



# ANISHINABEK NATION

---

## COVID-19 Update – May 8, 2020

---

### Indigenous

- Anishinabek News Articles
  - [COVID-19 does not slow down reconciliation at Seneca College](#)
  - [Book review: The Assassination of Hole in the Day](#)
- The federal government is looking to hire paramedics who can fly up to remote First Nations in case there is a surge of COVID-19 cases. The request for proposals for the paramedic contract closed April 27, and officials hope to award the contract within two to four weeks. The contract is for three months and focuses on 51 Indigenous Services-managed nursing stations and communities in Manitoba and Ontario, but there is an option to shift paramedics to other regions and extend the timeframe, if necessary.
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation is developing partnerships with several health service delivery organizations, including the Paramedic Association of Canada. Its long-term business model involves recruiting and training community members to become paramedics.
- At least 18 First Nations in northeastern Ontario have closed borders to keep outsiders and COVID-19 away. Many communities including Batchewana, Nipissing and Aundeck Omni Kaning are asking visitors to stay away, but not physically restricting them.
- Indigenous businesses will be waiting until the end of May or beginning of June for funds promised by the federal government to help support them through the COVID-19 economic shut-down.

### Provincial

- Ontario experienced its largest single-day spike today, reporting 477 new cases and 63 more deaths due to COVID-19.
- The number of COVID-19 patients requiring a ventilator also increased to 166 from the 155 reported on Thursday.
- The Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario says the provincial government wants to change a directive that gives all workers access N95 masks. Minister Elliott said during the provincial daily announcement today that the Ministry of Health is in consultation with respective employee organizations regarding PPE options.
- Ontario's professional sports teams can resume training at club facilities as the provincial government says they are looking forward to seeing athletes return to play in the "not-too-distant future."
- A fifth personal support worker in Ontario has died after contracting COVID-19 at work.



# ANISHINABEK NATION

---

- Andrea Horwath is calling for a public inquiry into long-term care, asking why it was in crisis prior to the pandemic, and why homes were left so vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Minister of Finance Rod Phillips said today that the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee is working on releasing further detail outlining each phase of Ontario's reopening framework soon.

## **Federal**

- The federal government's emergency wage-subsidy program will be extended beyond its early-June endpoint. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says more details on the extension will come next week.
- Trudeau has announced the creation of the Industry Strategy Council to study the effects of the pandemic on specific sectors. Trudeau also reassured businesses today that news on sector-specific support will be released in the coming days.
- Ottawa is now rolling out \$500 million in funding for the arts, sports, and culture sector.
- Statistics Canada released numbers today, showing that Canadian employment plunged by nearly two million people and the jobless rate surged to 13 per cent in April.

---

*Allan Dokis*  
*Director of Policy and Communications*  
[allan.dokis@anishinabek.ca](mailto:allan.dokis@anishinabek.ca)