

AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 28, 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 2020-05-28 11:01AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,550	37 (7)	162	2,144
AB	6,926	43 (4)	141	6,106
SK	637	4 (3)	10	559
MB	292	0 (0)	7	271
ON	26,866	833 (137)	2,189	20,673
QC	49,139	1,331 (178)	4,228	15,319
Newfoundland/Lab	260	1 (1)	3	255
NB	123	0 (0)	0	120
NS	1,053	8 (3)	59	977
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	87,902	2,257 (333)	6,799	46,467
Active Cases= 35,127				

*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	5,731,837	356,435	2,376,542

- Data is as of May 28 at 11:32am 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 27**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.7%**.

As of **May 27**, 2020, **53%** 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>

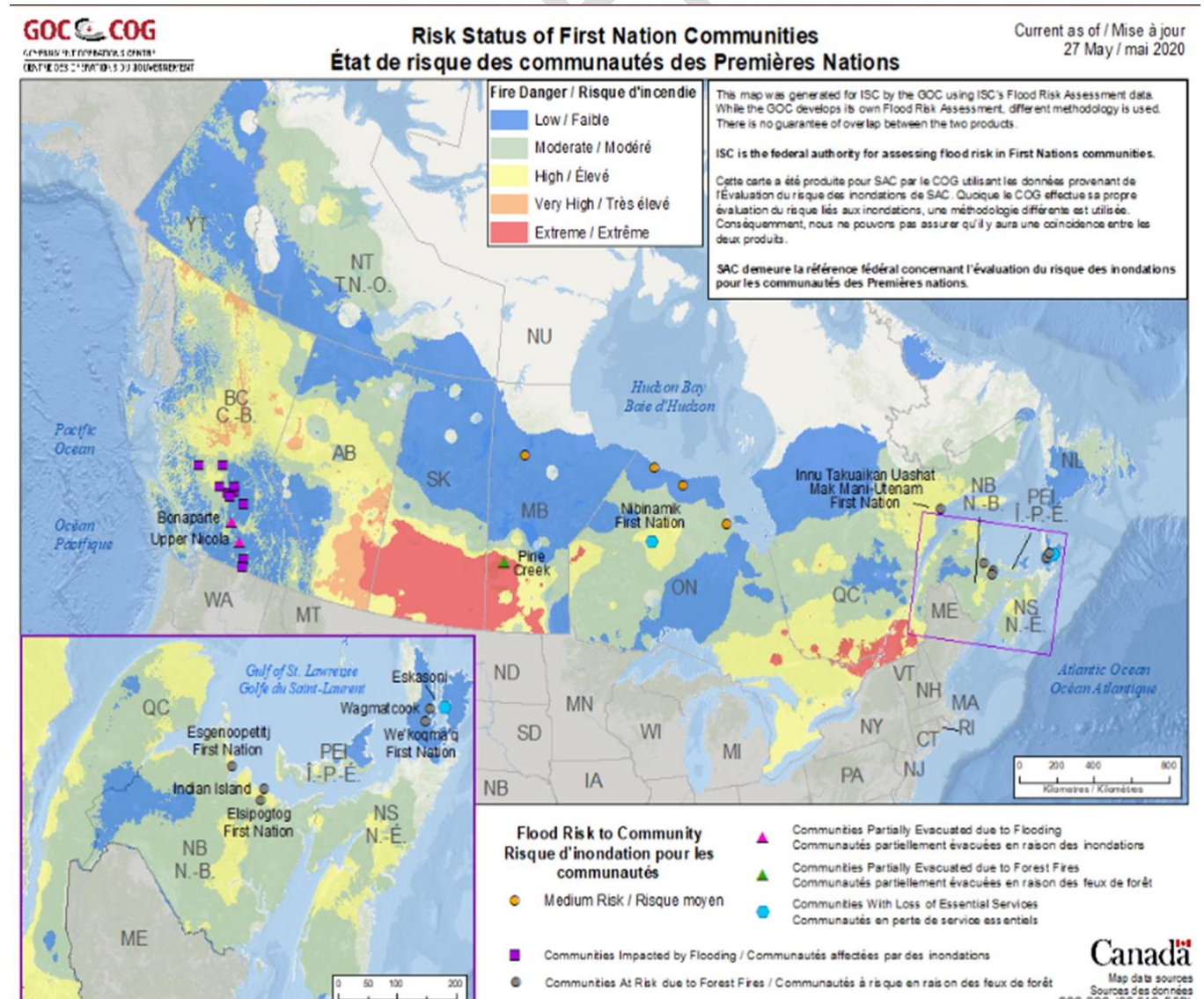
Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

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 28,2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	57	32	4	21	69	4	7	2	196



WILDFIRE: - As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 27, 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 – 2 First Nations – Nova Scotia**
 - **27MAY2020: Smoke risk has ended. This will be the final notification unless significant changes occur;**
 - 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.

2020 Flood Season General Assessments: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 27, 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**
 - Upper Nicola Band (697) (Chief Harvey McLeod) Population: 415
 - **26MAY2020: One additional household of 4 persons evacuated due to flooding. 5 total residents evacuated;**
 - 22MAY2020: 1 person evacuated due to flooding affecting septic system.
 -
- **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**

Communications Sector

‘It is our culture:’ Chief says Manitoba First Nation going ahead with powwow

Canadian Press - May 28, 2020

<https://www.ckom.com/2020/05/28/it-is-our-culture-chief-says-manitoba-first-nation-going-ahead-with-powwow/>

Opinion: First Nations ready to help rebuild the economy

Edmonton Journal – May 28, 2020

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

DFO officer crosses COVID-19 checkpoint at Listuguj First Nation, prompting call for better communication

Chief says incident with officers over permission to enter community 'a good learning opportunity'

CBC News - May 27

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/listuguj-dfo-covid-19-checkpoint-1.5586518>

Domestic violence 'an epidemic,' advocate says after 2 Indigenous women killed in Winnipeg during pandemic

Marie Morin was found dead May 15 in city's William Whyte area; Julie Racette was killed Easter weekend

CBC News - May 27, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indigenous-victims-domestic-violence-homicides-1.5574176>

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 27, 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

'It is our culture:' Chief says Manitoba First Nation going ahead with powwow

Canadian Press - May 28, 2020

<https://www.ckom.com/2020/05/28/it-is-our-culture-chief-says-manitoba-first-nation-going-ahead-with-powwow/>

WINNIPEG — A Manitoba chief says his community will hold its annual powwow next month even if provincial public-health orders continue to limit the size of public gatherings.

"It is our culture," said Cornell McLean of the Lake Manitoba First Nation.

Thousands of people usually travel across the country to dance and reconnect during the powwow season. This year, most traditional gatherings have been cancelled or delayed over concerns about the novel coronavirus or due to restrictions on how many people can gather.

Two months ago, Lake Manitoba was one of the first reserves in the province to restrict travel in and out of the community, about 160 kilometres north of Winnipeg. Many other First Nations followed. McLean said there have been no cases of COVID-19 in the region.

He said it has been difficult for many residents as they deal with the stress of isolation, financial strain and concern over their families. Some have turned to alcohol or drugs, he said.

He believes the powwow that is being organized will bring healing.

"It's important because we are trying to ... start that healing process for our members."

There have been 292 cases of COVID-19 in Manitoba; however, the number of infections has stagnated over the last few weeks. Wednesday marked the fifth consecutive day without a new case and there were only 14 active.

McLean and his council watched as the provincial government began to loosen restrictions this month. He said they decided to move forward with the powwow next month when the limit on outdoor gatherings was increased to 50 people.

"We will make sure that social distancing is being followed," said the chief, who added that anyone not feeling well should not attend the event June 19-21.

"We won't have people standing arm in arm, that's for sure, but we will find a way to make it work for our community."

The powwow is still being planned and McLean did not indicate how many people are expected to take part. Outside of community members, people from four nearby First Nations are likely to come, he said.

Organizers will be watching what happens with provincial public-health orders and will decide if there needs to be a limit on attendance, but there won't be less than 100 people, McLean said.

The First Nation may get criticized for holding the powwow, but McLean noted the federal government has made it clear that Indigenous ceremonies won't be stopped during the pandemic.

"Canada must not and will not prohibit these important practices," Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said earlier this month after RCMP were sent to a sun-dance ceremony in Saskatchewan.

Any decision to cancel or postpone cultural practices remains up to community leadership, Indigenous Services spokesperson Martine Stevens said in an email. First Nations leaders and ceremonial organizers are given information on COVID-19 public health measures. Manitoba Health said Indigenous ceremonies need to follow current public health recommendations. The department said it will work with First Nations to provide public health guidance.

Arlen Dumas, grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, said governments and First Nations need to be flexible to ensure traditions are maintained while keeping people safe.

"Everyone is super sensitive to the reality of what we are dealing with in the time of this pandemic," he said.

Dumas said the assembly is in constant contact with the province's chief public health officer and the federal government. First Nations are being advised to remain vigilant and look out for one another.

Manitoba chiefs acted quickly to keep communities safe when it was clear COVID-19 was spreading, Dumas said. They continue to do what's best for their communities now that Manitoba is taking steps to reopen, he added.

"We aren't going to be able to isolate ourselves forever, so how do we start living with this thing?"

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 28, 2020

Opinion: First Nations ready to help rebuild the economy
Edmonton Journal – May 28, 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.

DFO officer crosses COVID-19 checkpoint at Listuguj First Nation, prompting call for better communication

Chief says incident with officers over permission to enter community 'a good learning opportunity'

CBC News - May 27

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/listuguj-dfo-covid-19-checkpoint-1.5586518>

A First Nation near the New Brunswick/Quebec border says it's seeking better communication from federal service providers about visits to the community after a federal employee crossed a security checkpoint established to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Two federal employees who identified themselves as conservation officers from Fisheries and Oceans Canada arrived at the security checkpoint at Listuguj First Nation last Friday and told band officials that they were there to look into salmon fishing that they believed was taking place in the community, according to Listuguj band member Paul Jacques, who supervises the security checkpoint.

"I told [one of the officers] that you're not supposed to be here," said Jacques.

"First of all, we have a lockdown in this community ... and I told him you have no jurisdiction here. You have to leave; you have to get out of here right now."

The lockdown measure requires visitors, no matter their employer, to seek and receive permission from band authorities to enter, and they can visit only by appointment.

According to Jacques, the two officers arrived in different vehicles a few minutes apart. The staff at the checkpoint let the first officer through because they mistakenly assumed he had authorization to enter, and immediately called Jacques to inform him, he said.

The second officer arrived at the same time Jacques did, and was stopped at the checkpoint while Jacques went to speak with the first officer, who Jacques says he learned was en route to speak with people who were fishing.

Part of the encounter was caught on video.

"We were kind of arguing about whose rights, whose jurisdiction it is and I told him, no this is our territory and it was a mistake that you got in here because of the lockdown," Jacques said.

"To me, it doesn't make a difference if you're a government official. You're not from this community."

The community adopted its own fisheries law in 1995 that is regulated by its conservation authority, the Listuguj Rangers. Over the last 25 years, federal regulations on fishing have been a contentious topic in the community.

The officers were in the area for no longer than 10 minutes and left peacefully after a brief verbal exchange with Jacques, he said.

A report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives examining the vulnerabilities of remote First Nations to outbreaks of COVID-19, released last week, recommended that federal service providers establish mechanisms to respect communities' emergency measures, including lockdowns and security checkpoints.

Fisheries and Oceans did not provide responses to questions about the purpose of the officers' visit to Listuguj, or the department's policies on emergency measures by Indigenous communities in relation to the coronavirus.

Listuguj Chief Darcy Gray said because of the emergency measures, all visitors to Listuguj are denied access if they do not make appointments with the band.

"There was no advance notice and that's one of the sticking points," he said.

"Communication is key. Driving into the community and trying to assert authority over our waters and our fishers is not going to help. To me this is a good learning opportunity."

Gray said there has been fishing taking place in the community specifically to provide meals for elders and community members who cannot make the trip into nearby Campbellton, N.B., to buy groceries.

The community pushed ahead its salmon fishing season, which typically begins June 5, as a result of the emergency measures, said Gray.

"It's really a food security issue right now," he said.

"What's right here in our river is some of the most nutritious food that we can have for our elders and for our people."

[A release on the band's website](#), posted Monday, states that the community's director of public security followed up with Fisheries and Oceans about the incident.

Domestic violence 'an epidemic,' advocate says after 2 Indigenous women killed in Winnipeg during pandemic

Marie Morin was found dead May 15 in city's William Whyte area; Julie Racette was killed Easter weekend

CBC News - May 27, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/indigenous-victims-domestic-violence-homicides-1.5574176>

Sue Caribou says she tried to help her friend Marie Morin check in to an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Winnipeg, but there were too many barriers.

And the head of a provincial association for women's shelters worries other Manitobans who need help have essentially become "prisoners in their own home" during the coronavirus pandemic.

Marie Morin was found dead in the city's William Whyte area on May 15, after what police believe was an incident of domestic violence.

During their last visit in early May, Morin made a promise to Caribou — who says her home was a safe haven for Morin when she felt scared or hurt — that she would seek help from a shelter.

"She had no other place to go," Caribou said.

Caribou says she even tried calling a shelter on Morin's behalf, but was told they needed to speak directly with the victim.

She says she told her friend to make the call, but she doesn't know if Morin ever did.

Morin was the second woman killed in Winnipeg in the span of just over a month, following the death of Julie Racette, 34, in April.

Police say both cases involved domestic violence. In both cases, the woman's intimate partner is charged.

Caribou says she and Morin were like family, and Morin called her "sister."

She worried for Morin, who she says "couldn't even put lipstick on or do her hair or dress up nice" without fear of getting her face slapped, hair pulled or clothes torn.

Caribou says the small woman sometimes stayed with the man now accused of killing her, and did not have her own fixed address. She often took care of Morin when she ran away from her partner, Caribou says.

No-contact order

Morin was found in a suite of a residential building on Redwood Avenue with what police described as "a significant laceration" and taken in critical condition to hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Brandon Carl Starnyski, 45, is charged with second-degree murder and failing to comply with a court order to stay away from the victim.

The Winnipeg Police Service says homicide investigators believe Morin was socializing with Starnyski at his home when he assaulted her.

Provincial court records say Morin was one of two women assaulted by Starnyski on Jan. 6, 2019. That incident resulted in Starnyski being ordered by a judge not to contact Morin — an order he violated less than a week later, according to court documents.

Starnyski pleaded guilty to both the assault and violating the judge's order to have no contact with Morin.

Husband charged

Just weeks before Morin's death, on April 11, Julie Racette died after being taken to hospital from her home on Ottawa Avenue, in Winnipeg's Chalmers neighbourhood.

More than a week after she died, Winnipeg police issued a Canada-wide arrest warrant for Racette's husband, [Wayne Leslie Melnychuk](#), 42, who police say is now wanted for manslaughter in the death of the Indigenous mother of three.

Melnychuk has not yet been arrested and police "continue to devote resources daily in attempts to locate him," Winnipeg police spokesperson Const. Jay Murray said in an email on Wednesday.

He said the ongoing investigation involves the service's homicide and missing persons units.

'Never-ending' losses

Marie Morin's cousin recalls her as a kind, loving person.

Verna Merasty-McIvor said Morin's older sister asked her to speak for the family about their loss.

Morin had three children, who live with their father in Ontario, Merasty-McIvor said in a May 18 interview by phone from Thompson, Man.

She grew up with Morin in Granville Lake, a tiny community 740 kilometres north of Winnipeg, near Mathias Colomb First Nation.

She said she and her cousin lost touch after Morin moved to Winnipeg for high school.

"She's been through a lot," she said.

Morin turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism to deal with intergenerational trauma and suffering through the loss of multiple close family members, including several relatives in the past year, Merasty-McIvor said.

The final report of the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls — released last June — identified the cycles of trauma from generation to generation set in motion by colonization as a continuing root cause of domestic violence in Indigenous communities.

"It seems like it's never-ending," said Merasty-McIvor. "For us, the family, we don't even have time to heal from the losses ... one after another. It's devastating."

The last time she saw her cousin was in Winnipeg before the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Merasty-McIvor said she did not know the man now accused of killing Morin.

The provincial co-ordinator for the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters says no-contact orders cannot stop abusers in domestic situations.

"It's just a piece of paper," said Deena Brock.

She said the killings of Morin and Racette underscore what she is hearing from the front lines of 10 provincially run shelters.

"Domestic violence is real. It's rampant," she said.

"It should be declared an epidemic."

'Prisoners in their own home'

Shelters, particularly those in rural and northern communities, have had "a huge challenge trying to be able to accommodate and get the help that people need" during the pandemic, she said, as critical places like shelters have had to make adaptations to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Shelters have been relatively quiet as of late, Brock said, with fewer drop-ins and calls to the crisis line.

But that does not mean domestic violence is down during the COVID-19 crisis, she said, adding that isolation can trigger or exacerbate abuse issues.

Some victims and families are stuck in a cycle of abuse during the pandemic, she said, with limited bus service and fewer taxis running overnight and on weekends — peak times for domestic calls, according to Brock — along with a lack of transportation options on First Nations.

Some abuse victims have been left with no way to communicate their fears, "like prisoners in their own home," she said, while they are under increased surveillance by partners in seclusion.

Brock said there have been more calls for help in the city since the province started easing restrictions on May 4, and service centres have started to get closer to what was "normal" before the virus.

"But what we don't know is how many women are out there who have no way to communicate and are stuck, and that's the scary part," she said.