

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Saturday, April 18

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>.

**The next AFN Alberta Daily Bulletin will be published on Monday, April 20.*

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Test Results

ALBERTA	April 16	April 17*	Change
Negative (#s of Tests)	85,502*	92,805	(+7,303)
Positive	2,158	2,397	(+239)
Fatalities	50	50	(+0)
Recoveries	914*	1,124	(+210)

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta (April 14 to 17 changes)**

Calgary zone - 1,673(+431) Edmonton zone - 429 (+27)
Central zone - 77 (+3) South zone - 68 (+32) North zone - 135 (+28)
Unidentified zone - 15

***April 17 data not published by province at time of this document's publication.**

****Due to technical issues with the reporting application, only the preliminary numbers were available [for April 15 and 16]. Updated case information, including zone cases and recovered are provided in today's update.**

New Restrictions and Measures

- The border closure between Canada and the United States will remain in effect for another 30 days.
- Alberta [expanded](#) COVID-19 testing yesterday to all residents and staff of any long term care facility where an active COVID-19 outbreak is occurring regardless of symptoms.
 - Last week, the province 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).

First Nation-specific Updates

- Today, Canada announced \$306M in funding support for Indigenous businesses

- ISC continues to recommend that First Nations with upcoming elections do not hold those elections during this time. Policy changes were made last week giving leaders the option to continue in their positions for the next 6-12 months.
- **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 yesterday. 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

- A number of new funding measures were announced by Canada on Friday, including \$1.7 billion for orphan well reclamation, \$750 million for methane emission reduction, and over \$1 billion in support for rural small businesses, entrepreneurs and those in the Arts, Culture and Sports sectors. (*full details in the national update section of the bulletin*).
- 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.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

***NEW* AFN Health Sector COVID-19 Bulletins**

Following the lead of AFN Alberta, the national AFN Health Sector is now publishing regular bulletins summarizing updates it received from Indigenous Services Canada and other organizations like the Canada Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as well as Canada's daily briefings. **Last week's bulletin was released today and can be found attached to this update.**

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Weekly Bulletin from Dr. Yacoub

Dr. Yacoub, Alberta's Senior Medical Officer of Health at FNIHB, sent his weekly bulletin to all First Nations yesterday. These bulletins provide updates to First Nations on COVID-19 from a public health perspective. You can find his latest bulletin attached.

UPDATED Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Updates

On March 30, ISC published a variety of changes to NIHB in the wake of COVID-19. A summary of these changes can be found in the April 9 AFN bulletin we are sharing. We are also sharing the longer document ISC published outlining:

- Changes to Prior Approval for Certain Medications
- Pharmacist Recommendation for Fever and Pain Medications
- General Information on Temporary Changes to Medical Supplies and Equipment Coverage
- Temporary Changes for Replacement of Select (MS&E) Benefits
- Updates on Service Standards and Processing Times Updates
- Updates on Renewal of Indian Status Card and NIHB Client Eligibility

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 18 COVID-19 Update***
- ***Alberta's April 17 COVID-19 Update***

Canada's April 18 Update

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

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

[News Release: Prime Minister announces support for Indigenous businesses](#)

Prime Minister Trudeau announced \$306 million to help Indigenous business through the pandemic. Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller spoke further about the announcement in the daily Ministerial and Health Officials Updates.

Key Highlights:

- \$306.8M will be sent to Indigenous financial institutions and administered by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association. It will allow businesses to access short-term interest free loans and grants ("non-repayable contributions") to get through the pandemic and the coming recovery.

- More announcements are coming on what else Canada will do to help Indigenous businesses.
- There are now 31,884 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada.. 507,000 tests have been completed, with 6% returning positive.
- Minister Miller said smaller Indigenous businesses may be disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic because many have less access to capital.
 - As PM said, emergency funds will be provided to businesses through the 59 Indigenous financial institutions.
- As of April 17, there have been 52 confirmed cases on reserve. There's been 1 death in Six Nations in Ontario.
- ISC continues to recommend that First Nations with upcoming elections do not hold those elections during this time. Policy changes were made last week giving leaders the option to continue in their positions for the next 6-12 months.
 - Should communities decide to continue with elections ISC is prepared to provide public health advice and support.

Additional Information

- There are now 31,884 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada.. 507,000 tests have been completed, with 6% returning positive.
- As of April 17, there have been 52 confirmed cases on reserve. There's been 1 death in Six Nations in Ontario.
 - Minister Miller credited the low number of Indigenous cases to the strong leadership of health and political leaders in Indigenous communities.
- 555 PPE shipments delivered to Indigenous communities.
- Responding to calls from the Conservative Party that the House of Commons sit regularly with reduced numbers of MPs, the PM said it's not in the best interest of public health for Parliament to be fully recalled.
- They are putting forward proposals to Opposition parties on how Parliament can operate safely during this time.
 - Yesterday two planes arrived with N95 masks and coveralls. More medical supplies will be delivered next week.
- As of April 16, 7.9 million applications submitted to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, and 7.6 million have been processed.

Alberta's April 17 COVID-19 Update

As with previous weekends, no updates from the Chief Medical Officer are expected this Saturday or Sunday. Updated confirmed case numbers and testing data are being published in the evening at the following website: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx>

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

[News Release: Camping reservations temporarily suspended](#)

[News Release: Equality Day: Statement from Minister Aheer](#)

[News Release: Federal energy stimulus package: Premier Kenney](#)

[News Release: AHS takes over operations of local continuing care facility](#)

Premier Kenney led the presentation on COVID yesterday, and Dr.Hinshaw followed up to provide additional details and answer questions.

Key Highlights:

- 239 new infections in the last 24 hours. The substantial increase is because of the increase in testing. Alberta has tested 3,831 people in the last 24 hours. There are now a total of 2,397 confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which 1,124 have recovered. Fatalities remain at 50.
- 89,144 Albertans tested in total for a daily average of 1,974 Maximum testing capacity is currently 7,000/day and working to increase ultimately to 20,000/day.
 - Alberta maintains a low hospitalization and ICU admission rate. Current status is 60 hospitalized, 13 in ICU.
- In coming days, all residents and staff in long term care facilities with an outbreak will be required to be tested, regardless of the presence of symptoms.
- Alberta Health Services has taken over operations of Manoir du Lac continuing care facility in McLennan, Dr. Hinshaw stated the move was made due because the proper level of care was not being given at the facility. 26 of the 62 residents have tested positive and 11 of the 70 staff have contracted the novel coronavirus.

Additional Information

- Premier Kenney issued a statement of support of the Federal energy stimulus package. He thanks the government of Canada for hearing the advocacy of the province and responding.
 - He also commended Albertans on their response. While understanding calls from the public to re-open the economy, doing so now would result in a more stringent and widespread lockdown that would further impact the economy in harsher ways. Echoing last weeks response, Premier stated it is important to continue to show discipline



Assembly of First Nations COVID-19 Update

April 9th, 2020

AFN is summarizing updates and information daily. For additional information & resources go to the AFN COVID-19 page <https://www.afn.ca/initiatives/coronavirus/>.



Stay Home



**Stay 6 Feet Away
from Others**



**Avoid Contact
with Others**



**Don't Touch
Your Face**



**Wash Your Hands
Frequently**



**Cover Your Mouth
with Your Sleeve when
Coughing / Sneezing**

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Update from April 8th, 2020

- Now at the second stage of financial assistance.
- There will be a cabinet meeting this afternoon. The Prime Minister will be attending in person.
- The Wage Subsidy will be eligible for those with 15% of lost revenue for March (as opposed to 30% previously). Businesses can also choose to use January and February as reference for a loss of revenue.
- Job numbers are coming out tomorrow and it will be a hard day for the country.
- Canada is expanding the Summer Jobs Program and businesses will get a 100% minimum wage subsidy for hiring students. The job placement window will be extended until February 28, 2021. Business can hire students part time and still receive the subsidy.
- We received 500,000 N95 masks from 3M last night and these will be distributed immediately.

Highlights from the Ministerial press conference from April 8th, 2020

- Canada's COVID-19 totals are 18,447 cases, 401 deaths. 359,000 people have been tested. 5% of people tested have been positive. (CMHO)
- The Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability said on April 7, 2020 there were 750,000 new CERB applications. There have been over 1.72M over 2 days. In total there have been 4.26M EI and CERB applications combined with 2.7M processed so far. The Canada Summer Jobs Program will have increased flexibility with the federal government providing a 100% minimum wage subsidy. The program will be expanded until February 28, 2021 and business will now be able to hire on a part-time basis and still qualify.

More information available [here](#) and [appendix A](#).

Indigenous Services Canada

Below is a summary of information. Additional information from Indigenous Services can be found [here](#) and [Appendix B](#).

- As of March 31st, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada has established the following calls with the respective regions listed. Information is moving quickly, please follow up with their FNIHB Regional counterparts for additional information.

AB – Treaty 6 Chiefs: Tuesday 1615 MT (number forthcoming)
Treaty 7 Chiefs: Wednesday 1615 MT (number forthcoming)
Treaty 8 Chiefs: Thursday 1615 MT (number forthcoming)
Toll Free 1 855 353 9183



Edmonton 780 429 5820

Participant Access code: 4214556# - Participants can dial in 5 mins early, if toll free number doesn't work, try closest local number

SK – Tuesdays at 3:30pmET to 5:30pm; 1-866-296-5646 | Participant Passcode: 333954

MB – Daily at 4pm ET; 1-877-413-4790 | 8062191

ON – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, at 4pm; (1-888-265-0903; Participant passcode:4081311#)

QC – Mondays and Friday, 2x each (one in English, one in French) Convened by APN-QL, depending on the schedules of chiefs.

ATL – Daily- Monday to Friday 11AM ADT

Indigenous Services Canada has developed videos, to provide information about COVID-19 testing and care and what to do if you are in a First Nations community.

English : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo9T4dijru4vEBYW8TP-SEw>

French : <https://www.youtube.com/user/AADNCanada>

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program: COVID-19 Pandemic Updates

Non-Insured Health Benefits program has updated information regarding:

- Pharmacy Benefits,
- Medical Supplies & Equipment, and
- General Program

Detailed update from Non-Insured Health Benefits can be found in Appendix C—Attached.

Information from Breakfast Club of Canada

Breakfast Club of Canada has **\$5 million for emergency grant** funding to support Canadian families facing food insecurity during the Covid-19 crisis. The Breakfast Club is currently issuing special grants for community organizations to help ensure children and families have access to food during the crisis.

Breakfast Club of Canada guiding principles for providing funding:

- To support Canadian families facing food insecurity (specifically those with school age children),
- To support high-need neighbourhoods across Canada,
- To support Indigenous, remote and fly-in communities,
- All organizations receiving support must be established and trusted to apply processes and resources in the best interest of public health and safety,

Grant application:

<https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/covid-special-grant-application/>

Website links:

English - <https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/>

French - <https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/fr/>

Information from Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

On March 23, 2020, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) shared the following with the AFN.

Some of the **immediate actions** we are taking related to the delivery of our programs are:

- Physical condition reviews and on-site progress validation inspections for on-reserve non-profit housing (Section 95) and renovation programs will be limited or, in some cases, temporarily suspended. We are exploring options to advance funds for work in place without an on-site inspection and will provide further directions upon receiving a request.
- Contributions for Indigenous Skills Training initiatives will be honored, in cases where activities have been cancelled or postponed as a result of COVID-19.
- Housing Internship Initiative for First Nations and Inuit Youth (HIIFNIY) and On-the-Job Training Initiative (OTJTI) final instalments will be advanced per signed contribution agreements.

More information available in [appendix D](#).



Assembly of First Nations Daily COVID-19 Update

Prime Minister & Ministerial Updates

for Wednesday April 8th, 2020

Full Press Conference found here <https://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/today-aujourd'hui/>

Highlights from the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Update

- Now at the second stage of financial assistance.
- There will be a cabinet meeting this afternoon. The Prime Minister will be attending in person.
- The Wage Subsidy will be eligible for those with 15% of lost revenue for March (as opposed to 30% previously). Businesses can also choose to use January and February as reference for a loss of revenue.
- Job numbers are coming out tomorrow and it will be a hard day for the country.
- Canada is expanding the Summer Jobs Program and businesses will get a 100% minimum wage subsidy for hiring students. The job placement window will be extended until February 28, 2021. Business can hire students part time and still receive the subsidy.
- We received 500,000 N95 masks from 3M last night and these will be distributed immediately.

Questions:

What is your response to those asking for help like Grand Chief Fiddler?

My response is: yes, we are there to help. Minister Miller is working to get what is needed. Significant needs of Indigenous communities are something we are working on together.

What's the risk of social distancing in the summer?

What is clear is that in order to avoid a spike in cases and being in this for months and months we need to adhere to the measures we have now.

Why has the government not done a universal benefit?

We needed to do things quickly and robustly. We needed to put in a system that would reach as many Canadians as possible while establishing that this would replace income for those suddenly without a paycheck and the wage subsidy would keep people connected to their jobs.

With various First Nations asking for military assistance, what is the threshold for these calls for help?

We are very concerned with the issues in FN communities across the country. Remote indigenous communities have difficulties around healthcare and recognize we need to do something. We have already allocated millions of dollars to community support. Military support will be made on a case by case basis on need and how we can help as a government.

Why didn't you make the CERB simpler? Why didn't you just give a universal check?

We decided the CERB was the best way to help millions of people. We recognize there are people only working a few hours a week and we know that they should be able to get this benefit. They need money to pay their rent to go back to their studies in the fall. If you are a student, we will be bringing forward more measures.

Will you keep working at home?

I will stay home for most things. For some things like important or strategic meetings I will go to parliament. But for most things I will work from home as we are asking people to do.

When will you release modelling on this?

We recognize people want to know how long this is going to last and number of deaths. We are collating data to get a picture on this.

Conservatives want a daily question period – do you support this?



I think it is extremely important that parliament meets to pass legislation. I think as we asked the speaker a number of days ago, we will consider the possibility of a digital parliament. We are looking at virtual models of doing so.

When will the virus peak? Are we worried about waves?

We are trying to figure out where we are on the curve in various models. It's difficult because there are vast differences among provinces. We are much later than other countries and have the luxury of being able to see what other countries are doing.

Are you concerned that Ontario's testing is well behind goals?

We are working very closely with all provincial authorities to do as many tests as possible.

According to IPSOS, one quarter of Canadians say they are not following social distancing strictly – will you crack down on this?

In order for Canadians to get through this as quickly as possible. We see millions and millions of Canadians following the guidelines of public health officials. We will look at what we need to do to continue to support Canadians in social distancing.

Highlights from the Ministerial press conference:

- Canada's COVID-19 totals are 18,447 cases, 401 deaths. 359,000 people have been tested. 5% of people tested have been positive. (CMHO)
- The Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability said on April 7, 2020 there were 750,000 new CERB applications. There have been over 1.72M over 2 days. In total there have been 4.26M EI and CERB applications combined with 2.7M processed so far. The Canada Summer Jobs Program will have increased flexibility with the federal government providing a 100% minimum wage subsidy. The program will be expanded until February 28, 2021 and business will now be able to hire on a part-time basis and still qualify.

Questions:

What is the cost of the broadened wage subsidy – before it was \$71B what is the new cost?

President of Treasury Board: The goal was to be rapid and useful in our undertakings. This is why we were in contact with the business community. The initial budget will be reviewed and revised. What we must absolutely do is avoid this recession to become a depression. These robust measures reassures our businesses that they will come out more quickly.

How many companies or masks are Canada deprived of because of presidential decree?

Deputy PM: None. The 3M masks arrives at 11:20PM last night. I am pleased to say they are being delivered shortly. These masks are so important and necessary.

Does the PM support tariffs on oil from Saudi Arabia?

Deputy PM: We are very focused on this issue, it is an important issue for Canada and the world. The federal government is working closely with the province of Alberta. And we are working with our US neighbors on this.

Many people said they have received more than \$2000 from their CERB – is this a mistake?

President of the Treasury Board: The system is working surprisingly well. Of course the government public servants have made sure the system did work well. People received retroactive and prospective payments.

Is there a concern businesses can't hang-on until they get the wage subsidy?

President of the Treasury Board: Firstly, we are securing workers. Securing liquidity. Then securing holding on to workers. We have set up the \$40,000 emergency loan with no interest for two years.

Why are you taking so long to call Parliament back?

Deputy PM: This is a huge support program. Parliamentary oversight is crucial. House leaders are negotiating how parliament can come back to debate this legislation. We hope this will happen quickly and will be supported.

Are you concerned about Ontario's testing capacity? Are tests being withheld?

Minister of Health: No, tests are not being withheld. We are working hard to target tests in the best way to determine hot spots across the provinces and territories.



CMHO: Different provinces have different testing capacity based on where they are with their curve. I know Ontario is trying to improve their laboratory capacity.

As a Five Eye partner have we seen the US data that China is fabricating numbers?

Deputy PM: This is a global pandemic and we know the WHO is in charge of coordinating the global response. When it comes to data from various countries we work closely with the WHO. Canada is an energetic member of the Five Eyes and we will continue to share information internally.

Assembly of First Nations COVID-19 Update

April 9th, 2020

Indigenous Services Canada

As of March 23, 2020, Indigenous Services Canada has established the following calls with the respective regions listed.

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Edmonton 780 429 5820
Participant Access code: 4214556# - Participants can dial in 5 mins early, if toll free number doesn't work, try closest local number
- SK – Tuesdays at 3:30pmET to 5:30pm; 1-866-296-5646 | Participant Passcode: 333954
- MB – Daily at 4pm ET; 1-877-413-4790 | 8062191
- ON – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, at 4pm (1-888-265-0903; Participant passcode:4081311#)
- QC – Mondays and Friday, 2x each (one in English, one in French) Convened by APN-QL, depending on the schedules of chiefs.
- ATL – Daily- Monday to Friday 11AM ADT

Social distancing

Social distancing is one of the most effective tools we have to prevent and manage the spread of COVID-19. We all have a role to play to prevent the spread of germs within our communities – to protect ourselves, our families, and those at higher risk. Social distancing means making changes in everyday routines in order to minimize close contact with others, including:

- Avoid crowded places
- Avoid non-essential community and cultural gatherings
- Avoid common greetings, such as handshakes
- Limit contact with people who are at a higher risk (e.g. older adults and those with underlying health conditions)
- Keep a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) from others, as much as possible

How individuals can practice social distancing

- Greet with a wave instead of a handshake, kiss or hug
- Stay home as much as possible, including for meals and entertainment
- Shop or take public transportation during off-peak hours.
- Conduct virtual meetings
- Host virtual playdates for kids
- Use technology to keep in touch with friends and family

If possible :

- Use online shopping
- Exercise at home or outside, while keeping a distance of at least 2 arms meters
- Work from home



Individuals need to:

- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Avoid touching surfaces people touch often

If someone in your community is concerned they may have COVID-19, they should:

- Separate themselves from others as soon as they have symptoms
- if they are outside the home when a symptom develops, they should go home immediately and avoid taking public transit
- Do not go to work, school or attend gatherings
- Stay home and follow the advice of your Public Health Authority, who may recommend self-isolation
- Call your health care provider if ill or need medical attention

For more information: Canada.ca/coronavirus 1-833-784-4397

Managing COVID-19 in remote communities

If there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in your community, that individual may receive medical advice to self-monitor, self-isolate, or isolate. More information on the differences between these terms is available through the [Government of Canada's website](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus).

ISC encourages communities to reflect on options for self-isolation in their pandemic plans, as appropriate for their community members. For example, repurposing existing infrastructure, such as community centers or schools, may be considered to provide a space for self-isolation for community members; or have a community plan for meal delivery to those in self-isolation.

ISC will continue to support First Nations to identify innovative options that can meet each community's unique needs in the updating and activation of community pandemic plans.

Should a community decide to wholly self-isolate by limiting travel in and out of the community, ISC will continue to provide support in accessing health services and ensure that there are proper protocols in place to safeguard the safety of community members with respect to incoming healthcare staff. For example, by issuing mandatory self-screening of nurses before deployment. Private modes of transportation and accommodation can also be utilized for individuals at a higher risk (for example, pregnant women, the elderly, or those with underlying health conditions) needing access to medical services outside of their community, whether for treatment relating to COVID-19 or not.

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

Canada's [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus) includes \$305 million for a new Indigenous Community Support Fund. First Nations will be able to use this funding to proactively address immediate and emerging needs with regard to COVID-19 in their communities. Monies will be available in April. ***More information on how these funds will be made available to communities is forthcoming.***

Assembly of First Nations Daily COVID-19 Update

April 9, 2020

Information from the Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC)

On March 23, 2020, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) shared the following with the AFN.

The recent events regarding the COVID-19 outbreak remind us all how crucial it is to have a sanctuary. We recognize that many First Nations are facing unique and unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

We want to assure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and our priority is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of your community and its residents during this period of uncertainty. We are committed to finding solutions and flexibilities that will alleviate some of the financial impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Some of the **immediate actions** we are taking related to the delivery of our programs are:



- Physical condition reviews and on-site progress validation inspections for on-reserve non-profit housing (Section 95) and renovation programs will be limited or, in some cases, temporarily suspended. We are exploring options to advance funds for work in place without an on-site inspection and will provide further directions upon receiving a request.
- Contributions for Indigenous Skills Training initiatives will be honored, in cases where activities have been cancelled or postponed as a result of COVID-19.
- Housing Internship Initiative for First Nations and Inuit Youth (HIIFNIY) and On-the-Job Training Initiative (OTJTI) final instalments will be advanced per signed contribution agreements.

If you are currently **receiving financing or support** from CMHC:

- We will work with each of you individually to be able to find the best solution. We have a series of tools and relief measures for housing providers including deferral of loan payment, capitalization, special payment arrangements, advancing flexibilities, and any combination of tools.
- On a case-by-case basis, CMHC will consider flexibility for subsidy suspensions for new accounts as a result of a breach in their agreements.

We know more may be needed and want to assure you that we are working with our federal counterparts to explore other measures to assist your communities and families. We continue to monitor the situation and will communicate any further changes as they occur.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss your specific needs or concerns, please contact your Indigenous and Northern [Housing Solutions Specialist](#).

Assembly of First Nations Daily COVID-19 Update

Prime Minister & Ministerial Updates

for Monday April 6, 2020 to Wednesday April 7, 2020

Full Press Conference found here <https://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/today-aujourd'hui/>

Monday April 6th, 2020

Highlights from the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Update

- Those born in January, February, or March can apply for the CERB today. They can apply online or by calling 1-800-959-2041.
- 240,000 have successfully applied today.
- Canada is considering options to expand the CERB or other support programs to those who are working less than 10 hours per week but still earning some income, those who earn less working than if they collected the CERB, and students.
- Major banks and some credit unions will cut credit card interest rates in half for those affected by COVID-19.

Questions:

Ontario could run out of PPE in a week, the US stopped a shipment of equipment last night. How do you respond to this story?

We are working closely with all provinces to monitor PPE levels. We continue to have good conversation with the US and are stressing the message that medical equipment is a two way street.

Have there been any stopped shipments?

We have had good conversations and we expect those shipments to be delivered.

Has the Quarantine Act been invoked?

From the beginning there was a number of measures such as Wuhan and cruise ships of people in centres.

**When will you go back to the office?**

We are asking people to work from home if possible and that's what I will continue to do. I might go to the House of Commons or office but I will work from home as much as possible.

The opposition feels they have been set aside in this minority government – what do you say?

It's important for us to strengthen our democracy. We are bringing back parliament to debate legislation regarding the financial support for this crisis. There are many MPs across the country who can't come to the House of Commons to vote. We are looking at a digital Parliament.

If we talk about the CERB – what changes will you bring and will they be retroactive?

This benefit is here to help millions of Canadians. We are looking at a lot of different people. We will have more to announce in the days to come. People with drastically reduced hours will get supported. People who would make less than with the CERB will get supported.

Did the United States block a shipment of masks to Canada?

We continue to have constructive and productive conversations who understand that trade is a two-way street.

Why aren't we doing more tests?

Every day we are going more testing than the day before. We will continue to test more and more and get those answers back quickly to monitor the spread of the corona virus.

Are you aware of more shipments being blocked?

We have recognized over the past weeks in which shipments from all over the world are arriving with less equipment than we expected. We expect those shipments to come.

Highlights from the Ministerial press conference:

- Canada's COVID-19 totals are 15,822 cases, 293 deaths. 339,000 people have been tested. BC recorded less cases this week than last. Wearing a non-medical mask is an additional precautionary measure you can take. There is evidence that we have pre-symptomatic transmission and asymptomatic transmission. We are not sure how much of a role this plays but it does exist. (CMHO)
- The President of the Treasury Board said
 - 1) Today the CERB website launched; 300,000 have applied successfully since this morning; the site is working well and is solid.
 - 2) There were 2.5 million EI requests in the last two weeks; this is more than we get over a year. 2.1 million requests have been processed in 2 weeks.
 - 3) Interest rates on credit cards from major banks have been reduced by half for those impacted by COVID-19.

Questions:**I'm curious about confirmed First Nations cases. I know the government has earmarked \$305M for Indigenous communities. What about communities that don't have water and have confirmed cases such as the one recently announced?**

Minister of Health: I spoke with National Chief Bellegarde and will speak with Chief Fiddler. According to National Chief Bellegarde the person is self-isolating. You're right, it is hard to practice isolation and handwashing in communities where those facilities aren't available or there is crowded housing. Minister Miller is working hard to address some of these concerns. I can't speak to this specific case.

In Indigenous communities with overcrowding, what options are available? Will you be removing people?

Minister of Health: Dr. Wong, the CPHO of ISC, has been working with communities to create plans. There is always an option for alternative living spaces. This needs to be weighed with the communities. Removing someone from their community introduces a bunch of risks itself. These are things being considered as Indigenous communities work through their plans with ISC.

How will we expand the CERB?

President of Treasury Board: We have done what normally takes months or years, in months. The CERB covers many including those who wouldn't be normally covered for EI. There are still holes in the CERB, there are three categories that we are looking at in greater detail.



1 – people who have lost a lot of hours of work but not all their work,
2 – people who wouldn't earn as much as the \$2000 the CERB offers, and
3 – students. We have already put a moratorium on student loans for 6 months.

Can you tell us about the US stopping shipments?

Deputy PM: I just spoke to Premier Ford about this. Let me be clear, this relationship is reciprocal. We want a win-win situation on this scenario. Trade is a two way street.

Is Canada seeking an exemption on the PPE export ban?

Deputy PM: Yes, we have highlighted in our conversations that this is a two way street. We export a lot of medical equipment and medical professionals to the US.

Why didn't you tell us to wear masks sooner?

CMHO: This evidence is new. Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission is new. These studies are as new as April 1.

Why are we not testing asymptomatic people?

CMHO: We want supplies to be utilized in the most effective way possible. We are want to protect those in outbreaks and highly vulnerable communities like Indigenous communities.

Is it official that volunteer fire fighters will get the CERB

President of Treasury Board: Yes.

Are you keeping track of hospital stays?

CMHO: We do know the percentage of death and hospitalization; it depends on the jurisdiction but it is around 8%-10%. Those over the age of 70 or 80 are most at risk.

Tuesday April 7th 2020

Highlights from the Prime Minister's COVID-19 Update

- The government has signed statement of intent to create up to 30,000 ventilators with various companies.
- The government shared the wage subsidy package legislation with Opposition parties last night.
- People with birthdays in April, May, or June can apply for the CERB today.

Questions:

Canada is making 30,000 ventilators – will we need 30,000?

We are going to be ready for any scenarios. We have told companies to go ahead and make as many as possible if we need them in Canada.

Does the government need to get the bill passed for the wage subsidy?

Much of a wage subsidy is in the income tax act which will require parliamentary approval.

Has the US stood down on the ban of export of supplies?

We are having fruitful conversations. 3M shipments are arriving. But we need to work on our efforts to help the US understand that the free movement of these issues

There are First Nations communities that are facing these crisis like Fort Hope who has had a boil water advisory for 6800 days – what is being done to support them?

From the beginning we have been concerned with the COVID-19 impact on rural and remote indigenous communities regarding both health conditions and infrastructure. We have worked with the AFN and communities to make sure we are sending more money and more resources to respond in any way we can.

Banks are only reducing interest rates for those that can't make their minimum payment. Debts will continue to rise. Is this fair?



We are working to reduce those interest rates. We are happy they took first steps and recognize they can do more. We are working to give people more access to credit.

Why are we giving people mask advice now?

We need to isolate. Social distancing is the key to preventing the spread of this disease. We don't want people to wear a mask and think they can go out more often. Stay home and stay 2 metres apart.

When will the ventilators be ready?

30,000 is a big number and we hope this will be more than sufficient. We are working to have better ideas of when these will become available.

Huawei will provide masks and respirators – do you think there's going to be a quid pro quo regarding donations?

We will openly accept donations. These donations will not affect our decisions on other issues.

What will you do for mental health support especially those who cannot have a funeral for those who succumb from COVID-19?

People are facing difficult times. Whether its kids stuck alone or seniors worried about their vulnerability. We will be looking at more support

A growing number of police and by-law are fining people who are not social distancing. Do you support fines?

We know the best way to make sure this pandemic is as non-consequential as possible we need to stay home. It will be the message for the coming weeks. We need to ensure everyone is doing their part.

What is holding Canada up from rapid wide-scale testing?

Rapid wide-scale testing is an essential part of controlling this virus. We are doing well but we should be doing better. We will continue to ensure that provinces have the resources they need.

Highlights from the Ministerial press conference

- Canada's COVID-19 totals are 17,063 cases, 345 deaths. 346,000 people have been tested. 5% of people tested have been positive. (CMHO)
- **There is an increasing number of cases in First Nations communities. A single case in First Nations or Inuit communities is high cause for concern. These communities are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19 due to distances, access to resources, and underlying health conditions. In response to the heightened risks, I am pleased to hear of the additional steps these leaders are taking to protect their communities.** (CMHO)
- Medical masks are in short supply all over the world. They must be in reserve for medical professionals. (CMHO)
- The Minister of Public Services and Procurement said: Public Services and Procurement Canada is buying PPE aggressively in bulk. We received 8 million surgical masks from China yesterday. Canada is expecting more deliveries from China in the days and weeks to come. We are operating in a highly competitive global market. Canada will be using Amazon and Purolator to ensure these supplies are delivered as fast as possible. Amazon is providing these at cost, without profit. We are also working closely with provinces and territories to offer up space on our cargo flights to bring supplies to Canada. Quebec and Nova Scotia's shipments yesterday are an example. Canada has sourced more than 230 million surgical masks with over 16 million have been delivered to date. We have roughly 75 million N-95 on order, 2.3 million will be in Canada's possession by the end of the week. We have ordered over 113,000 litres of hand sanitizer, most of which is to be delivered this month. We have received 20,000 in the last 24 hours, 10,000 more this week.
- The President of the Treasury board said: CERB applications are at 967, 000 after one day. This is the equivalent to 6 months of EI applications. Since March 15, there have been 6 million applications for EI and 3 million have been processed.

Questions:

How long will it take to get 30,000 ventilators made?

Minister of Science and Innovation: We can get this essential equipment in a matter of weeks.



The PM said there could be other concerns regarding equipment shipments? Are we going to send them stuff in exchange so we can get what we need?

Deputy PM: We truly did find a good solution with the 3M masks. Regarding the future, we told our US partners that we have a very interconnected relationship on healthcare equipment. Our partners agreed and we can see the result of that yesterday with the 3M decision.

How many ventilators do we have in Canada? How many will be need?

CMHO: The actual ventilator capacity changes every day with provinces every day. We have provided ventilators on request to a whole number of provinces and territories.

Can you give us gender, race, and socio-economic numbers on who is affected by this?

CMHO: This information is available on our website. There are certain groups who are impacted. 92% of deaths are age 60 and over. 82% of deaths are age 80 and over. This reflects the epidemiology in the long-term care facilities. Male to female is equal. Working-age adults have the most cases.

How long will Canada be able to last on its domestic market for PPE?

Minister of Science and Innovation: We have a clear strategy. It is buy, buy, buy and make, make, make. This is a clear strategy. Percentages of made and bought are hard to tell right now.

When will our ordered masks be here?

Minister of Public Services and Procurement: Every day we are ordering more. This situation is fluid and we need to understand this. Ordering does not guarantee delivery. This means we have an order and contract, we are taking serious steps on the group to make sure the product meets requirements before they leave their jurisdiction.

How will we know when this is over if it's gone here but in another country?

Minister of Health: This reinforces what we said previously. This is a global effort. You heard the Minister of Science and Innovation say that if we make surplus ventilators they will go to another country. This is the type of coordination we need to beat this.

Have these 3M masks been excluded from the US export ban?

Deputy PM: 3M has said that they have been given full approval to send masks to Canada. We are working collaborative to make sure the ones from other sources can continue to come.