

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 22, 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 2020-05-22 11:01AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,479	43 (8)	152	2,020
AB	6,768	59 (6)	132	5,710
SK	622	5 (3)	7	509
MB	290	1 (0)	7	265
ON	24,628	961 (153)	2,021	18,767
QC	45,495	1,504 (176)	3,800	13,327
Newfoundland/Lab	260	3 (1)	3	253
NB	121	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,046	8 (4)	58	961
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	81,765	2,584 (351)	6,180	41,975
Active Cases= 33,612				

*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	5,128,492	333,489	1,966,135

- Data is as of May 22 at 8:32am 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 21**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.5%**.

As of **May 21**, 2020, **51%** 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>

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Housing, Infrastructure, Water & Emergency Management Sector

Local States of Emergencies:

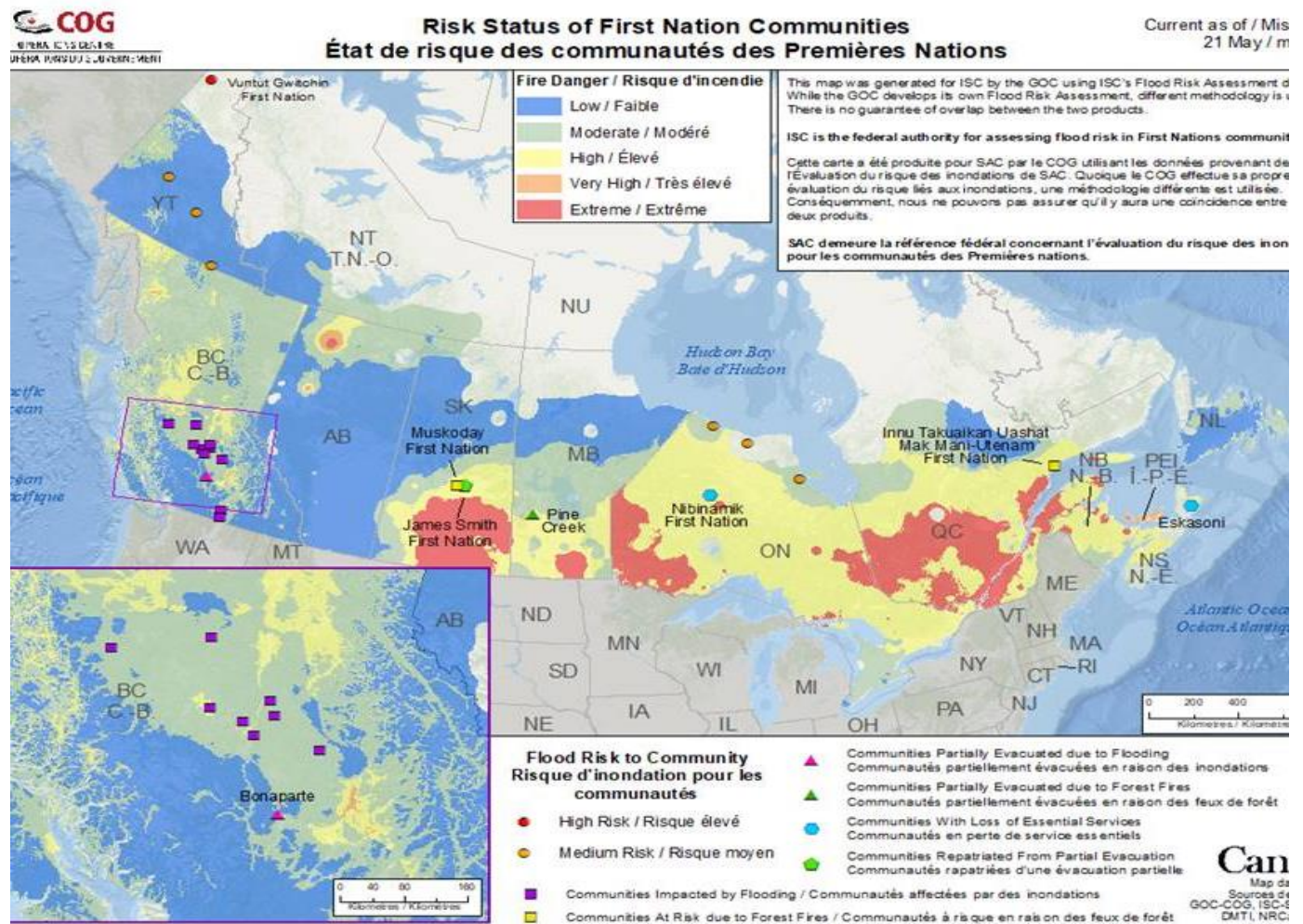
First Nations Local States of Emergencies:

First Nation States of Emergency- As per ISC report May 21,2020									
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 21, 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



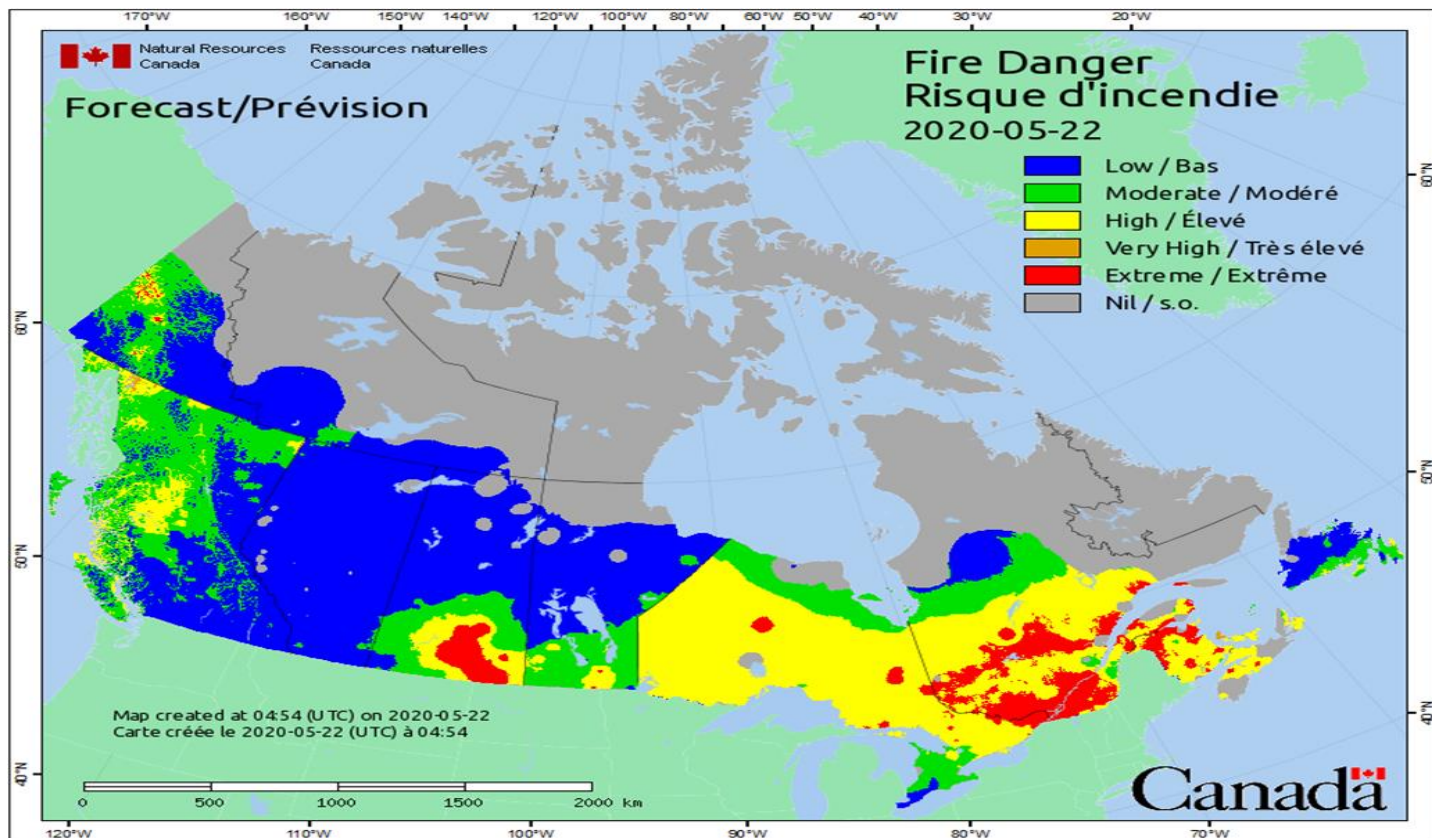
- **BC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – DECREASING**
 - **19MAY2020: High Streamflow Advisory remains for a number of locations within the mountainous interior of the Rocky Mountains due to snowmelt.**
- **AB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO HIGH...No Change**
- **SK: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE...No Change**
- **MB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW...No Change**
- **ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate to high**
- Attawapiskat First Nation (143) (Chief David Nakogee) Population: 1,990**
 - **21MAY2020: Water levels are low. Surveillance flight confirmed no overland flooding along the Attawapiskat River. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur.**
 - **20MAY2020: The flood risk for the Attawapiskat River has been reduced to MODERATE. Ice breakup has begun. Water levels remain low.**
- **QC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE...No Change**
- **ATL: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO LOW**
 - **Eskasoni First Nation (23) (Chief Leroy Denny) Population: 3,960 - Loss of Essential Service - Water**
 - **21MAY2020: Significant water shortage affecting western side of reserve due to damaged water line. Repair work undertaken. Affected community members purchasing potable water.**
- **YT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW RISK...**
 - **19MAY2020: The flood watch issued for the Klondike River on May 9, 2020, remains in effect at Rock Creek and Dawson. The minor flooding threshold was reached on May 11, 2020; however river discharge has since dropped.**
- **NWT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH RISK...No Change**

GOC Elevated Posture: Level 1 – Enhanced Reporting

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) National Preparedness Level: N/A

- **20MAY2020: The GOC is currently conducting a planning process, in collaboration with partners, to increase preparedness of the Federal and Provincial/Territorial (PT) partners in case of wildland urban interface fire events in Canada. The final product will include a national risk assessment and a whole of government contingency plan.**

Wildfire: - Western regions Low to Moderate; most of Prairie region showing a decrease in risk levels; Central to Atlantic regions showing an increase in risk levels.



SASKATCHEWAN:

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

- **21MAY2020:** Fire not contained. Favorable winds keeping smoke away from community. Fresh air shelter with air scrubbers in place at community youth centre.
- **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.

Muskoday First Nation (371) (Chief Herman Crane) Population: 646

- **20MAY2020:** Community at risk of smoke due to James Smith FN fire. Community taking precautionary measures to shelter in place and have advised their membership.

MANITOBA:

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

- **21MAY2020:** Fire is worsening. Command centre and shelter established in community on May 20, 2020. Firefighting and value protection efforts continue.
- **20MAY2020:** State of Local Emergency declared due to Wildfire. 14 homes on the west side of the community evacuated under threat of Fire. Evacuation within community.

QUEBEC

Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam First Nation (80) (Chief Mike McKenzie)

Population: 3,659

- **20MAY2020: Two forest fires active 9km north of community posing a fire and smoke risk.**

Communications Sector

Trudeau promises \$75M more for off-reserve Indigenous services in pandemic

Canadian Press - May 21, 2020

<https://ca.style.yahoo.com/canadian-press-newsalert-trudeau-promises-152032644.html>

**Measures to stop spread of COVID-19 in First Nations limited by lack of infrastructure: report
Reminders to hand-wash, physically distance may not help communities with overcrowded housing, limited water**

CBC News - May 21, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/covid-19-manitoba-first-nations-risk-let-them-eat-cake-1.5578448>

Liard First Nation postpones election because of COVID-19 pandemic

CBC - May 21, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/liard-first-nation-postpones-election-211945489.html>

Manitoba government may relax more rules during COVID-19 pandemic

Canadian Press - May 21, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/wire/manitoba-government-may-relax-more-rules-during-covid-19-pandemic-570661332.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 21, ISC is aware of:

- 205 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 18 hospitalizations
- 4 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 39
- Alberta: 38

- Saskatchewan: 48
- Ontario: 45
- Quebec: 35

Full Stories

Trudeau promises \$75M more for off-reserve Indigenous services in pandemic

[Canadian Press](#) - May 21, 2020

<https://ca.style.yahoo.com/canadian-press-newsalert-trudeau-promises-152032644.html>

OTTAWA — Organizations that help Indigenous people living in urban areas and away from reserves — and have been struggling to meet a surge in demand for their services during COVID-19 — will soon be getting more federal aid.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the federal government is giving \$75 million to these organizations, which include friendship centres and Indigenous women's organizations.

This news comes after growing calls from these groups for more help from Ottawa as they struggle to provide meals, clothing, shelter and mental health support to some of Canada's most vulnerable populations — all while also dealing with fewer volunteers and the need for more protective measures due to the pandemic.

Trudeau acknowledged this need as he announced the additional funding Thursday.

"Indigenous community organizations in our cities and off-reserve do crucial work year-round, but these days their services are in high demand because of the pandemic. We need to make sure they have the resources to adapt and grow their services so they can fulfil their important mission," he said.

Trudeau noted that over one million Indigenous people live in urban settings and off-reserve, which is more than half the total population of First Nation, Metis and Inuit in Canada.

"If you live off-reserve or in a city, we're working to make sure you don't fall through the cracks. You need and deserve services that are culturally appropriate and that's what we're doing with today's investment," Trudeau said.

In mid-March, the government created the \$305-million Indigenous Community Support Fund, most of which went to organizations representing First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities to help them prepare for and cope with the pandemic.

Only \$15 million of that fund was allotted for off-reserve organizations.

Earlier this month, Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller acknowledged that was not enough. He says his department received "dozens and dozens" more applications than the 94 proposals it approved.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), which represents some 90,000 off-reserve and non-status Indigenous Peoples, has gone to court over what it says is the "inadequate and discriminatory" funding it has received compared to other Indigenous groups. CAP is seeking \$16 million, but has received just \$250,000.

National Chief Robert Bertrand reacted positively to the news but said the court action will continue until it is determined how the money will be allocated.

"This new funding is an improvement over the previously announced funding that I think we can all agree was quite inadequate," he said.

The National Association of Friendship Centres told a Commons committee last week it has been delivering food, dealing with increased domestic violence, caring for elders and helping off-reserve Indigenous people find safe shelter and transportation and apply for emergency aid benefits, despite little financial help from Ottawa.

The association's president, Christopher Sheppard-Buote, said those not living on a First Nation reserve or in an Inuit or Metis community have been left feeling "unseen" by the federal COVID-19 response.

Miller said Thursday that these organizations, who have long been on the front lines in providing essential services to marginalized Indigenous populations, have been underfunded by every level of government for a long time.

"It's not something to be particularly proud of, obviously, but we note it," he said.

Indigenous Services Canada knew that more money would be needed to help those living in urban areas, Miller said, but some internal "advocacy" work within government was necessary to secure more funds for these populations.

The department will work with organizations that submitted proposals for the initial fund in determining how to allocate the \$75 million in new funding. Organizations that received money previously could be eligible for more, Miller added.

"These funds are indeed the largest allocation of funds to those service providers to my knowledge in recent memory," he said.

"It is something that is still needed and will serve to protect those most vulnerable. Whether we could have done better is something that we will have to re-examine at a later date."

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 21, 2020.

**Measures to stop spread of COVID-19 in First Nations limited by lack of infrastructure: report
Reminders to hand-wash, physically distance may not help communities with overcrowded housing, limited water**

CBC News - May 21, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/covid-19-manitoba-first-nations-risk-let-them-eat-cake-1.5578448>

Suggested measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 won't be effective in remote Manitoba First Nations unless housing conditions and access to clean water are improved, says a new report.

"Asking people to wash their hands and isolate in overcrowded homes without running water is like asking people unable to afford bread to eat cake," reads the report, [released Wednesday by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#) (CCPA).

The research examines housing, water infrastructure and access to emergency services in northern Manitoba First Nations including Wasagamack and Garden Hill First Nations. There are no known cases of COVID-19 in the area.

Drawing on water infrastructure studies from 2003 to 2018, the report outlines the history of limited access to clean water on reserves across Canada, and highlights the frequency of water shortages in Wasagamack, including a shutdown of the community's water treatment system earlier this month.

In 2018, just over half of the homes on the Garden Hill reserve had piped water delivery, with 27 per cent using cisterns or holding tanks, and 21 per cent using bottled or pails of water in their homes, according to data in the report.

"It's been really hard. I don't have water in my cistern right now," said Nora Whiteway of Wasagamack First Nation.

Whiteway lives with seven family members in a three-bedroom home. Their cistern, which sits next to an unreliable septic tank, she said, frequently runs dry because of how many people use the water for showers and to rinse the toilet bowl.

"It's hard to teach the youth about this, too," she said.

"You can't tell them not to take a shower or clean themselves because there's no water. Some of them aren't [physical] distancing, because they don't think it's serious. It's really hard."

Problems with housing conditions that limit personal hygiene and physical distancing because of overcrowding are another major issue, the report says.

In 2016, Statistics Canada found that 37 per cent of First Nations people on reserve were living in housing that did not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household, and in Wasagamack and Garden Hill First Nations, the person-per-room rates were respectively 24 and 22 times higher than the national average.

Whiteway said she's also worried Wasagamack doesn't have the health care facilities to treat people if they become ill.

"We get scared here ... we don't have a hospital nearby," she said.

"The problem we have here is that the nurses rotate [from other parts of the province], and they are still rotating. We're worried they might bring that virus to us."

H1N1 was 'more than a warning'

Addressing the infrastructure problems is a matter of life and death, said Shirley Thompson, co-author of the report and associate professor at the University of Manitoba's Natural Resources Institute.

Thompson said the communities are in "triple jeopardy," because of water problems, housing problems and the fact that Canadian service providers and resource extraction workers are still being allowed to travel to the area, without respecting the First Nations' travel restrictions and lockdowns.

"They are sitting ducks," she said.

"We've had deaths from pandemics in the past. This has to be the one that makes the change."

In 2009 H1N1 influenza killed 11 people in the province, three of whom were from Garden Hill First Nation. Hundreds of people from the Island Lake area became ill and some were admitted to a Winnipeg hospital in critical condition.

After the H1N1 outbreak, the federal government paid for water and sewage cisterns and indoor plumbing for some of the home in the communities, but she said irregular service and maintenance problems have been common for the last decade.

"The H1N1 crisis [was] more than a warning. People died, hundreds of people were ill ... and an inadequate, low cost solution was given," said Thompson.

Indigenous Services Canada has said its approach to COVID-19 is different than for H1N1 in 2009.

Liard First Nation postpones election because of COVID-19 pandemic

CBC - May 21, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/liard-first-nation-postpones-election-211945489.html>

The Liard First Nation (LFN) in Yukon has decided to postpone its election for up to six months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current term of the chief and council was set to expire on June 5, and the election had been planned for June 29. On Wednesday, the First Nation's council decided to put everything on hold and extend its term.

In a letter to the First Nation's election committee, Chief George Morgan referred to the "unprecedented risk" associated with the ongoing pandemic.

"The risk to vulnerable elders, citizens, and knowledge keepers is a direct threat to LFN and Kaska culture," he wrote.

"Council has decided that this step is necessary and required to protect our people."

The Watson Lake, Yukon-based First Nation has about 1,400 members, according to its website.

In March, federal Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller recommended that First Nations not proceed with elections due to public health risks associated with large gatherings. The government then introduced regulations allowing First Nations leaders to defer elections for up to six months.

Two other Yukon First Nations have gone ahead with elections in the last couple of months — Kwanlin Dün held its vote in March, before the new federal regulations, and Selkirk just a few weeks ago.

In his letter, Morgan says the Liard First Nation election will go ahead "when we can be assured that the risk to LFN citizens, and in particular our elders, has been sufficiently minimized."

"The timing of our election should be a wise and thoughtful decision that does not risk harm to our people."

Yukon has seen 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and all of the affected people have recovered from the illness. It's been more than a month since the territory has seen any new cases.

Manitoba government may relax more rules during COVID-19 pandemic

Canadian Press - May 21, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/wire/manitoba-government-may-relax-more-rules-during-covid-19-pandemic-570661332.html>

WINNIPEG - Bars, dine-in restaurants, gyms and other businesses in Manitoba may soon be able to reopen as the province prepares to relax more restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Premier Brian Pallister released a draft plan Thursday for a second phase of reopenings, following an initial round earlier this month that allowed most retail outlets, restaurant take-out services and other establishments to open.

"We're acting on the medical advice we're getting. We believe that with these changes, we can continue to keep the curve flat," Pallister said.

There was no date set for the changes. Pallister said there would be public consultation and the plan could be pushed back if pandemic numbers rise.

Provincial health officials reported no new cases Thursday. There has only been one new case in the last nine days. With more people recovering, the number of known active cases dropped to 18.

The province's chief public health officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, said a decision on a date for the changes will likely come soon, and the province will give businesses enough advance notice to prepare.

"We want a few more days to see trends, to see what's occurring," Roussin said.

Some places, such as cinemas, theatres and concert venues, will remain closed. But bars, tattoo parlours, dine-in restaurants, fitness clubs and pools would be allowed to open their doors again under limited capacity.

Youth and adult sports would resume along with film productions. Religious services could be conducted outdoors with no crowd limits if people remain in their vehicles. The province earlier announced a higher cap on public gatherings to take effect Friday — 25 people indoors and 50 outside.

With classroom instruction cancelled for the remainder of the school year, the province is looking to allow limited access to schools in the coming weeks for one-on-one tutoring and other specific programming.

And to make up for lost classroom time, the province plans to start the next school year on Aug. 31. Manitoba's public schools have started after Labour Day for almost 20 years.

Opposition NDP Leader Wab Kinew said the government should consult with people first.

"Now is the time to collaborate with educators and parents, not shut them out of the decision-making," Kinew said in a statement.

The province's plan would also ease — somewhat — a ban on non-essential travel to northern areas, which has been largely untouched by the pandemic. Southern residents would be allowed to travel to parks, campgrounds and resorts.

Northern First Nations have raised concerns about the potential impact of COVID-19 and some have restricted visitors to their communities.

Some First Nations members continued to block road access to the Keeyask hydroelectric dam construction site Thursday, one day after being served with a court injunction.

"It's a risk that's being implemented on us," Tataskweyak Cree Nation band councillor Nathan Neckoway said about the hundreds of workers that normally travel to and from the site.

Manitoba Hydro said it used a helicopter to get 19 essential security and maintenance workers to the project Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, it was our only option as the blockades prevent anyone from entering the site, putting the safety and well-being of all workers at Keeyask at risk," utility spokesman Bruce Owen wrote in an email.