



# MONTREAL LAKE CREE NATION

P.O Box 210 Montreal Lake, SK SOJ-1Y0  
Ph: (306) 663-5349 Fax: (306) 663-5188



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## CHIEF AND COUNCIL NEWS BULLETIN #2 – COVID-19 UPDATE

Chief and Council of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation (MLCN) will be providing regular updates on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to our membership as new information becomes available.

### Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

- Canada recently announced two funding sources through which First Nations communities can access resources:
  1. \$100 million for First Nations, Inuit and Métis public health needs. These funds will:
    - Update and/or activate pandemic plans;
    - Support the limited public health and primary health care capacity to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak; and
    - Address immediate needs in the short term.
  2. \$305 million for a new Indigenous Community Support Fund
    - This fund will provide leadership with the ability to make choices that work for their communities.
    - Funding will be used to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.
    - Funding will begin to flow in short order through existing mechanisms.
    - More information will be available soon.
- The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) provides funding and expertise to First Nations communities for developing and maintaining their all hazard or pandemic plans.
- Examples of eligible expenses include:
  - Prevention and Control Supplies:** Soap, sanitizers, disinfectants, personal clinical supplies, community training, etc.;
  - Medical Transportation Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program:** Travel (air, ground and water) / Meals and accommodations (note high-risk individuals eligible for private ground transportation, such as taxi, and private accommodations, such as hotel);
  - Emergency Transportation & Additional Escorts Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program:** Travel (air, ground and water) meals and accommodations (note high-risk individuals eligible for private ground transportation, such as taxi, and private accommodations, such as hotel);
  - Health Human Resources Surge Capacity:** Primary care nurses and public health nurses, or other health providers such as paramedics and community workers;
  - Mental Health Services:** Support communities, particularly when they are facing affected individuals;
  - Adaptation of Community Space:** Surge capacity access to medical care or for self-isolation or other related purposes and additional operation and maintenance cost incurred by surge capacity requirements;
  - Storage:** Costs of supplies;
  - On-the-Land Initiatives:** Support social isolation or food security; and
  - Other types of expenses considered on a **case-by-case basis**.



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- First Nation communities on reserve may need emergency assistance services that can be provided through the Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP). The types of expenses covered under EMAP when communities are under imminent threat include:
  - incremental wage costs, including temporary hires and overtime;
  - rental of special equipment;
  - set-up costs for one-time preventative measures;
  - insurance and fuel costs of response vehicles;
  - care, feeding and accommodation of human resources separate from health care professionals, if required (contractors and temporary hires);
  - communications (satellite phones, cell phone usage above and beyond normal use); and
  - water and household supplies (i.e., providing food and water if there is a concern that a shortage may occur).
  
- Existing processes are still in place to support Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle. Expenses can continue to be submitted through these existing processes, including COVID-19 response efforts by First Nations child and family services agencies or by families/service providers related to the needs of specific children.

Council, Pandemic Response Team and MLCN Urban Services Inc. are working together to meet the immediate needs of our members. For further information, please contact the following:

1. MLCN On-Reserve - Clifford Bird, Director of Health at (306) 981-1491
2. MLCN Off-Reserve – Charlotte Ross, Chair of MLCN Urban Services Inc. at (306) 281-9462

Teniki and stay safe everyone!