

AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 26, 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 2020-05-26 11:01AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,530	37 (7)	161	2,102
AB	6,879	45 (5)	138	5,979
SK	634	6 (4)	7	546
MB	292	0 (0)	7	268
ON	26,191	848 (143)	2,123	19,958
QC	47,984	1,425 (179)	4,069	14,654
Newfoundland/Lab	260	3 (1)	3	254
NB	121	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,051	6 (3)	58	974
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	85,998	2,370 (342)	6,566	44,898
Active Cases= 34,533				

*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	5,530,341	347,085	2,258,161

- Data is as of May 26 at 10:32am from Johns Hopkins University:
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Epidemic Summary

As of **May 25**, 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 25**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.6%**.

As of **May 25**, 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

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>

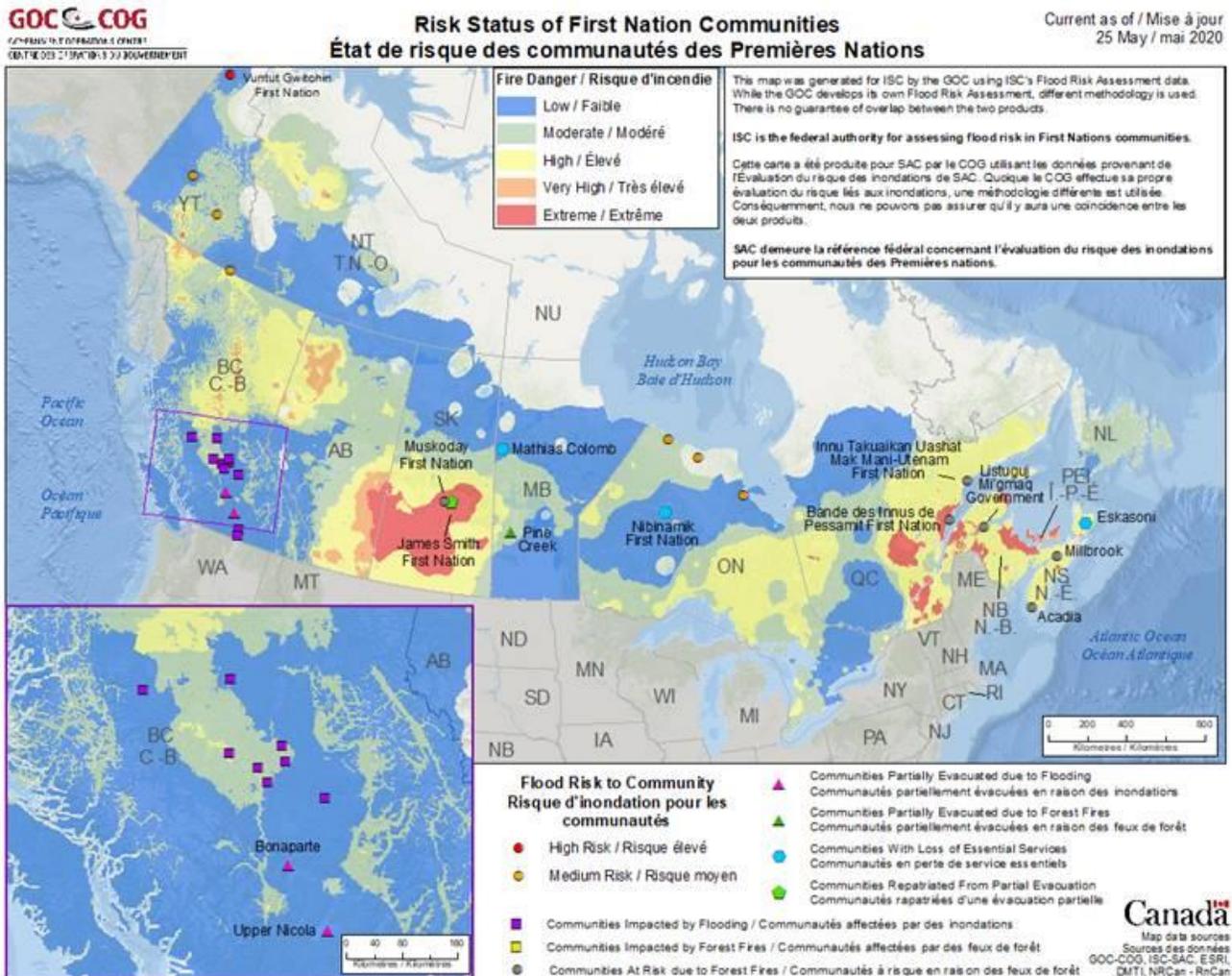
Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

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 25,2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	57	32	4	21	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**

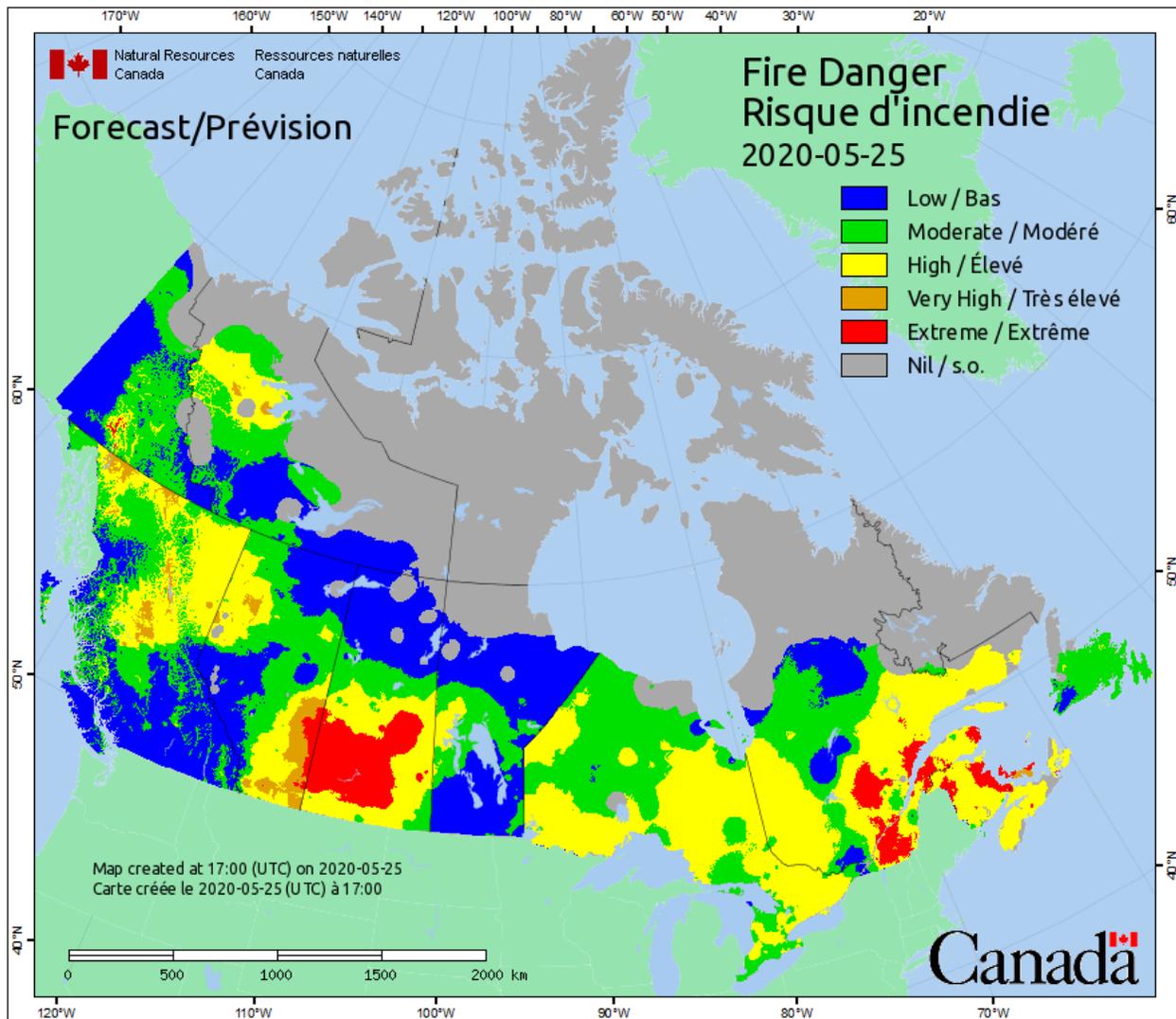
Bonaparte First Nation (686) (Chief Randy Porter) Population: 201

- **25MAY2020: Water level monitoring, sandbagging and debris removal continues in anticipation of flooding.**
- 22MAY2020: Water levels rising. Flood Watch issued for Bonaparte River. Evacuation alert issued for areas adjacent to the river in nearby Cache Creek.

Upper Nicola Band (697) (Chief Harvey Mcleod) Population: 415

- **22MAY2020: 1 person evacuated due to flooding affecting septic system.**

- **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 levels: Western regions show Moderate to High; Prairie region showing Moderate to Extreme; Ontario to Atlantic region showing High to Extreme.

SASKATCHEWAN

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

- 25MAY2020: Fire deemed contained. Firefighting efforts continue. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur.

- 23MAY2020: No further risk to FN.

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

- **23MAY2020: No further risk to FN. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
- 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

- **23MAY2020: Fire has not grown. Suppression efforts continue. Repatriation planning for evacuees continues;**
- 22MAY2020: Fire remains out of control. Fire estimated at 23,000+ hectares. Value protection efforts complete. Teams working to protect community hydro lines;
- 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

Bande des Innus de Pessamit (85) (Chief Rene Simon) Population 2,832

- **22MAY2020: Forest fire in community. Fire declared contained on May 22, 2020. Extinguishing efforts continue. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur.**

Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (51) (Chief Darcy Gray) Population: 2,089

- **23MAY2020: Forest fire 1.5km from community. Fire declared contained on May 24, 2020. Firefighting efforts continue. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur.**

NOVA SCOTIA

Acadia First Nation (18) (Chief Deborah Robinson) Population: 239

- **24MAY2020: Fire contained and under control. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
- **23MAY2020: Forest fire 6.5km away from community. Mostly extinguished by May 22, 2020.**

Millbrook First Nation (27) (Chief Robert Gloade) Population: 912

- **24MAY2020: Fire contained and under control. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
- **23MAY2020: Forest fire 25km from community causing smoke risk.**

Communications Sector

Blood Tribe uses lessons learned during the opioid crisis to tackle COVID-19

Calgary Herald - May 25, 2020

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/blood-tribe-uses-lessons-learned-during-the-opioid-crisis-to-tackle-covid-19/wcm/391636e2-5c60-4f93-81b2-c4764d152df5/>

Doctors warn Sask. against complacency amid preparations for possible second wave

CBC - May 26, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/doctors-warn-sask-against-complacency-100000398.html>

Nishdish, closed for good by COVID-19, served up Anishinaabe cuisine and history

TorStar - May 25, 2020

<https://www.thestar.com/business/2020/05/25/nishdish-closed-for-good-by-covid-19-served-up-anishnaabe-cuisine-and-history.html>

COVID-19 reopening may bring more blockades of roads and highways that are gateways to fearful First Nations communities

Vancouver Sun – May 25, 2020

<https://vancouversun.com/news/covid-19-reopening-may-bring-more-blockades-of-roads-and-highways-that-are-gateways-to-fearful-first-nations-communities/wcm/dccb7faa-5820-4a2a-969a-a1908f5fe0c3/>

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 25, ISC is aware of:

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

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 41
- Alberta: 39
- Saskatchewan: 50
- Ontario: 47
- Quebec: 35

Full Stories

Blood Tribe uses lessons learned during the opioid crisis to tackle COVID-19

Calgary Herald - May 25, 2020

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/blood-tribe-uses-lessons-learned-during-the-opioid-crisis-to-tackle-covid-19/wcm/391636e2-5c60-4f93-81b2-c4764d152df5/>

Coun. Lance Tailfeathers of the Blood Tribe says lessons learned from the opioid epidemic are helping the community respond to a COVID-19 outbreak that has so far infected 15 people.

The Blood Tribe, also known as the Kainai Nation, is the largest First Nation in Canada with more than 14,000 members. It declared a local state of emergency March 16 as a precaution, and recorded its first novel coronavirus case at the end of April.

Fifteen cases are now confirmed on the Blood reserve, according to Blood Tribe Emergency Management. Ten remain active and five people have recovered. These are the results of 706 COVID-19 tests, meaning about two per cent have come back positive.

“Unfortunately, the lesson learned was in 2015 when we had the opioid crisis. There were two weeks with 20 deaths,” said Tailfeathers. “We put together a core group, so a lot of the players in that from different departments like health and family support had already gone through this before, so we regrouped.”

Ultimately, their mission is to save lives, and doing so largely comes down to keeping members informed.

“When you’re on the nation, you can only control so much but a lot of it is just awareness,” he said. “There was (anxiety) at first but I put myself out there — I think I’m one of the few councillors that actually participates in social media — so I just weathered the storm and I kept giving updates on my own page,” said Tailfeathers.

Now, updates are shared on the Blood Tribe Communications Facebook page. The emergency management team, band council and the Blood Tribe Department of Health meet regularly to stay up to date on COVID-19 in the community.

The first case of COVID-19 involved a band member who works at the nearby Bouvry Exports meat-packing plant in Fort Macleod. He was infected on the job. Some of the subsequent cases are linked to community transmission.

Tailfeathers said some of the challenges the nation faces are multi-family households and travel in and out of the reserve. He said about one-third of members live off-reserve in places such as Lethbridge, Calgary, Cardston and Fort Macleod.

Additionally, at the same time as the Blood Tribe’s COVID-19 cases were rising, Alberta began easing its restrictions. Some members played on golf courses and came back positive.

“It caused a bit of a scare in the community,” he said, but added many contact traces came back negative.

COVID-19-positive members are being quarantined in a hotel in nearby Cardston. A community hall gymnasium is being used to house members experiencing homelessness and the nation’s treatment centre is aiding elders who need to self-isolate, said Tailfeathers.

Testing has been done for members off-reserve in nearby cities and on-reserve through a mobile testing site, which was used during the opioid crisis.

Tailfeathers said numbers seem to be improving but they aren't letting down their guard.

"Every day, I wake up wondering how we'll do today," he said.

The Blood Tribe is reminding people to maintain physical distancing and limit contact with those from outside of their home. They are also urging members to not share personal items, to stay home when possible and follow all other public health recommendations. Increased sanitization measures are in place.

Currently, a curfew is in place between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., and local stores on the Blood reserve are directed to close at 8 p.m. Travel restrictions are also being observed.

Doctors warn Sask. against complacency amid preparations for possible second wave

CBC - May 26, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/doctors-warn-sask-against-complacency-100000398.html>

As Saskatchewan residents are praised for their success in flattening the curve of COVID-19, doctors and public health experts are reminding the public there is a new next task at hand: avoiding a second wave that could be worse than the first.

"If the public behaviour changes so much back to what it was pre-virus then all we've done is delayed a massive second wave by a few months and no system can be prepared enough to handle that," said Dr. Cory Neudorf, a professor of community health and epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Neudorf is one of several medical health academics and doctors warning that complacency could lead to a surge in new cases.

Second wave usually worse: doctors

Dr. Sandy Buchman, the president of the Canadian Medical Association, raised concerns last week about the Canadian health-care system being unprepared for a second wave.

"This second wave is inevitable," said Buchman.

"Every pandemic in recorded history has shown a second wave and it's usually been worse when it's allowed to proceed unimpeded."

Buchman said it is encouraging to hear Saskatchewan specifically has expanded its criteria for access to testing. Starting March 25, anyone who works outside the home can be tested if they want to.

"Hopefully a lot of people will take up that offer because it's a good one to get the information that we really need to open up," said Buchman.

Testing is also available to acute care patients, people who are immunocompromised, health-care workers, homeless and vulnerable people, and people in high-volume work settings like factories.

Buchman raised the notion of using modern technology to do contact tracing, but said privacy and confidentiality issues would need to be addressed.

"Until we get that and have those conversations and work that out, it's important to get literally armies of contact tracers out there doing manual tracing to be able to determine where the disease is, where the outbreaks are happening, contain it and nip it in the bud," said Buchman.

He said lessons can be learned from Saskatchewan having contained an outbreak in the far north region while the rest of the province reopens, but that it is concerning that more data about how the virus is affecting Indigenous people is not available.

"People in Indigenous communities, in more remote and rural locations — they don't have the privilege of physical distancing," said Buchman.

"Many people are living together in one dwelling and so to really, again, nip it in the bud, we need to understand how prevalent it is in those communities that are a particular risk."

Preparing for a possible surge

Dr. Allan Woo, the president of the Saskatchewan Medical Association, said doctors are anxious about what comes next because there are still so many unknowns about the virus.

Woo agreed there will likely be a second wave.

"I know that the health authority is still trying to obtain more personal protective equipment in case the second wave is worse than the first," said Woo.

"If we look at what's happened with other pandemics, especially the Spanish flu, the second wave was worse."

Woo was the first person in the province to publicly self-identify as having COVID-19 after contracting it at a curling bonspiel event for physicians in early March. He was sick for 18 days.

Nishdish, closed for good by COVID-19, served up Anishinaabe cuisine and history

TorStar - May 25, 2020

<https://www.thestar.com/business/2020/05/25/nishdish-closed-for-good-by-covid-19-served-up-anishnaabe-cuisine-and-history.html>

With every cup of Three Sisters soup or bowl of venison stew he served up at his west-end restaurant Nishdish, Johl Whiteduck Ringuette wasn't just putting a meal on the table. He was also serving up some Anishinaabe culinary history and education.

Those meals and lessons in Indigenous culinary heritage will be fewer and further between.

Nishdish, which Ringuette opened up three years ago, is closed down for good because of [COVID-19](#).

"It was devastating. They say there's a 70 per cent chance a restaurant will close within the first three years. Well, we made it. And then this hit," Ringuette said.

Ringuette said his hand was forced by the virtually overnight disappearance of catering orders for traditional Anishinaabe feasts, which would include ceremonial components, and educational talks.

"On March 9, staff called to say we had a last-minute cancellation. Then we had a few more. Then over the course of a few days, every single thing we had booked for the next month and a half was cancelled," said Ringuette, who is Anishinaabe and Algonquin, and whose grandmother is a member of the Nipissing First Nation.

The restaurant's closure was mourned on social media, including by the grand chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, a political association of 49 First Nations in Northern Ontario.

"Sad to see this very special restaurant close its door. Please consider making a donation towards its continued operation through catering of its awesome food," tweeted Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

While the restaurant and storefront "marketeria" offering Anishinaabe foods for takeout brought in some money, the vast majority of his revenue came from catering, Ringuette said.

He's [raising money on GoFundMe](#) in the hopes of reopening a catering operation at a commercial kitchen and having an online store, but he said the restaurant is gone for good. "I lost money with every bowl of Three Sisters that I served at the restaurant. The catering supported the restaurant. But it was important to have the restaurant there to give more people an opportunity to learn about these foods and enjoy them," said Ringuette. "And each person was helping to support Indigenous food sovereignty."

Running the restaurant and storefront cost roughly \$20,000 per month, Ringuette explained, including \$6,000 per month in rent. He estimated his food-cost percentage — how much of a meal's menu price derives from the cost of buying the food — was 50 to 60 per cent at the restaurant.

While that's two or three times the industry standard, there were limits to how much he could charge customers. And the ingredients were expensive and time-consuming to prepare, Ringuette explained. He dealt with small-scale, sustainable suppliers, many of them Anishinaabe or from other First Nations.

"The ingredients we use, you can't just buy anywhere. A lot of them are wild. They're hard to grow, hard to find, and they're expensive. But we use them, because it's important.

COVID-19 reopening may bring more blockades of roads and highways that are gateways to fearful First Nations communities

Vancouver Sun – May 25, 2020

<https://vancouversun.com/news/covid-19-reopening-may-bring-more-blockades-of-roads-and-highways-that-are-gateways-to-fearful-first-nations-communities/wcm/dccb7faa-5820-4a2a-969a-a1908f5fe0c3/>

Canada's slow re-emergence from COVID-19 closures may bring tighter restrictions and blockades by First Nations over the roads, highways and small airports that are the gateways to reserves in a bid to control coronavirus spread to vulnerable communities.

"These lockdowns and checkpoints are the major reason why our rates are low," Regional Chief of Ontario, RoseAnne Archibald, said of the province's First Nations community.

"The closer you are together the more the virus spreads, so that becomes a growing concern for First Nations, especially with the coming second wave. We know there will be a second wave."

Fear over COVID-19's spread through First Nations communities — which have lower health and housing resources but higher incidences of underlying health concerns — brought roadblocks, "dissuasion points" and security checkpoints to many.

The actions are not renegade, local responses, but recommended by provincial and national First Nations organization.

"Our first priority is the health and safety of First Nations families and communities," Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde said.

"First Nations are the most vulnerable communities in the country and, as such, prevention efforts are crucial during this pandemic. The AFN supports First Nations in exercising their jurisdiction and making their own decisions for the safety and well-being of their peoples and communities."

Some security borders have caused anger and court intervention while others proceed with little apparent agitation or attention.

In northern Manitoba, members of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation have blocked a highway for more than a week to stop workers arriving at a hydro construction project, fearing they could carry the coronavirus with them. The community is about 725 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

After being served with a court injunction to clear the road by the RCMP, supporters tore it up. In B.C., most of the coastal communities maintain road checks, including the Nuxalk Nation, 430 kilometres northwest of Vancouver. Since March, non-essential travellers there are deemed “trespassers” and the community remains on “full lockdown,” public notices say.

In Quebec, Mohawks of Kanesatake set up roadblocks — which they called “dissuasion points” — at the entrance to Oka provincial park to dissuade visitors, as Quebec loosens its restrictions. Park trails lead into Kanesatake.

“It is not to be mean or anything. As a matter of fact, I felt really bad telling a young mother and her two kids, please, understand, please go back home,” Kanesatake Grand Chief Serge Simon said.

“If you look at what decimated First Nations populations in the Americas, it was a virus: small pox rubella tuberculosis Spanish flu,” he said. “We were almost extinguished just by a virus.” The M’Chigeeng First Nation on Ontario’s Manitoulin Island has had a non-essential travel ban for a month now, including on two public highways, creating a flashpoint with neighbouring residents and sparking inflammatory and racist social media posts.

Al MacNevin, mayor of the neighbouring municipality, asked the provincial government and the Ontario Provincial Police to ensure Highway 540 and 551 remain open, to no avail. He said the roadblocks can add as much as 45 minutes to a journey and people get lost when trying to detour.

“Most people during this pandemic are already on the edge from being isolated most of the time. It is a stressful situation,” MacNevin said Sunday.

“We’re afraid that people at those checkpoints are mostly volunteers and may or may not have the training to keep people calm, and if people are angry you could run into a situation where somebody would become aggressive and we worry about the safety of both people at the checkpoint as well as the traveller.”

First Nation and local municipal leaders have been meeting to ease tension. Meanwhile, the OPP continue to warn the public of a “travel advisory” and recommend alternate routes.

By contrast, Nipissing First Nation, along the northern shore of Lake Nipissing about 30 kilometres west of North Bay, is starting its own reopening. The community would be difficult to close because the Trans-Canada Highways passes through it, and Nipissing leaders focused on hygiene over isolation.

In Ontario, the majority of First Nations communities have some form of border control, from signs to roadblocks.

Archibald calls it “a shield of protection.”

It is easier in some places than others. Many communities are remote and only accessible by air. Others neighbour cities.

The isolation of remote communities helps keep transmission low, but when it comes, its impact is harder to fight.

When a resident of Eabametoong First Nation returned home to their community, which is 300 kilometres north of Thunder Bay and accessible only by plane or boat, and then tested positive

for COVID-19 in April, it was difficult to get a medical field tent and other protective equipment to the community.

The First Nations in Ontario with the most cases, however, are near large population centres: Six Nations, the largest reserve in Canada, is about 20 kilometres from Brantford and 30 kilometres from Hamilton; Walpole Island, across the St. Clair River from the United States, is about 120 kilometres from both Windsor and Detroit.

The provincial re-opening plans cause more alarm than relief.

“Anytime you open up society and people begin to move, then the virus begins to move,” said Archibald. “Many of them are in lockdown and most of those who had checkpoints before the opening up, still have those checkpoints.”

Bellegarde said First Nations must be a part of provincial planning as pandemic restrictions shift.

“Provincial governments must consider the risks to rural and remote communities when making decisions about the re-opening of the province to ensure the needs and priorities of First Nations are heard, understood and addressed,” he said.

“First Nations should be involved at any decision-making tables that impact their nations, their families, and their rights.”

Indigenous Services Canada report that, as of Friday, there had been 209 confirmed COVID-19 cases on First Nations reserves, resulting in 18 hospitalizations and four deaths.

Saskatchewan accounts for 49 of those, Ontario 46, B.C. 41, Alberta 38, and Quebec 35.

While roadblocks are effective, said Archibald, they are also expensive. She is asking the federal government to provide funding for reserves.