Interim COVID-19 Support Plan

We know that this has been a stressful time. There is much uncertainty as COVID-19 impacts Métis Nation citizens across Alberta, and people across the globe. We have been busy putting plans into place to support any of you who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Our Interim COVID-19 Support Plan is based on needs already identified by Métis Albertans and will be responsive and adaptive as those needs evolve. This plan is intended to support all Métis Albertans.

To get money and support to you as quickly as possible, the MNA is providing funding to each region for their community’s specific needs. We have also introduced some specific programs to support parents/guardians of children under the age of 12, citizens who have lost their income, and families who have lost a loved one as a result of COVID-19.

Below are more details on how we’re helping the families of the Métis Nation through this difficult time.

Citizens, Families, and Seniors Direct Support Program
We have provided $200,000 to each of the six MNA Regions, who will work in collaboration with their Regional Councils and Locals. This money will allow each MNA Region to provide direct and immediate funding support to Métis Nation citizens and families in need.

This program will allow each MNA Region the flexibility to allocate funds where Métis citizens, families, and Seniors identify they need support, including direct financial and other supports. Métis citizens should contact their MNA Region directly with respect to this program. If you don’t know which region you are in, this map will help you, and the phone numbers are listed in the table below.

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<tr>
<th>Region 1</th>
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<th>Region 3</th>
<th>Region 4</th>
<th>Region 5</th>
<th>Region 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>780-623-3039</td>
<td>780-826-7483</td>
<td>403-569-8800</td>
<td>780-944-9288</td>
<td>780-849-4654</td>
<td>780-624-4219</td>
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**Emergency Child Wellness Benefit Program**

$500 per child aged 0-12 years old, up to a maximum total payment of $2,500 per household

This program is designed for Métis Nation families with children who are newborns or up to 12 years of age who have been impacted by school and daycare closures due to COVID-19. The program will provide Métis families a maximum of $500 per eligible child, to a maximum total payment of $2,500 per household, over three months to support child wellness.

This program will run from April through June 2020 and offers one-time emergency funding in response to COVID-19. Métis citizens should fill out this form, or contact the MNA Provincial Office at 1-800-252-7553 or 780-455-2200, or email cwbrmetis.org.

**Emergency Rent Supplement Program**
Rental relief payments of $1,000 per month for 3 months.

While some major lending institutions are providing mortgage payment holidays for those impacted by COVID-19, currently there are no such relief plans for Métis Nation citizens who are renting. This program, offered in partnership between the MNA and Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC), offers rental relief payments of $1000 per month for three months to provide financial relief to Métis Nation renters who are directly impacted by this pandemic.

This program will be administered until funds are no longer available on a first come, first served basis.

For more information Métis citizens should contact MCHC by calling 1-877-458-8684, emailing emergencysupport@metishousing.ca, or visiting metishousing.ca.

Benevolent Fund Top-up

Increased to $500 per applicant

For many years, the MNA has offered financial support to Métis Nation citizens who have lost family members. During this unprecedented pandemic, the existing Benevolent Fund is being increased to $500 per applicant. If families have lost members to COVID-19 and wish to apply for support funding, they can do so through the existing Benevolent Fund.

Contact the MNA Provincial Office about this program at 1-800-252-7553 or 780-455-2200

Additional Information
The *Interim COVID-19 Support Plan* will be financially supported by the MNA, its affiliates and Canada’s commitment of **$7.5 million** to the MNA through the COVID-19 Indigenous Community Support Fund. Currently, the MNA is awaiting receipt of these funds from Canada. In this interim period, the MNA and its affiliates will be flowing cash to components of the plan in order to meet immediate needs. The MNA will also be asking the Alberta Government to contribute to the MNA’s plan.

**Availability**

All of the programs identified in the *Interim COVID-19 Support Plan* are available to the MNA’s more than 43,000 registered citizens, including their family members who may not yet be registered with the MNA as well as all Métis Nation citizens living in Alberta who self-identify as such and provide objectively verifiable documentation establishing that they are citizens of the Métis Nation. These eligibility requirements will be applied flexibly at this time of crisis to ensure those in need receive the supports they require, while also ensuring that this limited Métis-specific funding is accessed by individual Métis Nation citizens and families living in Alberta.

**Going Forward**

As COVID-19 continues to impact all communities, the MNA is monitoring needs and will work with all relevant parties to provide you with updates to programming and funding as needed.

Métis citizens requiring assistance or who have suggestions about the MNA’s evolving COVID-19 plan, can email [emergencysupport@metis.org](mailto:emergencysupport@metis.org).