

ANNEX A: FUNDING

Other key messages - Responsive

[New funding \(as of August 25, 2020\)](#)

The Minister of Indigenous Services announced \$82.5 million in mental health and wellness supports to help Indigenous communities adapt and expand mental wellness services, improving access and addressing growing demand, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding will help partners and communities to adapt mental wellness services to the current COVID-19 context, including:

- expanding access to culturally appropriate services such as on the land activities, community-based health supports and mental wellness teams;
- adapting mental health services, such as virtual counselling, to meet increased demand; and
- supporting Indigenous partners in developing innovative strategies to address substance use and to improve access to treatment services.

[New funding \(as of August 11, 2020\)](#)

The Minister of Indigenous Services highlighted the national organizations who received critical funding to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples living in urban centres across Canada. The Government of Canada has allocated \$24.6 million in funding to the National Association of Friendship Centres, the 2 Spirits in Motion Society, and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

This funding supports national projects that address the critical needs of Indigenous populations during this crisis, including food security, mental health support services, housing needs and required emergency supplies, as well as the development of a COVID-19 Pandemic Response for 2 Spirited People in Canada. In addition, the funding could also help with other important needs, such as support for Elders, transportation, and educational materials for Indigenous children and youth.

[New funding \(as of May 29, 2020\)](#)

The Prime Minister announced new funding to provide critical support to Indigenous families and communities during this crisis, based on needs that have been identified. The funding includes:

- \$285.1 million to support the ongoing public health response to COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. The investment will fund community-led responses to the pandemic, and provide targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities. In case of outbreaks, this funding can be drawn upon to provide surge capacity and additional support for community-based services in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
- \$270 million to supplement the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program to address increased demand on the program, which will help individuals and families meet their essential living expenses. It will also help hire additional staff to better serve First Nations communities and connect individuals to other government programs.
- \$44.8 million over five years to build 12 new shelters, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence. This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, and two in the territories, to support Indigenous women and children. The government will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing. Also announcing \$1 million a year ongoing, starting this year, to support engagement with Métis leaders and service providers on shelter provision and community-led violence prevention projects for Métis women, girls, and LGBTQ and two-spirit people.

[New funding \(as of May 21, 2020\)](#)

The Prime Minister announced \$75 million in new funding for Indigenous organizations providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres and off reserve. This additional funding will support more community-based projects that address the critical needs of Indigenous populations during this crisis, including food security, mental health support services, and sanitation and protective equipment. It could also help with other needs, such as support for Elders, transportation, and educational materials for Indigenous children and youth.

Funding (as of March 18, 2020)

- Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan includes \$305 million for a new, distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund, of which \$30 million has been allocated to the Métis Nation. Funding is to be distributed through ISC's existing mechanisms to facilitate the speed at which funding can be received. The funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to:
 - support for Elders and vulnerable community members
 - measures to address food insecurity
 - educational and other support for children
 - mental health assistance and emergency response services
 - preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- PHAC does not have role in distributing funding to the Métis Nation in response to COVID-19.

Point of care testing (IDPC)

- The Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Lab (NML) in Winnipeg is performing diagnostic testing for the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The NML is working in close collaboration with provincial and territorial public health laboratories to ensure that persons under investigation for the novel coronavirus are confirmed or ruled out through laboratory testing.
- Multiple provincial public health laboratories can now test for the novel coronavirus with a very high degree of accuracy.
- BC, AB, SK, ON, QC are able to confirm laboratory diagnostics for the virus that causes COVID-19. For all other provinces, their results undergo additional testing at NML because this is a previously unknown virus and it is good practice to use additional tests to provide further confirmation of initial laboratory findings.
- Presumptive positive cases that are identified through provincial/territorial testing are managed from a public health and infection control perspective in the same manner as confirmed cases.
- Provinces and territories are using the testing approach developed and validated by the NML.
- Furthermore, provincial lab results undergo quality assurance testing at the NML.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (HSIB)

- The Government of Canada is coordinating with provincial and territorial governments to quickly assess and respond to the need for PPE items such as

N95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, nitrile gloves, gowns and other protective clothing, as well as medical supplies such as sanitizer, ventilators, swabs and testing kits.

- PPE and medical supplies are distributed to the provinces and territories according to an allocation framework agreed upon by federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) Ministers of Health. The allocation framework ensures that Indigenous communities, including the Métis Nation are not excluded from supplies distributed through provinces. (Note: HSIB indicated that the allocation framework is not available to share).

Mental Health Supports (PHAC/HPCPD/ISC)

- During these difficult times, it is critical that Canadians have access to effective tools to support their mental health and wellbeing, obtain credible and reliable information about mental health and substance use, and access services.
- The Government of Canada has launched the *Wellness Together Canada* mental health and substance use support portal. It is a central resource for accessing confidential mental health and substance use support with respect to COVID-19. This web-based portal provides Canadians with a virtual network of psycho-social information services and supports, and is available on Canada.ca/coronavirus and the Canada COVID-19 app. The Wellness Together Canada mental health and substance use support portal is meant to support existing provincial and territorial services.
- Additionally, ISC maintains the Hope for Wellness Help Line, which offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples across Canada, including Métis citizens. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to offer counselling and crisis intervention.