

The NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) is rolling out a series of programs and initiatives that will directly address the urgent needs of NunatuKavut members and communities during the COVID-19 global pandemic. This will help ensure our people and communities are supported and have what they need to get through this time of medical emergency. All programming has a limited budget and some initiatives are contingent on further funding from the federal government. Details on each of these initiatives are outlined below.

FOOD AND HEAT SECURITY VOUCHERS

The voucher program was developed to assist NunatuKavut members who are experiencing food and heat security challenges and have these urgent needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is for vulnerable NunatuKavut members who are at least 16 years of age and living in their own household.

There are two kinds of vouchers available: food and heat security. The food voucher can be accessed once

every 30 days. It is comprised of the following three levels of funding, based on the composition of the household:

- Single: \$100
- Families with no children: \$150
- Families with children: \$200

The heat security voucher, which has a flat rate of \$200, can be accessed once for the duration of the program. This program starts on Wednesday, April 29.

The voucher form can be requested by emailing covid19@nunatukavut.ca or by contacting the following NCC staff members:

Area 4 (Sandwich Bay/Island of Ponds), Area 6 (Western Labrador) and Area 1 (Straits): **Shawn Holwell/Samantha Rumbolt, 709-938-7882**

Area 5 (Central Labrador): **Deborah Newman, 709-896-0526**

Area 3 (Bolsters Rock to Spear Point) and Area 2 (Battle Harbour): **Shandy Smith, 709-921-6604 or Diane Poole, 709-921-6257**

Members outside of Labrador: **Billie Williams, 709-938-7240**

CULTURAL MENTAL WELLNESS COMMUNITY FUND

The Cultural Mental Wellness Community Fund is a grant program. It is being put in place to assist groups in NunatuKavut communities to carry out projects or initiatives that celebrate Inuit culture while improving mental well-being. This may include initiatives that are community-specific or region-wide. Eligible applicants are any non-profit or community group in NunatuKavut. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available and the non-profit or community group can only apply one time for this fund. Application deadlines are Friday, May 1 and Friday, May 8. Application forms are available online at www.nunatukavut.ca or can be requested by contacting:

Dawn Corkum
E: dcorkum@nunatukavut.ca
T: 709-896-0592

SOCIAL AND WELLNESS GRANT FOR SENIORS AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

The Social and Wellness Grant for Seniors and Vulnerable Persons is a grant program developed to encourage the organization of social and wellness programs or initiatives to benefit seniors and vulnerable persons. This may include initiatives that are community-specific or region-wide. Eligible applicants are any non-profit or community group in NunatuKavut. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available and the non-profit or community group can only apply one time for this fund. Application deadlines are Friday, May 1 and Friday, May 8. Application forms are available online at www.nunatukavut.ca or can be requested by contacting:

Cynthia Burt

E: cburt@nunatukavut.ca

T: 709-949-0202

DONATIONS

NCC is also in the process of making donations to organizations that serve vulnerable populations in NunatuKavut. Up to \$50,000 in monetary donations will be designated specifically to organizations that provide care and assistance to NunatuKavut seniors in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Mary's Harbour, the Straits, Labrador West and St. Anthony, Newfoundland. NCC also recognizes the important work of food banks in food security program delivery, especially during this time of

crisis. Direct monetary donations, totalling \$20,000, will be made to food banks in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador West and Cartwright.

WHAT'S NEXT?

NCC is also working on additional initiatives and will be announcing details on each of these in the coming days. They include:

- community food harvester support program;
- enhancements to the community freezer program;
- household and individual assistance for seniors 65+;
- firewood harvesting for seniors 65+;
- mental health counselling services; and
- an intergenerational program with a focus on seniors, youth and children.

NCC is committed to continuing to work with the federal government to secure fair and equitable funding to help NunatuKavut Inuit and members adequately prepare and deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Credible and emerging information on COVID-19 in Newfoundland and Labrador is available online at www.gov.nl.ca/COVID-19.

For information on the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Here are a list of mental wellness supports available in Newfoundland and Labrador:

- If you are finding it difficult to cope or feel anxious, Bridge the Gapp offers many services to support you and your wellbeing. Please visit www.bridgethegapp.ca
- If you are feeling isolated and alone during COVID-19, call the Provincial CHANNAL Warm Line at 1-855-753-2560 9:00am to 12:00am daily.
- If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call the Mental Health Crisis Line at 1-888-737-4668 available 24 hours a day

NCC is the representative governing body for approximately 6,000 Inuit who reside primarily in south and central Labrador.

NunatuKavut means "Our Ancient Land" in Inuttitut and is the traditional territory of the Inuit who belong to this territory.

In July 2018, NCC entered into talks with the Government of Canada on the Recognition of its Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination (RIRSD). In September 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed.

Have a question or concern?

Please contact us!

T. 1 (877) 896-0592 (toll free) or
1(709) 896-0592 OR
communications@nunatukavut.ca

Learn more at
www.nunatukavut.ca