



## National

Issue 144

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### First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

Indigenous Services Canada provides funding through the [First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program](#) (FNECP) to support First Nations communities in identifying, investigating and characterizing the impact of exposure to environmental hazards. Activities include community-based research, monitoring, risk assessment, risk communication and knowledge integration.

[Requirements for funding](#), such as the inclusion of scientific or academic partners, must be identified in the proposal. Any environmental contaminants that are of concern to First Nations communities can be included in your proposal, based on potential human health risk due to exposure. This risk must be articulated and justified in the proposal.

**The deadline to submit your proposal is September 22, 2025, 11:59 pm Mountain Time.** For more information, including [eligibility](#), how to [submit a proposal](#), example of past projects, ideas for new initiatives and access to past program-hosted webinars, please visit [First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program](#) and the [First Nations' Portal on Environmental Contaminants and Health](#).

### Get support with your registration and secure status card application

There are now more locations where you can apply for registration under the *Indian Act* (also known as Indian status) and a secure status card. If you're interested in applying, [trusted sources](#) are here to help! Trusted sources are designated, reliable partners designated by Indigenous Services Canada to assist applicants in completing their registration and secure status card applications. This means more [help with your application](#).

Trusted sources can help with:

- completing and submitting registration or secure status card applications
- copying and certifying required documents
- taking photos for the secure status card applications
- sharing information about legislative changes to the registration provisions of the *Indian Act* regarding entitlement

With [58 trusted source locations](#) and 34 partners across the country, visit the [trusted source webpage](#) to find one near you.

### Canada announces major investments to improve resilience against wildfires

On June 12, 2025, the Governments of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, together with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), [announced a total investment of \\$104 million](#) through the Government of Canada's [Resilient Communities through FireSmart \(RCF\) Program](#).

[FireSmart™ Canada](#) is a key part of our national wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts. Led by CIFFC, the program identifies and reduces wildfire risks and provides actionable guidance for homeowners and communities. The funding announced today will help enhance FireSmart™ programming and support the provinces and territories in increasing capacity and assisting community-based projects to help prevent wildfires and mitigate their impacts, including Indigenous communities that are disproportionately threatened by wildfires.

For more information, please visit the [backgrounder](#) and [news release](#).

**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**

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The [Emergency Management Assistance Program](#) supports wildland fire non-structural mitigation and preparedness initiatives through the FireSmart funding stream. FireSmart builds skills in First Nations communities to prevent and prepare against wildland fires.

**Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is exhausted.** For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [Emergency Management FireSmart program](#).

### Wildfire evacuation information for Indigenous Peoples

In the event of a possible emergency evacuation, make sure you and your family are prepared. If there is an emergency event near your home or community, you should:

- monitor the emergency through radio, television or local social media accounts for warnings or information about evacuation plans
- be ready to exercise your [emergency plan](#). Take your [emergency kit](#) and other essential items with you if an evacuation order is issued or you have to leave your home
- follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area

For First Nations or Inuit who are evacuated, here are a list of [supports available](#) to you. [After you've evacuated](#), you should follow evacuation orders and stay outside the evacuation zone. For more information, visit [www.canada.ca/indigenousevacuations](https://www.canada.ca/indigenousevacuations).

### Post-Secondary Partnerships Program

Respecting the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education, Indigenous Services Canada provides funding to the [Post-Secondary Partnerships Program](#) to support First Nations established post-secondary education institutions and First Nations-directed community-based programming. This program supports First Nations in defining their own partnerships with educational institutions to increase the availability of post-secondary education programs tailored to First Nations cultural and educational needs.

Eligible expenditures include the direct costs for First Nations and First Nations established post-secondary education institutions to develop and deliver post-secondary education programming and services for First Nations students that supports them to participate and succeed in post-secondary programming.

To find out how to apply, contact your ISC [regional office](#). To learn more, consult the [Post-Secondary Partnerships Program: National Guidelines 2025 to 2026](#).

# HOW TO CHECK FOR TICKS

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[Canada.ca/LymeDisease](https://Canada.ca/LymeDisease)





Public Health  
Agency of Canada



Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada



## Regional

### Wildfire and public safety information portal launched

The Manitoba government has launched [MB Ready](#), a centralized portal designed to keep Manitobans informed during emergencies. MB Ready, managed by the Emergency Management Organization (EMO), will provide timely information on events as they occur and supports available to impacted Manitobans. The site will continue to evolve in the coming weeks and months, with new features and updates aimed at improving accessibility and responsiveness.

For more information, please visit the news release and [mbready.manitoba.ca](https://mbready.manitoba.ca).

### New MRI service to improve access in the north

The [launch of a new mobile magnetic resonance imaging \(MRI\) service](#) will significantly improve access to diagnostic imaging for patients living in northern Manitoba. MRIs are vital diagnostic tools used in the detection and monitoring of various health conditions. The mobile MRI unit, operated by Shared Health Diagnostic Services, started seeing patients on June 6 at Thompson General Hospital. Later this year, it will begin rotating between Thompson and The Pas, serving communities across the Northern Health Region.

Patients from northern communities in need of urgent or emergency MRIs are typically transported to Winnipeg for their tests. With the addition of a mobile MRI, emergency department patients and hospital inpatients will be able to receive care in Thompson or The Pas.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Manitoba government announces groundbreaking legislation that empowers and benefits women, girls, two-spirit and gender-diverse individuals

[Bill 44, the \*Matriarch Circle Act\*](#), is new legislation formalizing the role of the Matriarch Circle, an advisory body that provides the Manitoba government with advice and vision to empower and benefit women, girls, two-spirit and gender-diverse individuals. The group works to identify key priorities and recommend strategic approaches in alignment with the mandate of [Women and Gender Equity Manitoba](#).

Bill 44 affirms calls to action of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) and the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), which emphasize the importance of protecting the inherent rights of Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit and gender-diverse relatives to maintain their unique and distinct cultural practices and languages.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Air purifiers and air quality monitors available under EMAP

Smoke from wildfire can affect both your lungs and heart, and has been linked to [symptoms](#) such as chest pains, asthma attacks, an irregular heartbeat and even premature death. To help prevent these health impacts and meet the needs of [high risk community members](#), portable [air purifiers may be an eligible expense](#) under the [Emergency Management Assistant Program](#) (EMAP).

Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada are also working to expand the wildfire smoke monitoring network by offering free air quality monitors to First Nation communities on request. An [air quality monitoring map](#) (AQMap) is publicly available to track air quality during wildfire smoke events.

For more information and to request air purifiers and air quality monitors for your community, please contact [gestionurgencesantemb-mbhealthemergency@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:gestionurgencesantemb-mbhealthemergency@sac-isc.gc.ca).



<b>MB Emergency:</b>	<a href="mailto:mb.emergency@sac-isc.gc.ca">mb.emergency@sac-isc.gc.ca</a>
<b>ISC 24/7 duty officer:</b>	<b>1-855-850-4647</b>
<b>Report a wildfire:</b>	<b>1-800-782-0076</b>
<b>Report a hydro outage:</b>	<b>1-888-624-9376</b>
<b>Highway closure info:</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Medical transportation: (Non-Insured Health Benefits)</b>	<b>1-877-983-0911</b>