

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: June 8, 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 2020-06-05 11:00AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,632	26 (6)	166	2,265
AB	7,091	48 (6)	146	6,611
SK	648	2 (2)	11	602
MB	298	0 (0)	7	284
ON	29,747	749 (118)	2,372	23,583
QC	52,143	1,030 (131)	4,885	17,336
Newfoundland/Lab	261	1 (0)	3	256
NB	136	4 (1)	1	120
NS	1,058	3 (1)	61	997
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	94,070	1,863 (265)	7,652	52,114
Active Cases= 34,304				

*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
Globally	7,053,093	409,821	3,159,326

- Data is as of June 8 at 11:35am from Johns Hopkins University:
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Epidemic Summary

As of **June 4, 2020**, the majority (**85%**) of COVID-19 cases are related to domestic acquisition. Domestic acquisition is defined as any exposure that occurred within Canada.

As of **June 7, 2020**, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **8.0%**.

As of **June 7, 2020**, **57%** 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

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

Local States of Emergencies:

First Nation States of Emergency- As per ISC report June 05, 2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	57	31	0	21	69	4	7	2	191

WILDFIRE: - As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Report as of June 5, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

****Please note that given the decrease in significant incidents, this report will now be issued on a bi-weekly basis****

FLOODS: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of June 2, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

****Please note that given the decrease in significant incidents, this report will now be issued on a bi-weekly basis****

CONFIDENTIAL

BC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate

- **Upper Nicola Band (697) (Chief Harvey McLeod) Population: 415**
 - **04JUN2020: 2 additional households (2 residents) evacuated. 17 total residents evacuated;**
 - 02JUN2020: 2 additional households (9 residents) evacuated. 15 total residents evacuated.
- **Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (689) (Chief Oliver Arnouse)**
 - **03JUN2020: Chief considers incident a community emergency but no declarations issued. Community in discussions with ISC ON RO regarding continuity of water supply.**
 - 02JUN2020: High water levels from Lake Huron threaten Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate

- **Zhiibaahaasing First Nation (173) (Chief Irene Kells) Population: 66**
 - **Chief considers incident a community emergency but no declarations issued. Community in discussions with ISC ON RO regarding continuity of water supply;**
 - 02JUN2020: High water levels from Lake Huron threaten Water Treatment Plant (WTP)

Communications Sector

**First Nations nurses find inspiration and reward in serving Indigenous communities
'One day that could be me laying in that bed and I would want the best care possible'**
CBC News – June 7, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-nurses-communities-1.5600549>

Let's focus on dignity and care as we emerge from COVID-19
Hamilton Spec - June 7, 2020

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2020/06/07/lets-focus-on-dignity-and-care-as-we-emerge-from-covid-19.html>

**Food security, food sovereignty top of mind for First Nations
COVID-19 brings traditional ways back into focus**
Caribou Observer – June 8, 2020

<https://www.quesnelobserver.com/news/food-security-food-sovereignty-top-of-mind-for-first-nations/>

**BC's Remote Areas Are COVID-Free. Local Leaders Hope to Keep It that Way
Two First Nations say they will continue to protect residents by keeping visitors out.**
TheTyee.ca - June 6, 2020

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/06/08/BC-Remote-Areas-COVID-Free/>

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 7, ISC is aware of:

- 227 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 22 hospitalizations
- 206 recovered cases
- 5 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 43
- Alberta: 47
- Saskatchewan: 52
- Ontario: 50
- Quebec: 35

Full Stories

First Nations nurses find inspiration and reward in serving Indigenous communities 'One day that could be me laying in that bed and I would want the best care possible' CBC News – June 7, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-nurses-communities-1.5600549>

Throughout the month of June, CBC Indigenous is introducing you to some of the health care workers who are keeping our communities safe.

Here are two First Nations health care workers sharing some insight on what they do, why they do it and how COVID-19 is affecting them.

Danielle Bourque-Bearskin

Since May 20, Danielle Bourque-Bearskin has been working for the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch under Indigenous Services Canada as a public health nurse in Sandy Lake First Nation, a remote fly-in reserve in north-western Ontario.

She started work in Sandy Lake as part of a response to the need for surge capacity in health care in First Nations communities and helping communities respond to COVID-19.

Prior to that, she was working as a frontline ICU nurse in Hamilton.

"Answering that call to go into nursing was very instinctual for me," she said.

Bourque-Bearskin is from Beaver Lake Cree Nation in Alberta and her mother is also a nurse. She said when she thinks about why she went into the profession, she thinks about her Indigenous family and the experiences they had growing up.

"My coming up here, it's just solidified everything that I've been learning and I've been advocating for in the last several years," she said.

The health inequities that Indigenous people experience in access to health care is an issue that she wants to use her voice to bring attention to.

"We have been talking about these inequalities, inequities, health disparities for decades," she said.

"It's just the fact that nobody's been listening."

Housing, food security and clean water are all social determinants of health that affect Indigenous communities. Bourque-Bearskin said these factors make pandemic planning different in remote communities than in southern regions.

"How do you teach hand hygiene when you don't even have access to clean water?" she said.

"I grew up knowing that this is happening and wanting to change it."

Laurie Whitebean

Laurie Whitebean has been a licensed practical nurse at Kateri Memorial Hospital in Kahnawake, Que., for two years.

She works overnight and day shifts in the in-patient department.

"My goal was to bring back skills to the community and work with my people," she said.

"It's very rewarding."

She said there's a sense of fulfilment that comes from working in her own community because she's able to give back.

"One day that could be me laying in that bed and I would want the best care possible," said Whitebean.

In long-term care, what people contributed to their community and the influence they had can be forgotten, said Whitebean.

"Our goal is not to forget," she said. "It's to celebrate their lives and appreciate that."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, family members haven't been able to visit the patients. Whitebean said she would run into people in the community who would ask how their family members were doing. So she had an idea to start taking short videos to reassure people that their loved ones were all right.

Other nurses began to take on the filming as well and there was an anonymous donation of iPads given to the patients so they could have video chats with family members.

Let's focus on dignity and care as we emerge from COVID-19

Hamilton Spec - June 7, 2020

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2020/06/07/lets-focus-on-dignity-and-care-as-we-emerge-from-covid-19.html>

In many ways, life in Canada has been on hold since mid-March, with quiet streets and darkened shops, and so many working from home — or not working at all.

But what life will we take up after the pandemic?

The crisis has laid bare some troubling inequalities in our current system. The problems with long-term-care homes in terms of infection control, quality of care, oversight and staffing have made them the epicentre of the pandemic in Canada.

While governments have stepped in with some resources and protections, it's clear these issues were overlooked for years.

There has also been a heartbreaking toll on many communities of colour. In the UK, for example, Black people are four times more likely than white people to die from COVID-19.

We don't have similar figures for Canada, however, because governments largely don't collect them.

What we have seen is incidents of anti-Asian racism, including violence, and disproportionate rates of infection and death among people from marginalized communities, such as front-line workers who migrated to Canada found work as airport taxi and limousine drivers.

Health-care workers are rightly being recognized for their service during the crisis, working long hours in difficult conditions that include substantial risk to themselves and their families.

Others, whose employment was once called "low-skill," are now heralded as essential workers. Their working conditions have also become dangerous, and yet it took seven weeks for governments to come together and agree on additional income support.

These are the people who have been able to continue working. With unemployment rates reaching nearly 20 per cent, many are having to decide between paying the rent and buying groceries. Worryingly, the pandemic has also exacerbated existing economic inequalities, with those in lower income brackets more likely to have been laid off.

It's easy to see the pandemic through the lens of war and conflict. Even our government response has included organizing flyovers of military aircraft to boost morale, while members of the Canadian Forces are being deployed to long-term-care homes.

I'm skeptical of the metaphor, but it does help understand what comes next; reconstruction. Much like after the world wars, we cannot return to the world as it was.

We have seen governments respond with impressive creativity and speed, moving mountains in days. After the pandemic, we cannot forget how much happened, or how quickly.

As governments begin to move out of crisis mode, it is critical they use the lessons of the pandemic to set care and dignity as much higher priorities, especially in reconciliation, racial justice and economic inequality.

Just before the pandemic hit, we were inundated by news of the Wet'suwet'en and their allies enacting rail and road blockades across the country. Those events reminded everyone of the need for meaningful reconciliation.

The pandemic has exacerbated jurisdictional issues between the federal government and Indigenous nations, directly hampering the ability of nations to provide support for their members.

If reconciliation is to become more reality than rhetoric, we need a true nation-to-nation relationship that upholds the dignity of all partners. This means complying with the Human Rights Commission orders to compensate for federal failures in Indigenous child and family welfare funding and an end to the policies of extermination of Indigenous title.

Likewise, we know that Black, Indigenous and people of colour are disproportionately targeted by violence in Canada. We see it structurally in the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and people of colour in our jails, and more directly through largely anti-Black violence on the street.

We cannot continue to criminalize non-whiteness in our new normal. It strips communities of dignity, justice and opportunity, robbing all of the promise of a multicultural nation. To achieve this, we need to listen to those currently protesting and put in place concrete policing and justice reforms.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 have been devastating for many, especially those least able to withstand losing their jobs. The CERB and related programs such as the CESB are important

stopgaps. What they have shown, however, is that a universal basic income is indeed possible, and would benefit many.

Rather than leading fewer people to work, it would ensure they are not forced back into unsafe jobs that keep them below a livable income. We know it would work in Canada. Both Manitoba's Mincome experiment of the 1970s and Ontario's recent Basic Income Pilot showed that.

It's time to fundamentally rethink our approach to governing by putting one question at the centre of the reconstruction: Who are we making decisions for?

Care and dignity have been central to our individual responses to the crisis. Now is time to craft policy with care as our permanent priority.

Food security, food sovereignty top of mind for First Nations

COVID-19 brings traditional ways back into focus

Caribou Observer – June 8, 2020

<https://www.quesnelobserver.com/news/food-security-food-sovereignty-top-of-mind-for-first-nations/>

As strips of deer meat dried in a smokehouse recently constructed behind his home through the help of his family, Chief Francis Laceese of Tl'esqox (Toosey Indian Band) said access to their traditional foods such as deer, moose and salmon is becoming increasingly limited.

He pointed to health statistics showing a rising increase of diabetes, cancer and heart disease which he said can be partially attributed to foreign-to-them processed foods.

"If it's beef, they can't afford that because it's too high in stores so they just end up with processed food," said Laceese, whose community is located 40 kilometers southwest of Williams Lake.

"Over the last so many years with the fires, floods and now this pandemic it seems like something is always preventing us or affecting our traditional food sources and some of the species are going extinct."

Wildfires have decimated large swaths of forest and the population of many animal species are being negatively impacted from climate change and habitat loss.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further heightened the need for food security, he said.

UBC post doctoral researcher with the department of economics, political science and philosophy, Joanne Taylor is leading a two-year research project in the Cariboo and Okanagan exploring how programs, policies and reports are developed and trickle down to agriculturists which have had to adapt due to climate change.

"Hopefully it will end with a white paper that will inform policy makers of climate change adaptation for producers in these two areas," Taylor said.

Impacting producers worldwide, climate change is having significant socioeconomic, environmental and political ramifications, she said.

As drought, floods and sea levels continue to rise, food security to beginning to be talked about more.

"Food security asks who is getting food; who isn't food secure and who is food secure," Taylor said. "Here in Canada for example food security is a big problem and it's usually experienced by people that are marginalized and oppressed."

Taylor said that includes First Nations, northerly communities, single-mothers and children.

“As soon as there is a little bit of a price increase in food, any kind of changes in the market, anything that is affected by climate change and policies that are made internationally, those are the ones that suffer the most with access to food.”

For the two billion people in the world who are food insecure food sovereignty is another topic also being explored.

“If you take that word, sovereignty, and apply it to groups of food producers that have been largely marginalized, the food sovereignty movement is all about taking back the freedom to grow your own food, to market your own food, to have decision-making power over those food systems, to have access as a human right to food,” Taylor said.

“Many small scale farmers, fishermen, Indigenous peoples all over the world, women, traditional food producers have formed this movement in opposition to the notion of food security which is controlled by huge governments and said that we have the decision-making power as to how we want to grow the food which could be a small scale.”

Despite the hardships they face, Laceese said his people continue to hunt and fish and practice gathering traditional medicines to treat different ailments.

He said they also continue to fight to keep their glacier-fed waters free from industry for future generations.

“We’re not rich in anyway, but we’re rich to be able to live that lifestyle,” he said. “Our nation is fortunate in that way with our language, our culture, and our traditions, our legends and food plays a big part of it.”

Before the novel coronavirus was declared a pandemic, Tl’esqox had a proposal before the federal government seeking funding for seed for a community garden and fencing around it, as well as a possible cattle operation.

Laceese said they had been able to reach an agreement with a non-Indigenous rancher, who brings his 100-head of cattle to graze at community lands, in exchange for some cattle which are slaughtered.

“We can grow pigs, cows, chickens, turkeys, all those type of things but we have to have some structure in place to be able to do all of that so that’s what we’re working on.”

Taylor said she believes Indigenous peoples hold the key to food sovereignty.

“They have that traditional, ecological knowledge,” she said.

**BC’s Remote Areas Are COVID-Free. Local Leaders Hope to Keep It that Way
Two First Nations say they will continue to protect residents by keeping visitors out.
TheTyee.ca - June 6, 2020**

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/06/08/BC-Remote-Areas-COVID-Free/>

Nations like the Tahltan in the north and Heiltsuk on the coast have asked all visitors — including members from outside the territory — to hold off travelling there this summer. That’s unlikely to change anytime soon.

“We are still doing everything we can to ask people to not bring the risk into our communities this year,” Tahltan Central Government president Chad Day said. The nation has cancelled its annual general assembly, which normally takes place over a week in early July and attracts members from across Canada and the U.S.

“Unlike some other places where they have flattened the curve, we can’t afford to have any curve in Tahltan territory. If we have a positive case up there, usually medivac situations take

several hours and there would only be one helicopter in the area that was adequately prepared to do a medivac.”

The Northern Health Authority covers two-thirds of the province and has seen relatively slow increases of COVID-19 over the past three months, dropping from an average one or two a day early in the pandemic to none over the past week. On Thursday, Health Minister Adrian Dix confirmed that all cases outside the Lower Mainland, including 64 in the north, have been resolved.

“That really reflects the work of communities and the work of public health in the north,” Dix said. “One can look back retrospectively and say, that was relatively little compared to what was expected. The risk in the north was always a consideration, the risk of isolated communities always high, so that’s why we took the actions that we took.”

“For people in the north, the fact that the cases that we’ve identified and tested positive are all resolved — as they are in Vancouver Island, as they are in Interior Health — is all good news.” For the first time, the province has released COVID-19 numbers broken down into health service delivery areas.

The Northeast and Northwest service delivery areas — including the 93,500-square-kilometre Tahltan territory — haven’t seen a new case of COVID-19 since May 18. Each have had 14 cases of the virus since it was first reported in the province in late January.

The Northern Interior service delivery area, which includes the communities of Prince George, Quesnel, Mackenzie, Vanderhoof and Burns Lake, has seen 36 cases during the pandemic, four of them as recently as late May.

B.C. medical health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said the encouraging numbers aren’t a reason to become complacent.

“There’s nothing that we would do differently in the north right now than we’re doing everywhere else because we’ve done this in a co-ordinated way around the province,” Henry said Thursday. “We all have the same low risk at the moment because we’ve all been doing the right things and we need to continue doing them.”

There were 193 active cases in the province on Friday, with just one new case in the previous 24 hours.

“We’ve done this as a co-ordinated provincial effort, and it was important that we take the same measures across the province,” Henry said. “We know that people are still moving. There’s still risk out there. We’re still seeing cases come in from Alberta and related to other things, related to essential workers that are coming back and forth from Alberta, the United States and other places.”

Other western provinces have not been as successful in keeping numbers low in remote areas. Alberta Health Services has reported 110 cases linked to an [outbreak](#) that started in mid-April at Kearl Lake, an oilsands mine about an hour north of Fort McMurray. In B.C., 19 cases are related to the Kearl Lake outbreak, some of them in the north although exact distribution is unknown.

Work camps bringing people into remote regions on rotation have been a [concern](#) in B.C. because of their proximity to communities with limited resources. Indigenous communities, which often struggle with sufficient access to food, clean water, medical equipment, housing and health-care staff, have been especially cautious about [preventing](#) COVID-19.

Those fears were realized in La Loche, Saskatchewan, an Indigenous community of about 2,800 people located more than 600 kilometres north of Saskatoon. The community has reported 182 cases and nearby Clearwater River Dene Nation has reported 32 cases. In total, northern Saskatchewan has seen 40 per cent of the [province's](#) 648 cases. Out of the province's 29 active cases, 18 are in the north.

B.C. shared genomic tracing data Thursday that revealed some of the earliest strains to enter the country, those found in Iran and China, were contained early. The two COVID-19 strains that caused the majority of cases in the province are one from Europe and Eastern Canada and a second from Washington State, which on Friday [reported](#) 264 new COVID-19 cases.

While the border remains closed to non-essential travel between Canada and the U.S., Alaskan snowbirds returning home after the winter have been [told](#) they can drive through B.C. with proof of residency and without being required to quarantine. They are asked not to stop along the way during the 32-hour drive.

Day said American travellers have already been spotted camping near Tahltan communities along Highway 37, which is a popular travel route between Alaska and the Lower 48.

"There's definitely been a lot of pressure of late because you're on the Alaska Highway, you have a lot of people coming in," he said. "It's making a lot of people quite nervous."

In Bella Bella, the Heiltsuk Nation shares the Tahltan's concerns with tourism. Last summer, more than 400 boats stopped in the community of 1,400 people to fuel up and restock. Chief Councillor Marilyn Slett, whose ancestral name is Káwáził, said a non-essential travel restriction for the community will remain in place for the time being.

"A lot of tourists will traverse through our territory in the summer," she said. A community patrol is in place to monitor the marina and an emergency response team meets the ferry. "We have really kept that perimeter around our community, just because of our limited resources with our hospital."

Bella Bella has one ventilator and medivac flights to Vancouver are never guaranteed, given coastal weather. Its hospital is already at capacity and the community's school gymnasium has been set up for anyone needing to isolate.

"Knowing that B.C. has flattened the curve and looking at a restart plan and easing up on their restrictions, we're saying here on the coast that our limited resources remain the same. We have a small hospital that has reached its capacity, and that's non-COVID related," Slett said.

"For us, making sure that we've got a good system in place, information that we can draw upon and a team of culturally sensitive contact tracers is really important for us, as well."

Slett said she isn't aware of any positive cases in Bella Bella