

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 20, 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 2020-05-20 11:01AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,446	45 (12)	146	1,975
AB	6,716	61 (8)	128	5,854
SK	599	5 (3)	6	470
MB	290	1 (0)	7	257
ON	23,774	991 (160)	1,962	18,190
QC	44,197	1,784 (180)	3,647	12,497
Newfoundland/Lab	260	3 (1)	3	250
NB	120	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,045	8 (4)	57	956
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	79,503	2,898 (368)	5,956	40,342
Active Cases= 33,205				

*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	4,929,455	324,063	1,710,265

- Data is as of May 20 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 19**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.5%**.

As of **May 19**, 2020, **50%** 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>

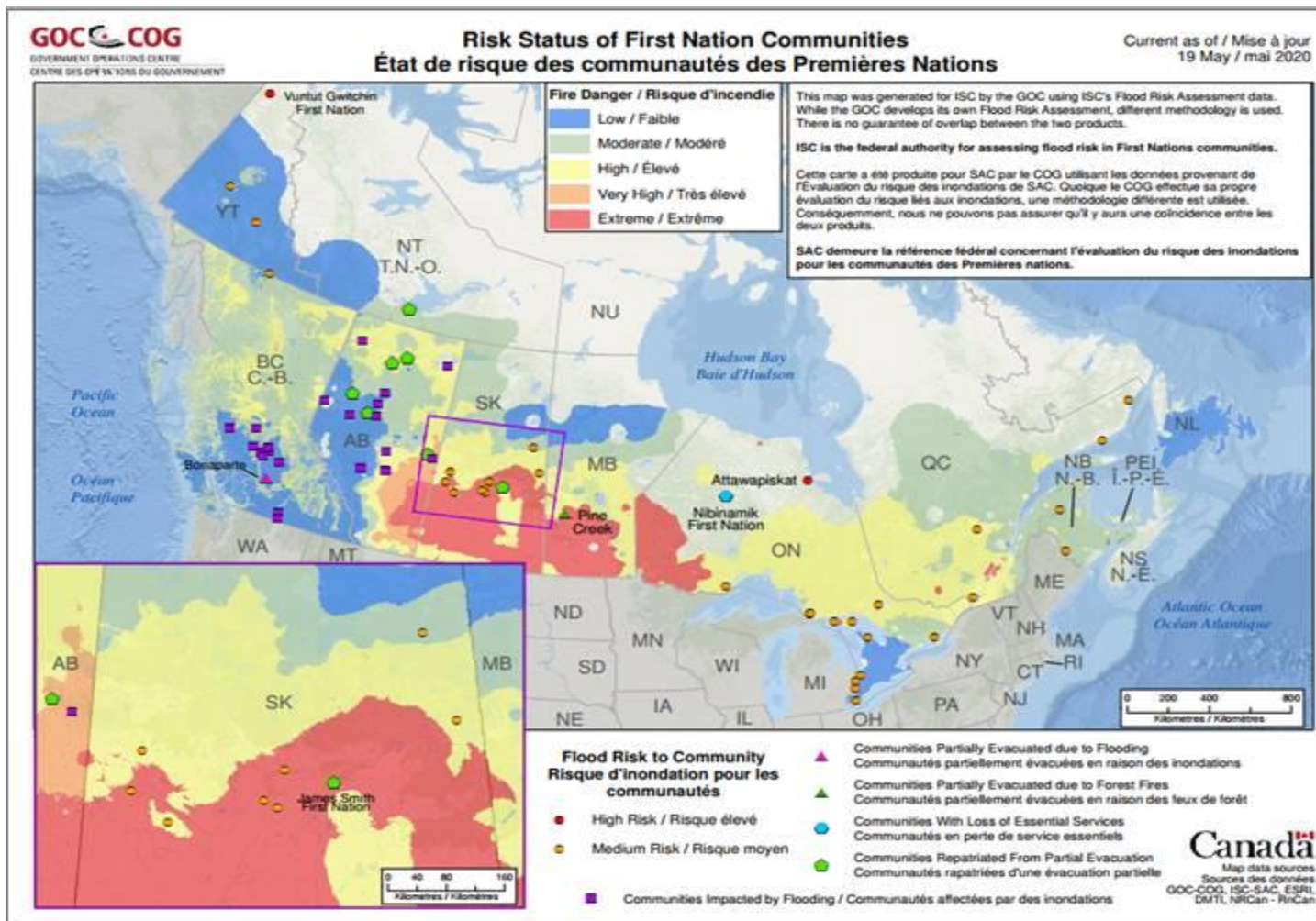
Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

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 19,2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	57	33	4	20	69	4	7	2	196



2020 Flood Season General Assessments: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 19, 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 2020 Flood Season General Risk Assessments - New Information in bold

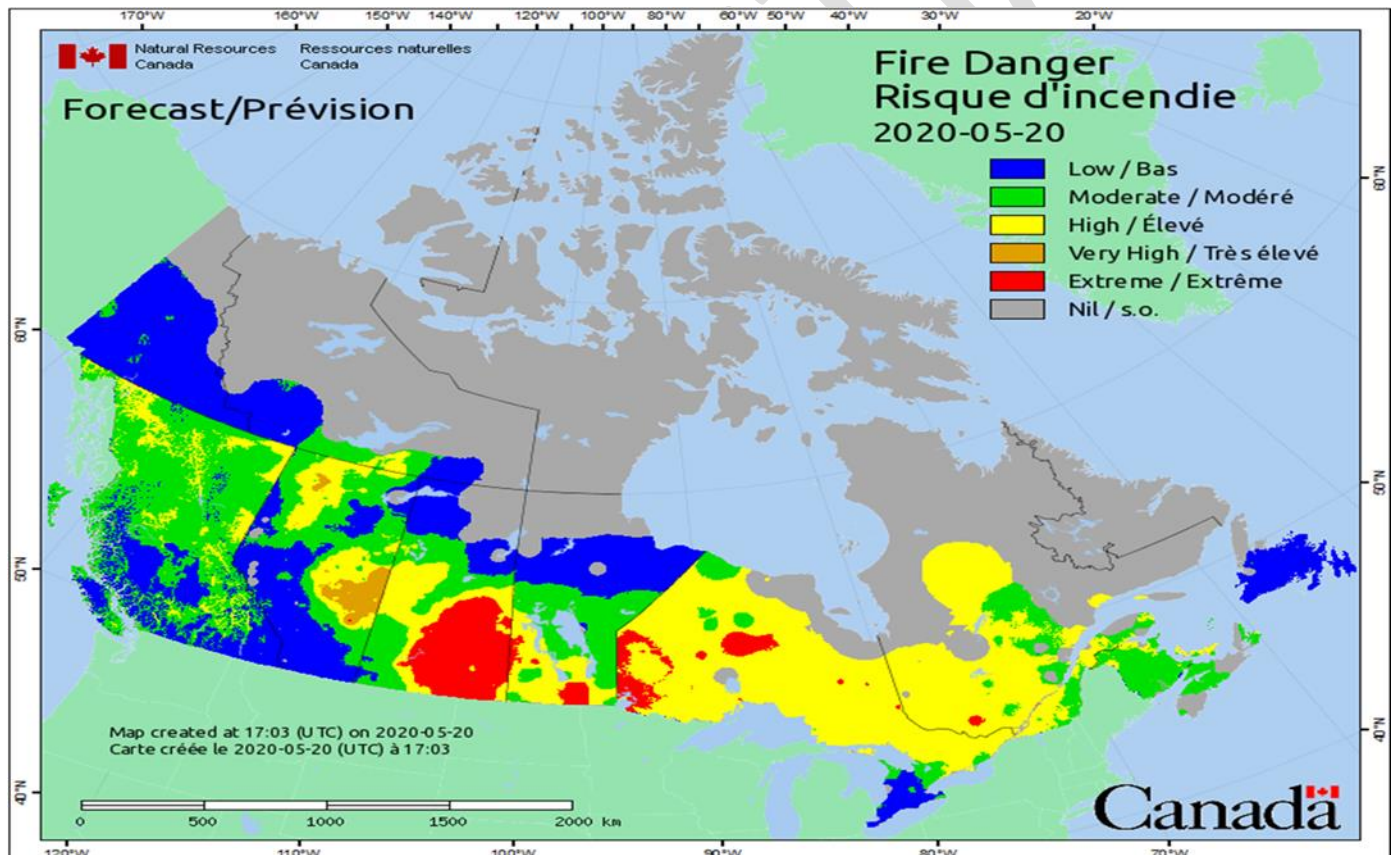
- **BC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – DECREASING...No Change**
- **AB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO HIGH...No Change**
- **SK: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE...No Change**
- **MB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW...No Change**
- **ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate to high**
 - **19MAY2020:**
 - **The Attawapiskat River is showing signs of breakup; a surveillance flight is planned for 20 May; There are currently no flooding concerns for Attawapiskat**

First Nation; Flood risks on the Albany and Moose Rivers have been downgraded to LOW;

- This will be the final notification for Kashechewan, Fort Albany and Moose Cree First Nations unless conditions change.

- QC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE...No Change
- ATL: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO LOW...No Change
- YT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW RISK...No Change
- NWT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH RISK...No Change

Wildfire: No Change - All regions to Ontario showing an increase in Risk Levels



Regional Assessment

Region	Risk Assessment
British Columbia	HIGH
Alberta	HIGH
Saskatchewan	HIGH
Manitoba	MEDIUM-HIGH
Ontario	MEDIUM-LOW
Québec	LOW
New Brunswick	LOW
Prince Edward Island	LOW
Newfoundland & Labrador	LOW
Nova Scotia	LOW
Yukon Territory	HIGH
Northwest Territories	HIGH
Nunavut	MEDIUM

SASKATCHEWAN:

James Smith Cree FN (370) (Chief Wally Burns) Population: 3,421

- **17MAY2020:** Due to high winds, the fire is no longer deemed contained. Wildfire crews continue to deploy additional resources. No smoke impacts to James Smith Cree Nation As fire is 7km away.
- **16MAY2020:** The fire is contained. Evacuees return home.
- **15MAY2020:** Decision made to evacuate priority community members due to smoke from nearby wildfire.
 - Approx. 39 evacuees expected to evacuate to Prince Albert;
 - The wildfire is not yet contained;
 - Prince Albert Grand Council is coordinating food services for the evacuees;
 - There are no active or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the community

MANITOBA

Pine Creek First Nation (282) (Chief Karen Batson) On-reserve population: 637

- **18MAY2020:** There is no longer a threat to the community from the fires. 110 evacuees (of 112) repatriated. One family of 2 will remain as long term evacuees supported by the Canadian Red Cross due to the loss of one home. Fire remains out of control; Manitoba Wildfire Service and local teams on scene.
- **17MAY2020:** 112 community members have self-evacuated to Dauphin due to several fires in the area.

Communications Sector

As deconfinement looms, Cree communities begin asymptomatic testing for COVID-19

CBC - May 20, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/cree-covid-19-pandemic-testing-expansion-1.5576080>

Kanesatake chief calls for Oka park to stay closed to prevent spread of COVID-19

CBC - May 19, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/oka-provincial-park-mohawk-council-1.5576170>

New blockade launched at access road to Keeyask site

Winnipeg Free Press – May 19, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/new-blockade-launched-at-access-road-to-keeyask-site-570605352.html>

COVID-19 travel ban lifted for northeast Saskatchewan

National Observer - May 20

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/20/news/covid-19-travel-ban-lifted-northeast-saskatchewan>

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 19, ISC is aware of:

- 198 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 18 hospitalizations
- 3 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 39
- Alberta: 36
- Saskatchewan: 46
- Ontario: 42
- Quebec: 35

Full Stories

As deconfinement looms, Cree communities begin asymptomatic testing for COVID-19

CBC - May 20, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/cree-covid-19-pandemic-testing-expansion-1.5576080>

The Cree health board in northern Quebec has increased the number of COVID-19 tests it does and expanded the list of who can be tested to include asymptomatic people and elders, among others.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) has done diagnostic tests on anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

But as of last week, the board added the ability to carry out an additional 140 screening tests per week on people who are asymptomatic, but who have travelled from an at risk area or job, such as students returning from classes in places like Ottawa and Montreal or mine workers returning to the communities, among others.

Screening tests will also be prioritized within vulnerable populations, according to CBHSSJB chairperson Bella M. Petawabano. That includes people at elders homes and multi-service day centres, which is a network of facilities providing therapeutic programs and services to the elderly and adults with special needs in the Cree communities. Staff in those facilities will also be able to get regularly tested.

"We're just being careful that we prevent the spread of the virus," Petawabano said.

If there's going to be an influx of people coming in...we want to protect our communities," -

Bella M. Petawabano, chairperson of the CBHSSJB

The added testing is needed, she added, as Quebec continues to ease the COVID-19 restrictions in place for more than two months and more businesses look to reopen.

"If there's going to be an influx of people coming in — especially from the hotspots — we want to protect our communities," Petawabano said.

Checkpoints are still in place limiting access to Eeyou Istchee, the name for the Cree territory in northern Quebec, and Premier François Legault has yet to announce a date when those checkpoints and others limiting access to nearby non-Indigenous towns in the region will be removed, but Petawabano says they know that day is coming.

"We want to be sure that we have all the necessary precautions in place," Petawabano said.

Right now there have been only 10 cases of COVID-19 in the Cree communities, all of them related to travel outside the territory. According to Cree leaders there is no community transmission of COVID-19 in the communities.

Expanding the testing will allow Cree health officials to really confirm that, according to Colleen Fuller, a public health doctor who, among other responsibilities, leads the COVID-19 testing, contact-tracing and screening team for the CBHSSJB.

"We've not seen any evidence of community transmission," Fuller said.

This is really to test for any hidden asymptomatic transmission that's going on at a community level. - Colleen Fuller, public health physician CBHSSJB

"This is really to test for any hidden asymptomatic transmission that's going on at a community level that hasn't come to light so far."

Right now anyone travelling to a Cree community from an at risk zone must self-isolate for at least 14 days. Fuller said it's important for people not to take a negative asymptomatic screening test as permission to stop self isolating.

"It's possible they're negative today but tomorrow they could be [positive]," Fuller said.

Kanesatake chief calls for Oka park to stay closed to prevent spread of COVID-19

CBC - May 19, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/oka-provincial-park-mohawk-council-1.5576170>

Oka provincial park is opening on Wednesday, allowing about half the usual daily visitors to explore the hiking trails and shoreline of the Lake of Two Mountains, 60 kilometres northwest of Montreal.

But even though the park is limiting visitors, there will still be thousands of people in "one big COVID stew" every day, says Serge Simon, grand chief of the adjacent Mohawk community of Kanesatake. Simon is calling on Quebec to keep the park closed.

"These people coming from highly infected areas — Montreal, Montérégie, Laval — pose a direct threat to our community if they come here in large numbers," said Simon.

"As a First Nation, 50 per cent of our people have underlying conditions, and we don't do well in pandemics," said Simon. "History has taught us that."

Simon said the province should have waited at least two more weeks before allowing people to visit the park. He wrote Premier François Legault Monday, calling for limited access to the region.

Mohawks have set up checkpoints on Highway 344, which passes through the heart of Kanesatake, to try to stem the number of motorists going through the community. In his letter to Legault, Simon asked for provincial police to help keep tourists away.

City people who say they need a breath of fresh air after two months of confinement should stop thinking about their personal needs, said Simon, and consider the risks of allowing people to visit the park and shop in the Oka region.

SEPAQ says park will open Wednesday as planned

Oka Mayor Pascal Quevillon said he supports opening the park, as it will be good for the local economy,

There are currently no plans to delay the park's reopening, said Simon Boivin, a spokesperson for SEPAQ, the government agency that runs Quebec's provincial park network.

Provincial parks are opening in gradual and partial way, said Boivin, allowing for fishing, hiking and biking — activities that can be enjoyed without violating the public health guidelines.

Parks will not be opening washrooms or other buildings, campgrounds or equipment-rental facilities, he said. Visitors can purchase a day pass online and explore the park without ever coming into contact with SEPAQ staff.

Public health authorities may allow SEPAQ to broaden its services this summer, Boivin said, but the first step will be to monitor how this partial opening goes.

"We really rely on people's sense of responsibility," he said.

Boivin said the "communication channels" remain open with the Kanesatake Mohawk Council, and SEPAQ officials are aware of Simon's concern.

"If the government gives us any new directives, we will act accordingly," Boivin said.

New blockade launched at access road to Keeyask site

Winnipeg Free Press – May 19, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/new-blockade-launched-at-access-road-to-keeyask-site-570605352.html>

Fox Lake Cree Nation joins effort to stop Hydro from bringing in workers over concerns of coronavirus transmission

A second First Nation has blocked the other access point to Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask megaproject, over concerns a massive shift change will introduce COVID-19 to vulnerable reserves.

Fox Lake Cree Nation decided to launch the new blockade Monday evening, just hours after a Manitoba court authorized the RCMP to arrest anyone blocking access to the Keeyask plant. The new blockade, on the southern access road, comes after Tataskweyak Cree Nation restricted the northern road Friday to non-Hydro traffic.

The southern road is closer to the Gillam airport, where workers were supposed to start arriving Tuesday from Winnipeg.

RCMP say they're monitoring the situation and will respect Charter rights, but arrest anyone who puts safety at risk.

The concern stems from Hydro's planned shift change, which will see as many as 1,200 staff and contractors arrive on the construction site. They will replace the 512 workers who remain on the site as of this past weekend.

Manitoba Hydro convinced public-health authorities to approve the plan, which exempts Keeyask from an ongoing April 16 northern travel ban.

The province also allowed the work camp's gym and cafeteria to open last month.

The local bands say they're worried about an outbreak similar to northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, where work camps have been a vector for coronavirus outbreaks in Indigenous communities with limited health-care access.

The four bands say Hydro managers overseeing the project have left them out of the loop. While Hydro showed the court records of weekly conversations about COVID-19, the Crown corporation has never disputed that it only shared the plan to fly in hundreds of staff after the province had approved it.

Hydro has since changed the plan to have all workers from outside Manitoba self-isolate in Winnipeg for two weeks instead of one, before taking a charter flight.

Hydro expects to fly in 100 to 150 non-Manitobans to the Keeyask site over the first three weeks, of whom fewer than 10 will come from outside Canada.

In an affidavit, Keeyask director David Bowen said there are usually 200 non-Manitobans at the work camp. He specifically cited engineers from Quebec, the province hit hardest by COVID-19. Americans have also worked on the project.

When the four bands asked to meet Hydro CEO Jay Grewal, she instead replied in writing, asking them to stop talking with media.

"The level of disrespect shown by Manitoba Hydro in ignoring community concerns during this pandemic is unacceptable," Fox Lake Cree Nation Chief Billy Beardy wrote in a Tuesday news release.

But in an interview, Hydro spokesman Scott Powell said the Crown corporation went beyond provincial approvals to maintain safe protocols at the site, like having truckers stay inside the cab as camp employees unload supplies.

"We're taking those concerns seriously," Powell said.

"We've been in ongoing conversations with all the communities; we've made changes to the plan based on input."

Some Keeyask staff said their colleagues did not arrive as planned Tuesday; Powell was not sure whether chartered flights had been postponed or if they arrived at the Gillam airport.

Tataskweyak band councillor Nathan Neckoway said the RCMP has sent its division-liaison team, a cohort of officers that focus on negotiating and de-escalating tense situations.

"We're not backing down," he said Tuesday. "We're on treaty land."

The court injunction authorizes the RCMP until May 28 to arrest anyone blocking the northern or southern access roads, and charge them with contempt of court.

The RCMP said they will determine how to implement that injunction.

"The RCMP will continue to monitor the situation and take action on a case-by-case basis, with a focus on enforcement should there be any criminal activities that pose a threat to the safety of individuals or property," wrote Cpl. Julie Courchaine.

COVID-19 travel ban lifted for northeast Saskatchewan

National Observer - May 20

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/20/news/covid-19-travel-ban-lifted-northeast-saskatchewan>

Phase two of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan is starting on Tuesday, except for the northwest of the province. Restrictions in the province are gradually being lifted in five phases. The northeast and north central areas are now on the same reopening schedule as the rest of the province and are now also in phase two.

"Following consultation with a number of leaders in communities further to the east (of the northwest area) but also in Saskatchewan's north the travel restrictions for the north-central and the northeastern part of the province including the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge, Pelican Narrows and Sandy Bay are now being lifted," Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said.

"I think it's both good and bad," La Ronge Mayor Ron Woytowich told *Canada's National Observer* shortly after the announcement was made.

Woytowich cautioned that although reopening looks good on the surface and could help economically, access to healthcare and quality of life will be impacted if the virus is spread to residents by visitors.

"It's good for economics, family can go back and forth and everything else, but the flipside is that (so far) we've felt safe. It's a good thing, but I'm also a little wary of it."

He said that when a presumptive case was announced in the Lac La Ronge area on May 14 everybody was suddenly scared. That case was later found to be negative but he said it served as a reminder of the importance of continuing to follow social distancing guidelines and to abide by the public health order.

Woytowich is also concerned over whether the region can afford an increase in cases potentially brought on by increased travel from the south. "If somebody that we knew got it, they would end up going to Saskatoon to the hospital. Can we afford that?"

He said it's one thing for somebody from Saskatoon to come north to a cabin and end up getting COVID-19, because then they go back home to their families in the city.

"If somebody from La Ronge gets it and we end up in Saskatoon, then how can our family go and see them?" Woytowich said.

He said that he wasn't aware that the announcement would be made today, and that the town had not been called beforehand either. Although the announcement came as a surprise, he said he hadn't expected a call, and it was not an entirely unexpected development.

"We're going to have people now coming up from the south that want to go to their recreational cabins and they're going to come up. They've been calling," Cumberland MLA Doyle Vermette.

Woytowich said that there is a lot of travel between La Ronge and northwest communities such as Pinehouse.

"We rely on these communities a lot. We are the economic center of the region," Woytowich said.

Moe said that travel restrictions will remain in place for the northwest, for now.

"Community leaders and volunteers, healthcare workers, public safety officers and many others continue to do a great job in La Loche and in many other northern communities as they work together to control the spread of COVID-19," Moe said.

Restrictions that were put in place for residents in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District (NSAD) are now limited to the western half of that district, where most new COVID-19 cases are now located. Northwest communities that remain restricted include La Loche, Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, Île-à-la-Crosse and Pinehouse.

"It's so new to even the (Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency) staff that work with the roadblocks that they're just making sure that they have the information... It looks like they've opened it up and I think it will surprise some people," Cumberland MLA Doyle Vermette told *National Observer* in an interview after the announcement.

He said that there is likely to be confusion in communities that just found out about the change, "I hope that leaders and community members are aware of it."

Vermette said that his office has received lots of emails and calls from cabin owners wanting to come up and he's warning residents to continue following social distancing guidelines.

"We're going to have people now coming up from the south that want to go to their recreational cabins and they're going to come up. They've been calling," Vermette said.

"There has been a lot of pressure put on the government from people down south to get up here to their cabins."

Premier Moe told reporters that he does think there will be more movement between the north and the south of the province as a result of the change.

"I would suspect that there will be people that will go not only to the community of La Ronge but (to) other communities. As well, you'll see people in those (northern) communities that will come south to southern communities... The road travels both ways," Moe said.

Further restrictions were lifted in the province over the May long weekend. As of Friday, golf courses and drive-in theatres were able to begin operations.

Beginning May 22, owners and employees of outfitting operations are allowed to travel to outfitting camps, including those in the NSAD.

On Tuesday, Saskatchewan had seven new confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the provincial total to 599.

According to the Saskatchewan government, businesses that can now begin operation include retail businesses, shopping malls, select personal services such as a hairstylist or barber, as well as public markets and farmers' markets.

In the northwest part of the NSAD, restrictions remain in place. This includes all non-critical travel, including those with primary residences into and out of the NSAD, as well as all non-critical travel between northern communities.

Northwest residents are ordered to remain in their local communities and to practice appropriate physical distancing. Travel related to the delivery of essential services will continue to be permitted.

As of May 20, supply limits on prescription drugs that were introduced to guard against drug shortages will be lifted. The Saskatchewan Health Authority is resuming services such as outpatient physiotherapy appointments, kidney health services, some laboratory services, home care and expanded immunizations.

Travel restrictions imposed by communities such as the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Peter Ballantyne First Nation remain in place and are at the discretion of those communities.

Anyone wishing to travel to an Indigenous community in the region should check to see if there is a no visitors rule or restricted access before doing so.