

# ONTARIO REGION UPDATE



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Ontario Region Communications:  
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## Reminder: Tick Season

As warmer weather spreads across Ontario, so do ticks. Ticks can carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites that cause serious illnesses like Lyme disease (LD), anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. Many regions had a shorter winter season with fewer sub-zero days this year, which may have allowed more ticks to survive. This means some areas may have more ticks than usual. Preventing tick bites is the best way to avoid tick-borne illnesses. Please consider sharing the following information and resources with your community.



Pictured: Tick in a palm.

### ***How Lyme disease spreads***

- Lyme disease is a bacterial infection, primarily spread by blacklegged ticks or “deer ticks.”
- Infected ticks bite humans and transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.
- Infected blacklegged ticks need to be attached to for at least 24 hours to pass on the bacteria.
- Blacklegged ticks are tiny; they can be as small as a poppy seed. It can be hard to spot them if you’re not checking closely.



Pictured: Blacklegged tick life stages.

### ***Shareable resources***

- Poster - [Top 10 tick hiding spots on your body](#). Also available in Mohawk, Eastern Ojibwe, and Mi'kmaq
- How to remove a tick: [written instructions](#) and [instructional video](#)
- Symptom list: [Lyme disease](#)
- Symptom list: [other tick-borne illnesses](#)
- List: [products that can repel ticks](#)

### ***How to protect yourself***

- **Do full-body tick checks** on yourself, family, and pets after you are finished outside.
- **Remove any ticks** properly and as soon as possible. Removing attached ticks quickly reduces the chance of infection.
- **Learn the symptoms** of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses and seek medical attention if you have symptoms, even if you do not find a tick near/on you.
- **Apply insect repellent** containing DEET or Icaridin. Individuals ages 16+ can wear clothing treated with permethrin, which also [repels ticks](#).
- **Wear light coloured, long-sleeved clothing.** Ticks are darker in colour, so you spot them more easily when wearing lighter clothing.
- **Remove any unnecessary leaf piles, brush, and long grass** around your home. Blacklegged ticks often live in forested areas, tall grasses/weeds, forest brush, and leaf piles.
- **Walk on cleared trails** made by humans whenever possible. These paths are often cleared of the habitats where ticks live, like tall grass.

## Canada Summer Jobs 2024

The hiring period for the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program is underway. Youth aged 15 to 30 can apply to CSJ until July 22, 2024. More than 70,000 jobs will be posted on both the [Job Bank website](#) and [mobile app](#), and will be updated on a regular basis. Young people are encouraged to keep checking for updates on placements available in their communities. For more information, please visit [Canada Summer Jobs 2024](#).



CSJ is part of the [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy](#), a federal initiative that connects youth with gainful work experience, and the opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed in the labour market. CSJ prioritizes projects that support youth who face barriers to employment, such as Indigenous youth and youth with disabilities.

Businesses can also apply for funding through the CSJ to hire youth. The 2024 employer application period is closed, but the period for next year will launch in the coming months. Interested employers are encouraged to open an account on the secure [Grants and Contributions Online Services](#) portal to stay updated.

### 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, 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](http://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)



## Treaty Payment Events

From May to September 2024, 306 First Nations communities will host their treaty annuity payment events. Indigenous Services Canada will also coordinate several urban treaty events in cities across the country. For information on local events, such as date and location, please contact the local First Nation's office. For the latest updates on urban treaty events, please visit [Treaty Annuity Payments](#).



## Reminder: Submit Your Housing Management Subsidy Applications

Indigenous Services Canada Ontario Region is renewing the Housing Management Subsidy program for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Invitation emails have been sent to all communities in the region, with a deadline of May 30, 2024. Late submissions will still be accepted until July 30, 2024. In an effort to streamline and simplify the application process, templates have been provided for the work plan and budget.

The Housing Management Subsidy is available to First Nation communities to support and enhance housing capacity, which may involve hiring additional housing staff. Please refer to the guidelines provided via email to review all eligible activities under the Housing Management Subsidy funding. You can download all application materials from the [OneHealth.ca Portal](#). Nations may also pool their allocation and coordinate service delivery at the Tribal Council level.

Please note that for late applications received after May 30, 2024, funding will be pro-rated for the remaining months in the fiscal year, from the date of application until March 31, 2025. All First Nations in the region are encouraged to submit applications, including the work plan and budget sheet, as soon as possible.

Please submit applications to [housing.applications.habitation@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:housing.applications.habitation@sac-isc.gc.ca). For questions, please contact Siva Appiah, Senior Housing Officer at [Siva.Appiah@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:Siva.Appiah@sac-isc.gc.ca), or Tracy Roblin, Capital Management Officer of Housing at [Tracy.Roblin@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:Tracy.Roblin@sac-isc.gc.ca).







## June Celebrations: National Indigenous History Month and Pride

June marks both National Indigenous History Month (NIHM) and the start of Pride season. Indigenous two-spirit, lesbian, gay, transgender, and other gender-variant (2SLGBTQ+) people have made history across communities, homelands and time. Recognizing Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ people during NIHM is a great way to honour their place, struggles and contributions in the world. It can also help promote welcoming spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in your community. The following are a few ways to commemorate both NIHM and Pride this year.

**Host an event for and/or with 2SLGBTQ+ people.** People often have to go to large cities like Toronto or Montreal to find others with whom to (safely) celebrate Pride. Consider hosting a local event. Examples:

- A game night for 2SLGBTQ+ and allies to celebrate and hang out
- A trivia night about famous Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and history
- A community speaker night where people can learn and talk with those in their community about issues facing 2SLGBTQ+ people

**Highlight Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ people and supports in your community or region.** There are many Indigenous artists, activists, support networks, and other leaders who have made important contributions to their communities and the wider 2SLGBTQ+ community—but not everyone knows about them. Consider using social media, radio shows, or other creative outlets to highlight them. Some examples include:

- A 30-second radio spot about two-spirit playwright Yolanda Bonnell, or designer Scott Wabano
- Social media posts highlighting internationally known drag artists like Chelazon Laroux or Venus, or a local artist
- A poster with local supports, such as a regional 2SLGBTQ+ rights group

**Commemorate local Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ history.** Pride celebrations often do not highlight Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, or recognize their advocacy for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Consider promoting education about 2SLGBTQ+ history and culture in your community or region. Examples:

- Share resources about Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ history, like [this video on the history the word “two-spirit”](#)
- Explore the history of queer and gender non-confirming people in your culture, such as learning and promoting traditional understandings and language (like [these words in Cree](#))
- Host a learning session to exchange stories of Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ leaders.



## **A Message From the Indigenous Services Canada Ontario Regional Executives**

As June quickly approaches, we want to wish you all a happy National Indigenous History Month (NIHM) and National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD). During this time, we encourage our staff to deepen their understanding of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous histories across Turtle Island. For ISC Ontario Region staff, NIHM and NIPD are reminders of our daily responsibility as treaty peoples; a responsibility to make decisions that weigh the past, present, and future between all nations on these lands.

NIHM and NIPD also reminds us that Indigenous histories are living histories; the continuation of Indigenous resilience, joy, pain, community, innovation and so much more since time immemorial. The Government of Canada's role in Indigenous histories is seldom a positive one, and that, too must be contended with and recognized. We look forward to sharing some of the ways staff recognize and engage with these histories in next month's Ontario Region Update.

Since the last NIHM, your communities have led many projects, groundbreakings, and celebrations, as well as important and challenging discussions for the betterment of your peoples. Thank you for welcoming us into your homes to bear witness. It is a great privilege to work in partnership with you as realize your visions for your communities. We hope to continue building and celebrating with you, not only during National Indigenous History Month, but year-round.

We wish you a great National Indigenous History Month!

Sincerely,

Lisa Westaway, Ontario Regional Executive  
Michael O'Byrne, Ontario Regional Director General