



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Indian Residential Schools

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS GUIDE

In light of the re-traumatizing effects of recent residential school findings on the health and well-being of Indigenous people, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is working with communities to identify needs and offer supports and services to address those needs.

The FNHA continues to support First Nations Communities in British Columbia (BC) by:

- Serving as a liaison with federal and provincial partners to ensure response coordination efforts meet the needs of communities specific to culturally-relevant mental health and wellness and public health supports.
- Coordinating service delivery and supports in partnership with communities.

This guide will be updated as more information is gathered and the situation unfolds. Updated versions will be posted at:

www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/mental-wellness-and-substance-use/residential-schools

1. FNHA CULTURAL WELLNESS AND HEALING GRANT

Recent residential school discoveries have affected the health and wellness of Indigenous communities across the land. We trust and honour that communities will have ways of knowing and the cultural guidance to help shape the healing work that is needed. A \$10,000 flexible grant is available to each community to help support that work in a good way.

- \$10,000 is available per community
- End date for funding is March 31, 2022

Request pathway: grant funds have been distributed to communities through FNHA regional offices. If your community has not yet received the grant, or if you have any questions, please email:

IRSneeds@fnha.ca

2. MENTAL HEALTH AND CULTURAL SUPPORTS

The FNHA and partner organizations provide culturally-safe and trauma-informed cultural, emotional, and mental health services to Indigenous people in BC.

■ 24-hour Crisis Lines

- Indian Residential School Survivors Society 1-800-721-0066
- KUU-US Crisis Line 1-800-588-8717
- VictimLink – for victims of family and sexual violence 1-800-563-0808 (call or text)
- National Hope for Wellness Help Line 1-855-242-3310 or visit www.hopeforwellness.ca for an online chat.
- Métis Crisis Line in BC 1-833-638-4722

■ Counselling, Traditional and Cultural Supports

- Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program. Eight providers across the province provide emotional and cultural support, either virtually or in person. This includes supports related to Residential Schools, Indian Day Schools, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The FNHA works with each partner to ensure requests for in-person supports are met wherever possible. Call Lorraine Naziel, FNHA Mental Health and Wellness Services, at 604-220-3958 for more information.

Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW) and Cultural Support Providers (CSP):

Adah Dene Cultural Healing Camp Society:

RHSW: Cell 250-996-3813 | Office 250-996-5024

RHSW/CSP: 250-996-1475

Carrier Sekani Family Services:

RHSW Vanderhoof: 250-567-2900 or Toll-free: 1-800-889-6855

Gitanyow Human Services:

RHSW / CSP: Office 250-849-5651 | Cell 250-849-5651

RHSW: Office 250-849-5288 | Cell 250-615-7946

Gitsxan Health Society:

RHSW: 778-202-1355 | irmsupport3@gitsxanhealth.com

CSP: 778-202-1703 | irmsupport1@gitsxanhealth.com

Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council:

Teechuktl / RHSW Coordinator: 250-724-3939 | RHSW: 250-724-3939

Okanagan Nation Alliance: 1-250-470-7048 or Toll-free: 1-866-662-9609

- Indian Residential School Survivors Society provides access to counselling, cultural and emotional support services to former students of residential and day schools, and their families, regardless of status. Call toll-free 1-800-721-0066 or visit www.irsss.ca
- Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society provides healing and cultural supports, including services for communities carrying out work on the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals. Call 1-888-403-3123 or visit www.tsowtunlelum.org

- First Nations Health Benefits provides access to mental wellness and counselling services. Call 1-855-550-5454 or visit www.fnha.ca/benefits
- First Nations Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service. This referral-based service connects individuals and their health and wellness providers with specialist support for assessment, harm reduction, relapse prevention and treatment care planning. Learn more at: www.fnha.ca/VirtualHealth
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Health Support Services. This is a national program administered in BC by the FNHA. Services are available to survivors, family members and others who have been affected. Call First Nations Health Benefits at 1-855-550-5454 for more information.

You can find more mental health and wellness resources at:

www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/mental-wellness-and-substance-use

3. PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL FUNDING

■ BC Residential School Response Fund

- BC's Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation administers the BC Residential School Response Fund.
- The fund is open to all First Nations or Tribal Councils with a former Indian Residential School or Indian Hospital site located in or near their community and who have been identified as the lead community or coordinating body to undertake site-specific work.
- Up to \$475,000 is available for each site. This can include funding for mental health and cultural supports.
- While the funds are application-based, there is no application deadline.
- The Province of BC has appointed Charlene Belleau and Lydia Hwitsum as First Nations liaisons to advise and assist in the provincial response. You can contact the liaisons by email at: ResidentialSchoolsResponse@gov.bc.ca
- The Response Fund has allocated \$1.5 million to enhance wellness and cultural supports. This includes \$1.25 million to FNHA to enhance the Indian Residential School Survivors Society 24/7 crisis line and Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society healing and cultural supports
- For more information, visit: [BC Residential School Response Fund - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://BCResidentialSchoolResponseFund-ProvinceofBritishColumbia.gov.bc.ca)

■ Federal funding and supports

- Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is distributing the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund (total of \$110 million over 3 years) to support Indigenous partners and communities in site-specific research and knowledge-gathering, memorialization or commemoration and bringing children home.
- In August, 2021, the federal government announced renewed funding for programs to support healing from intergenerational trauma, with a further \$107 million to expand these services. The announcement did not include details on how funds will be allocated.
- Additional supports are available from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) around school site remediation, and repurposing and/or replacement of residential school buildings.
- For more information: [Residential schools missing children – community support funding \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](http://ResidentialSchoolsMissingChildren-CommunitySupportFunding.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Request pathway: the FNHA is supporting the provincial and federal government to coordinate response efforts and ensure a “no door is the wrong door” approach to accessing supports.

- For information on provincial funding, contact: ResidentialSchoolsResponse@gov.bc.ca
- For federal funding, contact: aadnc.enfants_disparusmissing_children.aandc@canada.ca
- For information on additional supports from ISC, contact: aadnc.IRS-ISC.PI-SAC.aandc@canada.ca

You can also send questions or requests to IRSneeds@fnha.ca. The FNHA will coordinate with our provincial and federal funding partners to ensure your request is received, reviewed and responded-to by the correct agency(s).

4. GATHERING SAFELY DURING COVID-19

- Community Service COVID-19 Supplies (CSCS), such as hand sanitizer and non-medical masks, may be eligible expenses in support of COVID-19 safety during events and gatherings.
- For additional information, resources and supports specific to COVID-19, please visit: www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus