

# Ontario Region Update

For more information:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Information for Indigenous communities:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous)



## INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – January 12, 2023

### Feedback for Ontario Region Communications

The Communications team for Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Ontario Region would like your feedback about the information we send out. A feedback questionnaire is [now available online](#) and will be accepting responses until January 31, 2023.

The questionnaire is a brief set of multiple-choice questions about the helpfulness of communication products; online resources like the [OneHealth.ca Portal](#); and the biweekly Ontario Region Chiefs Call. If you would like to expand on your thoughts, there is also space for written feedback.

Your input makes a positive difference in resources and products ISC Ontario Region Communications creates. We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your feedback. [Click here to access the online questionnaire.](#)

### Ontario FN/I/M COVID-19 Cases

\*Week of January 1-7, 2023

- 38 active cases on reserve
- 0 deaths
- 2 hospitalizations

### Ontario COVID-19 Vaccines

\*As of January 2, 2023

- 80.8% completed a primary series
- 50.8% received a primary series at 1 booster dose
- 22.9% received a primary series and 2 booster doses

### Ontario Region: Recruiting, retaining and developing Indigenous talent

In order to advance reconciliation and support the government's priority of a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ISC Ontario Region participates in engagement activities such as university career fairs. The Region will host a booth and provide presentations to students on career streams at ISC and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and explain how to apply for jobs in the Federal Public Service, at the York University career fair on January 19, 2023 and the Lakehead University career fair on March 9, 2023. The booths are attended by employee Indigenous Ambassadors and former students, who share their experiences and promote the departments as an employer of choice.

The Region hires Indigenous students every year through the Federal Student Work Experience Program. Students are provided onboarding and training to ensure they have a meaningful and positive experience that will ultimately provide them with employability skills upon graduation.

The regional management team conducts targeted staffing processes open to Indigenous Peoples in order to achieve at minimum a 50% regional Indigenous workforce representation rate. This is done by restricting the eligibility of who may apply to "Indigenous Peoples" and ensuring Assessment Boards are representative so that recruitment is done with an Indigenous lens. Staffing processes also use inclusive ways of stating job requirements when they need to fill a vacancy. For instance, job posters have included "cultural knowledge" and Indigenous languages such as Cayuga and Mohawk.

For the most up-to-date national information on COVID-19, visit the [Indigenous Services Canada](#) website or the Government of Canada's Twitter and Facebook pages at @GCIndigenous and @GCIndigenousHealth.

# Additional Updates

## Resuming standard reporting requirements

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the operations of Indigenous communities and organizations across Ontario, including the ability to keep up with the reporting requirements set out in our funding agreements.

As a result, ISC has implemented a number of measures to ensure Indigenous communities and organizations had sufficient funding and the necessary flexibility to respond to the immediate needs of their members/clients. As part of these measures, ISC offered deferrals for unspent funding allocations and temporarily paused automatic funding halts for recipients with outstanding reporting.

As operations gradually return to normal, ISC Ontario Region will be working closely with partners to address outstanding reporting requirements and ensure the timely flow of essential program funding to our Indigenous partners. We look forward to supporting you through this transition back to standard reporting requirements.

## Free first aid course for opioid poisoning

Individuals can help support harm reduction in their communities by learning more about how to help someone in crisis. ISC nursing stations and health centres stock naloxone to assist in responding to suspected opioid emergencies, more commonly known as overdoses.

Additionally, the [Canadian Red Cross](#) is currently offering a free online course in first aid for opioid overdoses. The course provides the basic information needed to help someone in crisis, such as how to spot an opioid overdose and how to respond.

Individuals must be at least 16 years old to take the self-paced course, which takes approximately one hour to complete. To learn more or enroll, visit [First Aid for Opioid Poisoning Emergencies | Canadian Red Cross](#).

## New aircraft coming for Ornge Air Ambulance

The Ontario government is providing a fleet of new, upgraded aircraft carriers to Ornge Air Ambulance. Funding amounts have not been released at this time, but Ontario has committed to buying eight new planes, with the possibility of further expanding Ornge's fleet in the future. These planes will replace Ornge's fixed wing fleet, which was acquired in 2009 and 2010.

The new fleet of aircraft will be used to ensure passenger safety when providing medical transportation to patients. The new planes are also expected to help boost Ornge training with paramedics, pilots, and aviation mechanics. The aircraft changes are part of recent efforts to ensure medical air service continues uninterrupted in the province.

## Funding for sport projects in Indigenous communities

Stream Two of the [Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities program](#) will be accepting applications until January 17, 2023. This program provides funding for physical activities that are culturally relevant to Indigenous peoples. To receive an application form, interested parties can email Canadian Heritage at [sportcanada.ssdscs-sddic.sportcanada@pch.gc.ca](mailto:sportcanada.ssdscs-sddic.sportcanada@pch.gc.ca).

## 2023-2024 Listen, Hear Our Voices Initiative

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has officially [launched the Listen, Hear Our Voices](#) initiative for 2023-2024. Through this program, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation organizations can apply for funding to support digital preservation projects. Eligible projects must include efforts to preserve cultural materials and languages in a digital or online format, where they can be cared for by their community. Last year, [25 Indigenous organizations](#) received funding for their projects. **The deadline for applications is January 31, 2023.** Information about how to apply can be found [here](#), on the [Listen, Hear Our Voices section](#) of the LAC website. For additional questions, [contact the LAC program staff](#) for support.

# Help is available whenever you need it.

Immediate support is available 24/7  
for all Indigenous people in Canada.

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat  
**1-855-242-3310 or [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)**

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
**1-866-925-4419**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls Support Line  
**1-844-413-6649**



Please feel free to contact the FNIHB Ontario COVID-19 generic inbox: [sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca)  
if you or your community members have any information needs.