sheets for First Nations on Accessing Financial Assistance

The following fact sheets are available for download [here](#) and [here](#). We have also attached them to this update. Please share these widely with your members and on social media.



Information for First Nations on eligibility and applying for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

April 2020

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is providing this Guide to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) so First Nations individuals can better understand if they are eligible for financial support from the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information about the CERB and eligibility can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

The CERB will provide a taxable benefit of \$500 per week – for up to 16 weeks – for individuals who are involuntarily without work because of COVID-19, regardless of whether they are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits. Applications for the CERB are now open.

Eligibility periods are fixed in 4-week periods – this means you can only apply for four weeks on your first application for CERB. If your situation continues, you can re-apply for CERB for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- You reside in Canada and have a Social Insurance Number
- You are 15 years old or more when you apply



For your first CERB application:

- You have stopped or will stop working due to reasons related to COVID-19
- For at least 14 days in a row for the period you are applying for, you will not receive:
 - o employment income
 - o self-employment income
 - o provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave



You will be informed on how to reapply for the CERB through the first application process. After you apply, you should get your payment in 3 business days, if you signed up for direct deposit. If you haven't, you should get it in about 10 business days.

How do I to apply?

There are two ways to apply:

You can apply online by signing in to your CRA My Account: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html>



- If you do not have a CRA My Account, you can register for one. Here is a short video on how to register: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html>

You can apply over the phone with an automated phone service by calling 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041



- To verify your identity, you'll need:
 - o your social insurance number (SIN)
 - o postal code

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern) for maintenance.

Questions about applying for CERB with CRA?



- More information about the CERB and eligibility can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>
- Or find answers to common questions with this automated help line: 1-833-966-2099

www.afn.ca



COVID-19: SOCIAL SUPPORTS FOR FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is providing this overview of resources for First Nations families during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation is changing rapidly, please visit the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [Indigenous Services Canada](#) or [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) for the most updated information.



Child and Family Services:

The wellbeing of First Nations children and their families remains a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has outlined a number of additional measures they are taking to ensure children and families are supported during this time.

- During these challenging times, [First Nations Child and Family Services \(FNCFS\)](#) agencies may have to provide exceptional services and may incur additional costs. Additional costs covered under the FNCFS program may include human resources and operations costs, cleaning and personal supplies, emergency food support, temporary lodging and emergency assistance for First Nations for response planning.
- ISC has confirmed that First Nations youth who would be aging out of care during the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to receive supports from March 9, 2020 until at least September 30, 2020, or as long as the pandemic lasts. ISC will cover eligible costs of providing this extended care for FNCFS agencies.



Jordan's Principle:

[Jordan's Principle](#) remains accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requests can still be submitted and continue to be assessed for health, social and education-related products, services and supports for First Nations children.

- Jordan's Principle can assist families in accessing emergency supports and supplies to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Service provision may be affected during COVID-19. If your child's services have been affected by closures related to COVID-19, please contact your local Service Coordinator or call the Jordan's Principle Call Centre at **1-855-572-4453 (1-855-JP-CHILD)**, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- If your child needs emergency care, please call 9-1-1 or your local emergency services number.



Income Assistance:

The Income Assistance program through ISC continues to be available for First Nations to help meet daily needs and provide employment supports. Individuals and families seeking support through the Income Assistance program can seek more information from the [program website](#), or by contacting their Band Office or [Yukon Regional Office](#).

- ISC is preparing for a potential increase in requests for support during the COVID-19 outbreak, including supports for basic needs such as food, cleaning and other household products over the coming months.

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Other Income and Financial Support:

Canada has announced a number of additional measures to support people experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. First Nations are encouraged to apply for any benefits they may need during this time to support themselves and their families.

- Eligible individuals (you must have filed a 2018 tax return) will receive a one-time special **increase in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit payment** starting April 9, 2020. This credit is available to low- and modest-income families and will be up to \$400 for single individuals or up to \$600 for couples. More information about the GST credit can be found on the [GST credit website](#).
 - › There is no need to apply for this payment; eligible individuals are automatically enrolled when a tax return is filed.
 - › However, if you did not apply for the Canada Child Benefit (see below), and you had another child or a child starts to live with you, you will need to [manually register the child](#) to receive their GST credit.
- Individuals who are living with an eligible child will receive an **increase in their Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment by \$300 per child**, in addition to the regular payment for the 2019-20 benefit year (you must have filed a 2018 tax return). The increase will be included in the May 2020 payment. More information about how to apply can be found on the [CCB website](#).
 - › There is no need to reapply if you are already receiving the CCB.
 - › If you did not apply for the CCB, had another child or a child starts to live with you, you will need to [manually register the child](#) to receive the CCB.
- Any worker who is out of work because of COVID-19 (sickness, quarantine, caring for a relative with COVID-19, lay-offs because of COVID-19, etc.) should apply for the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**. All Employment Insurance (EI) Regular or Sickness Benefits claims related to COVID-19 are being processed through a [single portal with the CERB](#). The CERB will provide a taxable benefit of \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks for individuals who are involuntarily without work because of COVID-19, regardless of whether they are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits. Applications for the CERB opened on April 6, 2020. More information about the CERB and eligibility can be found on the [program website](#).
- Many banks in Canada are offering case-by-case support for **mortgage payment deferral**. Contact your financial institution to further discuss this option.

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

No Notable Calls/Meetings today.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

Summaries and information of the following can be found in the update below.

- **Canada's April 16 COVID-19 Update**
- **Alberta's April 15 COVID-19 Update**

Canada's April 16 Update

Relevant Links: [PM's daily briefing \(9:15 am MT\)](#)

[Ministers' and Health Officials briefing \(10:00 am MT\)](#)

Speaking from outside of his home in Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discussed the federal government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Following, Deputy Minister Freeland and Dr. Tam gave the daily Ministerial and Health Officials Updates. **Key Highlights:**

- There are now 29,826 cases nationally, with 1,048 deaths. Close to 50% of fatalities are linked to long-term care facilities and 93% in people over 60 years of age. 487,000 people tested with 6% returning positive.
- To date, Over 195,000 loans have been approved through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), to help small businesses struggling with cash flow. This equates to \$7.5 billion in credit, but are hearing those concerns of ineligibility.
- **Today**, the federal government is both increasing and decreasing the eligibility threshold for CEBA. Businesses between \$20k-\$1.5m in total payroll for 2019 are now eligible.
- PM also introduced the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance to help businesses with rent for April/May/June. The details of this need to be worked out with the provinces and territories so additional information will be coming soon.

Additional Information

- Earlier this morning PM had a call with other G7 leaders to discuss the pandemic. All remain committed to doing what it takes to help people and economies bounce back.
 - Have to support more vulnerable nations, together as partners to ensure safety and health of those around the world.
- Responding to concerns heard across the country that there are still gaps in support, the federal government stated it will continue to address and amend its approach, listening to the feedback of Canadians.
- PM reiterated that we cannot look at going back to "normal" until there are treatments and vaccines available. Conversations will start about when some restrictions can be relaxed but they need to be carefully planned and cannot happen too early.

- In regards to the inaccuracy of the modelling, PM stated that it is not a crystal ball, it is a tool that allows for planning of various scenarios. In this case, the impacts on seniors homes and long-term care facilities were more severe than was feared.
 - However, there are signs that our collective efforts are beginning to have an impact, and we need to continue on the marathon, we are not at the end yet.

Alberta's April 16 COVID-19 Update

Relevant Links: [CMO Provincial Update \(3:30 pm MT\)](#)

[News Release: Response plan protects workers, food supply](#)

Dr. Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, provided today's update on the province's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- In regards to the service disruption from yesterday (lack of regional data) - a power failure which caused a small fire in the provinces data centre brought down the online reporting system. Teams are working around the clock to restore all applications as quickly as possible. It is anticipated that regular update information will resume tomorrow.
- Dr.Hinshaw was able to provide the general information on COVID-19 data, there are 162 new cases in Alberta for a total of 2,158 total cases. 2,779 tests have been conducted in the last 24 hours. *(cumulative testing data unavailable)*
 - There are 2 additional deaths to report, a male in his 70s in Calgary zone and female in her 80s in north zone.
- With the outbreak at the Kearl Lake Oil Sands project, the province is doing all they can to limit risk of transmission. AHS is also working with Cargill meat in High River and the outbreak there. The plant has voluntarily and fully cooperated with all the requested measures.
- Recently Dr.Hinshaw has received questions about cases in healthcare facilities. As soon as tests come back positive immediate action is taken. At the foothills medical centre maternity unit positive cases in staff were identified. After completion of testing, no patients were affected in this location and there have been no positive staff test results in over a week.

Additional Information

- We are reminded that we are still not at the peak of infection in Alberta.
- Dr.Hinshaw stated that there are also other opportunities to improve health, particularly regarding smoking, vaping, and drinking alcohol. COVID is a respiratory virus, and smoking and e-cigarettes can expose the lungs to toxic chemicals. As a result, the risk of severe illness for those infected is increased. Even temporary quitting can help in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 (as with any lung infection).

- Smoking/Vaping is also done by touching of the face and lips, which greatly increases risk of infection.
 - AHS has programs that can help including a free “AlbertaQuits” helpline at 1-866-710-7848. 8AM to 8PM seven days per week.
- It is also important to limit alcohol consumption during this time. There are many risks associated with consumption, both to physical and mental health. Dr.Hinshaw suggested a general limit of 2 drinks a day maximum for women, and 3 for men.

AHS COVID-19 Community Engagements

Alberta Health Services has been hosting virtual community conversations about the pandemic with stakeholders in their respective service zones. They are conducting an online survey about how they should communicate with community groups during the COVID-19. [Click here](#) to access the survey. You can contact Community.Engagement@ahs.ca for more information on the community conversations.



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ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

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Fax: (780) 509-8965

April 16, 2020

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
10 Wellington Street, 21st Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
Email: Carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Hon. Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous Services Canada
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
Email: marc.miller@canada.ca

Dear Ministers:

Re: Comments regarding proposed use of the *Emergencies Act*

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations Alberta Association (“AFN Alberta”), I provide these comments with respect to the potential use of the *Emergencies Act* and COVID.

The AFN Alberta is a regional advocacy organization for forty-eight First Nations in Alberta who are signatories to Treaties No. 6, 7 and 8. Our member First Nations have Constitutionally-protected Treaty and Aboriginal rights, as well as inherent jurisdiction over their citizens and lands.

We received an undated letter from your offices on Friday, April 10, 2020 (a statutory holiday). The letter sought the Assembly of First Nation’s (“AFN”) “initial views of the *Emergencies Act*, and whether measures under the *Act* could assist or fill existing gaps in our collective efforts to respond to the pandemic.” On Tuesday, April 14, 2020, part of the AFN Executive Committee, I participated in a conference calls with yourselves and the Prime Minister. We provide these comments in response to the request for written input by Thursday, April 16, 2020.

.../2

The AFN Alberta does not see a need for the *Emergencies Act* to be invoked at this time. Based on our discussions on Tuesday, our understanding is that the Government of Canada is committed to ongoing consultation directly with First Nations in advance of making any declaration of a public welfare emergency under the *Emergencies Act*.

Based on our preliminary examination of the issue and discussions with First Nations in Alberta we highlight three key concerns:

1. *Information lacking and consultation required*: First Nations require more information from the Government of Canada on the precise scope of any proposed declaration of a public welfare emergency under the *Emergencies Act*. The Government of Canada must consult First Nations directly as the signatories to Treaty and the holders of section 35 rights.
2. *Impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights*: The use of the *Emergencies Act* may impact Treaty and Aboriginal rights. In particular, First Nations in Alberta have serious concerns the potential fall-out on the Nations' right to self-government.
3. *Treaty promises must be fulfilled*: Treaty 6 includes promises of assistance to First Nations in times of "pestilence" and to keep a "medicine chest" for the use and benefit of our peoples. The Crown has an obligation arising from the Constitution and the honour of the Crown to proactively ensure these Treaty promises are fulfilled regardless of the decision it makes with respect to the *Emergencies Act*. The *Emergencies Act* is not required for the federal Crown to uphold its Treaty promises.

Information Requests and Consultation Required

With the very short turnaround, over the Easter weekend, we endeavoured to work with First Nations in Alberta to obtain their views on Canada's proposed use of the *Emergencies Act* and how it may impact their Treaty and Aboriginal rights and inherent jurisdiction. Like all governments across Canada, significant staff and resources in First Nations are currently diverted to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. They emphasized that they had not had sufficient time to properly consider the potential problems or benefits of the proposed use of the *Emergencies Act*. They clearly told us that further engagement is required.

First Nations require further information from the Government of Canada in order to engage in meaningful consultations regarding any proposed declaration of a public welfare emergency. In particular, we kindly request your departments provide details in writing regarding the intended scope of any federal declaration of a public welfare emergency and provide a response to the following:

- The precise powers under subsection 8(1) of the *Emergencies Act* that the Government of Canada seeks to rely on.
- Whether the declaration will have the potential to conflict with provisions of the *Indian Act* and if so, which provisions.
- The geographic scope of the intended declaration.

- The temporal scope of the intended declaration.

We also request further information regarding Canada's motivations to invoke the *Emergencies Act*. We ask for information on the following:

- The specific gaps Canada thinks will be filled by invoking the *Emergencies Act*.
- Whether Canada is currently experiencing difficulties providing goods and services to First Nations? If so, is this due to a lack of provincial cooperation, other factors?
- Concrete examples of situations and/or problems that will be solved by invoking the *Emergencies Act*.

Finally, the Government of Canada must consult First Nations directly as the signatories to Treaty and the holders of section 35 rights.

Impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights, including Nations' inherent jurisdiction

First Nations in Alberta are concerned about the potential for a declaration under the *Emergencies Act* to impact their Constitutionally-protected Treaty and Aboriginal rights and their inherent jurisdiction, including their rights to self-government. First Nations in Alberta consistently face difficulty having their duly passed, Charter compliant laws and Bylaws recognized or considered by other levels of government and law enforcement.

Any federal emergency declaration should work in full partnership with First Nations, and must work collaboratively with each First Nation's specific state of emergency and laws, and expressly contemplate cooperation with the local Chief and Council in the event services will be provided on reserve.

First Nations here emphasized the need for a commitment that any federal declaration will not seek to use reserve lands or any property located on reserve without the written consent of the affected First Nation's leadership.

Other ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

Our member First Nations are of the view that the Government of Canada has other means available to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic that would not require the use of the *Emergencies Act*.

First, the funding provided thus far for First Nations to manage the pandemic is not adequate. During our conference call, the Prime Minister advised that he has heard "loud and clear" that the funding provided to date is not enough. We understand that the Prime Minister has instructed Minister Miller to work on additional funding measures for First Nations. Our member First Nations welcome this commitment.

Second, the *Emergencies Act* is not required for the federal Crown to uphold its Treaty 6 promise to provide assistance in times of "pestilence" and to keep a "medicine chest" for the use and benefit of our peoples. The "pestilence" clause in Treaty 6 states:

That in the event hereafter of the Indians comprised within this treaty being overtaken by any pestilence, or by a general famine, the Queen, on being satisfied and certified thereof by her Indian Agent or Agents, will grant to the Indians assistance of such character and to such extent as her Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs shall deem necessary and sufficient to relieve the Indians from the calamity that shall have befallen them...”

The “medicine chest” clause states:

That a medicine chest shall be kept at the house of each Indian Agent for the use and benefit of the Indians at the direction of such agent

Government of Canada measures should be aimed at proactively fulfilling Treaty promises.

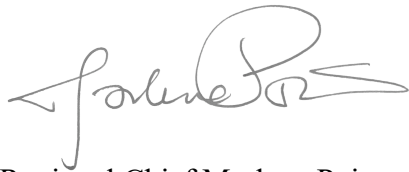
Third, pursuant to section 88 of the *Indian Act*, where a First Nation passes a law consenting to assistance from the federal government, it is our view that no provincial consent to federal intervention under the *Emergencies Management Act* is required.

Conclusion

AFN Alberta looks forward to receiving the information requested above and to continued collaboration with your Government on its potential use of the Emergencies Act and other COVID related matters.

During our conference call, the Government of Canada stated that it wants to use the momentum of the current crisis to fill gaps and address longstanding challenges in First Nations. We welcome this approach and look forward to working with Indigenous Services Canada and the Government of Canada at large towards achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlene Poitras', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Regional Chief Marlene Poitras

cc. National Chief Perry Bellegarde
AFN National Executive Committee