



Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario - Updated Statement on COVID-19

Toronto, ON – April 1, 2021 — 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 continued rise of COVID-19 cases in some areas of the province, the impact of new variants, and recommendations for limitations on in-person sport programs and the continued use of physical distancing, **ISWO has extended its in-person program closures until May 31, 2021.** The organization will reassess the situation in June and provide an update, as to the potential for resuming in-person program opportunities at that time. In the meantime, ISWO continues to provide a variety of online programs and community-based grant opportunities, to continue to support the wellness of Indigenous youth and communities across Ontario.

The risk of COVID-19 is still high and is particularly higher for Indigenous communities, who may 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 once again 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, what to do in case you develop symptoms, and details about accessing the vaccine. 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 online/virtual ISWO events, follow us on [social media](#), visit our [website](#), or subscribe to our newsletter and e-blasts.

Stay safe, stay positive and support those who may be more vulnerable during this time.

Sincerely,

Marc Laliberte
President, Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario