



Briefing Note

Date: April 2nd, 2020

Prepared for: ONWA Staff & Senior Management, Chapters, Councils & Community Partners

Prepared By: Policy, Research, and Evaluation Portfolio

Issue: Briefing of Press Conferences – Provincial/National COVID-19 Announcements

Purpose: To inform ONWA, ONWA Chapters and Councils and community partners on recent developments on COVID-19 for April 2nd, 2020.

Key messages:

As of 5 pm Thursday April 2nd, 2020¹

- Globally: 1,007,793 cases (+72,597), 52,611 deaths (+5,419)
- US: 240,395 cases (+25,392), 5,808 deaths (+706)
- Italy: 115,242 cases, (+4,668), 13,915 deaths (+760)
- Spain: 110,409 cases (+6,291), 10,106 deaths (+719)
- Canada: 11,131 cases (+1,400), 161 deaths (+47)
 - Ontario: 2,793 cases, (+401), 53 deaths (+16)²
 - Quebec: 5,518 cases (+907), 36 deaths (+3)

Ministry of Health Emergency Operating Center (MEOC) COVID-19 Conference Call:

- Canada: 9600 cases – majority in Quebec
- Ontario: 2793 cases, 401 increase in case numbers
 - 831 resolved (29.8%)
 - 53 deaths (1.9%)
 - 405 hospitalizations, 167 in critical care, 112 vented
 - 12 outbreaks in long-term care homes
 - 10% of cases are healthcare workers; just over 200
 - Greater Toronto Area accounts for 53.6% of cases
 - Use this [website](#) for the most up-to-date numbers
- Establishing a Public Health table, chaired by Dr. David McEwan, that will look at further public health measures
- Establishing a provincial control table on the availability of distribution of PPE
- Updated guidance for homeless shelters, paramedics, group homes etc. available online soon
- Continuing to make progress with backlog – under 2000 tests remaining now

¹ www.worldometers.info

² <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



Briefing Note

Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau Government of Canada Press Conference:

- Meeting with the Premiers tonight to discuss how to keep people safe and supported
- Received a shipment of 1 million masks overnight – this is in addition to the 10 million that have come in over the week; working to distribute these to the provinces
- Provinces are making significant progress on clearing up testing backlog
- Working with the provinces to ensure data collection is aligned across the country to ensure modelling most accurately reflects potential scenarios
- Much work on sophisticated modelling under way; once we have more information, we will provide an update
- The biggest variable is you and your behaviour. We have to do everything within our power now to flatten the curve. Stay home, limit trips to grocery stores to once per week and only one person, wash your hands, don't touch your face/eyes/mouth, practice social/physical distancing.
- If we all step up right now to follow the advice of experts and doctors, we can prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed
- This situation will last for weeks, potentially months. The duration of this situation is completely dependent on our choices and behaviours right now. Follow the advice of experts and doctors.
- Visit this [website](#) for the most up-to-date information

Question: The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is predicting that 800,000 people will not qualify for the newly announced financial support measures because they were already unemployed and/or looking for a job. How are you helping those people?

Answer: We know there are people who can't access our newly announced measures. We know there is more to do. We are funneling money through shelters etc. We will continue to work to help the most vulnerable Canadians who need help during this difficult time and continue to reflect on how we can help.

Question: Should we be locking down provincial borders?

Answer: Each province is looking at what they feel they need to do. Different provinces are looking at measures they want to take. We will support them as they need. The Emergency Measures Act will only be brought in if there are things provinces want to do but don't have the power to do.

Federal Cabinet Ministers' Press Conference

Indigenous Services Minister – Marc Miller

- Indigenous Services has sent out significant personal protection supplies
- Placing priority so that Indigenous leaders have what they need to respond to priorities.
- Total of 15 confirmed cases in Indigenous communities



Briefing Note

- Reiterate the importance of **hand washing** and **physical distancing**, as it remains one of the most effective ways to slow the spread of the virus
- First Nation youth in care that reach the age of majority will continue to receive the supports they need. For the next 6 months, we will continue to cover the eligible costs to First Nations Child and Family Services for youth who have aged out of care.
- Directed First Nations with upcoming elections to withhold because of potential public health risks
 - In the case of a community that decides to hold elections, because it's their right, we are ready to provide help and advice on how to mitigate public health risks
- Unfortunately, COVID-19 is not the only challenge Indigenous communities may face in the coming weeks, but it can compound it. As we head into spring and flood season
- We will continue to support Indigenous communities in responding to natural disasters, such as flooding, forest fires etc., and continue to make sure that Indigenous communities have the health services and supports they need
- Recognize that more support will be needed, and we will be there to make sure no Indigenous community is left out

Question Nurses are circulating every two weeks in and out of communities, and obviously not quarantining. Have you looked at this issue? Do you want it stop? Want them to stay in place?

Answer: Making sure health protocols are in place is essential to ensuring the spread doesn't occur within the communities through the healthcare workers that are there. This is something that we are looking at directly with communities, especially those that are remote because people are flying in/out. Those are all issues and grave ones that we have to tackle, especially when, for example, a community closes. Need to ensure that healthcare workers and health supplies can come in, and people who have to go out (women for birthing reasons), can come back in

Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- The truth is the situation is extremely serious.
- Right now our best defense is to stay home, self isolate, and don't go out. It is a matter of life and death.
- Over the next while, we will all have to make big decision. You deserve to see same data that I see when making decisions. You deserve to know what I know. That is why I asked the medical experts to provide a full briefing to the public on where this will go.

Tomorrow our top doctors will provide an update on where Ontario was, is and where we are going to be.

- A lot of people will have a hard time with the information.
- Today we are investing \$12 million for online mental health supports.



Briefing Note

- To expand online and virtual mental health supports
- Hire new psychologists and other mental health workers to support the OPP.
- Immediately expand services such as Kids Help Phone, Internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for individuals and frontline healthcare workers.
- [\\$2.7 million](#) to support services for victims of domestic violence during COVID-19.
 - This one time emergency payment will help more than 50 community agencies across Ontario, including Indigenous organizations.
 - Victim services are seeing a spike in domestic violence cases during COVID-19, leaving victims fewer places to turn for help.
- My message to is this. You are not alone, we are listening, we care, if you are struggling, reach out, if you know someone who is struggling, reach out to them.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Heading towards 2 week period of people returning back to Canada from spring break. We are seeing positive cases related to that.
- There will be announcements tomorrow with modeling projections, of where are, and where will potentially be in terms of numbers of projected cases in the province.
- Data as of 4 pm yesterday, total of 2793 cases, increase of 401 cases. At this point data on 53 lab confirmed cases that have passes away. 26 outbreaks in LTC facilities, 19 deaths. 8 outbreaks in retirement homes.
- 831 resolved cases. 405 patients in Hospital, of those 167 in ICU, 112 on ventilators.
- Case wise number of people confirmed with COVID-19 that are travel related has went down, suggesting community transmission is now more prevalent.

April 2nd 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Increasing Mental Health Support During COVID-19 April 2nd, 1:15 pm

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-increasing-mental-health-support-during-covid-19.html>

Ontario Strengthening Victim Services in Response to COVID-19 April 2nd, 11:30 am

<https://news.ontario.ca/mag/en/2020/04/ontario-strengthening-victims-services-in-response-to-covid-19.html>

Ontario Supports Trucking Sector for Keeping Goods Moving, April 2nd, 11:00 am.

<https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2020/04/statement-by-minister-elliott-and-minister-mulroney-on-supporting-the-trucking-industry.html>