

INFO BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

National

Issue 125

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Wildfire evacuation information for Indigenous Peoples

In the event of a possible emergency evacuation, make sure you and your family are prepared. If there is an emergency event near your home or community, you should:

- monitor the emergency through radio, television or local social media accounts for warnings or information about evacuation plans
- be ready to exercise your [emergency plan](#). Take your [emergency kit](#) and other essential items with you if an evacuation order is issued or you have to leave your home
- follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area

For First Nations or Inuit who are evacuated, here are a list of [supports available](#) to you. [After you've evacuated](#), you should follow evacuation orders and stay outside the evacuation zone. For more information, visit www.canada.ca/indigenousevacuations.

Emergency Management Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness 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 non-structural mitigation and preparedness initiatives through the Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness funding stream. This stream is proposal-based and funds non-structural projects undertaken by First Nations communities on reserve to prepare for and mitigate emergencies caused by natural disasters.

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

Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections program – Call for proposals extended

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 ITSS-STBBI@sac-isc.gc.ca. **The deadline to submit a proposal is June 5, 2024 at 11:59 pm, Pacific Time.**

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

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](#).

Canada Summer Jobs 2024

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is part of the [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy](#), a horizontal federal initiative that supports youth aged 15 to 30, particularly those facing barriers to employment, to gain work experience and develop the skills they need to successfully transition into the labour market. CSJ prioritizes projects that support youth who face barriers to employment. This includes youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth, as well as Black and other racialized youth.

The hiring period for CSJ 2024 is underway and will run until **July 22, 2024**. More than 70,000 jobs that matter to young people and to our communities will be posted on the [Job Bank website](#) and [mobile app](#), and will be updated on a regular basis. Young people are encouraged to keep checking for updates on placements available in their communities. For more information, please visit [Canada Summer Jobs 2024](#).

**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

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 [Emergency Management Assistance Program](#) 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.

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](#).

Women and Gender Equality Canada launches Call for Nominations for 2024 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case

[Women and Gender Equality Canada](#) is calling for [nominations for the 2024 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case](#). These awards celebrate individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of gender equality in Canada—the foundation from which everyone can lead healthy, happy and fulfilling lives, serving as a catalyst for social progress and economic growth.

The call for nominations are now open for the 2024 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case. **Submit your nominations by July 1, 2024.** Before you submit a nomination, please read the [Guidelines for Nominators](#). These guidelines provide information to better understand the nomination process and complete your nomination. For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

Lyme disease and how to prevent infection

Lyme disease is spread through the bite of infected [blacklegged ticks](#). Infected blacklegged ticks need to be attached for at least 24 hours in order to transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. [Symptoms of lyme disease](#) include mild symptoms like fever or a skin rash soon after being bitten, while others may suffer severe symptoms, but not for weeks after the bite. Untreated, symptoms can last years and include recurring arthritis and neurological problems, numbness and facial paralysis. If you have symptoms of Lyme disease, contact your healthcare provider right away.

The best way to [protect yourself from tick-borne diseases](#) is to prevent tick bites. Early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease can prevent complications. Consult your health care provider right away if you've been bitten by a tick and develop symptoms of Lyme disease, and have been to an area where blacklegged ticks may be found and develop symptoms of Lyme disease.

For more information concerning Lyme disease, as well as available [awareness resources](#) that can be used in your community, please visit Canada.ca/LymeDisease.

Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines during the fall of 2024

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) [Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines during the fall of 2024](#). Beginning in the fall of 2024, NACI recommends the following for the use of the most recently updated COVID-19 vaccines:

- COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended for previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection or severe COVID-19 disease as follows:
 - All adults 65 years of age or older
 - Those 6 months of age and older who are, but not limited to:
 - Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities
 - Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings
 - Individuals who are pregnant
 - Individuals with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, including children with complex health needs
 - Members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities
 - People who provide essential community services

All other previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals (6 months of age and older) who are not at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection or severe COVID-19 disease (that is, not on the list above) may receive the most recently updated vaccine in the fall of 2024.

For the full statement, including supporting evidence and rationale, please see NACI's [Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines during the fall of 2024](#).

Help make
**routine childhood
vaccinations**
easier for parents
and caregivers



Regional

New commitment to advancing economic reconciliation and the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg

The Government of Canada is [investing in the transformational development of the Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn](#) project at the site of the former Hudson's Bay Company building in downtown Winnipeg. In a joint federal investment of more than \$31 million [Infrastructure Canada](#) is investing \$25 million through the [Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program](#), while [PrairiesCan](#) is investing \$6 million through the [Community Economic Development and Diversification program](#). This joint investment will support the [Southern Chiefs' Organization's Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn project](#) as a downtown economic, housing, and cultural hub.

The PrairiesCan investment for this project includes the development and launch of [Miikahnah Connect](#), a First Nations-focused workforce development app, as well as activities to prepare the former HBC building for redevelopment. It is anticipated that more than 400 people will be hired to work on the Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn project through the app. The Infrastructure Canada funding will support vital repairs and upgrades to the building. This includes transforming the main floor into a public space. Overall, the enhancements are expected to reduce the facility's energy consumption by an estimated 44.6 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions by 356 tonnes.

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

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](#).

Governments of Canada and Manitoba strengthen ability to prepare for and respond to wildfires

On May 16, 2024, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced an investment of \$38.4 million over 4 years under the Government of Canada's [Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate Program – Equipment Fund](#) (FMWCC) to support Manitoba's efforts to purchase wildland firefighting equipment

Funding announced will help Manitoba purchase and upgrade firefighting equipment to increase wildland fire preparedness and response efforts, improve safety for communities and firefighters alike, and strengthen capacities and capabilities for resource exchange across Canada. In addition, the funding will support the purchase of additional training equipment and materials to improve training and increase the number of skilled wildland firefighters and other staff.

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

Historic declaration signed to transfer responsibility for Indigenous child welfare to First Nations

The Manitoba government and First Nation chiefs from across the province signed [a historic relationship declaration committing to the transfer of jurisdiction over child welfare to First Nations](#). The relationship declaration was signed today at a roundtable meeting attended by almost 40 Indigenous leaders from across Manitoba.

Bill C-92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, became law in 2020. The federal act reaffirms the authority of Indigenous nations to pass and enforce laws related to the provision of child and family services to their citizens supported by co-ordination agreements with Canada and provinces or territories. The Manitoba government has supported the transfer of jurisdiction through amendments to the *Child and Family Services (CFS) Act* enabling collaboration and information sharing with Indigenous government bodies and CFS providers, prioritizing placements with family, kin or community for all children, and allowing new agreement-based supports to prevent children from coming into care.

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

Manitoba government provides funding and forms partnerships to drive mineral development forward

The Manitoba government is providing [\\$1.38 million to 9 mineral development projects](#) through the [Manitoba Mineral Development Fund](#) (MMDF). The MMDF provides funding for economic development and mining projects that create Indigenous partnerships, increase local employment and stimulate investment in northern Manitoba. Manitoba was just named one of the top 10 most attractive mining jurisdictions in the world.

The [funding provided to the 9 projects](#) is expected to create a total of 58 short- and long-term jobs in northern Manitoba, as well as the formation of 10 community and Indigenous partnerships. The federal government has identified 31 minerals as critical for promoting green energy and sustainable economic success. Manitoba, which is sixth on the [Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies' Investment Global Attractiveness Index](#), has 29 of these 31 critical minerals.

For more information on critical minerals in Manitoba, visit [Manitoba's Mineral Resources](#) and [news release](#).