

Support for Métis:

- Canada has dedicated resources to respond to urgent needs of Métis communities related to COVID-19.
- While provincial and territorial governments provide primary healthcare guidance and preparedness support in Métis communities, Canada allocated \$30M to Métis Nation governments under the Indigenous Community Support Fund.
- This provides support for Elders and vulnerable community members, addressing food insecurity, mental health assistance, emergency response services, and other preparedness measures.
- Officials meet regularly with national and regional Métis representatives and federal partners to share information about Métis community needs and the ongoing federal response.

Funding Supports

- On March 11th the Prime Minister announced available funding for federal public health measures which includes ongoing support for preparedness in on-reserve First Nations communities.
- With this funding, my department has been working to address immediate pressures of First Nations communities in activating, updating and testing their pandemic plans.
- Additionally, the investment of \$305 Million in this legislation for the distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund will help address the immediate needs in First Nation, Inuit and Metis Nation communities.

If pressed further on funding

- This fund will provide Indigenous leadership with the ability to make choices that work for their communities.
- It is anticipated that funding will be used to address immediate needs related to COVID-19 in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities. Communities will be able to proactively respond to emerging needs as they arise.
- Funding is in the process of being distributed.

If pressed on coordination with other federal benefits

- ISC officials have been working with their counterparts at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to ensure Indigenous Peoples are considered in the development of outreach materials on the new federal benefits, such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit.
- ISC, CRA and ESDC websites and communications materials are being updated to address questions or to clarify information from Indigenous Peoples.
- CRA, ESDC and ISC are also sharing materials on the new Federal Benefits with various Indigenous networks to promote access to the new funding.

Support for Indigenous Businesses

- Indigenous businesses provide jobs, goods, and services to communities, and are an important part of the Canadian economy.
- Right now, they are facing challenges and economic hardships due to COVID-19.
- That is why we are providing up to \$306.8 million in cash funding to help an estimated 6,000 Indigenous-owned businesses and to ensure business owners have access to the support they need to get through this crisis.
- We will continue to take action to protect the health and safety of Canadians and stabilize our economy.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

- We know there are concerns regarding eligibility for First Nations governments and their businesses for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- My officials have been working closely with the Department of Finance to resolve these concerns.
- Taxable Indigenous-government-owned corporations, are already eligible for the subsidy.
- Indigenous government-owned corporations or corporations who have Indigenous governments as partners are now eligible for the wage subsidy.
- This will support them in retaining employees who are still on the payroll and to rehire workers previously laid off.

Urban Supports

- We recognize the important work of urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and local community organizations to support the unique needs of Indigenous peoples living in urban centres.
- That is why we allocated \$15 million through the Indigenous Community Support Fund to 94 organizations and groups that support First Nations off-reserve and Indigenous peoples living in urban centres.
- We know that more is required and we are actively working with Indigenous communities to identify and deliver the specific supports they need.

If pressed on urban supports:

- The \$15 million allocated to off-reserve First Nations and urban Indigenous organizations was available through a proposal-based process that closed on April 13, 2020.
- More than 500 proposals were submitted, requesting approximately \$480M in funding. This represents a demand that was significantly higher than what was available.
- We have streamlined the process to flow funds quickly and directly to Indigenous communities and groups across the country.

Shelters

- Shelters in First Nations communities provide a vital place of refuge for women and children escaping violence.
- \$50 million was allocated to women's shelters and sexual assault centres across Canada to help with their capacity to manage or prevent a COVID outbreak in their facilities.
- This includes \$10 million in direct funding for 46 emergency shelters in First Nations communities and in Yukon to support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence.
- These new funds will provide shelters with additional capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities.