

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 14, 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 2020-05-14 11:00AM EDT

| Province | Confirmed Cases | Hospitalization (ICU)* | Deaths | Recovered |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| BC | 2,376 | 59 (14) | 132 | 1,859 |
| AB | 6,407 | 70 (11) | 120 | 5,076 |
| SK | 577 | 10 (3) | 6 | 385 |
| MB | 290 | 4 (1) | 7 | 251 |
| ON | 21,497 | 1,026 (184) | 1,798 | 16,206 |
| QC | 39,931 | 1,876 (194) | 3,220 | 10,470 |
| Newfoundland/Lab | 261 | 4 (1) | 3 | 247 |
| NB | 120 | 0 (0) | -0 | 118 |
| NS | 1,024 | 9 (4) | 51 | 909 |
| PEI | 27 | | - | 27 |
| Yukon | 11 | | - | 11 |
| NWT | 5 | | - | 5 |
| Nunavut | 0 | | | |
| Repatriated Travelers | 13 | | | |
| Total | 72,536 | 3,032 (427) | 5,337 | 35,564 |
| Active Cases= 31,635 | | | | |

*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 | 4,387,438 | 298,392 | 1,265,606 |

- Data is as of May 14 at 11:32am from Johns Hopkins University:
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Epidemic Summary

As of **May 13**, 2020 **81%** of COVID-19 cases were related to community transmission, while **19%** were either exposed while travelling or exposed to a traveler coming to Canada.

As of **May 11**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.0%**.

As of **May 11**, 2020, **47%** 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 Nations Local States of Emergencies:

| First Nation States of Emergency- As per ISC report May 13,2020 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------------|-------|
| Region | BC | AB | SK | MB | ON | QC | ATL | Territories | Total |
| Confirmed | 57 | 33 | 4 | 20 | 68 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 195 |

2020 Flood Season General Assessments: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 11, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

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

FLOODING – No Change

2020 Flood Season General Risk Assessments:

- **BC:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – DECREASING
 - **At this point in May, British Columbians can expect normal spring fire conditions. Fuels are drying as temperatures continue to rise, leading to an increase in the amount of available forest fuels in many regions throughout the province. Regions that are especially vulnerable at this time include the Okanagan and Cariboo, the far southeast, and the east side of the Rocky Mountains.**

- **AB:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO HIGH
 - Calgary -Low
 - Edson – Moderate
 - Fort McMurray – Very High
 - Grand Prairie – Moderate
 - High Level – High
 - Lac La Biche – Very High
 - Peace River – Very High
 - Rocky Mountain House – Low
 - Slave Lake – Very High
 - Whitecourt - Moderate

- **SK:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE
 - One (1) active fire, not contained with suppression action is taking place, but the fire is expected to grow in size.

- **MB:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOWERED IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA
 - The 2020 Wildfire season is now upon us. The Wildfire danger across Southern Manitoba remains low to moderate, while conditions in the north remain low with some snow still on the ground. Municipalities and the Manitoba Wildfire Service are observing the first human caused fires across the south and central areas.

- **ON:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH IN GREAT LAKES AREA DUE TO ELEVATED WATER LEVELS
 - Northeast Region –
 - There were no new fires discovered by mid-afternoon on May 13.
 - There are no active fires in the Northeast.
 - The forest fire hazard is mostly moderate with some areas showing a high hazard this afternoon.

 - Northwest Region –
 - Two new fires were discovered in the Northwest Region by mid-afternoon of May 13.
 - Thunder Bay 4 is located approximately seven kilometres north of the Hwy. 11/17 junction at Shabaqua. The 50 hectare fire, which resulted in the closure of both lanes of the Trans-Canada Highway, received aerial fire suppression throughout the afternoon. At the time of this update the fire was not under control.
 - Thunder Bay 5 is located approximately 44 kilometres east of Upsala, near Taman Lake. The 0.1 hectare fire has been declared out.

- **QC:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE

- **ATL:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO LOW
 - 11MAY2020: Predicted flooding has not occurred. Flood risk of the following FNs has been downgraded to LOW –
 - Indian Island First Nation – Chief Kenneth Barlow
 - Elsipogtog First Nation – Chief Arren Sock
 - Esgenoopetitj First Nation – Chief Alvery Paul
 - Eel Ground First Nation – Chief George Ginnish
 - Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation – Chief William Ward
 - Pabineau – Chief Terry Richardson
 - Eel River Bar First Nation – Chief Sacha Labillois

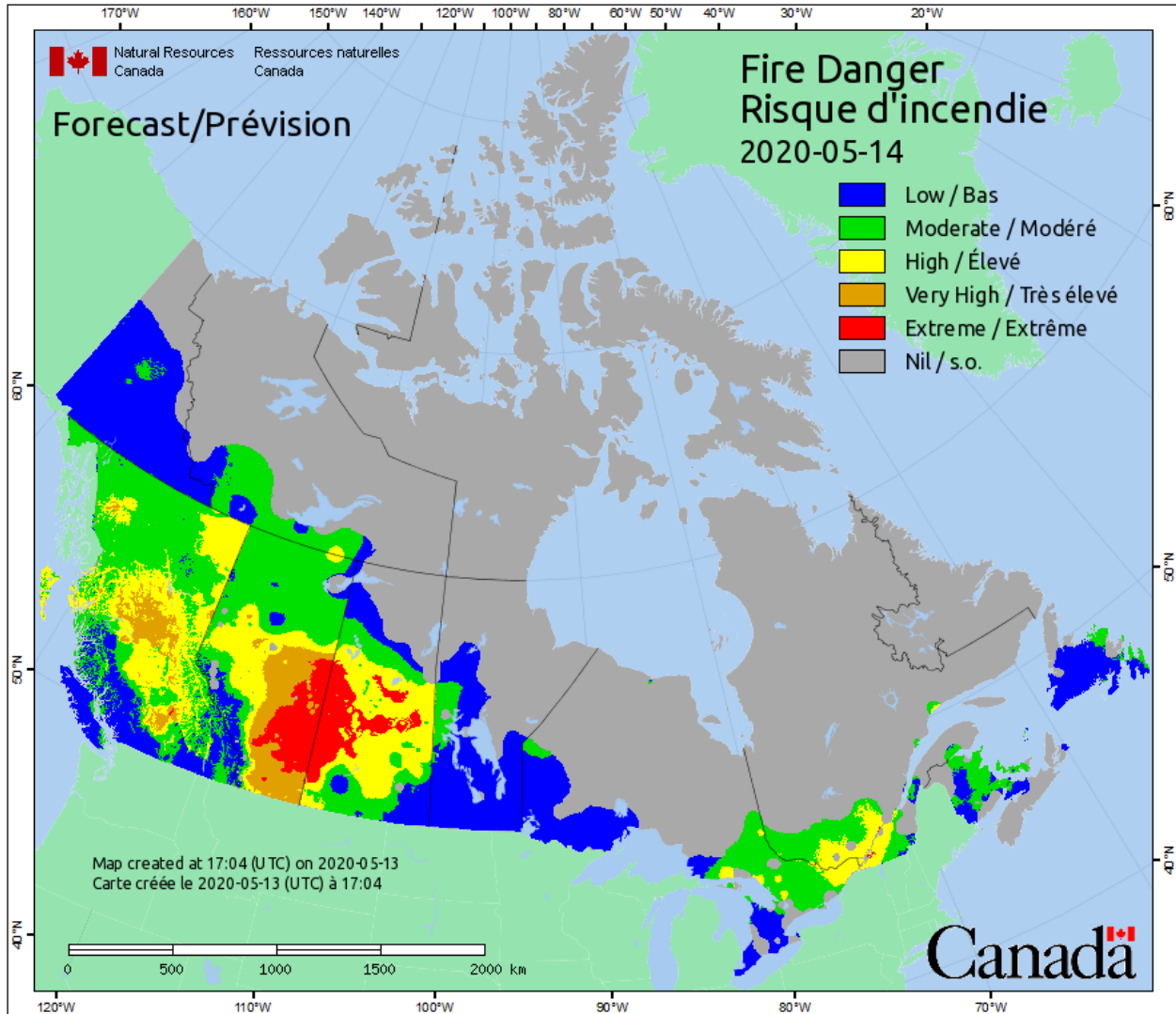
- **YT:** FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW RISK

● NWT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH RISK

Wildfire: No Change

1. **British Columbia** – No wildfires of note;
2. **Alberta:**
 - a) Calgary Area - The wildfire danger rating for the Calgary Forest Area is LOW. There are currently no wildfires currently burning in the area;
 - b) Edson Area - The wildfire danger in the Edson Forest Area is MODERATE. There are currently no active wildfires;
 - c) Fort McMurray Area - The wildfire danger rating in the Fort McMurray Forest Area is MODERATE south of Fort Chipewyan and is LOW to the north of Lake Athabasca;
 - d) Grand Prairie Area - The wildfire danger rating for the Grande Prairie Forest Area is Moderate. There are currently no wildfires burning in the area;
 - e) High River Area - The fire danger is High for the High Level Forest Area. Due to the warmer temperatures, wind and no significant rain in the forecast;
 - f) Lac La Biche Area - The wildfire danger for the Lac La Biche Forest Area is HIGH. The Fire Ban remains in effect;
 - g) Peace River Area - Due to cooler temperatures over the weekend, the wildfire danger in the Peace River Forest Area is expected to remain MODERATE;
 - h) Rocky Mountain House - The wildfire danger rating for the Rocky Mountain House Forest Area is LOW. There are currently no wildfires burning in the area;
 - i) Slave Lake Area - The wildfire danger is HIGH in the Slave Lake Forest Area;
 - j) Whitecourt Area - The wildfire danger rating for the Whitecourt Forest Area is MODERATE;
3. Saskatchewan – There are no new wildfires and one (1) wildfire being contained with suppression action taking place; the fire is not expected to grow in size;
4. Manitoba - The 2020 Wildfire season is now in cycle. The Wildfire danger across Southern Manitoba remains low to moderate, while conditions in the north remain low with some snow still on the ground;
5. Ontario Wildfire Update –
 - a) There were no new fires discovered by mid-afternoon on May 11, 2020;
 - b) There are no active fires in the Northeast;
 - c) There are no active fires in the Northwest Region
6. Quebec Wildfire Update - There are two wildfires in Quebec, one (1) in the Gatineau area and one (1) in the Antoine Labelle area; both are under control;
7. New Brunswick Wildfire Update – There are no new wildfires in all areas of the province;
8. Nova Scotia Wildfire Update - No new wildfires - all areas Not Applicable, Low or Moderate;
9. Prince Edward Island - No fires reported to date;
10. Newfoundland/Labrador - No fires reported to date;

11. Yukon Territories Wildfire Update – There was one (1) wildfire in Duke River which has been extinguished;
12. Northwest Territories Wildfire Update – There are currently no territorial fires.



Communications Sector

**Feds announce \$2.3M help to combat COVID-19 outbreak in northern Saskatchewan
CANADIAN PRESS - May 13 , 2020**

<https://theprovince.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/feds-announce-2-3m-help-to-combat-covid-19-outbreak-in-northern-saskatchewan/wcm/0d73687a-fcf6-4c5b-9011-7cba85e10f6b>

Federal COVID-19 supply council member quits over links to company that landed Indigenous Services contract

NDP MP Niki Ashton wrote Minister of Procurement asking if other members linked to contracts

CBC News - May 14, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/coronavirus-supply-council-contract-1.5568840>

Violence against Indigenous women during COVID 19 sparks calls for MMIWG plan

Canadian Press – May 13, 2020

<https://tworowtimes.com/news/national/violence-against-indigenous-women-during-covid-19-sparks-calls-for-mmiwg-plan/>

Differing reports reveal data gap in COVID-19 case counts for Indigenous people in Canada

Alberta Native News - May 13, 2020

<https://www.therecord.com/ts/news/canada/2020/05/13/differing-reports-reveal-data-gap-in-covid-19-case-counts-for-indigenous-people-in-canada.html>

Numbers

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

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of May 13, ISC is aware of:

- 185 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 18 hospitalizations
- 2 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 39
- Alberta: 30
- Saskatchewan: 43
- Ontario: 42
- Quebec: 31

Full Stories

Feds announce \$2.3M help to combat COVID-19 outbreak in northern Saskatchewan

CANADIAN PRESS - May 13, 2020

<https://theprovince.com/pmnl/news-pmnl/canada-news-pmnl/feds-announce-2-3m-help-to-combat-covid-19-outbreak-in-northern-saskatchewan/wcm/0d73687a-fcf6-4c5b-9011-7cba85e10f6b>

OTTAWA — The federal government says it is contributing \$2.3 million in funding to support a response plan in northern Saskatchewan dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak in the region.

Indigenous Services Canada says in a news release Wednesday night that the money will go to the North West Saskatchewan Pandemic Response Plan, which includes First Nation, Metis, municipal, provincial and federal officials.

The government of Saskatchewan says 149 out of the 186 active cases are in the northern part of the province.

It has said the virus was brought in via travel from an oilsands work camp in northern Alberta. Indigenous Services Canada says the funds will be jointly administered and support ongoing community-based efforts, such as security checkpoints in affected communities, measures to address food security and the provision of homecare supplies.

The government agency says it will also work with affected communities to increase access to testing, enhanced surveillance and contact tracing.

“Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Metis Nation–Saskatchewan have undertaken exemplary collaboration in leading the response to this significant outbreak,” the statement says.

“The safety and security of all is the number one priority and these funds will support measures to protect the vulnerable and help those who need it the most.”

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 13, 2020

Federal COVID-19 supply council member quits over links to company that landed Indigenous Services contract

NDP MP Niki Ashton wrote Minister of Procurement asking if other members linked to contracts

CBC News - May 14, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/coronavirus-supply-council-contract-1.5568840>

A member of a council created by the federal government to provide procurement advice during the COVID-19 pandemic stepped down late Wednesday evening over her ties to a company that landed a contract with Indigenous Services Canada to provide temporary medical facilities to a northern Manitoba First Nation.

Cathy Bennett, a former provincial Liberal cabinet minister in Newfoundland and Labrador, resigned from her position on the 17-member COVID-19 Supply Council after NDP MP Niki Ashton raised questions over her position as board chair of Dynamic Air Shelters.

The company announced this month it landed a contract with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide Mathias Colomb Cree Nation with nine temporary medical shelters in a process questioned by the First Nation.

"This company was recently awarded a contract with the government of Canada to provide mobile health units where additional healthcare capacity is required as part of the COVID-19 response," said Public Services and Procurement Canada Minister Anita Anand's office in an emailed statement.

"With this in mind, and out of an abundance of caution, Ms. Bennett has stepped down from the Council."

The COVID-19 Supply council was created by Ottawa to provide "advice on the procurement of critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery," according to the Public Services and Procurement Canada website.

Bennett told CBC News earlier on Wednesday that she had no previous knowledge of the contract's awarding and played no role in the decision.

"I had no involvement," said Bennett, in the emailed statement.

"I'm an independent director with Dynamic... didn't know they had the work until it was announced."

Dynamic Air Shelters is headquartered in Calgary with a production facility in Grand Bank, N.L., and its sales and marketing based out of Houston, Tex., according to its website.

Company CEO David Quick said earlier this month that the company landed a contract to design, manufacture, deliver and the temporary medical shelters in Mathias Colomb Cree Nation by late May. The contract was for a medical unit for screening and triage, four isolation units and four accommodation units.

Quick said Dynamic partnered on the bid with Vancouver-based First Pac west and Dymond Group in Ottawa.

Quick responded to a request for comment Wednesday by deferring to several federal officials, who were cc'd in his reply.

'Optics' not good, says NDP MP

The announcement caught the First Nation by surprise, and they questioned why the department was choosing to pay an outside company for the facilities instead of funding the community's own proposal to retrofit its youth centre.

Ashton, who represents the Churchill-Keewatinook Aski riding, said the affair raises questions on how someone could sit on a COVID-19 government advisory council on procurement while part of the board of a company seeking to do business with the government.

"We haven't got any real answers on how this really happened," said Ashton.

"Just on an optics front, this isn't good. Here you have someone on a procurement council that is a supplier, how is that possible?"

Ashton wrote Anand asking her to explain how the Dynamic Air Shelters contract was awarded and if other companies linked to advisory council members have received COVID-19 related contracts from the federal government.

"This raises serious questions about why an unrequested order was shipped to a remote First Nation from a company with close ties to the supply council charged with advising you on emergency procurement options," wrote Ashton in the May 12 letter.

"What steps are you taking as a department to ensure that procurement contracts are being awarded fairly, in accordance with need and without regard to political connections? What processes are in place to avoid conflicts of interest?"

Anand's office said in the statement the COVID-19 Supply Council has no role in the federal procurement process, its members sign non-disclosure agreements and they are required to disclose any possible conflicts of interests.

"These requirements are in place to ensure the transparency of the Council's function in providing the government with advice," said the emailed statement.

PSPC has said previously that a "National Security Exception" covers the request for proposals, which was not made public.

Shelters still expected

Mathias Colomb Cree Nation Coun. Ralph Caribou said the band leadership is not looking to "start a fight with anyone" and is focused on protecting the community.

"We are very concerned and we have been since the outbreak," said Caribou. "Our concern is to be as prepared as we possibly can considering our remoteness."

Caribou said the community still expects the temporary shelters from the company to arrive by May 22, but they've received no details on site selection, where it's going to be unloaded and what sort of water and wastewater services it needs.

He said the community is pushing ahead with plans to retrofit the youth centre for COVID-19 medical needs and has submitted the paperwork to ISC, which has said it has committed \$353,000 to support the work.

Violence against Indigenous women during COVID 19 sparks calls for MMIWG plan

Canadian Press – May 13, 2020

<https://tworowtimes.com/news/national/violence-against-indigenous-women-during-covid-19-sparks-calls-for-mmiwg-plan/>

OTTAWA — With reports of a sharp rise in violence against Indigenous women as COVID-19 restrictions keep families stuck in their homes, concerns are being raised about whether the pandemic could delay the promised June delivery of a national action plan on missing and murdered Indigenous women.

The Native Women's Association of Canada has been conducting a series of nation-wide, grassroots consultations with their local member offices and with Indigenous women to determine how COVID-19 has been affecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis women in Canada. The preliminary results reveal a deeply concerning spike in the number of Indigenous women who say they are facing more violent incidents since the pandemic began, often by an intimate partner.

A survey of more than 250 Indigenous women found one in five reporting they've been a victim of physical or psychological violence over the past three months.

Also, the preliminary results of this survey and two additional consultations suggest more of these women are concerned about domestic violence in the midst of this pandemic than they are about the virus.

Native Women's Association President Lorraine Whitman says she finds the numbers "shocking" and is deeply concerned about the safety of Indigenous women in Canada, as public health officials continue to ask people to remain in their homes.

"We know in a perfect world staying at home is a safe place, but it isn't a perfect world and it isn't a safe place for some of our women and families," Whitman said.

"With the social distancing and self-isolation, women have had to stay in a home in a confined area with their abuser or perpetrator and they cannot escape. There's nowhere where they can go."

The federal government did commit \$40 million in funding to Women and Gender Equality Canada, with up to \$30 million earmarked for the "immediate needs" of shelters and sexual assault centres. Another \$10 million was provided to Indigenous Services Canada's existing network of 46 emergency shelters on reserve and in Yukon to support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence.

But Whitman says many shelters and sexual assault centres in the country are not run for or by Indigenous people, which is why many First Nations, Inuit and Metis women won't access them, even if they're in trouble.

"They don't have that comfort zone there and they're not culturally influenced or inclusive of the Indigenous values that we have and our traditions and ceremonies."

Even before the pandemic began, Indigenous women in Canada were facing higher levels of violence and abuse — a stark reality laid bare in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The situation has been made worse by the arrival of COVID-19 in Canada, Whitman said. That's why, earlier this week, the Native Women's Association held a virtual roundtable with Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne and International Development Minister Karina Gould urging the federal government to implement a national plan for meeting the inquiry's 231 "calls for justice."

The urgency has been heightened by the global pandemic crisis, Whitman said.

"We need to have some action. The families of the missing and murdered women and girls and two-spirited (individuals), we're tired of talk. If you're going to talk the talk, walk the walk. And I'm not seeing that."

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said in December the federal government would release its national action plan to respond to the inquiry's findings in June of this year, which would mark the one-year anniversary of the release of the calls for justice. In Ottawa on Saturday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said work on this national response to the inquiry's work has been ongoing and that this work is "more important than it has ever been."

"This government has worked from the beginning to give more support to shelters and organizations and networks that are supporting victims of family violence or gender-based violence. We will continue to do that work," he said.

"We will continue to work very hard on that national action plan coming from the missing and murdered inquiry. This is a priority that continues and is even intensified because of this crisis." Michele Audette, who worked as a commissioner on the MMIWG inquiry, says she believes work on the national action plan — which she says must also include commitments from the provinces and territories — has been delayed by several events over the last year, including the election.

However, she believes even if an action plan had already been in place before the pandemic began, she's not convinced it would have changed the sad realities now being faced by Indigenous women experiencing increased incidents of violence.

"I don't know if we would see a change right away because it's rooted so deeply in the culture, the colonial system," Audette said.

"Because we are facing the impact of colonialism, we are not a top priority and we can see it with COVID right now."

She stressed the need for all levels of government — federal, provincial, municipal and Indigenous — to ensure shelters, social workers and first responders who serve Indigenous populations are well supported so they can respond to issues of violence against women.

NDP MP Leah Gazan says the Liberal government has failed to adequately respond to the MMIWG inquiry's work.

"With the increasing rate of violence, which has occurred during COVID, we are now in an even worse crisis," she said.

"We need to move swiftly. This is a life and death situation."

Differing reports reveal data gap in COVID-19 case counts for Indigenous people in Canada

Alberta Native News - May 13, 2020

<https://www.therecord.com/ts/news/canada/2020/05/13/differing-reports-reveal-data-gap-in-covid-19-case-counts-for-indigenous-people-in-canada.html>

Researchers at the First Nation-led research centre the Yellowhead Institute released a report Tuesday outlining the true scale of the data gap in Indigenous [COVID-19](#) data.

On Monday, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) reported that the cumulative number of infected Indigenous people was 183 positive cases in First Nations within Canada and two deaths. However, a day later, the research team at the Yellowhead Institute reported a significantly higher number of Indigenous COVID-19 infections.

The Yellowhead report said: "At the time of writing, the Yellowhead team has found as many as 465 cases in 42 communities and likely seven deaths."

The research team compiled the information through publicly available data such as "media reports, band council updates to members, local reports and obituaries."

Why is there such a discrepancy in the data?

"First, there is no agency or organization in Canada reliably recording and releasing COVID-19 data that indicates whether or not a person is Indigenous," the report explains, and since there aren't many First Nations who control the delivery of their own health care, many Indigenous people rely on the provincial health-care system and institutions.

Furthermore, "many public services that Indigenous peoples access do not collect disaggregated data that includes racial or ethnic identity of clients." Under this non-racist approach of not collecting the racial data of patients, it is currently impossible to view Indigenous-specific information and is extremely difficult to seek accountability for racial discrimination in the health-care system.

"These data issues are not limited to the health sector," the report goes on to explain. "The same gaps in data collection exist in child welfare and were a primary reason why the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was unable to definitively identify the number of Indigenous women who have been murdered or are missing."

"The most difficult part of collecting and reporting on data discrepancy is the realization that the number of Indigenous people who have died from COVID-19 is higher than the number reported by the federal government."

The research team also shared an in-depth look into Indigenous COVID-19 related deaths.

"There is one death at Six Nations of the Grand River. There are at least two more First Nations elders who have died in rural long-term care homes in Ontario," the report says. "These three, along with reported deaths of Cindy Mountain, Agnes Macdonald, Joseph "Bannock" Sylvestre, and Emma Trapper" add up to at least seven COVID-19-related deaths in the Indigenous population within Canada.

ISC announced on May 9 that there would be \$250,000 in funding put towards data collection for First Nations affected by the virus.