

COVID-19 Community Impact Report - Phase Two



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BC Métis
FEDERATION

Introduction

With the first round of COVID-19 funding completed in the fall of 2020, the focus of providing support and financial aid to BC Métis Federation members continued. This second round of support funding became available in the winter of 2021 and allowed BC Métis Federation ("BCMF") to continue to both meet and exceed these expectations, as well as prioritize increasing support to members, their families, and our Métis partner communities impacted by the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, this second round of funding improved upon previous communication strategies to BC Métis Federation membership and partner communities. To meet these improvements, the project team created an online application process for BC Métis Federation members. This online application allowed for an increase in BC Métis Federation members throughout B.C. to apply for COVID-19 support funding. This online form also allowed for improved public transparency from this project. Clarifying funding expectations while informing our team who needed COVID-19 financial support.

Conversations were also facilitated with BCMF partner communities, increasing their capacity to support their local members that have been affected by the global pandemic. BCMF's partner communities were provided financial aid to meet their individual community needs as a result. Community partner leaders were provided some funding guidelines from BCMF, however they had full control of how their funding was used.

Additionally, BCMF provided additional support for COVID-19 relief to the first round of recipients.

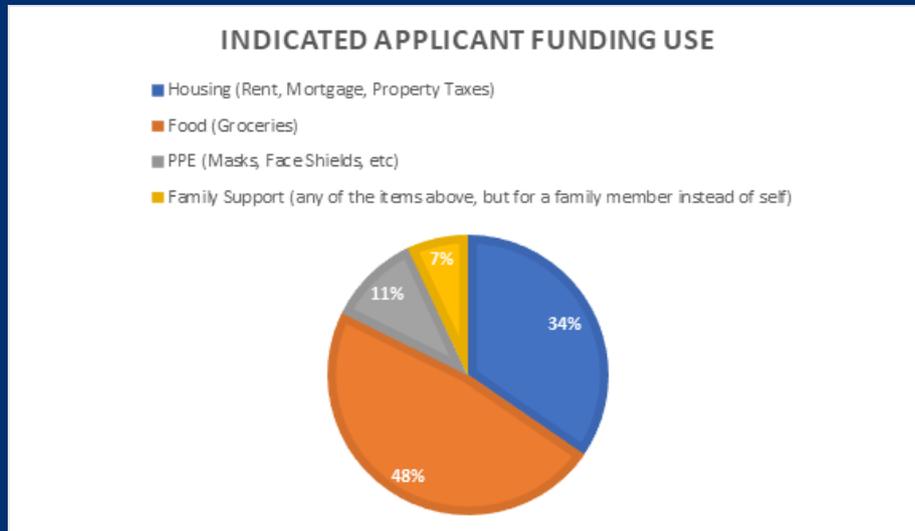
Outcome

Applicants indicated that COVID-19 support funding assisted with affording necessities such as groceries, utilities, rent, and covering travel costs to drive to medical appointments in neighboring towns.

Partner community leaders were interviewed about results from their funding efforts. Members from these communities were funded on an as need basis in most cases, saving the rest of the provided financial aid in a crisis savings account. Members in other communities were provided with other necessities, such as grocery cards and emergency funding.

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of a 'Member Financial Support Request Form' and a BC Métis membership card. The top-left screenshot shows the form's header and the first question: 'Please provide your First and Last name'. The middle-left screenshot shows questions 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, including fields for phone number, email, mailing address, and options for how funds will be used (e.g., Housing, Food, PPE). The bottom-right screenshot shows question 5, which asks for the BC Métis membership number, and includes an image of a membership card for John Doe. The card displays the BC Métis logo, a photo placeholder, and details such as address, gender, and birthday. Below the card image, question 6 asks to confirm the membership type (Individual or Family).

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The number of members directly impacted is still a similar percentage to the first round of COVID-19 support funding. BCMF members are still adamant on receiving vaccinations and inquiring often about where and when they can receive their first/second dose. This is great news to hear as it indicates that members are clearly maintaining their health status, preventing further covid infections in their local Métis communities.

Concerns and solutions:

With the completion of this second round of COVID-19 support funding, some concerns were raised. This led BCMF to ask two main questions; What did we learn from this second round of funding, and What are we going to do to reduce miscommunications to members.

Through our online application form, almost half of our applicants were from Métis Nation BC ("MNBC"), a separate Métis organization that BCMF is not affiliated with.

MNBC currently has COVID-19 support funding and business funding for their membership, causing many MNBC members to apply for our program. Many of their members who applied seemed confused after following up from their applications. MNBC applicants were contacted and explained that they could not apply for BC Métis Federation funding.

Another concern was the funding access itself. Funding requests could not be processed in a timely manner due to a delay in receiving the funding from Indigenous Services Canada.

One final concern was the number of returned cheques to the BCMF office, creating a lot of backtracking from accounting and following up with funded members. This was due to members not providing updated mailing addresses. In the third round of funding BCMF team members will make this a top priority.

What BCMF will improve on in the 3rd round of funding is to continue to encourage members to apply. As well as reaching out to more BCMF member families in need of critical financial aid. Ensuring that this funding is going to the right people at the right time.

Li taan paasi, Li taan ki vyayn.

From our past, for our future.



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