

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen
General Delivery
Savant Lake, Ontario
POV 2S0 Canada

(807) 928 2824 Bus
(807) 928 2710 Fax



LETTER TO: OJIBWAY NATION OF SAUGEEN MEMBERS, April 20, 2020

The Customary Chief and Headmen, along with all staff, have been working hard to keep our Community and Members safe from the Global COVID-19 Pandemic. Ojibway Nation of Saugeen applied for the emergency COVID funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) at the end of March 2020, and received confirmation from Canada last week on the amount and this morning on the terms attached to those funds.

According to Canada, the Indigenous Community Support Funds are intended to provide Indigenous leaders with the flexibility we need to address the immediate needs of our communities as we prepare for and respond to the spread of COVID-19.

Canada has stated, the Indigenous Community Support Funds are a crucial component of Canada's response, designed to ensure that Indigenous governments and organizations are properly supported through this difficult time, and that Canada will continue to monitor the development of the situation and adjust our response as needed. ONS has qualified for \$94,671.68 in Indigenous Community Support Funds. Canada has told us:

"The allocation of funds is intended to be equitable taking into account such factors and population, remoteness and community wellness. The allocation for your community will be: \$94,671.68 for fiscal year 2020-2021. This funding will be added to your existing contribution agreements in the coming days. These funds apply to all members of your community and could be used for measures including, but not limited to:

- support for Elders,
- food insecurity,
- educational and other support for children,
- financial assistance for those without work,
- mental health assistance and emergency response services."

As with any Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) funding, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen Government has the responsibility of reporting to ISC as to how these funds were spent. We will require forms to be completed by membership as these forms will become part of the reporting requirements by ISC for the funds we receive. We are working on the forms now and they will be distributed shortly, through our website and in the community. We would also like to inform the membership that we have not received these funds yet from ISC.

The Indigenous Community Support Funds are not meant for a distribution of cash to each member of Ojibway Nation of Saugeen - Canada confirmed this fact this morning. The funds are to be used to help address the COVID-19 Pandemic, including for additional costs such as: security measures for blockades, additional bulk food purchases, isolation center set up, freezers and storage space for food, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) etc.. There are unfounded rumors and accusations about the use of these funds circulating on Facebook and other platforms. We want these to stop immediately.

We strongly encourage all on and off reserve members to review the attached chart of available resources of financial supports you might qualify for.

ECONOMIC SUPPORTS FOR FIRST NATIONS RELATING TO COVID-19

Program/ Initiative	Description	Who is Eligible?	What Support is Available?	Links For More Information	Potential Challenges for Indigenous Access
INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT					
Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) <i>Canada Revenue Agency with Service Canada</i>	Taxable pay replacement benefit for eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. If you applied for EI regular or sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, your claim will be automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.	Workers who: 1. are unable to work due to COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support; 2. are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick. 3. are staying home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional support because of daycare/school closure. 4. still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work. 5. would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.	Up to \$2,000 per month for 4 months.	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html	Individuals who have not filed their 2018 tax return or do not have an active CRA account Individuals without a Social Insurance Number Individuals that do not have a bank account Individuals who require in-person access to a financial institution Individuals who cannot provide proof of income
Employment Insurance (EI) <i>Employment and Social Development Canada with Service Canada</i>	Employment Insurance provides regular benefits to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own (for example, due to shortage of work, seasonal or mass lay-offs) and are available for and able to work, but can't find a job.	You may be entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits if you: - were employed in insurable employment; - lost your job through no fault of your own; - have been without work and without pay for at least seven consecutive days in the last 52 weeks; - have worked for the required number of insurable employment hours in the last 52 weeks or since the start of your last EI claim, whichever is shorter; - are ready, willing and capable of working; and - are actively looking for work (you must keep a written record of employers you contact, including when you contacted them).	Support is determined on a case-by-case basis.	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit.html	Individuals who do not pay into Employment Insurance Individuals without a Social Insurance Number Individuals that do not have a bank account Individuals who require in-person access to a financial institution
Canada Child Benefit (CCB) <i>Canada Revenue Agency with Employment and Social Development Canada</i>	One-time enhancement to support of the existing Canada Child Benefit (CCB).	All primary caregivers of children under 18 years of age. If you already receive this benefit there will be no need to apply. To apply, click on the link for more information or call 1-800-387-1193.	An additional one-time payment of \$300 per child will be added to May 2020 payments.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-apply.html	Individuals who are not registered for the CCB Individuals who do not have up-to-date information with CRA. Individuals without a Social Insurance Number Individuals that do not have a bank account Individuals who require in-person access to a financial institution
GST Payment – Additional COVID-19 <i>Canada Revenue Agency</i>	To assist individuals and families with low and modest incomes offset all or part of the GST or HST that they pay.	A Canadian resident for income tax purposes the month before and at the beginning of the month. The individual must make a low/modest income (please see website for further details) and also need to meet one of the following criteria you: - are at least 19 years old - have (or had) a spouse or common-law partner - are (or were) a parent & live with your child Eligibility is confirmed when income taxes are filed.	An additional payment will be provided April 9, 2020 automatically if you normally receive the GST/HST credit and have filed a 2018 tax return.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/covid-19-gsthstc-increase.html	Individuals who have not filed their 2018 tax return or do not have an active CRA account Individuals without a Social Insurance Number Individuals that do not have a bank account Individuals who require in-person access to a financial institution