Taking Care of Each Other Wherever We Are:
A Friendship Centre Approach to COVID-19 Response in Urban Indigenous Communities

COVID 19 INTERIM REPORT – March 2021
March 2020 will forever be marked by the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. We have collectively learned to adapt our lives and work in numerous ways to a new world that has been shaped by a force never seen before in our lifetimes. In many more ways, there is still much more learning and adapting to do as we navigate further unknowns and new situations. The Friendship Centre response has been incredible and nothing short of heroic.

Friendship Centres leapt into action and answered the calls for support, even as there was vast uncertainty. As the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC), we equally leapt to ensure that Friendship Centres had what they needed to support urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis community members across Canada. We are so honoured to work with the Friendship Centre Movement, a network of people who believe in the communities they work with. We are also grateful for our local, regional, provincial/territorial, and national partners who have stepped up and stepped forward with support, funds and supplies to ensure that urban Indigenous communities are seen and sustained.

As we continue to navigate this new world, the NAFC will continue to be a strong and reliable national partner. While we do not know what tomorrow will bring, we can be proud that in the worst of times, we came together to provide for those who needed our help.

Message from Jocelyn Formsma, NAFC Executive Director
FRIENDSHIP CENTRES:
The Natural Choice for Urban Indigenous Responses
The Friendship Centre Movement

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Friendship Centres originated in the mid-1950’s to meet the growing needs of Indigenous people moving to urban areas of Canada. The NAFC was incorporated in 1972. We are a national, Indigenous non-profit organization that represents over 100-member Friendship Centres (FCs) and Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs) from coast to coast to coast.

Friendship Centres are the lifeline for many Indigenous people living in urban environments. Today, well over half of the Indigenous population in Canada lives in urban, rural, remote, and northern communities.

The Friendship Centre Movement is the largest and most significant urban Indigenous service delivery infrastructure in Canada.

In 2018-2019, 93 Friendship Centres delivered over 1,254 programs and services to over 1,457,44 First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous people on a status inclusive basis. Status inclusive means that we collectively serve Inuit, Métis and status and non-status First Nations. The culturally relevant and wrap-around programs and services are driven by the urban Indigenous communities that we serve. Programs and services span from: justice, health, shelters, children and early learning, family, youth, education, employment, cultural, economic development, sports and recreation, language and housing, among many others. Friendship Centres employ over 2,700 staff working in 238 buildings in urban communities across Canada. In 2016-2017, over 127,000 volunteers donated their time to FCs.

LEARN MORE
Friendship Centres moved quickly to respond when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic in March 2020.

Despite capacity, infrastructure, jurisdictional, and gendered concerns, Friendship Centres have stepped up and "punched above their weight". They have continued to provide culturally relevant and informed responses to COVID-19 including:

- Distributing up-to-date reliable communications to the community
- Responding to questions and concerns from community members
- Formed or joined task forces to address the needs of the most vulnerable
- Become COVID-19 testing sights (often at the cost of the Friendship Centre losing much needed programming space)
- Program adaptations to become more virtually or ensure the proper social distancing measure can be in place

The NAFC quickly engaged its membership to collect information on what Friendship Centres were responding to and what supports they needed. The following were identified as the top concerns:

- Food Security
- Protecting employees and community members
- Maintain a clean and sanitized space
- Renovating and retrofitting Friendship Centre space
- Concerns for Cashflow from loss of fundraising, extra expenditures, and fiscal year end requirements

The NAFC created a COVID-19 page on our website to keep updated, relevant, and reliable information available for urban Indigenous Peoples. The website includes links to provincial and federal government information on resources and programs, information about the vaccine, as well as videos from the NAFC and Well Living House Take Care in COVID campaign, and news relating to the Friendship Centre Movement.
FC supports compliment each other through WRAP AROUND SERVICES

In May 2020, we asked Friendship Centres what services they were delivering during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Friendship Centres understand the challenges facing our communities and their unique “wrap around” service delivery model ensures we are well equipped to tackle them.

With respective governments and public health authorities limiting in person services and programming, Friendship Centres have adapted to stay open to be able to continue providing services and programs to their communities. Staff are continuing to provide services at Friendship Centres even if their offices are closed to the public. Many services have gone virtual and other staff are working from home, all providing essential services to the community. This included doing renovations to be able to provide in-person services that could not be provided online to keep both staff and community safe.

Urban Indigenous people continue to need holistic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and Friendship Centres are best equipped to provide this support due to the diversified range of services they collectively provide.

In addition to the pandemic responses, with support, Friendship Centres will also be able to continue the much-needed everyday supports. Friendship Centres have already shown ingenuity in the supports they provide, and the adaptations made to continue taking care of each other during COVID, wherever our community members are.

“The Centre has remained a constant support for the community. Clients have voiced gratitude in the hampers, groceries, kids’ activities, virtual programming, phone wellness checks that we’ve offered. What has been a barrier is the speed of resource flows and supply chain interruptions.”

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association
While Friendship Centres are located in every major city in Canada, most are in towns with populations of 1,000 - 30,000. Friendship Centres provide a range of services and programs for over 1,000,000 people in Canada. Today, well over half of the Indigenous population in Canada lives in urban, rural, remote, and northern communities. Despite the size of the communities that we serve, Friendship Centres continue to provide programs related to food security, language, culture, housing, homelessness, early childhood learning, day cares, child and youth camps, justice, health, violence prevention, economic development, entrepreneurship, employment and training, education, and sports and recreation, among others.
## Timeline of ACTION

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>World &amp; Canada</th>
<th>NAFC</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020-03-11</td>
<td>WHO declares C19 pandemic</td>
<td>Shares latest Federal information and resources with FCM</td>
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<td>2020-03-13</td>
<td>Quebec is the first region to declare a state of emergency</td>
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<td>2020-04-04</td>
<td>ISC announces call for proposals for ICSF (Round 01)</td>
<td>Meetings with FNIHB began</td>
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<td>2020-05-19</td>
<td>ISC announces call for proposal for ICSF (Round 02)</td>
<td>Speaks at the Standing Committee on Finance</td>
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<td>2020-08-12</td>
<td>ISC announces call for proposals for ICSF (Round 3)</td>
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<td>2020-11-17</td>
<td>ISC releases ISC Funds (Round 2 part 2) - $5.7 million</td>
<td>Releases ISC funds (Round 2 part 2) - $5.7 million</td>
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<td>2020-11-27</td>
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<td>2020-11-30</td>
<td>ISC F unds deadline for proposals (Round II)</td>
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<td>2020-12-29</td>
<td>ISC releases ISC Funds (Round II) - $14.59 million</td>
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SUCCESS STORIES: Holistic COVID-19 Responses for Urban Indigenous People
Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) is the Provincial/Territorial Association for Alberta’s 21 Friendship Centres in Alberta.

ANFCA’s-member Friendship Centres have been fully engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic to support urban Indigenous people, unsheltered and under sheltered, who had no access to resources when other community facilities closed their doors in March 2020. Friendship Centres continued to support everyone, washroom facilities, access to transportation, food security and mental health to name a few.

An example on addressing mental health is the recent launch of the Pikiskwetan Let’s Talk program. The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre is working to help members of the community stay connected, as well as to address potential mental health and addiction struggles.

Most Friendship Centres shifted all their programming to virtual or remote or one-on-one services wrapped in COVID-19 safety measures. In some communities the food bank needs have increased over 300%. Friendship Centres are looking to advance or expand their services to support basic needs and food security. Cultural programming, Elders supports, education and other services continue to be provided both virtually and within centres in smaller numbers and in larger spaces.

“We have learned that we are considered an essential service. The Centre is needed and helpful in our area. We do important work here that needs to be done here and not at home. We realized that we desperately needed a food bank coordinator and a custodian.”

- High Level Native Friendship Centre
ALBERTA

Photos and success stories.

Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC)

AFCC has positively impacted the community through the creation of the Indigenous COVID Task Force, a multi-partnered and layered approach in responding to the diversity of needs as a result of COVID. The Task Force has delivered essential goods, bagged lunches, assisted with government applications, and provided addiction, mental health, and cultural supports.

Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre

The Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre purchased supplies for 278 weekly hampers with groceries and cleaning supplies reaching 536 individuals. Their Elders Wellness questionnaires were well received. For many, the Friendship Centre was the only community organization to contact them.

Snack bags at the Edson Friendship Centre

Photos and success stories.

Donations received by the Bonnyville Friendship Centre
Across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, 5 Friendship Centres are working hard to continue providing programs and services to urban Indigenous communities.

Travel restrictions in the Atlantic region have helped to keep cases lower compared to other parts of Canada. Friendship Centres in the region have had to adapt to follow safety precautions much like the rest of the country to keep community safe while still being able to deliver programs and services to the urban Indigenous population.

Friendship Centres across the Maritimes have been working with other local organizations to make sure members of their community are being supported. The Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Centre recently announced that it will be receiving funding to help build new affordable housing units in Halifax. Under One Sky Friendship Centre in New Brunswick has been dropping off food and activity bags to families, while the First Light Friendship Centre in Newfoundland was able to hold social bubble picnics to engage with families while following social distancing rules in the summer months.

These Friendship Centres have also been working to improve facilities to better serve the community while following social distancing rules.

“One of the services that we provided to seniors before COVID, was a monthly wellness lunch. The lunch gave seniors the opportunity to be together on a monthly basis to share a meal, have a short learning session and enjoy great company. Since COVID, we have been unable to have the seniors gather at the Centre. However, we have delivered a great meal to the seniors, by availing of funding and staff or volunteers delivering the meal to the seniors. We have only had positive responses from the community members.”

- Labrador Friendship Centre
People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre

“Our Centre’s transition to virtual programming allowed us to get information out to our members in a timely manner and provide a sense of continuity and stability to our community. We have managed to secure a cargo van. Deliveries of food and essentials are now happening on a near daily basis to both the town and surrounding rural communities. We are also partnered with multiple local agencies that have access to resources lack a delivery mechanism.”
The British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) includes 25 Member Friendship Centres throughout the province. The BCAAFC and their member FCs have been working hard to continue to serve their communities during the pandemic.

Services being provided include: shelters for those experiencing homelessness, mental health support, delivery of hot meals and food hampers to elders, families, and other in need, online and/or outdoor youth groups, increased drug and alcohol supports, computer training for Elders to address isolation, and partnerships with local community organizations to find creative ways to reach community members to ensure they are supported.

While cases in BC have been fewer than in places like Ontario and Quebec, BC has also had to deal with the smoke from the California wildfires which have caused short term adjustments for some Friendship Centres to prevent irritation to respiratory systems. Wildfires are a common event that Friendship Centres on the west coast have experience preparing for. As such FCs can sometimes become evacuation support centres when needed.

"The BC Friendship Centres have made an immeasurable difference to urban Indigenous community members across BC in terms of navigating the stresses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Enabled by the COVID funding received to date, we have been able to ensure a massive increase in food security by safely preparing and delivering food hampers and hot meals to elders, families, and others in need. Childcare and youth groups have continued through the pandemic with a shift to a more online and outdoor settings. Friendship Centres have taken proactive measures to ensure that Elders remain cared for and connected. Overall, the BCAAFC has been profoundly impressed by the very effective work and resultant successes that we’ve seen in the Friendship Centre communities across BC and we are reassured knowing that the community members are not going without the crucial services that they need to maintain healthy lifestyles."

- British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
Britannia Native Friendship Centre

We created the Elder Phone Chain to ensure their safety, mental wellness and so they feel connected and supported in this difficult time. For some, we may be the only person calling. The Elders Phone Chain is an effective way to share information and hear about their needs. “I feel the love when I see the red VNFC hamper arrive! I don’t feel like I’m in a boat without oars.”

Social distanced drumming at Prince George Native Friendship Centre

The Friendship House has supported the community with essential needs of food, shelter, care kits, outdoor activities and provided mental health and wellness supports. The deliveries are met with smiles and much gratitude. Community members share their happiness of being remembered and thought of.

Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre food hampers

BCAAFC with masks for their frontline staff and community workers
The Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAC) has 11-member Friendship Centres that provide a range of services including housing programs, employment and educational assistance; mother and child classes; pre-and post-natal programs; daycares; pre-schools; youth programs; and nutrition and food delivery programs. They also offer emergency food security, spiritual guidance, general advocacy, and provide community wellness and liaison services.

The onset of COVID-19 exacerbated many social and economic barriers, which are difficult for Indigenous people to cope with at the best of times. Manitoba Friendship Centres anticipated a likely increase of clients and made the necessary efforts to prepare.

The first wave of the pandemic was challenging; details of the virus were still emerging, unprecedented events were occurring in our political, economic, and social landscapes, and emergency aid for charities and NGOs were precarious. The Friendship Centres navigated the changes presented by COVID-19, outlined areas that needed urgent attention, and set about to rectify these serious issues.

"We have seen our computers that can be accessed 24 hours a day from the outside of our building being a huge success. We have cameras on them and have found that almost every night they are used multiple times. Staff have driven by our building after midnight and have seen people waiting to use the computers. The biggest uses are for applying for government programs, getting information about COVID-19 programs, accessing social media, and very surprising for us looking for information on domestic violence resources and dealing with mental health issues. Because the computers are being used so much, we are now making provisions to upgrade the equipment for use in -40-degree weather”

- Dauphin Friendship Centre
Lynn Lake Friendship Centre (LLFC)

In Lynn Lake, many families rely on the School Breakfast and Hot Lunch programs for two of their daily weekday meals. Once the programs were cancelled some parents struggled to obtain food provisions. In response, LLFC staff delivered 369 food hampers, distributed over 100 bagged lunches each week to children and youth who attended the programs, and have initiated a Community Container Gardening Project. The LLFC also operates a 24-hour, 7 day a week childcare facility.
The North Territories/Nunavut Council of Friendship Centres is the Provincial/Territorial Association for the 8 Friendship Centres in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In the Yukon, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in Whitehorse is the sole member Friendship Centre with the NAFC.

Friendship Centres in the North have had differing experiences to Friendship Centres in the south in regards to the pandemic. The rates of COVID cases in the territories are the lowest in the country due to travel restrictions put in place by territorial governments, enforcing mandatory 2 week quarantines on arrivals, or prohibiting travel to residents of certain provinces with higher levels of active COVID cases.

Friendship Centres have noted isolation directly impacts the wellness of clients. Friendship Centres like Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife adapted their counselling services by having telephone counselling available or social distanced counselling in parks.

“Positive impacts to community include continued access to the food bank. Members can access twice per month. Access maintained through-out NWT shut down with staffing restrictions and social distancing measures in place. Additional programming included on land social distancing family trips for traditional activities. We have been able to help families with young children with some food, now we will be doing more.”

*Northwest Territories/Nunavut Council of Friendship Centres*
The North
Photos and success stories.

Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre (SEFC)
“SEFC continues to offer programs and services such as doing seniors yard work, wood cutting, and shopping (food or prescriptions). SEFC also provided single families with cards, dice, boardgames, puzzles, story books and movies. Family chooses one item that they would like for home and children. SEFC is developing online programs such as sewing, cooking, and games.”

Tłįchǫ Łeàŋga Ts’ìlì Kó (Rae-Edzo Friendship Centre)
“We continued to support the community through our food bank, providing clothing for the homeless, and operating our housing unit. Most importantly, we were able to provide critical and emergency services throughout the communities (critical stress debriefing and grief counselling) following several deaths in our communities.”

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre gave out COVID-19 prevention kits.

Prenatal Program food hampers at Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre.

Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre’s community Thanksgiving dinner.
Quebec

The Native Friendship Centres in Quebec innovated, and reinvented themselves and came up with original solutions during COVID-19. With a quick reorganization of their services and service delivery, Friendship Centres were able to meet public health recommendations as soon as there were issues in March.

Val-d’Or immediately set up a temporary headquarters so they could organize services for members, especially for those experiencing homelessness who no longer had access to the day shelter space.

Web platforms proved to be a space for and of benefit for centres to host workshops and information sessions, and to highlight those volunteers and employees on the front-lines.

The efforts for food security and other efforts to help the most vulnerable have been some of the most important work during the ongoing pandemic.

Social media has been an important tool for Friendship Centres to get information out. La Tuque had information translated to Atikamekw to ensure all members could understand public health orders.

“We used the food security funds to bring health kits to all community members in the region. The food hampers were a foot in the door for us to survey the needs of our members and ensure that we adjusted our services to meet those needs. We were able to be proactive on emerging issues and provide important information to our members on how to stay safe.”

Centre d’amitié Autochtone de Lanaudière Inc.
Quebec

Photos and success stories.

Centre d’amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Members and team at the start of the urban gardening season! Centre d’amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Centre d’amitié autochtone de Sept-Îles

Centre d’amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Since the beginning of the crisis, the CAAQ has been able to maintain certain essential services such as food distribution, psychosocial services but at a distance. We are setting up a meals-on-wheels service in order to maintain the food security of the very vulnerable clientele at this time by offering them prepared meals.

Centre d’amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Centre d’amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

The CAALT moved quickly to maintain contact with members. This allowed members to break the isolation, to benefit from support and accompaniment, to know the services on the territory that were maintained as well as the new services that emerged during the health crisis. The CAALT was involved in the distribution of the region’s Food Central, which allowed it to keep in touch with members and serve new ones.
Saskatchewan’s Friendship Centre history goes back more than 50 years. There are 11 Friendship Centres providing a variety of programs and services to the urban Indigenous community in Saskatchewan.

Since the pandemic began, Friendship Centres in Saskatchewan have been working hard to continue providing for the urban Indigenous community. Some Friendship Centres have had to alter and/or postpone programs or move some operations online while creating or increases other services like food programs and shelters. Qu’Appelle Valley Friendship Centre hired staff to help implement rules and guidelines suggested by their local health authority. For many communities, Friendship Centres have been the only centres to stay physically open during the pandemic providing crucial resources for many.

Resources and services like shelters, and food banks have been working hard to provide community, especially those most vulnerable with places to sleep, shower, and eat when doors elsewhere have closed. Prince Albert Indian & Métis Friendship Centre also introduced a seasonal flu vaccination clinic to provide all members of the community access to a flu vaccine this fall.

“We have managed to be responsive to the needs of each location, we have been very successful in applying for additional funding through other agencies and have been working with the Centres on their behalf to complete applications to at least 10 other funders in various areas. This process has been widely successful as our staff works to support the Centres and takes some of the burden of applying off their shoulders.”

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan

Photos and success stories.

Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC)

“Here at the Centre we seem to be the main hub for our community and in doing so keeping up with the demand has been stressful in a good way, where we are blessed to be able to help our people during this difficult time as much as we can. The community has been so happy with what we have been able to do for them during this time. From our food programs to our programming the clients that come to SIMFC have been very pleased with how we have been handling everything since COVID-19. Some of the barriers we have faced during covid have been the ability to provide space for our clients to warm up now that it’s getting cold.”

Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge

“We were able to help the community with food, we also extended the homeless shelter into Spring as they had no place to go at a cost to us of approximately forty thousand dollars. We continued operations and, so far handed out about fifty thousand dollars worth of food, were the testing site until school started up again, and now providing headstart for the children. Until we started running the winter homeless shelter, at least two people froze to death each winter. Since we started running this place, no one has died, but the building needs major repairs.”

Newo-Yotina Friendship Centre’s Youth Outreach Fundraiser
Annual General Meeting and Youth Forum

The NAFC held our Annual General Meeting and Youth Forum virtually this year.

The AGM had 390 delegates in attendance from across the country. The Youth Forum was a two-day event with the theme “Indigenous Youth Uplifting Spirits” and included Dr. Cindy Blackstock and Dr. James Makokis as featured speakers.

Members of the Aboriginal Youth Council shared positive messages with Indigenous youth and expressed the importance of supporting each other while staying safe.

As part of the Bell Let’s Talk campaign Desrae Bilinski, AYC President and National Youth Representative to the NAFC Board shared an important message to destigmatize mental health.

Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC)

The NAFC and Well Living House partnered to address myths and misinformation with a digital campaign which included videos featuring Anishnaabe comedian, Ryan McMahon.

Since July, Executive Director Jocelyn Formsma, and Dr. Janet Smylie of Well Living House have hosted several Facebook Live events to present information and answer community questions about COVID-19 and how best to keep community safe during the pandemic.
Friendship Centres are Essential

How Friendship Centres plan to continue serving urban Indigenous communities throughout the pandemic
Friendship Centres Continue to Adapt to meet community needs

Friendship Centres continue to adapt their responses as COVID cases increase in their regions. The current Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) support has been used for addressing continued immediate needs such as food delivery, PPE, technology, transportation, staff support, building upgrades and much more. The below chart provides an overview of the main activities funded to date:

Grande Prairie Friendship Centre
New Horizons Senior Program, delivered 47 turkey hampers to their Elders.
Friendship Centres will continue to lead urban Indigenous COVID response

The NAFC will continue to advocate for Friendship Centres to get through the pandemic and will continue working with PTA's and Friendship Centres on how to move forward keeping staff and community safe.

The NAFC has also made the following partnerships to provide further supports in addressing COVID:

• In April, the Mastercard Foundation donated $1,000,000 for COVID-19 response.
• In July, Bell Let's Talk donated $250,000 through Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund to support mental health and well-being of the Indigenous community.
• In September, the NAFC and IKEA Canada entered a partnership through IKEA Canada’s COVID Emergency Relief Efforts – A Place To Call Home and will be receiving $100,000 in a mix of funds and items.

As part of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan includes supporting underrepresented youth, the NAFC has received a total of $3 million from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). $2,550,000.00 will be distributed to PTAs and FCs. Funding like this is essential to urban Indigenous communities to build back better through supporting Indigenous youth in continuing their studies (academically and traditionally), while also helping youth build relationships between Indigenous youth, mentors, tutors, and Elders.

Continued partnerships with Federal, Provincial, Municipal, and Corporate partners are helping Friendship Centres take on initiatives on some large-scale projects to help their communities. Current projects by Friendship Centres include:

• Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre was granted $4,878,400 for it's planned mixed shelter, shared housing, and modular unit development from Halifax Regional Council
• The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society has partnered with Vancouver and BC on an affordable housing and shelter development that will have over 100 rental homes, and 80 shelter beds

First Light – St. John’s Inuit Program
Friendship Centres can play an essential role for building communities back better. Since March 2020, PTAs and FCs revenue and fundraising activities has taken the back seat as many regions jumped into immediate pandemic response.

Friendship Centres will need long term sustainable support to recover and advance consistent and responsive programming to continue to meet the needs of urban Indigenous communities. The continued need for adequate and sustainable resources need to go well into next year and beyond to ensure that the urban Indigenous community, programs and services continue to operate successfully.

Continued investment of capital and major and minor infrastructure needs remains critical over the course of the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic many FCs indicated urgent building repairs needed and with loss of revenue and fundraising the continued investment through the ICSF is needed urgently.

When discussing post COVID recovery with the PTAs and FCs the following themes continue to focus on: building back communities post COVID; strategy building with an emphasis on the projected increase of programs and services following isolation and lockdown measures being lifted; long term food security needs focused on sustainable approaches such as community gardens and commercial kitchens; community support for financial needs to file taxes and budgeting (increase of community members paying CERB taxes), and; continued investment in housing, shelter, infrastructure and capital investments remain critical.

Long term funding and support will ensure that we are putting measures and safeguards in place to support PTAs and FCs to continue this important work.

We would like to thank the community members, Friendship Centres and Provincial and Territorial Associations for all their hard work in keeping Indigenous people safe and saving lives!
Get in Touch

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The NAFC is a network of over 100 Friendship Centres and PTAs from coast-to-coast-to-coast.