



## National

Issue 124

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### Updated 2024 wildfire season projections and preparedness measures

[Environment and Climate Change Canada's](#) (ECCC) meteorologists continue to predict weather conditions for spring and summer 2024 that could lead to greater [wildfire](#) risks. Drought conditions are expected to persist in high-risk regions in May, including the southern regions of the prairie and western provinces. ECCC is forecasting continued above-normal temperatures nationwide for the spring and summer period. Such conditions exacerbate the risk and intensity of both natural and human-caused wildfires.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) continues to work alongside First Nations to support the health, safety and well-being of their communities. As announced in Budget 2024, ISC proposes to allocate \$57.2 million over 5 years to renew and expand the [FireSmart program](#) to directly support First Nation communities and other eligible recipients with resources and preventative measures, especially those located in high-risk areas. Different this year, the department is offering advance payments to all communities so they can prepare earlier and incorporate traditional knowledge in our strategies.

For more information, including measures other departments and organizations are taking, please read the [full news release](#).

### Emergency Management FireSmart program

The [Emergency Management Assistance Program](#) (EMAP) provides funding to First Nations communities so they can build resiliency, prepare for natural hazards and respond to them using the 4 pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

EMAP supports wildland fire non-structural mitigation and preparedness initiatives through the FireSmart funding stream. FireSmart builds skills in First Nations communities to prevent and prepare against wildland fires. Programming involves training First Nations teams in wildfire suppression, and fuel management and vegetation clearing, which reduces the intensity and spread of wildfires.

The 2024 to 2025 period to submit proposals is now open. **Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is exhausted.** For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [Emergency Management FireSmart program](#).

### Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections program – Call for proposals

This program provides funding for First Nations and Inuit communities and organizations to help support programming for sexually transmitted blood borne infections (STBBI) prevention, education, capacity building and raising awareness activities, as well as to facilitate access to culturally safe testing, treatment and social support for First Nations and Inuit communities.

The fiscal year 2024 to 2025 call for proposals for projects or initiatives focusing on HIV self-testing, HIV and other STBBI point-of-care testing, culturally safe STBBI care and harm reduction is now open. Single-year and multi-year proposals ending in fiscal year 2026 to 2027 are eligible for submission. Applicants must submit a detailed proposal to the general STBBI inbox at [ISTT-STBBI@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:ISTT-STBBI@sac-isc.gc.ca). **The deadline to submit a proposal is May 24, 2024 at 11:59 pm, Pacific Time.**

For more information, please visit [Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections program](#).

### New Memorandum of Understanding leads to more support for communities to manage their own lands

Chief Robert Louie, Chairman of the [Lands Advisory Board](#) (LAB), Austin Bear, Chair of the [First Nations Land Management Resource Centre](#), and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, [signed a Memorandum of Understanding](#) securing further funding for First Nations land management. With this new 5-year funding agreement, part of the \$187 million of funding over 5 years and over \$34 million ongoing provided in [Budget 2023](#), the LAB and the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre will support First Nations in governing their lands and creating economic and social opportunities for their communities.

Communities with operational land codes will receive an increase in funding to govern their lands—up to 21% for most First Nations. Funding to support communities seeking to opt out of the relevant sections of the *Indian Act* and develop their own land codes will be increased by 50%. In addition, up to 50 more First Nations will be supported to become signatories to this historic agreement over the next 5 years.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

**HELP IS AVAILABLE  
WHENEVER YOU  
NEED IT.**

**Immediate support is available 24/7  
for all Indigenous people in Canada.**

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat  
**1-855-242-3310 or [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)**

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
**1-866-925-4419**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls Support Line  
**1-844-413-6649**

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The Government of Canada has announced [recruitment and retention allowances to triple through to 2025 for Indigenous Services Canada nurses in remote and isolated communities](#). Become a northern community nurse in a First Nations community and build relationships that will last a lifetime!

Visit Indigenous Services Canada's website to [find out more and apply](#) and read [testimonials](#) from nurses with experience working in First Nations in Canada.

## New major initiative to support Indigenous tourism

On May 9, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the launch of the [Indigenous Tourism Fund's \(ITF\) Signature Indigenous Tourism Experiences Stream \(SITES\)](#). With \$10 million in federal funding, SITES will support major Indigenous tourism projects, awarding contributions of \$500,000 to \$1.25 million. The funded projects will build on existing tourism destinations, many of which are located around significant cultural and natural sites in Indigenous communities. This funding, part of the broader \$20 million ITF, will support key experiences that anchor tourism destinations in Indigenous communities, and it will help develop the infrastructure and services needed for tourism.

The [National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association \(NACCA\)](#), a non-profit overseeing more than 50 Indigenous financial institutions across Canada, has been chosen to administer SITES. For more details on the program, please contact NACCA at [info@nacca.ca](mailto:info@nacca.ca) and visit the [news release](#).

## Treaty payment events are on the way!

Treaty annuity payments are made each year to First Nations individuals registered under the *Indian Act*, who are entitled to receive annuities as a result of their membership to a First Nations band that signed certain historic treaties with the Crown. From May to September 2024, 306 First Nations communities will host their treaty annuity payment events. As well, Indigenous Services Canada will coordinate several urban treaty events in cities across the country.

If you're living on-reserve and want to know about a local event's date, please contact your First Nation's office and they'll be happy to help you with the details. For the latest updates on urban treaty events, please visit [Treaty annuity payments](#).

## Government of Canada releases new report showing the impacts of climate change and necessity of Indigenous-led climate change adaptation

On May 7, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the release of the [For Our Future: Indigenous Resilience Report](#), the first Indigenous-led report that draws on Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and experiences to explore multidimensional and intersecting aspects of climate change impacts and adaptation. The report is part of [Canada in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action](#), Canada's National Knowledge Assessment of how and why Canada's climate is changing, the impacts of these changes and how we are adapting.

The report highlights the unique strengths and challenges of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in responding to climate change; the importance of the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge systems in all levels of climate action; that climate change is one of the many crises that First Nations, Inuit and Métis face; and how Indigenous-led climate action is critical for self-determination.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Vaccines prevent serious diseases from spreading

CANADA.CA/VACCINES

Canada

## Regional

### The 2024 Winnipeg urban treaty payment event

The location of the 2024 Winnipeg urban treaty payment event has changed from the Forks National Historic Site to the RBC Convention Centre (formally called the Winnipeg Convention Centre).

In collaboration with our trusted source partners, the [Southern Chiefs' Organization \(SCO\)](#), [Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak \(MKO\)](#) and [Eagle Urban Transition Centre \(EUTC\)](#), Indigenous Services Canada will be holding an urban treaty payment event and offering secure status card (SCIS) applications from June 10 to 14, 2024 at the RBC Convention Centre, 375 York Ave.

Individuals registered to Manitoba First Nations are invited to attend any day between 11 am to 7 pm, June 10-14, 2024, whether they are eligible for treaty payments, would like to apply for an SCIS card or visit partner information booths.

For more information on applying for SCIS cards, please visit [What you need to submit with your application](#).

### Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announce partnership to develop a Red Dress Alert together with Indigenous partners

The hours immediately after someone goes missing are the most critical period to finding them. After calls from Indigenous grassroots service providers and organizers on the front lines of the national crisis of [missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people](#), the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced that they will partner to launch a Red Dress Alert pilot, to be developed together with Indigenous partners. The alert system, supported by funding in Canada's [Budget 2024](#) and Manitoba's [Budget 2024](#), will send a phone notification when an Indigenous woman, girl, Two-Spirit, or gender-diverse person goes missing so they can be brought home safely.

In the past year, they heard from Indigenous partners that a Red Dress Alert system is needed and in order for it to be safe and effective, it must be informed by inclusive consultation and grounded in understanding and respect of Indigenous cultures, lived realities, and diverse regional contexts. After 16 engagement sessions, the federal government brought together Indigenous communities and leadership, provinces and territories, and other partners to work together on what a community-based Red Dress Alert could look like.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Strategic firefighting investments announced to support northern and rural municipalities

The Manitoba government is taking action to protect communities and prepare for the upcoming wildfire season by [investing over \\$13.6 million](#) to support the capacity of rural municipalities, Northern Affairs and First Nation communities to respond to fires and keep Manitobans safe. Through top-up funding to the [Strategic Municipal Investment Fund](#) and the [Northern Affairs Fund](#), the province is supporting 16 critical infrastructure projects that will expand and enhance local capacity to respond to on-the-ground emergencies and wildfires, including fire equipment to Northern Affairs communities.

Investments under the fund are allocated toward projects that align with Manitoba's definition of strategic infrastructure, which includes water and wastewater treatment plants, waste management facilities, public transit, roads and bridges, public safety and recreation projects. The Manitoba government will also continue to prioritize efforts that mitigate risks and enhance the province's community fire prevention and resilience against wildfires by collaborating with Indigenous communities and municipalities to keep Manitobans safe.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Expanded housing access for youth

The Manitoba government is presenting its [latest project to help address the housing needs in Manitoba](#) with capital funding, rent supplements and in-kind contributions to bolster the redevelopment of 575 Balmoral, reaffirming the government's commitment to enhancing housing access for those who need it most.

As the successful proponent of Manitoba Housing's negotiated request for proposals to redevelop the site, the Manitoba government is donating the land to the [Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation](#) (WHRC). The WHRC will receive the property and buildings located at 575 Balmoral St. and up to \$2.2 million in capital funding toward its redevelopment, which will include the construction of a new 30-unit building. The Manitoba government is also providing funding of approximately \$577,000 annually to ensure all units can be rented on a rent-geared-to-income basis and that wraparound supports can be provided by project partners.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Child abuse prevention initiative will help keep children safe

Beginning May 9, 2024, a [new initiative will provide in-depth training, policies and age-appropriate curriculum for safeguarding children in Canada](#). More than 7,500 staff from over 1,150 facilities including child-care centres and home-based child-care providers, and up to 750 students through 8 post-secondary early childhood educator programs, will receive access to mandatory online training, as well as a suite of supporting digital and print resources to identify possible child abuse in infants to 12-year-olds.

The training is funded under the [Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#), a \$98-million funding agreement over 4 years that aims to significantly improve early learning and child care for all children in Manitoba. A key focus area of the agreement is to provide quality early learning and child care through workforce development, training and educational opportunities. To support that key priority, the governments of Canada and Manitoba are providing \$250,000 to the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#) (C3P) to launch this initiative. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).