



## Indigenous Sport & Wellness' ("ISWO") Updated Statement on COVID-19

**Toronto, ON – September 1, 2020** — ISWO continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the province of Ontario and bases its decisions on the recommendations provided by public health authorities. Given the recommendations for the continued use of social distancing, the use of face masks for all indoor public environments and anytime when social distancing is not possible, and the strict limitations on summer camps and sport programming, ISWO has made the difficult decision to extend its in-person program closures until September, 2020. The organization will reassess the situation towards the end of September, and provide an update as to the potential for resuming in-person program opportunities at that time.

Although many regions of the province are now in Stage 3 of the reopening process, the risk of COVID-19 is still present and even more dangerous, for Indigenous communities, who may potentially be more vulnerable and not have the resources available to deal with an outbreak. While we understand that this decision may be disappointing, the safety and wellbeing of the youth and communities we serve, and our staff who deliver programming, is paramount. ISWO looks forward to delivering in-person programming for Indigenous youth, families and communities in Ontario, when it is safe to do so.

The situation regarding COVID-19 continues to evolve and we would encourage all members of the public to access the following verified Public Health websites for the most up-to-date and accurate information, or alternatively, to check-in with your local public health authority:

- [Ontario Public Health](#)
- [Canada Public Health](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

These verified public health websites provide information on how to practice measures to keep yourself and your family members safe and as well, what to do in case you develop symptoms. We encourage you to get tested if you think you may have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms. For more information about COVID-19 testing, please visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.

For the most up-to-date information regarding the status of upcoming ISWO events, we recommend following us on social media, visiting our website, or subscribing to our newsletter and e-blasts.

Wishing you good health and best wishes as many children and youth return to school this fall.

Sincerely,

Marc Laliberte  
President, Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario