

**AFN C-19 National Task Force  
Daily Update for: June 24, 2020**

**Health Sector**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a1>

**Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19, as of 2020-06-23 7:00PM EDT**

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,835	16 (7)	170	2,491
AB	7,781	37 (6)	153	7,096
SK	753	4 (1)	13	642
MB	314	0 (0)	7	293
ON	33,853	278 (73)	2,619	29,107
QC	54,884	500 (52)	5,424	23,620
Newfoundland/Lab	261	0 (0)	3	258
NB	165	2 (1)	2	143
NS	1,061	2 (1)	63	998
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,963</b>	<b>839 (141)</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>64,704</b>
<b>Active Cases= 28,763</b>				

\*These are numbers of *current* hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Some sources report the total *cumulative* number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Also, hospitalization data are amalgamated as they are reported by various hospitals; they are therefore updated

sporadically, intermittently, and are likely to be less accurate and current than other data points.

	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
<b>Globally</b>	9,295,365	478,289	4,661,118

- Data is as of June 24 at 10:33am from Johns Hopkins University:  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

### Epidemic Summary

As of **June 23, 2020**, the majority (**89%**) of COVID-19 cases are related to domestic acquisition. Domestic acquisition is defined as any exposure that occurred within Canada. This includes acquisition through contact with a COVID-19 case (**53%**); through contact with a traveller (**1%**); and from an unknown source (**35%**). Only **4%** of cases are attributed to travel outside of Canada. The exposure setting for the remaining **7%** of Canadian cases is unknown (information pending).

As of **June 23, 2020**, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **8.3%**.

As of **June 23, 2020**, **63%** of all Canadian COVID-19 cases are reported to have recovered.

### Risk to Canadians

COVID-19 is a serious health threat, and the situation is evolving daily. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered **high**.

There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- Aged 65 and over
- With compromised immune systems
- With underlying medical conditions

### Data Sources:

British Columbia:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

Alberta: <https://covid19stats.alberta.ca/#cases>

Saskatchewan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/cases-and-risk-of-covid-19-in-saskatchewan>

Manitoba: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/index.html#cases>

Ontario: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0>

Quebec: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/covid-19/donnees>

New Brunswick:

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory\\_diseases/coronavirus/case-map.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus/case-map.html)

Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/data/>

Prince Edward Island: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/pei-covid-19-testing-data>

Newfoundland and Labrador: <https://covid-19-newfoundland-and-labrador-gnl.hub.arcgis.com/>

Yukon: <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

Northwest Territories: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

## **Housing, Infrastructure, Water & Emergency Management Sector**

### **2020 FN Fire & Flood Situation Report as of June 22, 2020**

There are: 10 FN communities impacted by Flooding (5 BC, 3 AB, 1 ON, 1 SK) with 70 evacuated FN community residents due to Floods; 1 FN community impacted by Severe Weather (1 MB) with 2 families evacuated due to Severe Weather; and 1 FN impacted by Loss of Essential Services (1 ATL-NS).

Overall: There are currently 6 FN communities partially evacuated (2 BC, 1 MB, 2 AB, 1 SK).

### **British Columbia**

According to the GOC, As of 21 Jun, the seasonal flood risk is diminishing throughout the province as snowmelt and weather conditions become more stable. However, the flow levels remain high compared to normal for this time of year and thus remain vulnerable to short-term, heavy rainfall events in the Peace, Northeast, Upper Fraser East, Cariboo, Nicola, North

Thompson, South Thompson and Southeast regions. The Lower Fraser River remains at minor flooding risk due to the mixed effects of snowmelt and rainfall.

### **Waterhen Lake First Nation (402)**

Population: 988 20JUN2020: Homes remain flooded, value protection efforts beginning. Displaced families continue to shelter in place; dependent on duration of event, the FN may look at temporary accommodations in a nearby location.

18JUN2020: Nation experiencing localized minor flooding near subdivision with 3 homes (approx. 11 persons) evacuated and sheltering in place within community. Sandbags and water pumps deploying. Water levels have plateaued, flooding expected to be short-term and subside quickly.

### **Nova Scotia**

Eskasoni FN

Population :

3950 Loss of Essential Services – Water Shortage 19JUN2020: FNIHB informed EMD of a water shortage impacting Eskasoni FN and recommends a DWA. Water will be shut off for a select number of residents overnight and water levels to be monitored closely.

TOTAL SEVERE WEATHER EVACUEES 13

TOTAL LANDSLIDE EVACUEES 9

TOTAL WILDLAND FIRE EVACUEES 9

TOTAL FLOODING EVACUEES 645

TOTAL LONG-TERM EVACUEES 676

### **Communications Sector**

**N.W.T. adapts wildfire strategy to mitigate COVID-19 risks**

**CBC - June 24, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/n-w-t-adapts-wildfire-110000262.html>

**Alberta environmental reporting and testing suspended due to COVID-19 to resume July 15**

**The Alberta government says environmental reporting and testing suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic will start up again July 15.**

**Calgary Herald – June 24, 2020**

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/politics/alberta-environmental-reporting-and-testing-suspended-due-to-covid-19-to-resume-july-15/wcm/0a6fdb76-84e3-4502-9726-ad546ebd00e6/>

**Elder Carole Dawson, champion of Indigenous health, dies from COVID-19 in Vancouver**

**CBC - June 23, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/elder-carole-dawson-champion-indigenous-035914093.html>

## **Indigenous tourism receives \$16 million federal pandemic survival boost**

**Expositor Staff - June 24, 2020**

<https://www.manitoulin.ca/indigenous-tourism-receives-16-million-federal-pandemic-survival-boost/>

### **Numbers**

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298#chap5>

#### **Confirmed cases of COVID-19**

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of June 22, ISC is aware of:

- 285 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 27 hospitalizations
- 220 recovered cases
- 6 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 42
- Alberta: 73
- Saskatchewan: 79
- Ontario: 56
- Quebec: 35

### **Full Stories**

#### **N.W.T. adapts wildfire strategy to mitigate COVID-19 risks**

**CBC - June 24, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/n-w-t-adapts-wildfire-110000262.html>

The Northwest Territories is changing its firefighting strategy this season to rely less on crews from other jurisdictions in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Part of this means ramping up efforts to seek out and deal with fires when they're still small to avoid having to fly in crews from elsewhere, Richard Olsen, wildfire operations manager, said during a media briefing on Tuesday.

The department is also adding fire crews, support staff and extra aircraft to detect and extinguish wildfires.

The government plans to spend nearly \$4 million more than expected on wildfire management this year, according to 2020-2021 supplementary budget documents. It's unclear how much of this proposed extra spending is a result of COVID-19.

Outside crews to stay in 'bubble'

Environment and Natural Resources has been working with Protect NWT to "pre-qualify" outside firefighters who can be flown in quickly, if necessary, said Olsen.

"We've sort of pre-worked our way through [administrative procedures] and can bring in crews or overhead positions almost as a bubble," said Olsen.

These crews would stay in a separate camp, and wouldn't come into contact with N.W.T. fire crews, he said.

Olsen said firefighters across the country are being told to monitor daily for symptoms.

More 'eyes in the sky'

Commercial airlines are responsible for reporting a significant number of the territory's wildfires, but with fewer planes flying during the pandemic, "we needed to get a few more people up in the air for eyes in the sky," Olsen said.

"We've been pretty vigilant on detection but we're trying to be a lot more vigilant this year, so we've put some more resources into additional short-term aircraft," he said.

The Northwest Territories is poised for an average fire season, Olsen said, with ground conditions that have been "fairly dry in a lot of areas for a couple weeks now."

As of Tuesday afternoon there had been 16 wildfires reported, affecting 4,689 hectares. Two of those fires were being fought, while 10 had been put out, and the rest were being reassessed or monitored.

Of those fires being fought on Tuesday, one was about 40 kilometres east of Hay River, N.W.T., and 3.5 hectares in size. This lightning-caused fire was expected to be brought under control within the day, Amber Simpson, wildfire information officer with the Environment and Natural Resources Department, said during Tuesday's briefing.

The other was a fire was about 82 kilometres northwest of Whati, that was one hectare large at the time of the briefing.

Smouldering near Legislative Assembly

On Monday, fire crews returning to Yellowknife in a helicopter noticed smoke in a wooded area near the Legislative Assembly. The small human-caused fire was extinguished in short order.

"The fire itself was reported as just smoldering, a small size, it wasn't reported with any kind of active flame or growth," said Olsen, adding that it was about the area of a picnic table.

Nine of the 16 fires were started by people, he said, which is slightly below the average of 17 human-caused fires by this time of year.

Last Friday, a citywide fire ban was issued for Yellowknife, right before the National Indigenous Day long weekend.

People who spot a fire can call the N.W.T. fire hotline 1-877-698-3473.

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The government and the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) temporarily halted some activities they classify as low-risk throughout the spring, claiming they were putting employees at risk during the pandemic.

Now Environment Minister Jason Nixon says they can start back up.

“The temporary reporting relief provided through Environment and Parks allowed industry time to ensure the health and safety of staff and the communities in which they work,” Nixon said in a statement Tuesday.

“Now that the public health emergency is no longer in effect and Alberta is reopening as part of our Phase 2 relaunch, industry can resume business while keeping communities and employees safe.”

Throughout May, the AER released a series of decisions that suspended some reporting requirements that it considered low risk for oilsands projects, in situ and conventional oil and gas operations.

That included volatile organic compounds (VOC) and reduced sulphur compound (RSC) monitoring, including fugitive emissions surveys carried out by contractors.

Some groundwater monitoring was suspended and surface water did not have to be tested unless it escaped into the environment. Lab testing for water released from storm ponds was suspended along with wildlife and bird monitoring programs.

The regulator made its moves after ministerial orders issued in late March and early April by Nixon and Energy Minister Sonya Savage to temporarily suspend environmental reporting requirements for a range of industries, from forestry companies to cement manufacturers. Drinking water facilities were not affected by the orders and were still required to submit reports during the pandemic.

NDP environment critic Marlin Schmidt said he is relieved the suspensions are being lifted.

“I maintained all along that this was essential work to protect the health and wellbeing of Albertans and it shouldn’t have been suspended in the first place,” he said Tuesday.

Schmidt said he’s concerned officials could have missed incidents that were “a cause for concern” during the suspension.

“Importantly we won’t have a continuous data set for a bunch of different monitoring requirements so that will damage our ability to assess trends and problems in those data sets,” he said.

AER spokesperson Shawn Roth said in an email that the regulator provided temporary suspensions that were supported by technical experts, did not impact the AER’s ability to fulfil its mandate, and were a low risk to impact long-term data integrity or environmental outcome. The decision to suspend environmental monitoring drew criticism.

Two weeks ago, a dozen conservation and Indigenous groups wrote to federal Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson asking him to force Alberta to reinstate environmental monitoring in the oilpatch, noting that Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, sits downstream from Alberta’s oilsands.

Three different northern Alberta First Nations also filed a request to appeal the regulator’s decision to suspend monitoring, pointing out First Nations weren’t consulted despite the decision’s impacts on their treaty rights.

Committee to hear from the public on NDP pensions bill

Meanwhile, at the legislature Tuesday, NDP MLA Christina Gray's [private member's bill](#) that would reverse changes related to Alberta public sector pension plans, including requiring that teachers' pensions be managed by the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) got one step closer to being debated in the legislative assembly.

A committee charged with reviewing private member's bills agreed Tuesday to hear from stakeholders at a future meeting before voting on whether to send the bill for a full debate in the legislative assembly.

The government and the Opposition will be able to call three people each to speak at the meeting, which has not been scheduled. Albertans will also be able to send comments in writing. More details on how to do that will be released soon, Gray said.

Gray's bill would make it illegal for the government to pull Alberta out of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and create its own provincial version, something the government is studying ahead of a possible referendum.

Gray estimates nearly 30,000 people have signed the petition calling for the government to stay with the CPP.

### **Elder Carole Dawson, champion of Indigenous health, dies from COVID-19 in Vancouver**

**[CBC](#) - June 23, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/elder-carole-dawson-champion-indigenous-035914093.html>

Carole Dawson, a longtime champion of Indigenous health and rights in B.C., has died from COVID-19, according to the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC).

Dawson, who was 75 and living in a long-term care centre in Vancouver, died June 21.

A statement from the UBCIC said that Dawson played an integral role in improving both health care and child welfare for Indigenous families, and was "a champion in holding Canada accountable for the pervasive discrimination contributing to underfunded and inequitable Indigenous health-care systems."

An elder of the Dzawada'enuxw Nation of Kingcome Inlet on B.C.'s Central Coast, she worked at the UBCIC from the organization's early days as the health liaison officer and later as the family, children and health director.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of UBCIC, said that Dawson, his longtime friend and colleague, was "an Elder, a language speaker, an advocate, a mother, a healer, and a guide."

"She was deeply loved and trusted by our people ... She was a powerhouse of knowledge with respect to our community and our leadership," he said.

Dawson was a survivor of the St. Michael's Residential School at Alert Bay, located just east of Vancouver Island, and spent much of her life helping others overcome trauma and addictions by championing culturally appropriate health care for Indigenous people.

"Carole directly experienced the trauma of the residential school experience, and intimately understood the issues that had affected our people. And that's why she was so effective in our work," said Phillips.

"She was a walking, living example of all of those issues."

The statement from the UBCIC said the loss of Dawson was a reminder that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a threat to Indigenous lives and welfare.

"With Carole's passing, we honour her immense work to improve the health outcomes of Indigenous peoples, and we pledge to continue her work in overcoming the challenges to comprehensive, culturally appropriate Indigenous health care," it said.

### **Indigenous tourism receives \$16 million federal pandemic survival boost**

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Adds to previous funding, sustaining work by Indigenous tourism organizations

MANITOULIN—The Indigenous tourism industry had been experiencing its strongest growth in five centuries over the past couple of years, with hundreds of new businesses starting up from coast-to-coast, especially in British Columbia and Ontario—then came COVID-19. It should come as little surprise to Islanders that this season's tourist season has the potential to present the strongest challenges to the industry in generations. Destination Canada is projecting that as many as 57 percent of businesses are not expected to survive the next six months.

Especially vulnerable to the hit from the COVID-19 economic tsunami are new businesses, a category into which most Indigenous businesses fall. In recognition of that vulnerability, on June 11 the federal government announced a welcome infusion of \$16 million into the tourism industry—part of a \$133 million cash infusion aimed at assisting Indigenous businesses suffering the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. That \$16 million will be overseen by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) in the form of \$25,000 non-repayable grants.

"As we began to understand the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on not just Indigenous tourism operators but to Canada's tourism industry as a whole, we worked with our partners within the federal government to create the best possible stimulus funding model we could, to keep Indigenous tourism alive across the country," said ITAC president and CEO Keith Henry in a release acknowledging the federal funds. "We want to thank the Government of Canada, Minister Miller (Honourable Marc Miller, minister of Indigenous Services) and Minister Joly (Honourable Melanie Joly, minister of Economic Development) for listening and understanding that Indigenous-led funding models, based on our research, were imperative for our industry to survive."

"While our top priority remains the health and safety of individuals, I want to acknowledge the great challenges Indigenous businesses and economies have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Minister Miller. "Indigenous businesses are the driving force of many local economies. With this additional support, Indigenous communities and businesses will have the flexibility they need to respond to their unique economic needs through this difficult time."

"Canada's tourism sector has been hit hard by COVID-19, and Indigenous tourism has been particularly affected," said Minister Joly. "Before the crisis, Indigenous tourism was the fastest-growing part of the industry and this investment will help it come back strong, supporting good jobs and playing a key role in our economic recovery."

But there was plenty of work already being done by ITAC and Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) before the first wave had even begun to crest.

Early this month, ITAC launched a four-year, \$50 million strategic recovery plan with the goal to respond, recover and rebuild the Indigenous tourism industry across Canada to 2019 levels by 2024.

ITO president Kevin Eshkawkogan (based in the ITO offices in Aundeck Omni Kaning) also expressed appreciation of the federal cash infusion. "This is a really exciting time for Indigenous tourism," he said, noting that Indigenous tourism was the fastest growing segment of the industry over the past few years. "But a lot of our businesses are new and vulnerable. Even some of our more mature businesses are particularly vulnerable."

Mr. Eshkawkogan pointed to the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre, which was finally moving into the black following a couple of years of growing pains.

The ITAC and ITO strategy is basically two-fold, said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "First we responded quickly to protecting the assets and businesses, ensuring that they would be better able to weather the coming storm. With 60 to 70 percent closing either temporarily or permanently there was a definite challenge to be met."

To that end the Indigenous tourism organizations looked inward to their own budgets and rapidly rejigged priorities to meet those challenges. The result was a \$2.5 million fund scraped together that, while falling far short of need, still helped to shore up the books for several businesses. "We had 141 applications," noted Mr. Eshkawkogan. "There were four from Manitoulin." But the ask had already topped \$3.5 million at that point.

With the \$16 million infusion, the application queue mushroomed to 600 applications in the first intake. "We expect even more in the next intake," noted Mr. Eshkawkogan.

This is not a small deal for the province, particularly the North.

"Ontario is home to the largest Indigenous tourism industry in Canada with \$622 million in contributions to GDP, including 12,924 jobs and 558 Indigenous tourism businesses," said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "If we project the numbers on national losses, that will translate to a loss of \$330 million in direct revenues. Ontario Indigenous tourism businesses contribute \$622 million or 33.11 percent of the \$1.7 billion that tourism contributes to the national GDP."

Further, there is a potential job loss of 4,000 jobs in Indigenous tourism. Ontario is home to 12,924, or 36.59 percent of the 39,038 tourism jobs in Canada, said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "We could see a loss of 140 businesses of the approximately 558 Indigenous tourism businesses in Ontario."

"ITO is implementing a three-phase approach," he said. "That's protect, restart and recover."

In phase one, ITO aims to protect the Ontario Indigenous tourism sector and "continue to support and align with direct investment into national partners such as ITAC, Destination Canada, TIAC, and Tourism HR Canada; provincial partners such as the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) and the other Ontario tourism sector organizations; along with regional partners like the Ontario Regional Tourism organizations. ITO has already repurposed resources to engage business support brokers to help Indigenous tourism businesses navigate through the crisis and prepare for a summer with little to no revenue.

"We have worked hard to guide businesses through the application processes," said Mr. Eshkawkogan, "and we have been phenomenally successful. I think of this as a 'rescue' phase." In phase two, "the restart phase, ITO will co-ordinate and administer direct investment into ITO's four pillars for three years to offset long term issues facing Indigenous tourism businesses and events in Ontario. This will include co-ordinating the following: embracing innovative

experience delivery methods and revenue models for Indigenous tourism businesses; assisting businesses develop new product offerings for both domestic and international markets; engage business restart specialists to assist businesses through this phase; align Ontario Indigenous tourism businesses with partners and organizations who can help them not just recover, but surge forward when the time comes; and partner and co-ordinate the necessary training so Ontario Indigenous businesses can thrive in 2021 and beyond.”

The final and third phase, recovery, will involve a three-year window and require a further \$2.5 million in funding for ITO over the next two years, split between the feds and the province, to ensure that the organization can “help support the Indigenous tourism industry over the next two years.”

“The funding has really helped out a number of businesses here,” said Wiikwemkoong Tourism manager Luke Wassegijig. “Even in my own business, Wassegijig Tours, it has helped make a difference.”

Mr. Wassegijig noted that while many businesses in the tourism industry have been hard hit by the pandemic travel restriction, Indigenous businesses were in a unique position due to the community lockdowns that were in place in First Nations. “Bayside Resort here in Wiikwemkoong were not able to open to receive any guests, so they have had no revenue at all,” he said.