

Health Newsletter



Funding Opportunity: Second Harvest Food Rescue's Emergency Funding 2021

Second Harvest has received an additional \$8 million from the Government of Canada's Emergency Food Security Fund, to help improve access to healthy food to charities and non-profits supporting people experiencing food insecurity.

(continued: pg. 7)

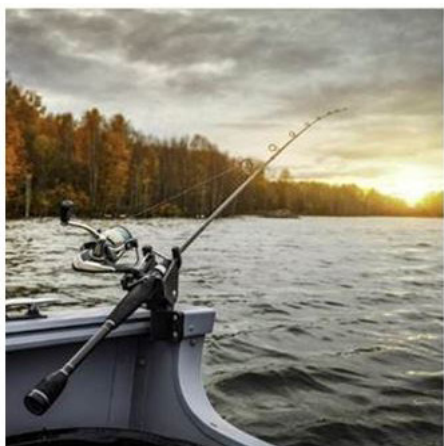


Photo: Nutrition Updates for RD's

HIGHLIGHTS

Message from Health Director

Public Health Highlights:

- COVID-19 Indigenous Vaccine Rollout Update
- Public Health Alert: COVID-19 Variants

Research Highlights:

- Call for Membership: Data Governance Committee

Community Wellness

- Second Harvest Food Rescue's Emergency Funding 2021

Chiefs of Ontario

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2021

March 3-4, 2021

The Chiefs of Ontario Environment Department First Nations-led policies and solutions related to access to safe, clean and reliable drinking water. For more information, please

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.chiefsmeeting.com/water-engagement-sessions>



March 22, 2021

Climate Change Modelling Experts Workshop hosted in Ann Arbor, Annex 9 is working with GLISA to host another virtual workshop.

For more information, please contact Chris Hoyos at: Chris.Hoyos@coo.org

Regional Ontario First Nation Health Director/Community Health Director Provider Call: Meeting happens every 3rd Wednesday, Stay tuned for details.

The past eleven months...

Pandemic Journey



Carmen R. Jones
COO Health Director

As we continue to move through COVID-19 Pandemic the First Nations communities continue to persevere. The Chiefs of Ontario Health Secretariat will continue to provide the most updated information through our Newsletter to First Nation Communities. The information sources are from within COO, other organizations, Provincial and the Federal Health Partners.

First Nation communities continue to show resilience and strength during these times across Ontario. Cases of COVID-19 increased after the holidays and started to decline throughout January.

February we have seen a rise in the number of cases in some communities.

I want to take this time to thank the frontline workers at the community level for their dedication and commitment to their communities during this pandemic.

We are working closely with leadership to have our communities members vaccinated as quickly as possible.

I wish your families continued good health,

In kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jones', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Public Health Alert

COVID-19 Variants

COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs) within Ontario has been a growing concern for First Nation communities.

Facts about the variants:

B.1.1.7 (the “UK variant”) is thought to be 30-50% more transmissible than those already established in Canada and there is some evidence that it can cause more severe illness, resulting in more hospitalizations and deaths.

This variant can spread very quickly from people who do not know they have it (asymptomatic people) and can cause a rapid increase in cases in a short period of time.

Given this evolving situation, we are making the following recommendations:

1. Remain aware of VOC detection in your area/region by visiting your local public health unit website(s).
2. Continue to prepare should a VOC be detected by alerting residents and preparing to support an immediate lockdown and stay-at-home order for the community. A stay-at-home order could be 14 days or longer depending on the variant’s spread in a community.
3. Strongly consider the following public health measures should a VOC be detected in a community and if there is any uncertainty about spread outside of an immediate household:
 - a. Immediate lockdown of community.
 - b. Stay-at-home order in the community.
 - c. Closure of non-essential businesses, workplaces, and schools/childcare facilities.
 - d. Daily communication from Chief and Council to residents updating them on the situation.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/variants>

COVID-19

Indigenous Vaccine Rollout

Update

Communications Report on behalf of: Ministry of Indigenous Affairs: January 25th 2021

1. The Ontario government is accelerating the vaccination of residents in long-term care, high-risk retirement, and First Nations elder care homes by a new target date of February 5, 2021.
2. To protect access to second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for those who have already received their first dose, Ontario will maintain the maximum interval of 21-27 days for long-term care, retirement and First Nations elder care home resident groups and up to 42 days between the two doses for all other groups.
3. Continue to vaccinate residents of remote and isolated First Nations and Indigenous communities through Operation Remote Immunity
4. Work closely with all sites to review data and reallocate if needed on an ongoing basis.

We look forward to keeping you updated as vaccine rollout planning progresses.

You may also access up-to-date information at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

For the complete presentation go to: <https://bit.ly/3qAQkNc>



Research & Data Management

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

FIRST NATION DATA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Chiefs of Ontario is looking for individuals, youth and Elders/First Nation Knowledge Keepers that have knowledge and experience in First Nation health research, research practices, community based research, experience with the Regional Health Survey (RHS), reviewing and writing research projects, knowledge of First Nation research ethics to sit on the First Nation Data Governance Committee.

Research and surveillance involving First Nations communities has become a sought after demographic. First Nation communities are becoming more involved and want to make sure that research conducted and information collected is benefiting their communities. Due to this rapid change in the environment involving First Nation research the leadership has mandated and continues to support the Chiefs of Ontario in its work with the First Nation Data Governance Committee.

ROLE OF THE FIRST NATION DATA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The First Nation Data Governance Committee will be guided by the principles of ownership, control, access and, possession (OCAP®) and will provide advice, guidance and recommendations on regional research and surveillance projects. The Committee's role will be to:

1. Review regional research/surveillance projects requesting First Nation data;
2. Provide advice and recommendations on the development of tools that will assist First Nation communities with research; and
3. Oversee the implementation of Phase IV, Regional Health Survey (RHS) and provide analysis and advice in the drafting of Phase IV, RHS Report.

Individuals who are successful will be selected by the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) for a three (3) year term. Individuals will be compensated for travel expenses, meals and accommodations when attending the Data Governance Committee meetings.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

If you interested in this exciting opportunity, please review the Terms of Reference attached and submit your resume outlining your knowledge, experience, interest and any information that might help with selection, along with two references:

Roseanne Sutherland
Research Manager, Health
Chiefs of Ontario
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Email: FNDGC@coo.org

For more information, please contact Roseanne Sutherland at 416-986-9856 or email Roseanne.sutherland@coo.org.

Chiefs of Ontario

15th Annual Health Forum

A Virtual Event!

We are very excited to be able to invite you to our 15th Annual Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum. This year's theme is "Sharing Stories: The True Test of Resilience Amidst a Pandemic", to be presented virtually February 23, 24 and 25, 2021. The forum provides an opportunity for First Nation Leadership, Health Directors and Community Health Workers to share their successes and opportunities in supporting First Nations today and preparing for the future.

TO REGISTER, GO TO: <https://www.chiefsmeeting.com/coo-health-forum>



CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

15th ANNUAL HEALTH FORUM

Sharing Stories: The True Test of Resilience Amidst a Pandemic

FEBRUARY 23-24-25, 2021

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Chiefs of Ontario

Employment Opportunities

<http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/about/careers/>



Funding Opportunity

Second Harvest Food Rescue's Emergency Funding 2021

This funding is an extension of COVID-19 Emergency Relief which began in March 2020. Since the start of the pandemic, Second Harvest has provided over \$20 million in financial support to community organizations across Canada.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Non-Profit Organizations, Registered Charities, Indigenous Groups/Organizations, Towns/Municipalities/Hamlets are eligible to apply for funding.
- You must not be a member of, or applied for emergency funding in 2021 from the following organizations: Food Banks Canada and their affiliates, Community Food Centres Canada, Salvation Army, Breakfast Clubs of Canada
- The funding must go towards food programming (food related expenses and operating costs) with an objective to facilitate access to safe and nutritious food for at-risk populations.
- Funding must be spent by December 31, 2021.

Deadline: Eligible applicants must apply by February 28th, 2021 at 11:59pm PST.

Selection Criteria:

- Funding Project: Has a demand for food/services been clearly demonstrated? Will the proposed project address food insecurity and directly support access to safe and nutritious food?
- Budget: Does the grant budget reflect eligible and reasonable costs for the proposed project? Are expenses related to the successful delivery food programming?
- Potential Impact: Does the project offer direct, meaningful benefit to the recipients or anticipated number of individuals? Are you reaching under-served populations? Will the organization increase its capacity to provide healthy and nutritious food as a result of the funding project?
- Project Feasibility: Is there a clear explanation of the funding project and the methods for execution? Will desired results be achieved within the project timeline?

To Apply: To apply for this funding, you do need to set up an account and complete an application form. The process is fairly straightforward with a mixture of check box questions and open ended questions.

For more information: <https://secondharvest.ca/emergency-funding-2021/>

Sarah Miller, M, Sc. RD

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THE COO HEALTH COORDINATION UNIT

The Health Co-ordination Unit (HCU) is the technical advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario. It is comprised of the Health Directors of the PTOs, Six Nations of the Grand River and one representative from the Independent First Nations. The Unit is supported by the coordinating capacity of the Chiefs of Ontario office. The Health Coordination Unit is accountable to the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH), the Leadership Council and the Ontario Chiefs in Assembly.

The Health Coordination Unit identifies health issues, prepares briefing papers and develops and recommends health strategies that require political support and action.

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The COO Health Team

CARMEN R. JONES, Health Director || **ZACHARIAH GENERAL**, Associate Health Director || **CAROLANN MARCOUX**, Community Wellness Manager || **LINDA OGILVIE**, Public Health Analyst || **BERNADETTE deGONZAGUE**, Mental Health and Addictions Policy Analyst || **LILY MENOMINEE-BATISE**, Senior Health Policy Analyst || **MEGAN LOGAN**, Policy Analyst || **ROSEANNE SUTHERLAND**, Research Manager || **CAROL MULDER**, Senior Health Data Analyst || **PAM JOHNSON**, Research Analyst || **TREVOR KOOSTACHIN**, Quality Performance Measurement Research Analyst || **EMILY KING**, Jordan's Principle Analyst || **JENNIFER SHISHEESH**, Northern NIHB Navigator || **MIRYAN RUTLEDGE**, Southern NIHB Navigator || **ALICE LONGBOAT**, Senior Health Coordinator || **TIA PETTIT**, Health Coordinator || **CHARNELE SONDEZI**, Health Coordinator || **CINDY OWL**, Health Coordinator

