



OFFICE OF THE  
ONTARIO REGIONAL CHIEF

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Leadership Council and First Nation Chiefs  
**FROM:** Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald  
**DATE:** May 31, 2021  
**RE:** **ORC MONTHLY UPDATE**

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Wahcheeyay, Aanii, Boozhoo, She:kon, Shekoli,

All First Nations have started their vaccinations, with many now completed their second dose. Cases in mainstream Ontario have decreased and so the province will soon be initiating its re-opening plan. Cases in First Nations have also decreased save for an outbreak along the James Bay Coast. Young people between the ages of 12 and 17 are eligible to book their vaccination.

One concern that is emerging is 'breakthrough illness' with COVID-19 where those who are vaccinated can become ill from one of the variants of concern, but it is unlikely they will become seriously ill. As well, it is not yet known if those who are vaccinated can still pass on the illness to others who are not yet vaccinated, so please encourage community members to remain vigilant by continuing to adhere to the public health measures until the pandemic is declared over.

**COVID-19 CASES AND PREVENTION**

**COVID-19 CASES:**

- Globally = 169,932,643
- Canada = 1,371,073
- Ontario = 528,453

**COVID-19 First Nations in Ontario:**

Total Confirmed = 2,104 on-reserve  
(from March 11, 2020 to May 25, 2021)

Note: Please see the Summary Report for more detailed information on the COVID-19 cases in First Nation communities.

**ORC OFFICE PANDEMIC INITIATIVES**

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force**
  - As of May 27, 2021, Ontario has administered over 8,000,000 doses with more than 600,000 fully vaccinated.
  - More than 217,000 First Nation community members have received their first and second doses, with 95,000 on reserve First Nation members included.

My office continues to work on the following initiatives: An updated AFN Newsletter; regular memo listing upcoming vaccine clinics for urban Indigenous is being developed; a variant communique has been developed; a joint communique with the health sector was sent out.

- More information on the ORC Initiatives is located in the Summary Report.

### **PROVINCIAL MEASURES RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

- This month Ontario announced: an extension to the stay-at-home order until June 2 and released their three-step roadmap for safely reopening the province; \$2 billion for keeping schools safe and supporting learning recovery and renewal; \$25.6 billion to support their annual Grants for Student Needs with \$96.7 earmarked for the Indigenous Education Grant; an Enhanced Ontario Community Environment Fund; support for the First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Table; more than 50% of Ontario adults have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of May 12, 2021; a new Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant; support for virtual learning for close to 400 innovative projects at colleges, universities, and Indigenous institutes, and the expansion of vaccine bookings for youth 12 and up.

### **FEDERAL MEASURES RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

- This month Canada announced: \$18 billion in new funding to improve the quality of life and create more opportunities for Indigenous peoples; their authorization to vaccinate youth aged 12-15 with the Pfizer vaccine; investments for Indigenous students including \$1.2 billion for investments in the future of First Nations Children, \$112 million in 2021-2022 to extend the COVID-19 support for children on reserve, \$150.6 million for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, \$26.4 million in 2021-2022 through the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program; the extension of temporary travel measures restricting entry into Canada by foreign nationals until June 21, 2021; and \$354 million over five years to increase the number of nurses and other medical professional in remote and isolated First Nation communities.

### **ORC POLITICAL UPDATES**

- **Tobacco Ceremony with Lieutenant Governor**
  - A date of June 14<sup>th</sup> has been tentatively scheduled at Massey Hall for the tobacco gifting ceremony with Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell.
- **Political Appointments**
  - The Leadership Council has appointed Ma Nee Chacaby to the AFN Knowledge Keepers Council as their 2SLGBTQQIA Elder to represent Ontario Region.
- **MMIWG Response**
  - The Ontario government released its response to the MMIWG National Inquiry Final Report earlier this week. Their action plan is titled Pathways to Safety and is the framework through which Ontario has committed to implement the 231 Calls to Justice contained in the MMIWG Final Report. Anna Betty Achneepineskum sits at

the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council as the Chiefs of Ontario representative, and will continue to work with the Ontario government to ensure the actions as outlined in the Pathways to Success document are implemented.

- o For the First Nations chapter of the MMIWG Final Report: There were two engagement sessions added to the Ontario schedule bringing the total number to 28. The MMIWG NAP interim report on priorities is expected to come available on June 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the release of the MMIWG Inquiry Report.
- o Nancy Johnson, Director for Women's Initiatives has posted a position seeking a Women's Initiatives Policy Analyst to support the work that she is doing. Johnson will be sharing a more fulsome update on Women's Initiatives at the upcoming AOCC.

- **End of Term Transition & Holidays**

- o I will continue to fulfill my ORC duties without interruption until my last scheduled day. I will conduct my campaign only during my own time on evenings and weekends.
- o As Chiefs of Ontario goes into election mode, the COO Secretariat will be leading any discussions moving forward for Ontario Region: Tracy Antone, Chief Operating Officer, will take over calling of any LC and Chiefs meetings if they are needed, as well as preparing the agendas until a new Regional Chief is named.
- o In the meantime, I will be winding down my files and will be taking some time off. Therefore, Grand Chief Joel Abram will be Acting ORC over several days between now and June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- o For a full outline of my holidays, please refer to my memo detailing my Holiday and Transitions Plan.

## **UPCOMING LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

Leadership Council – June 22, 2021

Leadership Council & Chiefs – June 23, 2021

Ninanaskamon. Kishkeetin.

Wishing you Peace beyond all understanding,



Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald