



**BCEDA**

BC Economic Development Association



## #COVID\_19 Bulletin: March 24, 2020

### Information for Businesses

#### [BCEDA #COVID19 Resources for BC Businesses Guide](#)

All of these updates are now located in one document. This shareable, live guide is being continually updated with the most relevant information, tools and resources for the BC business community. [Click here to view.](#)

#### Newly Updated:

- [COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information](#)
- [Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

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### Information for Economic Developers and Local Leaders

#### [BCEDA Webpage Update](#)

The #COVID19 resources shared by BCEDA, have now been split into two categories:

1. **Resources for BC Businesses** - we encourage you to share these resources with your business community. *(These updates are at the top of this bulletin)*
2. **Resources for Economic Developers and Local Leaders** - information for communities including templates and examples .

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#### [Around the Province: Examples of What BC Communities Are Doing](#)

- [Cranbrook: Local business support stimulus behind creation of joint economic resiliency task force](#)
- [Victoria City Council takes action on COVID-19](#)
- [District of Tumbler Ridge partners with local grocery store & pharmacy to offer delivery.](#)
- [Vancouver votes to enforce social distancing measures](#)
- [Great Victoria Chamber of Commerce's Local Business Bingo](#)
- [Town of Smithers online Situation Summary](#)
- [Osoyoos opens EOC](#)
- [Smithers Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Related Closures and Operating Hour Changes to Smithers and Area Businesses](#)
- [Bowen Island: Planning inquiries and applications now online](#)
- ['Please stay home for now' says District of Squamish to visitors](#)
- [A dedicated webpage has been created by Richmond Economic Development with a compilation of resources to help businesses prepare for and respond to disruptions due to COVID-19](#)

**#StrongerTogether - Have you developed processes or resources that you would like to share with other communities? Please email to [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca)**

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## **COVID19: Indigenous Tourism Response**

**Today - March 24th at 4:00 PM PST**

The Honourable Mélanie Joly  
Minister of Economic Development  
and Official Languages

Keith Henry, B. ED  
President & CEO  
Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada

**COVID-19: Indigenous Tourism Response**  
Facebook Live - Tuesday March 24, 2020 @ 4pm PST

<https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousCanada/>

Watch **ITAC President, @KeithHenryMetis** Facebook Live on March 24th at 4:00 PM PST. He will have **Federal Minister of Economic Development, Hon. Mélanie Joly** on to address measures the government is taking to help the Indigenous tourism industry during the COVID-19 crisis. Watch here: <https://bit.ly/2WBdZRS>

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## **COVID-19: First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports**

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is working closely with First Nation partners, the Public Health Agency of Canada, other departments such as Health Canada, Public Safety as well as provincial and territorial counterparts to protect the health and safety of First Nations

and support First Nations communities in responding to the public health crisis resulting from the novel COVID-19.

In order to support First Nations in preparing for and responding to COVID-19, which has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the Government recently announced two funding tracks through which First Nations communities can access resources:

1. \$100 million for areas of federal responsibility, including for First Nations, Inuit and Métis community public health needs. These funds will:

- Respond to identified needs to update and/or activate pandemic plans;
- Support an effective allocation of the limited public health and primary health care capacity to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Align response efforts with scientific evidence as determined by a medical officer of health; and,
- Address immediate needs in the short term.

2. \$305 million for a new **Indigenous Community Support Fund**

- This fund will be allocated on a distinctions-basis and will provide leadership with the ability to make choices that work for their communities.
- It is anticipated that funding will be used to both proactively address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities. Communities will be able to proactively respond to emerging needs as they arise.
- Funding will begin to flow in short order through existing mechanisms.
- More information will be available soon.

Please note that the information outlined below is in regards to accessing support either through the \$100M announced last week or other existing programs for which expenditures related to COVID-19 may be eligible. Additional information on the \$305M Indigenous Community Support Fund will be available soon.

The Government of Canada has dedicated resources to respond to the urgent public health response including for Inuit communities.

We have also developed the [COVID-19 First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports](#)

We will continue to receive feedback provide guidance information and support communities.

- [COVID-19: Indigenous Services Canada Update](#)
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**More resources are available  
at <https://bceda.ca/coronavirus.php>**