

ONTARIO REGION UPDATE

Please email the ISC Ontario Communications Team with any questions about or suggestions for this newsletter: ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca.

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Help is here whenever you need it

Support is available 24/7 for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. Please find a list of mental health helplines below, able to provide culturally relevant support. To find more services and resources, [click here to go to the Indigenous mental health page](#).

Hope for Wellness Helpline

Phone: 1-855-242-3310

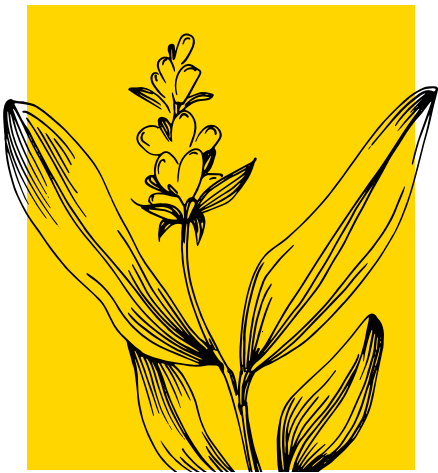
Online chat: www.hopeforwellness.ca

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line

Phone: 1-844-413-6649

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line

Phone: 1-866-925-4419



Be Aware of Ticks Throughout the Fall and Winter

As summer is winding down, remember to stay on the lookout for attached ticks. Blacklegged ticks (or “deer ticks”) are the most likely kind of tick to be active in the fall. This type of tick can spread the bacteria that causes Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses in humans. To reduce the risk of infection, individuals should continue to protect themselves against tick bites throughout the fall, and any time of year where the temperature is above 0 degrees Celsius. Please consider re-sharing the following resources with your community.

The best prevention is to avoid tick bites by using insect repellent, wearing light-coloured, long-sleeved clothing, tucking your pants into your socks, and removing ticks as soon as possible. You can submit a removed tick to your community health centre for identification and testing. This helps public health officials understand local risk levels for tick-borne illnesses.

Resources

- [Click here for “Top 10 Tick Hiding Spots On Your Body” poster](#). Available in English, French, Mohawk, and Eastern Ojibwe.
- [Click here for written instructions on how to remove a tick](#).
- [Click here for a step-by-step video on tick removal](#).
- [Click here for information about proper insect repellents/insecticides](#).



Pictured: Blacklegged tick stages.



Pictured: Tick attached to skin.



Pictured: Tick in the palm of a hand.

Back to School: Avoiding Illnesses

With school starting soon, we encourage you to remind parents and guardians in your community how they can help to limit the spread of respiratory illnesses at school and home. The following two unbranded social media posts are available for you to share online or in print:

- [Back to school checklist](#): update vaccines and stay home if sick.
- [Taking Care at Home and School](#): limit the spread of respiratory illnesses.

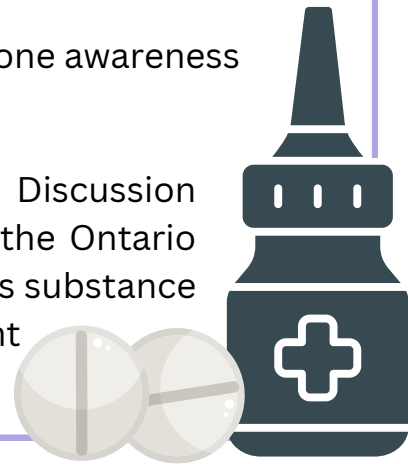
Funding for Naloxone Kits and Training

In July, Indigenous Services Canada approved a one-time funding agreement of \$1 million to support First Nation communities in Ontario to address gaps in addiction services. This funding will be distributed through 20 Mental Wellness Teams across the province as a way to reach as many communities in Ontario as possible, and will provide [naloxone](#) access and training for mental wellness staff, first responders, counsellors, community members, and others to help reduce drug overdoses and deaths.

The flexible funding can be used for:

- the purchasing and distribution of naloxone kits
- training and community engagement to promote naloxone awareness
- opioid drug overdose and prevention services

We look forward to working with you at the upcoming Discussion Forum on Toxic Drugs on November 14, 2023, ahead of the Ontario Region Joint Gathering, to strategize more ways to address substance use challenges. A formal invitation to the forum will be sent to community leadership in the coming weeks.



Funding Available: Agriculture, Climate Change and Health Adaptation, Rural Transit



Indigenous Services Canada's Regional Plans and Partnerships team has compiled a list of programs across the federal government that may be of interest to your community. These programs are currently accepting funding applications to support initiatives such as sustainable agriculture, climate change, and rural transit. These programs may be relevant to communities working on projects related to food security. The list contains information about eligibility and how to apply. [Click here to download the list.](#)

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Resources



Throughout the wildfire and flood seasons, the Ontario Region Update will revise this box with any resources and information that could be helpful to communities at risk. The following resources are important for potential and recent evacuees.

NEW RESOURCES

- **Poster/infographic:** [Emergency evacuation information for Indigenous Peoples living in Ontario](#)
- Follow @GCIndigenous on [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) for regular updates.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Emergency evacuation information for Indigenous peoples webpage](#)
- Government of Canada resource: [Wildfires – Canada.ca](#)
- Province of Ontario resource: [Forest fires | ontario.ca](#)
- [Wildfire risk map](#)

Applications Open for the Canada Dental Benefit

Applications for eligible dental expenses under the [Canada Dental Benefit](#) are now open and applications will be accepted until June 30, 2024. Families must meet all of the [eligibility criteria](#) to receive this benefit.

Eligible families can continue to quickly, easily, and securely apply for the Canada Dental Benefit via Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) [My Account](#). For more information on how to apply, please visit the CRA [website](#).

The CRA has also created a [toolkit](#) with information about the Canada Dental Benefit that you can share with your community members. Please consider posting this information in visible places in your community.

The toolkit includes the following products:

- Shareable social media graphics
- Information sheets
- Guide - The Canada Dental Benefit: What You Need to Know
- Poster
- Short explainer video



First Urban Treaty Payment Event in Ottawa: September 14, 2023

In collaboration with the [Odawa Friendship Centre](#), Indigenous Services Canada will be holding the **first urban treaty payment event on the Anishinabe Algonquin territory (also known as Ottawa) on September 14, 2023.**

Urban treaty payment events allow eligible individuals who live in urban areas or are unable to pick up their annuities in their home communities to collect them in person. Folks are invited to attend whether they are eligible for treaty payments or would like join in the festivities which will include vendors, artisans, and service and information booths.

Location: Rideau Community Hub, 815 St. Laurent Blvd

Time: 10:00 am – 8pm

For more information on urban treaty payments, visit [Treaty annuity payments \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://sac-isc.gc.ca).



Community Story: New Multi-Purpose Centre Coming to Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

In Wauzhushk Onigum Nation (WON), connection through community gatherings, promoting *mino bimaadiziwin* (living the good life) through healthy living, and supporting health and wellness for our youth are important priorities for community members and leadership. Through consultations and a community survey, it was decided that bringing an arena back to WON will support these community priorities.

Located on former Indian Residential School grounds, the “Golden Eagle” building in WON was originally designed and constructed as an arena in the late 1980s. Since the early 1990s, it has served the community as a charity and gaming facility. Wauzhushk Onigum members fondly reminisce on memories in the old arena. Hockey tournaments, local sports organizations, and community members used the arena every day during the on-season. When the arena was renovated into a gaming facility, many community members felt that the community lost the opportunity to support children and youth’s love for sports and recreation.



Pictured: The current Golden Eagle Bingo Hall.

WON contemplated returning the Golden Eagle back to its original purpose. However, after securing funding from Infrastructure Canada to support renovation costs, it became clear that the development of a new, modern structure was preferred by the community. The new facility will be located closer to residential areas, and the other sports and recreation facilities that have been developed in recent years. With the new building on the horizon, WON is looking forward to fostering this positive journey for their future generations.

Thank you to Wauzhushk Onigum Nation for contributing this story for the Ontario Region Update.

We're looking for stories to share in upcoming newsletters! if your community has completed a unique project or initiative, or if you have another success story to showcase, we'd love to hear more about it and help you spread the word.

Email us at: ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca.