

**AFN C-19 National Task Force**  
**Daily Update for: May 25, 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 2020-05-25 11:00AM EDT**

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,517	41 (8)	157	2,057
AB	6,860	46 (6)	135	5,924
SK	632	5 (3)	7	538
MB	292	0 (0)	7	268
ON	25,904	859 (148)	2,102	19,698
QC	47,984	1,425 (179)	4,069	14,654
Newfoundland/Lab	260	3 (1)	3	254
NB	121	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,050	6 (3)	58	973
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,676</b>	<b>2,385 (348)</b>	<b>6,538</b>	<b>44,529</b>
<b>Active Cases= 34,444</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>	5,439,559	345,589	2,185,696

- Data is as of May 25 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 24**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.6%**.

As of **May 24**, 2020, **52%** 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>

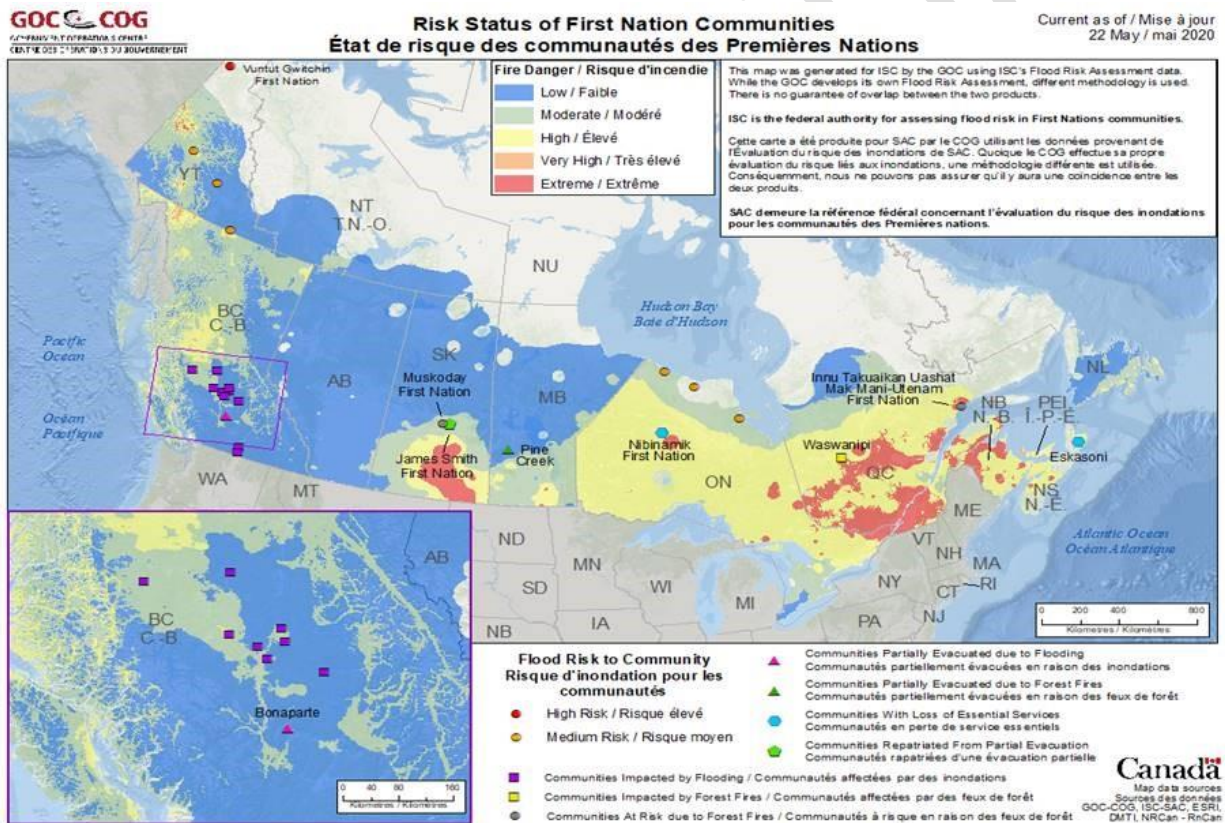
Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

**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 22,2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	55	33	4	21	69	4	7	2	195

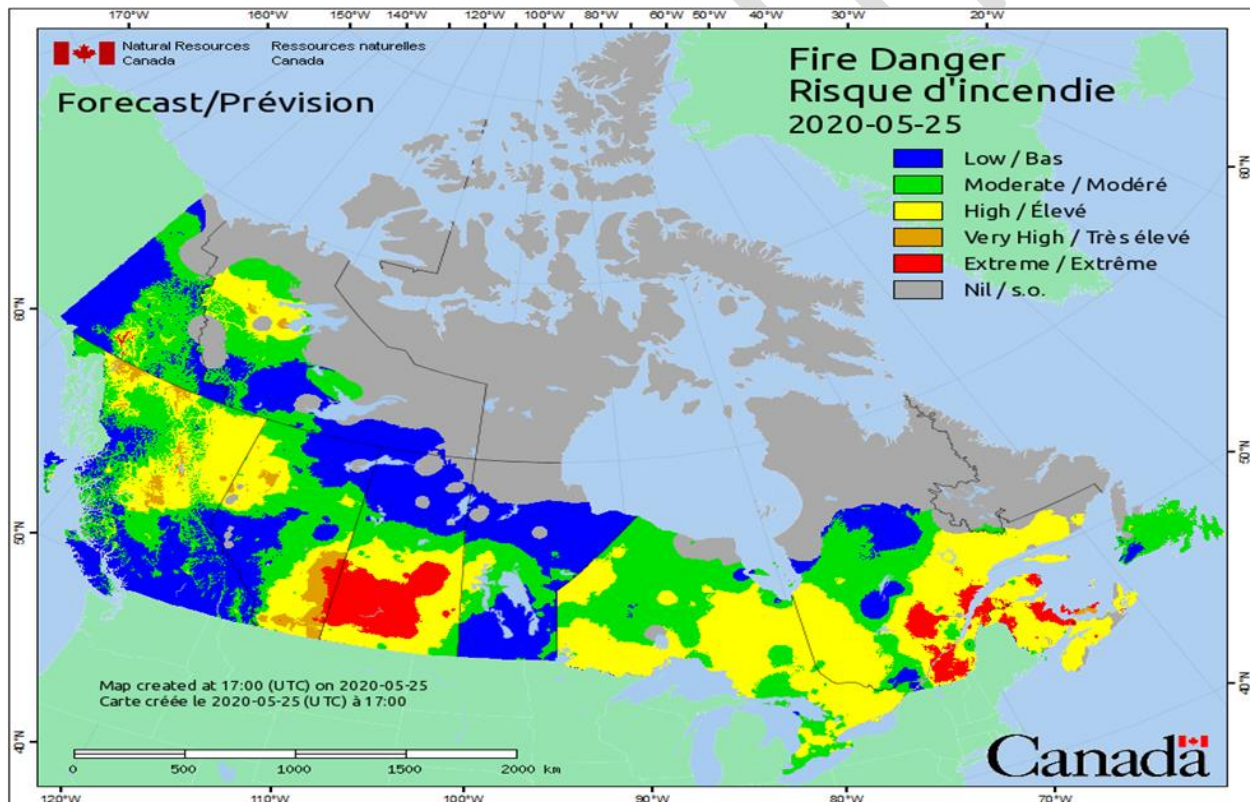


**2020 Flood Season General Assessments:** As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 21, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

**\*\*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...No 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**



GOC Elevated Posture: Level 1 – Enhanced Reporting

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

- **225MAY2020: 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:** - All regions now showing an increased Fire Danger level: Western regions Moderate to High; Prairie region showing moderate to extreme; Ontario to Atlantic regions showing an increase from moderate to extreme in risk levels.

## **Communications Sector**

**Deal struck to dismantle blockades at Manitoba Hydro site, Indigenous group says**  
Canadian Press - MAY 24, 2020

<https://www.timescolonist.com/deal-struck-to-dismantle-blockades-at-manitoba-hydro-site-indigenous-group-says-1.24140453>

**First Nations health authorities tell Commons committee they need more PPE**  
Canadian Press- May. 24, 2020

<https://www.vicnews.com/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe/>

**Powwow circuit disrupted by COVID-19, but organizers optimistic for 2021 season**  
Canadian Press - May 24, 2020

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/05/24/powwow-circuit-disrupted-by-covid-19-but-organizers-optimistic-for-2021-season.html>

**Indigenous organizations in Montreal call for a delay in reopening the city**  
**'Universal decision-making disregarding the Indigenous community is harmful,' says report**  
CBC News - May 24, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/montreal-indigenous-call-delay-reopening-plans-1.5580203>

## **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 24, ISC is aware of:

- 211 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 20 hospitalizations
- 4 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 41
- Alberta: 39

- Saskatchewan: 49
- Ontario: 47
- Quebec: 35

## Full Stories

### **Deal struck to dismantle blockades at Manitoba Hydro site, Indigenous group says** **Canadian Press - MAY 24, 2020**

<https://www.timescolonist.com/deal-struck-to-dismantle-blockades-at-manitoba-hydro-site-indigenous-group-says-1.24140453>

SPLIT LAKE, Man. — A Manitoba Indigenous group says there's a deal with the province's Crown-owned hydro utility to remove blockades set up over fears that workers could introduce COVID-19 to an area around a multi-billion dollar hydroelectric project.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak says in a news release that leaders of First Nations that had been blockading the Keeyask power project met with Manitoba Hydro President Jay Grewal on Saturday, and that they reached an agreement for the barricades to come down.

The announcement says the deal includes lifting a court injunction issued last week against Tataskweyak Cree Nation, one of the communities that was part of the protest.

Four northern First Nations stopped entry at three points around the site about 725 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg after Manitoba Hydro said it would rotate out hundreds of employees and contractors who had been there for eight weeks.

Manitoba Hydro spokesman Bruce Owen says the utility is pleased to reach an understanding with its First Nations partners that he says "will see construction on Keeyask resume safely," adding that more information will be released Monday.

The MKO news release doesn't say whether the shift change will proceed, but an MKO spokeswoman says in an email that the First Nations will continue to work with Manitoba Hydro on a plan to gradually resume construction at Keeyask.

"First Nations, like other Manitobans, have made many sacrifices to restrict the transmission of COVID-19," Tataskweyak Cree Nation Chief Doreen Spence said in the MKO news release.

"While we absolutely want our economies to open up and succeed, we are ultimately most concerned about the well-being and health of our citizens during this uncertain period."

The Keeyask Project is a collaborative effort between the Crown and four First Nations — Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation.

The northern area so far has no cases of COVID-19, and Manitoba Hydro had said the Crown corporation planned to safely resume regular work rotations while protecting workers and neighbouring communities.

Manitoba's Court of Queen's Bench issued an injunction last Monday ordering the removal of the blockades, an order the First Nations had said they would ignore.

Spence said in the news release that her community has "asked Manitoba Hydro to work with us in a better way to move forward with the project."

York Factory First Nation Chief Leroy Constant, meanwhile, called the situation "extremely frustrating and unnecessary."

"If Manitoba Hydro had fully engaged with its Cree partners from the beginning, this situation would not have happened," he said in the release.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 24, 2020.

### **First Nations health authorities tell Commons committee they need more PPE**

**Canadian Press- May. 24, 2020**

<https://www.vicnews.com/news/first-nations-health-authorities-tell-commons-committee-they-need-more-ppe/>

Indigenous health authorities that service Western Canadian First Nations say they are experiencing problems accessing enough medical and protective equipment needed to protect their citizens from COVID-19.

Senior representatives from regional First Nations health authorities in Saskatchewan and British Columbia told a Commons committee Friday they need more personal protective equipment.

"We have delays in accessing PPE," said Tara Campbell, executive director of the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority in Saskatchewan.

"On-reserve populations' PPE in Saskatchewan are distributed by the province and unfulfilled requests are then forward to the national emergency stockpile."

She also said medical supplies such as thermometers and testing supplies are not readily available and that nursing capacity "remains a critical issue."

Campbell noted the key role that testing played in addressing an outbreak in the northern Saskatchewan community of La Loche earlier this month, where extensive door-to-door and mobile testing was done to identify and stop the spread of the virus.

"By being able to test and get results sooner, we were able to isolate individuals to make sure that transmission was minimal," she said.

"We aren't able to do this in every community because testing supplies are limited."

Chief Charlene Belleau, chair of the First Nations Health Council of B.C., said access to PPE has also been a concern for First Nations across her province.

"We also recognize the limitations across the country, but we are constantly advocating for PPE not only for our health care providers but also for our people that are providing security on the lines or at band offices," she told the committee.

The federal government has said it has been delivering large amounts of protective equipment to Indigenous communities to ensure they are able to protect their citizens and front line workers against the novel coronavirus.

On Friday, Indigenous Services Canada tweeted that as of May 22, it had shipped 845 orders of PPE to First Nations communities and had one order in progress.

But Conservative MP Bob Zimmer, who is the party's Northern affairs critic, says the accounts coming from First Nations chiefs and advocates at committee over the last few weeks indicate more of these critical supplies are needed in many Indigenous communities.

"It's a federal responsibility to provide PPE to the Indigenous communities and it was supposed to be established that way. We're hearing of shortages across the board, across Canada," Zimmer said Friday.

Richard Jock, interim chief executive officer of British Columbia's First Nations Health Authority, said his agency has developed a system to distribute PPE to its communities and regions to ensure there is a few weeks' supply to try to prevent critical shortages.

But supplies are low.

"I would not want to say that there's a stockpile or an accumulated surplus," he said.

Bellau also noted a rising dispute in B.C. about what level of government — federal, provincial or Indigenous — should pay the increased costs being incurred by First Nations that have hired security personnel to block or limit access to their communities to prevent outbreaks COVID-19. "(Indigenous Services Canada) cannot rely on First Nations utilizing our own resource revenue as a means of protecting our communities," she said.

### **Powwow circuit disrupted by COVID-19, but organizers optimistic for 2021 season**

**Canadian Press - May 24, 2020**

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/05/24/powwow-circuit-disrupted-by-covid-19-but-organizers-optimistic-for-2021-season.html>

Romaine Mitchell is confident that a summer without powwows will be "just a small blip" in the cultural history of Indigenous Peoples.

Mitchell has been a fixture on North America's powwow circuit for more than 30 years, but restrictions on public gatherings because of [COVID-19](#) have led to the cancellation of all 12 of the events he planned to attend this summer.

Although losing an entire season is disappointing, Mitchell says First Nations culture was able to survive colonization and having such cultural celebrations outlawed — so losing one year for the common good is a relatively minor problem.

"The embers have been there for years," said Mitchell. "Given the colonial movement's attempts to assimilate all people into one melting pot, many of the traditions and cultures that we have in order to maintain them and for them to survive had to be taken underground.

"Our celebrations and our ceremonies we had done in secret."

Mitchell is the co-chair of the powwow organizing committee for the Akwesasne First Nation, a territory that straddles the borders of Ontario, Quebec, and New York state. The reserve is predominantly inhabited by Kanien'kehá:ka — commonly known as Mohawk — and the community puts an emphasis on respect for its elders and veterans.

Given that the novel coronavirus can have particularly severe effects on older people, Mitchell says Akwesasne's powwow will likely be cancelled this year.

"As a committee that's what we're watching — what's the tail end going to look like of this?" said Mitchell. "Yes, you're going to have your apex and then you're going to have your tail.

"But how far is that tail going to go? At what point will we as a community be safe to open our gates? It's looking like that tail is going to go just beyond the date of our powwow."

Josee Bourgeois, a dancer who performs at powwows across the continent, was holding out hope that she would be able to make her planned schedule of events. That optimism dwindled as the end of May — the usual start of powwow season — drew near.

"We are just now experiencing that sense of loss because weeks ago it was still like, 'Well, you never know! Maybe they'll still happen!'" said Bourgeois. "But no, that's not the case."

Although Mitchell and Bourgeois aren't especially worried about the cultural impact of having no powwows, they do have other concerns.



Bourgeois said she's worried that the cancellation of powwows will have consequences for people who have been housebound all winter.

"It's something that people look forward to so much," said Bourgeois, who is from Pikwakanagan. The territory just outside Ottawa is inhabited by Omàmiwinini, more commonly known as Algonquin.

"There's a lot of reasons why people would be spiritually, emotionally and mentally affected from this."

Mitchell said he's concerned with the economic impact, as powwows are a financial boost for the host territories as well as neighbouring communities. As an example, he said Akwesasne's powwow draws approximately 6,000 visitors every year, filling hotels in nearby Cornwall, Ont. Also, as a vendor of traditional First Nations clothes and accessories, Mitchell said the cancellation of powwows will also affect his family and other Indigenous-owned small businesses.

"Many of them are independent contractors and performers that are impacted by it," said Mitchell. "It's a ripple that's affected and felt throughout all of Indian country."

### **Indigenous organizations in Montreal call for a delay in reopening the city**

**'Universal decision-making disregarding the Indigenous community is harmful,' says report  
CBC News - May 24, 2020**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/montreal-indigenous-call-delay-reopening-plans-1.5580203>

A status report published by eight organizations in Montreal that serve the city's Indigenous community says it's too soon for reopening as the city, which is the epicentre of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada, [prepares to reopen stores Monday and ease restrictions](#).

Indigenous advocates like Nakuset, director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and co-manager of Resilience, a day centre serving a large Indigenous population near Cabot Square, say they're uncomfortable with reopening while the spread of the virus is only beginning to peak among Indigenous populations.

"I don't understand how they decided not to open the schools because the numbers are too high but they're going to open up society?" said Nakuset.

Native Women's Shelter and Resilience co-drafted the [report](#), along with Open Door Montréal, Southern Quebec Inuit Association, Indigenous Street Worker Project, First Peoples Justice Centre of Montreal, Exeko, and the Montreal Indigenous Community Network.

The report also calls on public health authorities to provide additional emergency workers, qualified cleaning services for non-profit centres and shelters serving the homeless population, a moratorium on ticketing as the pandemic persists and a co-created plan with Indigenous-serving organizations for the safety of all Indigenous people in Montreal.

"The provincial public authorities must take into account how the pandemic affects the various, often marginalized, communities. Universal decision-making disregarding the Indigenous community is harmful," the report states.

"Many of our principal requests have not been met in a timely manner, nor have they taken into consideration the unique circumstances of the Indigenous community in situations of homelessness."

Alexandre Huard, information co-ordinator at the Montreal Indigenous Community Network, said one of the problems is that Indigenous organizations have been passed around from one public authority to another when asking for resources and services.

"The most important point is that we're making sure authorities as well as the general public are very well aware of what is still missing on the ground for Indigenous people to be safe during crisis," said Huard.

They're looking for a holistic approach to meet Indigenous organizations' needs that works with the various jurisdictions and departments — something Huard said cannot be fixed with the additional \$75 million announced by the federal government this week for organizations serving Indigenous people living off-reserve.

"It's nothing that money can make up for. It's pre-existing gaps in services and how those services are being offered," said Huard.

"What this crisis has shown us in part is that governments have not been listening."

Requests for on-site testing

Both Nakuset and Huard said there's been repeated requests for on-site testing in shelters, centres, and other community spaces like Cabot Square since March 26 to no avail.

Resilience has been set up in the square for the last two months, offering food, clothing and sleeping bags for up to 600 people a day with a third to half of the clients being Indigenous.

"This population has been ignored," said Nakuset.

"Cabot Square is a petri dish. Even though we try to push them to social distance, they're not doing it. They're sharing and in close contact with one another which means it is an explosion waiting to happen."

The Native Women's Shelter had to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak among staff last week. Nakuset said the shelter had asked public health authorities and the city for weeks for cleaning supplies and cleaning services.

"We were ignored until we had to close," she said.

She said she hopes the status report is taken more seriously.

The office of mayor Valérie Plante told CBC News in a statement that the city has been working with community partners and the health network to meet the needs of the Indigenous homeless population.

"We have implemented a series of measures and we will ensure that we continue to work closely with Indigenous organizations to ensure that it meets the needs of Indigenous people living in homelessness," the statement said.

"The important thing is to focus on the constant communication and collaboration with organizations that provide assistance to this population."

Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services said several meetings were held daily between Indigenous, federal and Quebec authorities "to ensure consistency in the actions and meet the needs expressed by the communities."

"Our priority is to ensure that communication channels are maintained so that all have access to timely information to put into action the most recent measurements and adapt them as needed. We welcome the collaboration of Indigenous representative partner organizations," said spokesperson Marie-Louise Harvey in an email.

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