

**AFN C-19 National Task Force  
Daily Update for: May 15, 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 2020-05-15 11:01AM EDT**

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,392	58 (12)	135	1,859
AB	6,457	65 (10)	121	5,205
SK	582	10 (3)	6	398
MB	289	4 (0)	7	252
ON	21,922	986 (179)	1,825	16,641
QC	40,724	1,834 (190)	3,351	10,829
Newfoundland/Lab	261	3(1)	3	248
NB	120	0 (0)	0	118
NS	1,026	9 (5)	51	909
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,829</b>	<b>2,969 (400)</b>	<b>5,499</b>	<b>36,528</b>
<b>Active Cases= 31,802</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>	4,477,351	303,389	1,606,796

- Data is as of May 15 at 10:32am 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 14**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.0%**.

As of **May 14**, 2020, **49%** 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**

### **Local States of Emergencies:**

#### **First Nations Local States of Emergencies:**

First Nation States of Emergency- As per ISC report May 14,2020									
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\*\***

**2020 Flood Season General Assessments:** As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 14, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

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### **FLOODING 2020 Flood Season General Risk Assessments - New Information in bold**

#### **● BC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – DECREASING**

- **Partial rockslide: 07MAY2020: Band declares state of local emergency due to flooding;**
- **Ulkatcho First Nation (722)(Chief Linda Price) Population 652 -**
  - **13MAY2020: FN Community in contact with EMBC and EMU regarding infrastructure issues and recovery. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
  - 01MAY2020: Water backed up in culverts, though culvert clean of debris and repairs underway; possible damage to one home
- **Tl'etinqox Government (72)(Chief Joe Alphonse) Population 592, Within 350 km of a significant town –**
  - **13MAY2020: FN Community in contact with EMBC and EMU regarding infrastructure issues and recovery. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
  - 01MAY2020: Damage to roads and a diversion dam used for irrigation purposes. 2 homes sandbagged.

- Williams Lake First Nation (719) (Chief Willie Sellers) Population 279, Within 50 km of a significant town –
  - 11MAY2020: Band and city of Williams Lake working on protecting archaeological works and water sampling. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;
  - 05MAY2020: FN Community declared SOLE due to flooding and pollution from Williams Lake sewage lagoons. Heritage and archaeological monitoring ongoing.
  
- AB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO HIGH
  - 12MAY2020: No flood advisories in effect in AB as of May 12, 2020. AB FN flood risk downgraded to LOW flood risk;
  - 11MAY2020: All flood response efforts have stabilized, and all communities are transitioning into recovery efforts;
  - 08MAY2020: 21 cabins on reserve and 4 on Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) (Chief Allan Adam) traditional territory sustained flood damage. Water and ice conditions not yet safe for damage assessments. *This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;*
  - Frog Lake First Nation (465) (Chief Gregory Desjarlais) - Population 2,150, Within 350 km of a significant town:
    - 14MAY2020: *This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur*
      - 04MAY'20: *Public works and heavy equipment on 5 worst-affected sites*
      - 28APR'20: *Work on critical roadways started -roads are washed out;*
      - 26APR'20: *Road Assessments complete;*
      - 21APR'20: *Road and driveway impacts - No evacuations;*
      - 19APR'20: *Flooded Roads – Water being diverted – number of affected houses unknown*
  
- SK: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE
  - 08MAY2020: Advisory Warning for localized flooding due to ice jamming along the North Saskatchewan River remains in effect.
  
- MB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOWERED IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA
  
- ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST –
  - James Bay Area: HIGH to LOW,
  - Great Lakes Area – HIGH – due to elevated water levels
  
  - Flood status as of May 12, 2020:
    - Attawapiskat (Chief David Nakogee) : HIGH
      - 14MAY2020: *Flood risk for the Attawapiskat River assessment remains HIGH. Ice break-up projected in the next week (from May 14, to May 20, 2020). Surveillance flights to start on today.*
    - Kashechewan (Chief Leo Friday): LOW

- **11MAY2020: Water levels down in Kashechewan. Flood coordinator closely monitoring the river. Campers' re-entry scheduled to start on May 13, 2020 and full re-entry estimated to take two weeks.**
    - Fort Albany (Chief Leo Metatawabin): LOW
    - Moose Cree (Chief Marvin Cheechoo): LOW
  - **12MAY2020: Moose River flood risk reduced to LOW as ice breakup not causing any flooding in FN communities. Flood risk on the Albany River downgraded to MODERATE to LOW. Ice breakup occurring on the Albany River near Kashechewan (Chief Leo Friday); yet no flooding impacts to the community.**
- **QC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE**
  - **08MAY2020: Lakes and rivers are still high in the Lanaudière region (Lake Maskinonge still at flood level, Matawin at watch level). The Croche River, Mauricie region, remains at minor flood level., Lake Morin, Bas-Saint-Laurent, is under watch.**
- **ATL: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO LOW**
  - **11MAY2020: Predicted flooding has not occurred.**
- **YT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW RISK**

**08MAY2020: A high intensity dynamic breakup of the ice cover is expected at Old Crow between May 11th to May 15th, 2020, with a high chance of flooding. Warm weather and increased snowmelt expected across the Territory resulting in a high chance of flooding on the Klondike River starting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Moderate chance of flooding at Ross River, Pelly Crossing, and Upper Liard**

Risk assessment changes:

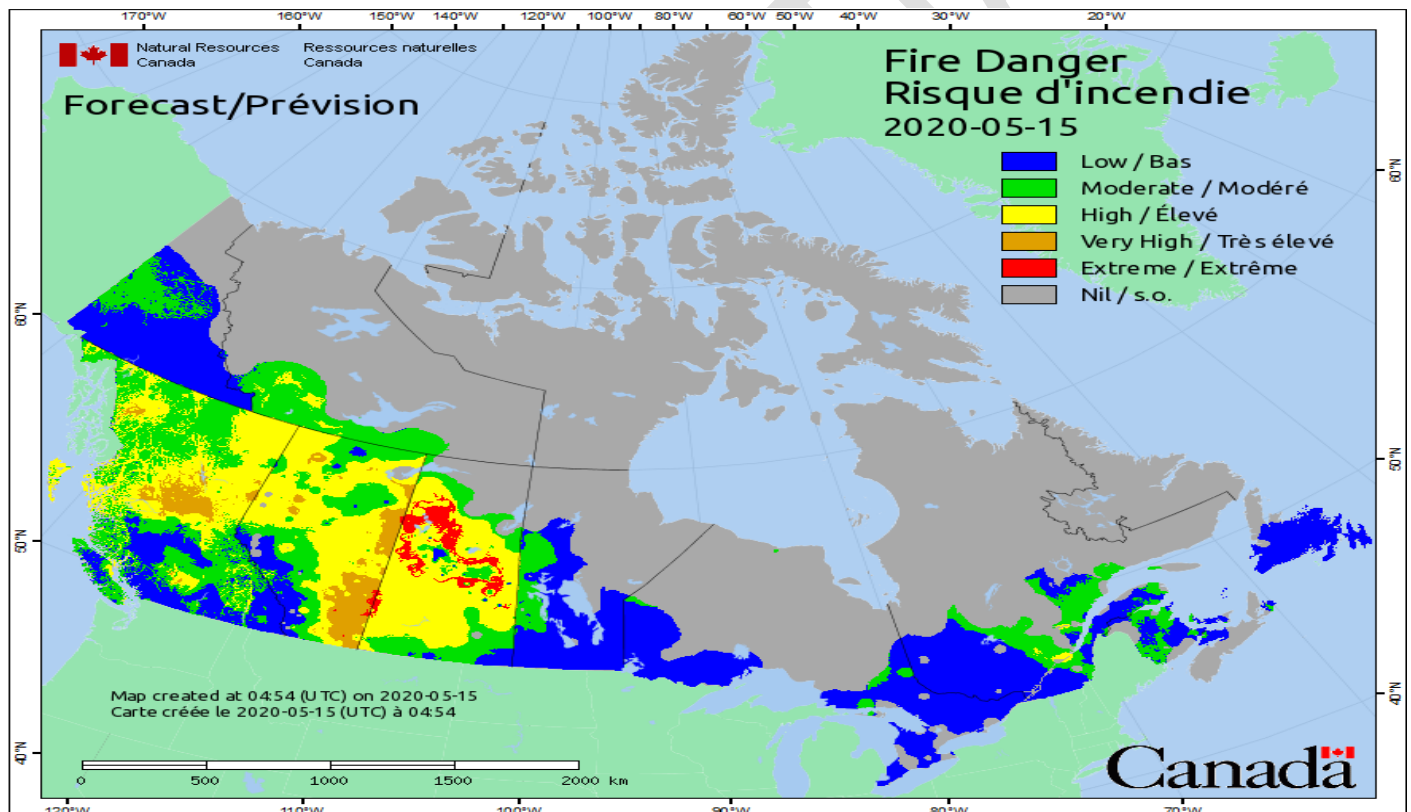
- **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm) – HIGH FLOOD RISK**
- **NWT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH RISK**
  - **Both the K'atl'odeeche FN (Chief April Martel) community (population 85) and the neighboring town of Hay River are at risk of flooding due to ice jamming on the Hay River.**

**Wildfire:** No Change

- 1. British Columbia Wildfire Update:** No wildfires of note;
- 2. Alberta Wildfire Update:**
  - 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 Wildfire Update:** 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;
- **As reported by the SK Regional Office, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Michelle Ring, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Regional SK EM Coordinator was informed of the following wildfire impact to the James Smith Cree Nation (Chief Wally Burns) (population 3,412) -**
- *Smoke from a nearby wildfire to the James Smith Cree Nation was of concern to leadership;*
  - *In coordination with First Nation Health staff, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA), First Nation leadership declared and began preparing to evacuate Priority 1's;*
  - *The Province and Canadian Red Cross expect to support approximately 39 evacuees in Prince Albert with caregivers;*
  - *The Ministry of Health have advised there are no active or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the community;*
  - *Prince Albert Grand Council is coordinating food services for the evacuees;*
  - *FNIHB and provincial health personnel are involved and will be assessing evacuee health needs in the morning;*
  - *Remainder of the citizens of James Smith FN are remaining in the community;*
  - *At the request of the Chief, a teleconference is scheduled for May 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with all partners*
4. **Manitoba Wildfire Update:** 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) Northeast - No fires reported to date;
  - c) Northwest Region - No fires reported to date;
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:** No fires reported to date;
8. **Nova Scotia Wildfire Update:** No fires reported to date;
9. **Prince Edward Island Wildfire Update:** No fires reported to date;
10. **Newfoundland/Labrador Wildfire Update:** No fires reported to date;
11. **Yukon Territories Wildfire Update:** There are currently no territorial fires.
12. **Northwest Territories Wildfire Update:** There are currently no territorial fires.



### Communications Sector

**Mixed messages: Ottawa, Moe differ on Indigenous ceremonies during pandemic**  
Canadian Press - May 14, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/dark-stain-minister-says-indigenous-175756709.html>

**Alberta suspends environmental monitoring rules for oilsands during pandemic**  
**The Toronto Star - May 14, 2020**

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/05/14/alberta-suspends-environmental-monitoring-rules-for-oilsands-during-pandemic.html>

**First Nations fishermen in northern Manitoba welcome federal COVID-19 relief response**  
**'We have faced lots of obstacles but nothing like COVID,' says Albert Ross of Grand Rapids**  
**CBC News - May 14, 2020**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-fishermen-manitoba-relief-1.5570593>

**Chief, mother say 'discriminating' travel bans make Sask. northerners feel like 'caged animals'**  
**CBC - May 15, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/chief-mother-discriminating-travel-bans-100600031.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 14, ISC is aware of:

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

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 39
- Alberta: 30
- Saskatchewan: 44
- Ontario: 42
- Quebec: 31

## **Full Stories**

**Mixed messages: Ottawa, Moe differ on Indigenous ceremonies during pandemic**  
**Canadian Press - May 14, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/dark-stain-minister-says-indigenous-175756709.html>

"No one should be exempt from these health orders because, quite frankly, no one is exempt from the virus," Scott Moe said Thursday afternoon.

Concern about ceremonies surfaced after RCMP were dispatched to a Saskatchewan First Nation where people were holding a sun-dance ceremony last weekend. Organizers said they worried important traditions were being pushed back underground.



A federal ban on Indigenous ceremonies and potlatches came into place in 1884 and lasted until the 1950s. Minister Marc Miller said earlier Thursday that banning sacred ceremonies is a "dark stain" on the country's history.

"Even in the face of a historic pandemic, Canada must not and will not prohibit these important practices," Miller said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Indigenous community leaders know what needs to be done to keep people safe.

"We should be able to work with them to develop ways of continuing with important customs and practices for them in a way that abides by health recommendations," he said.

Saskatchewan RCMP said they received two reports of a large public gathering on the Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation, about 90 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon, on Sunday.

There were 35 people taking part in the ceremony, but attendees said they were following precautions set by the chief and council, including social distancing and having temperatures taken.

A public-health order in Saskatchewan limits gatherings to 10 people.

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, which represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, has said provincial public-health orders do not supersede First Nations laws and treaties.

Indigenous Services Canada did not clarify who has jurisdiction to enforce provincial public-health orders on First Nations. Spokesperson Leslie Michelson said in an email that First Nations leaders are encouraged to consider public-health guidelines and the department respects measures put in place by chiefs and councils.

Miller said First Nations leadership will ultimately decide whether to go ahead with ceremonies and how to do it.

Moe, however, said there should be no exceptions, since everyone relies on the provincial health system.

"With respect to the comments of the minister, as well as Indigenous Services themselves, around these particular events being exempt from public health orders — that simply cannot be the case," Moe said.

There were 185 positive cases of COVID-19 on First Nations reserves as of Wednesday, with 43 of them in Saskatchewan.

### **Alberta suspends environmental monitoring rules for oilsands during pandemic**

**The Toronto Star - May 14, 2020**

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/05/14/alberta-suspends-environmental-monitoring-rules-for-oilsands-during-pandemic.html>

The Alberta Energy Regulator has suspended a wide array of environmental monitoring requirements for oilsands companies over public health concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision means that Imperial Oil, Suncor, Syncrude, and Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. don't have to perform much of the testing and monitoring originally required in their licences. The latest exemptions specifically relieve operators of having to monitor most ground and surface water, unless it enters the environment. Almost all wildlife and bird monitoring has been suspended.

Air quality programs, including ones for certain First Nations communities, have been reduced, and testing for leaks of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, has been suspended. Regulator spokesman Shawn Roth said the suspensions are likely to remain in place as long as there are other COVID-related orders under the Public Health Act, although some of the exemptions have an end date of September 30th.

**First Nations fishermen in northern Manitoba welcome federal COVID-19 relief response 'We have faced lots of obstacles but nothing like COVID,' says Albert Ross of Grand Rapids**  
**CBC News - May 14, 2020**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-fishermen-manitoba-relief-1.5570593>

A couple of First Nations commercial fishermen in northern Manitoba are glad federal relief is on its way for the struggling industry.

"I was looking forward to fishing but it is great news. We just have to figure out what it means," said Chris Clarke, president of the Norway House Fisherman's Co-op.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced up to \$469.4 million in new support measures to help Canadian fish harvesters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal government said the pandemic has resulted in reduced demand and declining prices for Canadian fish and seafood products, and has had significant impacts on the livelihoods of fish harvesters.

The relief covers 75 per cent of fishing income losses beyond a 25 per cent income decline threshold, according to the news release.

Clarke is a third generation commercial fisherman and said the Norway House co-op has 49 members, and employs around 200 people in the northern Manitoba First Nation.

"A lot of our local economies are dependent on the local fisheries," said Clarke.

"There's several million dollars that flows through our community whenever fishing is done and the majority of that revenue stays in the community."

Clarke's plan is to take the new federal announcement news back to his co-op board to discuss how it will work, and to figure out what their next steps will be.

#### Changes to Employment Insurance

For harvesters who won't generate enough income to file for employment insurance (EI) next year, the new support measures for fish harvesters would allow them to access EI benefits on the basis of previous insurable earnings.

Clarke is one of many self-employed commercial fishermen who are currently on EI and are set to have it expire soon.

"We will allow previous years to be used as eligibility so that [fishermen] won't be penalized.

They will still have the ability to access that," said Jennifer Kuss, director of communications for the minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Bernadette Jordan.

The president of Grand Rapids Fishermen's Co-op, Albert Ross, said there are close to 100 co-op members in the First Nation. He has been fishing in the Lake Winnipeg region for 40 years and has been the co-op president for 15.

Ross said he is hoping that the new support measures will help to pay for some of the operating costs that come with being a commercial fishermen, things like boating leases and equipment.

"We have faced lots of obstacles but nothing like COVID," said Ross.

"We got all of our equipment and we can't fish anymore. Hopefully in the fall we can fish."

Kuss, the DFO's director of communications, said the money will begin to flow immediately for fish harvesters across the country. The department plans on giving more details on Friday on how the support measures will affect First Nations and Métis fishermen.

### **Chief, mother say 'discriminating' travel bans make Sask. northerners feel like 'caged animals'** **CBC - May 15, 2020**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/chief-mother-discriminating-travel-bans-100600031.html>

Residents of northern Saskatchewan say the way the provincial government has gone about its COVID-19 travel bans and highway checkpoints has led them to feel alienated and like they can't be trusted during the pandemic.

"[My chiefs] are saying it feels like we're two different provinces right now," said Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief Richard Ben, who represents five communities that have been locked down going on two weeks now.

"It's been a really frustrating and painful time for the chiefs and the band members," Ben said.

"They're feeling very outcast... in a way, like they're not a part of the society right now."

Alexandra MacLean, a pregnant mother of two Cree children living in the northern hamlet of Cole Bay, said she was inspired to write a Facebook post Wednesday after a call with northern leaders was broadcast on local radio.

MacLean wrote that the blockades restricting access to southern Saskatchewan are being enforced in slapdash fashion, with no clarity on who is in charge.

She bristled at the fact that while northern residents are banned from travelling south or going between communities for anything besides groceries and medical appointments, southern Saskatchewan residents in cities like Saskatoon did not face the same level of restrictions when there were several active cases there.

"Why all of the assumptions that my fellow community members cannot shop safely and properly in Meadow Lake or North Battleford?" MacLean wrote.

The rules are being applied according to a double standard, MacLean concluded.

"Built on the concept that northerners cannot follow the simple safety rules and must be locked away with the virus until it's safe to let us back out," she wrote.

"We are mothers. We are children. We are fathers and teachers and doctors and cousins and hunters and many things. Caged animals should not be one of them."

Chief Francis Iron of Canoe Lake Cree Nation, which is located 15 kilometres from MacLean's home, agreed.

"Big time," he said of MacLean's statement. "When I'm on conference calls with the province, I tell them, 'You're discriminating. You're locking us up now. You're showing no trust in us.'"

#### **The government's response**

Premier Scott Moe has repeatedly defended the travel bans and blockades as a necessary step toward stemming the coronavirus' spread to other areas of the province.

On Thursday, he addressed the concerns raised by MacLean and the chiefs.

"It's unfortunate, and I respectfully would disagree with those comments," Moe said. "The checkpoints are in place with the collaborative work that has happened between our public safety agency as well as the local communities."

The goal is to shutter the checkpoints as soon as it's safe to do so, Moe said.

"We most certainly want to remove those," he said.

Marlo Pritchard, the president of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, said the SPSA was having conversations with northern leaders up to Thursday morning.

"We're working through some, I would say, rub points in regards to freedom of movement and accessing and understanding of the public order restrictions," Pritchard said. "We're hoping to have more consistent messaging at those checkpoints."

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