



April 7, 2020

RE: COVID-19: Crisis Supplement Funding and
Emergency Management Assistance Advances

Dear Chief and Council:

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) recognizes the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving. We are striving to provide timely information in response to emerging issues for First Nations in British Columbia as a result of COVID-19.

On April 2, 2020 the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction announced its intention to provide an automatic \$300-monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for the next three months.

ISC will be mirroring these supports for on-reserve income assistance and disability clients. Any adult who is eligible for income assistance or disability assistance, is eligible for the crisis supplement. The \$300 amount should be automatically added to their cheque. They do not need to apply.

For the next three months (from May – July 2020), ISC will provide funding to communities to support the \$300 monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for First Nations, based on the most recently reported caseload. Please contact us if this information is no longer accurate.

The attached Questions and Answers document provides additional information on eligibility and exemptions to support Band Social Development Workers (BSDWs) in implementing this new supplement.

Please note that community members who have stopped working because of COVID-19, may be eligible for Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). They are not eligible to collect both Income Assistance and these enhanced Federal benefits.

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For further information, please contact the BSDW Policy Support Line, by phone (toll-free): 1-888-440-4080, or by e-mail: aadnc.tsdbsooutien-bsdwsupport-bc.aandc@canada.ca. The BSDW Policy Support Line is available Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Alternatively, you may also e-mail Dena Duncan, Manager, Income Supports and Partnerships at dena.duncan@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Lappe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Catherine Lappe
Regional Director General

Encl. Frequently asked Questions and Answers
The provincial announcement can be found at:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0012-000620>

c.c.: Band Social Development Workers (BSDW)
BC Region Tribal Councils
BC Region Child and Family Services Delegated Agencies
First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)
First Nations School Association (FNSA)
Funding Services Operations (ISC)