

**AFN C-19 National Task Force**  
**Daily Update for: May 27, 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 2020-05-27 11:00AM EDT**

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,541	37 (7)	161	2,122
AB	6,901	45 (5)	139	6,048
SK	634	5 (3)	8	549
MB	292	0 (0)	7	269
ON	26,438	847 (150)	2,155	20,372
QC	48,598	1,403 (181)	4,139	14,999
Newfoundland/Lab	260	1 (0)	3	255
NB	122	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,052	7 (3)	59	975
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,939</b>	<b>2,345 (349)</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>45,753</b>
<b>Active Cases= 34,515</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>	5,618,829	351,146	2,311,404

- Data is as of May 27 at 9:32am from Johns Hopkins University:  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

## Epidemic Summary

As of **May 8**, 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 26**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.6%**.

As of **May 26**, 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>

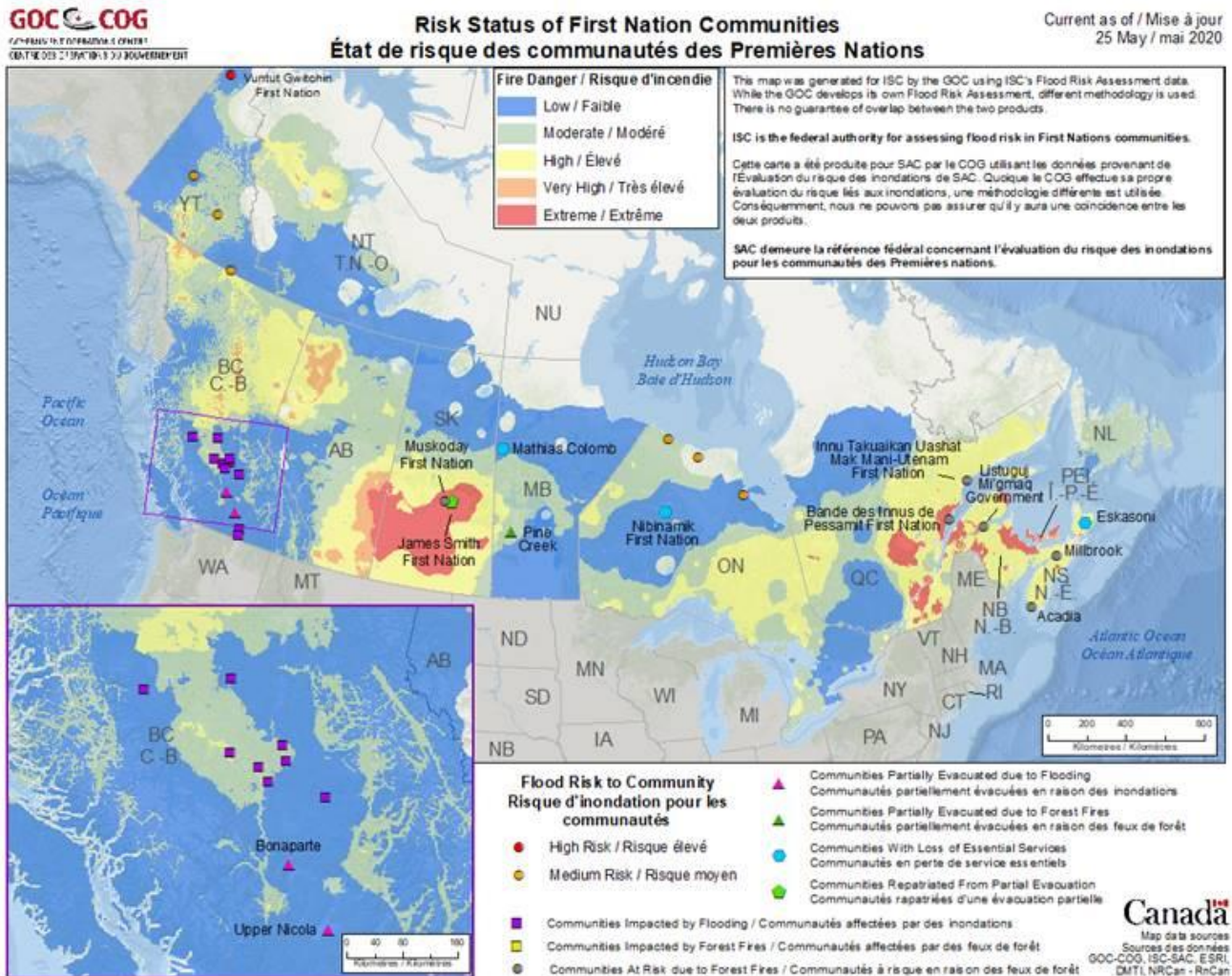
Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

**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 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 26, 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**
  - **26MAY2020: Flood watch in effect for Bonaparte River, Below Cache Creek. High streamflow advisories remain for various locations within the mountainous interior of the Rocky Mountains due to snowmelt.**
  
- **AB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate to very high**
- **SK: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate**
- **MB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Low**
  - **25MAY2020: Outflow from Southern Indian Lake at Missi was increased to 40,000 cu ft. per second on May 22, 2020, due to inflows rising from rainfall and snowmelt.**
  - **O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (318): MODERATE flood risk**
  
- **ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – James Bay – High to Low; Great Lakes Area – High due to elevated water levels;**
  - **25MAY2020: The shores of Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario, and Northeastern Ontario remain under flood watch. Flooding potential and the precautionary declaration of emergency issued by Kashechewan FN (Albany River) due to ice jams remains.**
  - **23MAY2020: The Attawapiskat River remains ice covered, yet it is visibly weakening with breakup occurring in various tributaries. The flood risk assessment for Attawapiskat First Nation has been reduced from “MODERATE” to “LOW TO MODERATE”.**
  
- **QC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate**
- **ATL: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Moderate to Low**
- **YT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – Low**
- **NWT: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – High**

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**WILDFIRE:** - As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 26, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

**SASKATCHEWAN - Moderate to extreme**

**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 – Low to Moderate**

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

- **25MAY2020: Fire has grown to 26,000 hectares. Fire is being held.**
- 23MAY2020: Fire has not grown. Suppression efforts continue. Repatriation planning for evacuees continues.

**ATLANTIC – Low to Moderate**

- **AT RISK – WILDLAND FIRE – 3 First Nations – New Brunswick**
  - **26MAY2020: Elsipogtog (Arren Sock), Esgenoopetitj (Chief Alvery Paul), and Indian Island (Chief Kenneth Barlow) First Nations experiencing smoke risk from a forest fire near Savvies River, NB. Risk of fire impact to FNs is low.**
- **AT RISK – WILDLAND FIRE – 2 First Nations – Nova Scotia**
  - **26MAY2020: Wagmatcook (Chief Norman Bernard) and We'koq'maq (Chief Roderick Googoo) First Nations experiencing smoke risk from a forest fire in Antigonish County, NS. Fire out of control but risk of fire impact to FNs low.**

**Communications Sector**

**Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority takes on Case/Contact Management from Indigenous Services Canada**

**Dryden Now – May 27, 2020**

<https://www.drydennow.com/local/sioux-lookout-first-nations-health-authority-takes-on-case-contact-management-from-indigenous-services-canada>

**Opinion: First Nations ready to help rebuild the economy**

**Edmonton Journal - May 27, 2020**

<https://edmontonjournal.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-first-nations-ready-to-help-rebuild-the-economy/>

**Kanesatake grand chief says deal reached to partly reopen Oka provincial park**

**Global News – May 26, 2020**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6990351/kanesatake-oka-park-reopening-coronavirus-fears-2/>

**Region sets up COVID-19 testing pop-up for First Nations community**

**CTV News – May 26, 2020**

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/region-sets-up-covid-19-testing-pop-up-for-first-nations-community-1.4955968>

### **COVID-19 highlights lack of connectivity in First Nations communities**

**Local Journalism – May 26, 2020**

<https://www.energeticcity.ca/2020/05/covid-19-highlights-lack-of-connectivity-in-first-nations-communities/>

### **New initiative launched to get COVID-19 info to First Nations health care managers**

**Winnipeg Sun – May 25, 2020**

<https://winnipegsun.com/news/news-news/new-initiative-launched-to-get-info-to-first-nations-health-care-managers>

## **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 26, ISC is aware of:

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

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 41
- Alberta: 39
- Saskatchewan: 49
- Ontario: 48
- Quebec: 35

## **Full Stories**

### **Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority takes on Case/Contact Management from Indigenous Services Canada**

**Dryden Now – May 27, 2020**

<https://www.drydennow.com/local/sioux-lookout-first-nations-health-authority-takes-on-case-contact-management-from-indigenous-services-canada>

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority has taken over the case management and contact tracing of COVID-19 functions from Indigenous Services Canada.

The health authority say the First Nation communities they serve can expect coordinated, culturally appropriate services in a timely manner.

The health authority also say they will be able to respond quickly to minimize the spread of the virus and ensure the protection of its service population.

Contact tracing is used to identify, assist, and monitor people who have been in close contact with someone who has been infected with a virus, as these individuals are at a higher risk of becoming infected. Contact tracing can help limit further spread and plays a vital role in protecting communities.

### **Opinion: First Nations ready to help rebuild the economy**

**Edmonton Journal - May 27, 2020**

<https://edmontonjournal.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-first-nations-ready-to-help-rebuild-the-economy/>

To expand on Premier Jason Kenney's recent remarks: when threatened with a prairie storm, "the buffalo, which Indigenous people have always revered as a symbol of life on the prairies, herd closely together and face the storm head on, coming out of it strong and united."

As we face this 100-year socioeconomic storm, as Grand Chief of Confederacy of Treaty 6, I commend the actions of the chief medical officer, Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services, First Nations Inuit Health Branch, and the 17 chiefs of our shared lands from Red Deer north to the Athabasca River.

As of today, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on any of our central Alberta Treaty 6 First Nations. This is a statement to the effective potential we have as Indigenous peoples and Albertans when we work together as was intended by our mutual ancestors who signed Treaty 6 over 100 years ago.

Despite the storm that is COVID-19 and the energy price collapse, Indigenous peoples are ready to do our part in the recovery of Alberta. It starts with the mutual language we share with all Albertans — the economy.

Since Leduc No. 1 in 1947, First Nations have played an active role in Alberta's defining industry. For over 70 years, despite recent impractical rhetoric that paints Indigenous peoples as enemies to responsible industry development, the modus operandi of Treaty 6 chiefs is to support the Alberta Energy industry.

The recent investment of \$1 billion from the provincial and federal governments in orphan-well clean-up is a door of opportunity that opens to a path of reconciliation considerate of Albertans, Indigenous peoples and Ottawa's perspectives.

As First Nations peoples, it truly provides us opportunity to prove we are stewards and protectors of the land. For Ottawa, it satisfies Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's green transition philosophy. Finally, for the Alberta government and industry, it provides a lifeline to save jobs and further establish partnerships with dependable Indigenous energy companies.

For example, since 2015, Backwoods Energy Services, a company owned by the Nakoda Sioux peoples, has grown economic benefits to the Alexis Nation by 614 per cent, increased employment of Alexis Nation members by 269 per cent, and increased company revenue by 1,500 per cent. Another success story is Primco Dene, a wholly owned 700-plus employee energy company owned by Cold Lake First Nation that is built to create value and sustain profitability for the company's shareholders.

Shareholders of these companies are the everyday people of First Nations reservations. The revenues generated do not go back to American hedge funds; they go to reserves for building

houses, roads and job programs so there is less reliance on government to do so. Backwoods and Primco accomplish this success in partnership with established Alberta industry companies, and they have grown success in recent years despite industry uncertainty.

So intensifying collaboration will be necessary to ensure that an industry so vital to our communities continues to create jobs for all Albertans. As we navigate through this crisis and push the reset button on how we do things as a society, it is my hope the provincial and federal governments recognize First Nations' key role in economic recovery like never before. In this time of economic recovery, unlike those energy companies fleeing south of the border, First Nations are here to stand with Albertans; we are here to stay and invest in our home.

### **Kanesatake grand chief says deal reached to partly reopen Oka provincial park**

**Global News – May 26, 2020**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6990351/kanesatake-oka-park-reopening-coronavirus-fears-2/>

The grand chief of the Mohawks of Kanestake says he has reached a deal with Quebec to partially reopen a provincial park near the community.

Serge Simon says in a statement that a blockade erected last week to keep people away from Oka provincial park will be lifted.

The chief says that, following a meeting with Quebec officials on Monday, the intention is to lift the blockade on Wednesday once the Mohawks receive a copy of the contingency plan.

According to Simon's statement, the agreement will see only one access road to the park open, restricting access to those living in the Lower Laurentians and keeping the number of people at any time to half of maximum capacity.

Members of the First Nation blocked access to Oka last Wednesday as other provincial parks partially opened.

Simon had said he had concerns about visitors to the popular park spreading COVID-19 to his community.

Both the federal and provincial governments last week urged dialogue to resolve the issue.

### **Region sets up COVID-19 testing pop-up for First Nations community**

**CTV News – May 26, 2020**

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/region-sets-up-covid-19-testing-pop-up-for-first-nations-community-1.4955968>

KITCHENER -- The Region of Waterloo is trying to make it easier for members of the First Nations community to get tested for COVID-19, so they've set up a pop-up site at the K-W Urban Native Wigwam Project on Frederick Street in Kitchener.

So far they've held three separate testing sessions on May 13, May 20 and again on May 23. While everyone who showed up was tested, officials say it was specifically geared towards the indigenous community.

"There was some obvious fear for going out and getting tested at the regular places," says Lee Ann Hundt at the K-W Urban Native Wigwam Project. "They feel like they didn't have a whole lot of access."



“Those three clinics were open to everyone,” says Dr. Sharon Bal, the COVID-19 regional non-hospital lead for Waterloo-Wellington. “There were conversations that nobody would be turned away and nobody would be asked about their status.”

Health officials have expressed concerns because the First Nations community tends to have higher rates of certain health issues, like diabetes.

They also worried that some may be apprehensive about the healthcare system.

“They wanted a place that was culturally sensitive, appropriate and safe,” says Hundt.

About 60 people were tested during the pop-up, including some with mild symptoms.

Those tests have now been sent to the province’s COVID-19 testing labs.

Dee Constant learned about one of the pop-ups after seeing a notice posted at a local apartment building.

She decided to get tested even though she didn’t have symptoms of the virus.

Public Health later called Constant to tell her that her test came back positive.

“You’re just not prepared,” she says. “This is the exact reason why people need to get tested because COVID-19 is not following the rules.”

Constant says she only decided to get tested because her husband has cancer and he is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

He’s now being tested for the virus too.

### **COVID-19 highlights lack of connectivity in First Nations communities**

**Local Journalism – May 26, 2020**

<https://www.energeticcity.ca/2020/05/covid-19-highlights-lack-of-connectivity-in-first-nations-communities/>

As B.C. cautiously moves into the province’s second phase of reopening the economy, connectivity continues to be a challenge for First Nations communities which continue to find themselves unable to access many online platforms.

Denise Williams, CEO of the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC), said the digital divide was further compounded by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

“What we see during COVID-19 is over 75 percent of B.C. First Nations communities, specifically, without broadband,” she said. “So what it means is all the things those of us in urban centres are taking for granted like being able to connect over Zoom or apply for relief funds through the federal government online and have those funds directed directly to your online banking, a lot of First Nations people don’t have access to these tools so it means that again we’re marginalized and again we don’t have a clear solution for how to get these services to First Nations people in a timely fashion.”

Due to the unique geographic challenges in B.C. it is often expensive to connect First Nations communities.

Although 93 percent of B.C. households have high-speed internet access (50 megabits-per-second download and 10 megabits-per-second upload), only 38 percent of non-urban Indigenous communities have access to the same level of connectivity.

Williams said because Canada does not have a national broadband strategy, telecommunications companies require every community to submit a business case.

“When you have small remote communities, Telus doesn’t see how to achieve the return on investment to the build, and even if the build does happen through other government programming to fund that last mile of connectivity lots of communities can’t afford it.” The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness said while the province cannot direct where internet providers make their investments it is, however, working with all levels of government and the private sector to explore opportunities to improve internet access in Indigenous communities.

“Bridging the digital divide for First Nations is a critical component of government’s commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),” a ministry spokesperson said in an email.

The B.C. Government announced its largest investment yet in December 2019 through a \$50 million expansion to the Connecting British Columbia Program. The program is currently accepting applications from internet service providers for projects to expand connectivity to under served rural and Indigenous communities.

“Internet service providers can also apply to the Connecting British Columbia program for targeted funding that will help them upgrade existing equipment to quickly respond to the unprecedented demands that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on internet access,” the spokesperson added.

Since July 2017, Connecting British Columbia projects to improve high-speed internet access (both underway and completed) are benefiting 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities.

Other projects to bring internet connectivity to First Nations communities include Connected Coast which represents a \$45.4 million federal and provincial investment. The project is a critical step towards high-speed internet access for approximately 54 Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii and along the coast.

Williams said they continue to advocate for an Indigenous Framework for Innovation and Technology (IFIT) which all levels of government would be expected to adhere to.

“The solution to infrastructure and to how technology is integrated in to communities should be led by Indigenous people,” she said. “We want to ultimately ensure good government and accountability and transparency for the building of technology across B.C. We haven’t had a framework historically so what happens is our communities are connected as as convenient for industry.”

FNTC has currently launched a COVID-19 questionnaire on connectivity. Responses received will help FNTC to make clear asks to all levels of government and industry in the pursuit of closing the digital divide during this time of crisis, Williams said.

The ministry said it looks forward to continuing to work with FNTC as they support First Nations throughout the province.

**New initiative launched to get COVID-19 info to First Nations health care managers  
Winnipeg Sun – May 25, 2020**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/news/news-news/new-initiative-launched-to-get-info-to-first-nations-health-care-managers>

The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) announced its newest initiative called InfoPoint in response to health managers and health directors looking for a credible and relevant source of information about COVID-19.

FNHMA chief executive officer Marion Crowe said there is a lack of human resources in regards to information sharing and the service is another support for people who are keeping health services going in their communities.

“We are here to answer their questions and point people to the right sources. You’ll notice that our InfoPoint logo is a compass indicating that we can guide these people to the resources they need,” she told *Winnipeg Sun* on Monday.

“FNHMA is working hard to help health managers and directors who are looking for recent and reliable information. When people are looking for information, there is much work involved so we are here to navigate that information,” she said.

Crowe added people can come to them with various questions regarding the outbreak.

“Right now, people are looking into information about COVID-19 and anything related to First Nations health. Information about COVID-19 could include funding support, updates or responses from the government,” she said.

“We also have people calling in asking about long-term care homes and what safety may look like when returning to the office. Popular questions we received are about Personal Protective Equipment and appropriateness of mask-wearing,” she added.

Crowe said there is a survey component to the InfoPoint experience and feedback about the service has been spectacular.

“100% of all our intake have been satisfied with their experience and 75% said they would come back for more, while 25% said maybe. 100% said they would recommend InfoPoint to a colleague,” she said.

“We are rapidly spreading the word about InfoPoint and we are continuously monitoring all the resources we have to ensure that quality is woven into this experience.”

The initiative was launched two weeks ago on May 11 and can be accessed by calling the toll-free number at 1-855-446-2719, or email at [infopoint@fnhma.ca](mailto:infopoint@fnhma.ca).