

Memorandum

To: All First Nations Leadership
From: Grand Chief Joel Abram, Social Services Portfolio Holder
Date: March 24, 2020
Re: Financial benefits available during COVID-19

As of March 23, 2020, provincial and federal financial benefits are available to First Nations to support health and wellbeing needs during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The Province has announced:

- \$200 million social services relief funding is available to help protect the health and safety of vulnerable populations.
- \$52 million for the Ontario Works Emergency Assistance Program.
- Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards will allocate \$148 million to local needs and priorities through the uncapped Discretionary Benefits program.
- First Nations will see an increase in the Transitional Support Fund with uncapped discretionary benefits.

The Federal Government has announced:

- \$82 billion in support funding for workers and businesses.
- \$2 billion for the Canada Child Benefit payment, \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks to provide income support.
- An Emergency Support Benefit.
- A top-up for low and modest-income families through the GST credit.
- \$305 million for an Indigenous Support Fund.
- \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centers.

More information is available below:

- [Prime Minister announces more support for workers and businesses through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Ontario Protecting the Most Vulnerable During COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Changes to Ontario's Emergency Assistance Program in Response to COVID-19](#)

Respectfully,
Grand Chief Joel Abram
Social Services Portfolio Holder