



Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

COVID-19 Response

On Monday, March 16, 2020 we announced the temporary closure of our office in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health, safety, and well-being of our members, staff and communities remains our top priority. Please see below for a list of actions we are undertaking during this uncertain time.

Doing our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19

We are:

- Encouraging handwashing and social distancing measures as recommended Public Health Agency of Canada
- Have allowed staff to work from home until further notice
- Have cancelled all programs for the next two weeks that normally happen in our office (including Healthy Relationships, Empower U Financial Independence Training, and Firekeepers)
- Have postponed our upcoming events including the Indigenous Women's and Family Gatherings in Edmonton and Calgary, Empower U Leadership Day, Esquao Awards and two other community events scheduled for March.
- Are staying up to date on COVID-19 developments and recommendations by the Public Health Agency of Canada

Incorporating additional health and safety measures at the office:

We are:

- Encouraging handwashing and social distancing measures as recommended Public Health Agency of Canada for those that need to come into the office
- Have mandated that if anyone believes they have been in contact with an unwell person or someone returning from airports, that they remain at home and self isolate.
- Are limiting the office to staff only
- Are limiting the number of people in staff room and small spaces as per social distancing guidelines (2 meters apart)
- Are encouraging disinfection of individual offices at the end of the workday
- Disinfecting all office spaces on Fridays

Reaching out to our participants:

We are:

- Managing the requests for information and support by phone.
- Having program staff reach out to our program participants by phone
- Providing resources and contact numbers to participants that require additional support

Offering online supports and resources:

We are coordinating the following webinars to be presented in the coming weeks:

- Family art and craft time (Lana Whiskeyjack)
- Engaging your kids through music (Jay Gilday)
- Natural healing medicines (Carrie Langevin)
- Coping with Unemployment (Darryl Bretton Jr.)
- Managing Anxiety (Stephanie Harpe)
- Healing through Music (Sherryl Sewepagaham)
- Maintaining Sobriety (Marggo Pariseau)
- Healthy Relationships (Bernadette Swanson)

Going forward

We continue to stay connected within our communities and monitor developments and recommendations by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Take care,

Rachelle Venne, CEO