

ONTARIO REGION UPDATE



IN THIS ISSUE

Public Health

- Cannabis Media Toolkit [page 2](#)

Emergency Management

- Ice Safety [page 3](#)

Funding & Operations

- Education Partnership Program Proposals [page 4](#)
- Clean Energy Proposals [page 4](#)
- Registration Digital Pilot [page 4](#)

Community & Partners

- Winter Events 2025/26 [page 5](#)

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ontario-communications@sac-isc.gc.ca



Cannabis Multimedia Toolkit

Health Canada's [2024 Canadian Cannabis Survey](#) found young adults aged 20 to 24 were more likely to report consuming cannabis daily than other age groups. While some people may choose to use cannabis to relax or cope, daily or near daily use can have [negative impacts](#). This can include increased symptoms of anxiety and depression, and harm to memory and attention span.

Older adults can help youth protect their mental and brain health from these impacts, and provide ways to lower their risks. To support these efforts, Health Canada has published a [communications toolkit](#). It has a variety of digital and printable educational materials about cannabis, including a [poster](#) (pictured left), social media content, and [videos](#) featuring people's lived experiences on the subject.

More public education and communication resources about cannabis can be [found here](#). Topics include: cannabis poisoning in children, cannabis educational programs for youth, and cannabis and mental health.



Help is Here Whenever You Need It

Support is available 24/7 for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Please find a list of mental health helplines below that are able to provide culturally relevant support. To find more services and resources, [visit the national 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

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services

Phone: 9-8-8 (call or text)

Ice Safety

No ice is considered absolutely “safe” to walk or play on, but there are precautions that will help people reduce their risk of getting injured or worse. Please consider sharing the following resources about [ice safety](#). They may be helpful when talking about precautionary measures with your community this winter.

In an ice-related emergency

In an emergency, witnesses should contact their local emergency response service as soon as possible or dial 911. Emergency services will then notify the appropriate responders. Witnesses can assist by providing relevant details to the emergency response team, such as the approximate location of the incident, the number of individuals involved, and a description of the individual(s) in danger.

The Canadian Coast Guard maintains a 24-hour emergency line for each region. To report an offshore or marine emergency, call the toll-free line at 1-800-267-7270.

Search and rescue

Search and rescue efforts are typically a joint operation between partners at the local, provincial, and national levels. Search and rescue training may be available for community, based on needs and capacity. Please contact emergencyon-urgenceon@sac-isc.gc.ca for more information, or visit the [Emergency Management Assistance Program webpage](#).

Communication resources

- Infographic, Lifesaving Society: Recommended ice thickness – [PDF](#)
- Infographic, Canadian Red Cross: Signs of hypothermia – [PDF](#)
- General info, Lifesaving Society: Cold water and ice (facts) – [Webpage](#)
- Fact sheets, CCHOS: Working on or near ice covered water – [PDF](#)
- Fact sheets, CCHOS: Cold Environments Health Effects and First Aid – [PDF](#)



Reduce the Spread of Infectious Diseases



Click on the image, pictured left.
It will take you to a downloadable infographic about reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

Education Partnerships Program Proposals

[Education Partnerships Program](#) is accepting proposal applications for the 2026 to 2027 fiscal year. This program supports collaboration between First Nations and various government ministries and departments. It also supports capacity development and enhancement of First Nations organizations to deliver education. This includes education systems and service delivery agreements responsive to First Nations students and community education needs.

The **deadline to submit a proposal** for the Partnerships and Structural Readiness components is **December 19, 2025, at 8:59 p.m.** (Eastern Time). Please visit the [program webpage](#) for more information, such as [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#).

Clean Energy Proposals

The [Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund \(CMIF\)](#) is accepting proposals for the Indigenous Grants stream. Up to \$3 million is available in total funding for Indigenous organizations, or non-Indigenous organizations working in partnership with Indigenous communities.

The [CMIF Indigenous Grants](#) stream was established to provide Indigenous groups with resources necessary to actively engage on, participate in, and benefit from critical minerals development. Grant amounts available for organizations are up to \$150,000. Grants go up to \$200,000 for initiatives supporting Indigenous organizations located in northern or remote communities.

The **deadline to submit an application is December 17, 2025, at 8:59 p.m.** (Eastern Time). Please email cmif_ig-sa_fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca (two underscores) or visit the [CMIF webpage](#) for more information.



Registration Digital Pilot

Indigenous Services Canada has launched the first phase of a new pilot for First Nations individuals [applying for registration](#) under the Indian Act. The project aims to make applying a faster, easier process at in-person service locations across Canada.

Under the new pilot, entitled children 15 years old and younger will be able to complete their application digitally during in-person visits. This will streamline appointments, reducing the time per application by at least half and relieving pressure on the entire system. The pilot is currently live in Gatineau, Quebec; Amherst, Nova Scotia; and Edmonton, Alberta. It will expand to all other points of service at a later date.

This next step uses the Digital Application Services (DAS). DAS offers faster digital solutions for secure status card applications and renewals. It has proven to be cost-effective and markedly reduced application wait times. Please visit the [news release](#) for more information.

Winter Events 2025/26



A snapshot of regional and national events which may be of interest this coming winter and early spring (sourced from public information).

NAFC

[2025 Paths Forward](#) ° Thunder Bay, ON ° December 9 - 11, 2025

NAN

[Dagwaagin 2025](#) ° Thunder Bay, ON ° December 10 - 11, 2025

Chiefs of Ontario and NAN

[Final Agreement Implementation Information Session](#) ° Virtual °
December 11, 2025

Grand Council Treaty #3

[Responding to Trauma and Grief](#) ° Winnipeg, MB ° January 26 - 30, 2026

AFN

[National Forum on Income Assistance](#) ° Richmond, BC °
February 3 - 5, 2026

AFN

[Natural Resources Forum](#) ° Calgary, AB ° February 10 - 11, 2026

AFOA Canada

[National Conference](#) ° Montreal, QC ° February 10 - 12 , 2026

ITAC

[International Indigenous Tourism Conference](#) ° Edmonton, AB °
February 17 - 19 , 2026

Canadian Institute

[Western Indigenous Consultation & Engagement](#) ° Edmonton, AB °
February 19 - 20, 2026

AFN

[2026 Education Forum](#) ° Vancouver, BC ° February 24 - 26 , 2026

AFN

[Engagement Session on the Pay Equity Act](#) ° Toronto, ON ° April 22, 2026