

Ministre des Services  
aux Autochtones



Minister of  
Indigenous Services

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

June 1, 2020

Mr. Yves Giroux  
Parliamentary Budget Officer

[pbo-dpb@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pbo-dpb@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Giroux:

Thank you for your request of 28 April, 2020, seeking information specific to Indigenous Services Canada's response to COVID-19.

You will recall that on March 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced funding, through its COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, of \$305 million for a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund. The Indigenous Community Support Fund is to give communities the ability to fund activities according to their priorities and needs.

To address your specific questions, as of May 19, 2020, with respect to the Indigenous Community Support Fund:

- of the \$215 million allocated for First Nations - 621 communities are using this measure and have currently accessed a total of \$210.7 million with commitments of \$4.1 million;
- of the \$15 million allocated for Urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations – of the 94 organizations approved, 76 organizations have access to the funding and \$10.6 million has been disbursed with current commitments of \$3.7 million;
- of the \$45 million allocated for support to the Inuit Nunangat regions, the following organizations have accessed a total of \$45 million
  - \$5,850,000 to Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, (Northern Northwest Territories/Yukon)
  - \$22,545,000 to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Nunavut)

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Canada

- \$11,250,000 to Makivik Corporation (Northern Quebec)
- \$5,355,000 to Nunatsiavut Government (Northern Newfoundland and Labrador);
- of the \$30 million allocated for Métis organizations the following list of organizations have accessed a total of \$30 million
  - \$3,750,000 to the Métis Nation British Columbia
  - \$7,500,000 to the Métis Nation of Alberta
  - \$7,500,000 to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
  - \$7,500,000 to the Manitoba Métis Federation
  - \$3,750,000 to the Métis Nation of Ontario

With respect to the second question “Families choosing to stay on the land,” the Department does not use this measure in its proposals with communities and regions have reported that they are not tracking how many families or people have moved onto the land in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. With respect to the Kashechewan community, approximately 1,100 people participated in the on-the-land self-isolation from COVID-19. Traditional hunting camps were used by about 62 families, and a total of 200 tents, with an estimated 4 to 7 people per tent, were used to enhance the accommodations at the camps.

That said, the federal government, through Indigenous Services Canada, is providing \$2.6 million in federal funding, which will be administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories through their existing partnerships with regional and community-based Indigenous governments to help Indigenous families who are choosing to be on the land as part of the territory's response to COVID-19.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>. The funding will be allocated to:

- Akaitcho Territory Government;
- Dehcho First Nations;
- Gwich'in Tribal Council;
- NWT Métis Nation;
- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated;
- Tłı̨chǫ Government;
- K'at'l'odeeche First Nation;
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation;
- Salt River First Nation; and,
- Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government.

We shall update your officials on a monthly basis with respect to utilization of the Indigenous Community Support Fund, and I trust this will suffice for your purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP