



BC Métis
FEDERATION

Community Impact Report

COVID-19 Phase 3

Introduction

This report marks completion of the BC Métis Federation's (BCMF) third phase of COVID-19 relief funding. BCMF provided COVID-19 financial support to 350 members and 7 partner communities, totalling to \$201,250.00 in financial aid. BCMF COVID-19 relief focused on providing food security, housing security, purchasing PPE, and other associated basic living costs. This third phase of funding provided much needed financial relief for card-carrying BCMF members across British Columbia; members and partner communities expressed gratitude and were happy to receive our commitment to caring for our communities. BCMF members were contacted in fall 2021 and were mailed support cheques in October. BCMF provided financial relief to partner communities in September and October.

Communication Strategies

BCMF has further improved communication strategies to benefit BCMF membership and partner communities. These improvements included individually calling all members that received financial aid to discuss employment status and the occupational impact COVID-19 had on BCMF members. This communication strategy allowed the project team to develop a deeper understanding of how BCMF members were occupationally impacted by COVID-19 as well as determine socio-economic gaps that must be addressed in future membership support projects. BCMF team members and project coordinators would like to thank members of the BCMF once again for member's transparency and honesty in this matter. This communication strategy helped confidence rise within membership knowing that their voices and concerns are heard.

Partner Communities

BCMF partner community leaders were similarly followed up with in previous funding phases. This follow-up included reaching out by phone to partner community leaders. BCMF Community leaders continued to build upon their own capacity to support their local membership by providing financial aid and meeting the needs of their local community. Partner community leaders ultimately had control over how funding was used to support their community needs. Including informing the BCMF of community needs and possible strategies that could aid members in the future.

Outcomes

Data Outcomes from the Third Round of COVID-19 Relief are as follows:

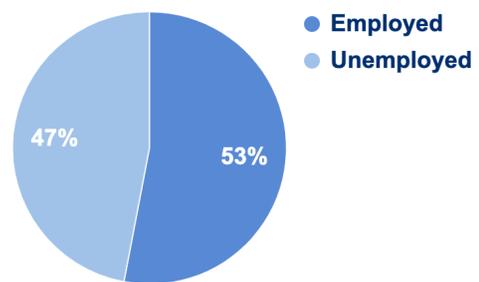
- Total response rate = **70%**

This response rate is higher than previous funding phases due to the hiring of a consultant to call all members who needed COVID-19 funding.

Employment Status

From conversations with members, the unemployment rate of the BCMF membership is 47%. Of those unemployed, 12% are retired.

- **53%** Employed
- **47%** Unemployed

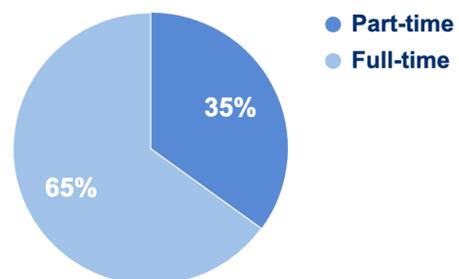


Of the respondents, 20% were BCMF members who owned their businesses. Of these business owners, 10% were required to work extra jobs or lay off staff to maintain operations.

Employed Membership

350 members (33% of respondents) reported to be employed. Approximately two-thirds of those members are employed full-time.

- **35%** are working part-time
- **65%** are working full-time

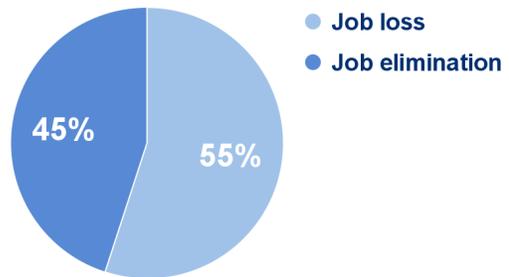


Of the BCMF members working part-time, 80% were maintaining work through retirement.

Unemployed Membership

Of the members who self-reported as unemployed:

- **55%** suffered job loss
- **45%** was job elimination



Partner Community Investments

Partner community investments included:

- Gas cards for BCMF Members to get to medical appointments outside of their township.
- Food security was provided through prepaid Visa and grocery gift cards.

Conclusion

BCMF successfully supported 350 members, families, and 7 partner communities within BC. Our team effectively implemented timely processing and follow-up throughout this process. We believe food security continues to be the most important issue to address due to increasing unemployment rate facing members.

The findings of this report indicate an ongoing and significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to negatively impact BCMF members and partner communities. As per the previous phase of COVID-19 funding, unemployment is the most significant impact and must be addressed in the BCMF partner communities. BCMF recognizes the importance of financially supporting members and partner communities; however, ongoing and increased interventions will be required. BCMF will need to secure additional COVID-19 relief funding support for members and partner communities as well as improve the ability of members to access education and job training.

Members must be given tools to empower themselves for better employment opportunities in the future given the results of increased unemployment. If BCMF members can access post-secondary funding, there would be less reliance on these COVID-19 relief programs. This situation has been created by the lack of meaningful/career employment.

As described in the outcomes section of this report, 80% of elders in BCMF partner communities are retired but are having to find employment to sustain their basic living costs. This is another area of

concern for the BCMF partner communities and members. Elders are not receiving enough financial support from their pension plans and are required to work part time to meet their living needs.

To conclude this report, BCMF would like to thank Indigenous Services Canada for their continued support in providing funding initiatives for our members and partner communities. For any inquiries related to this report or the COVID-19 Relief efforts taking place at BCMF, please contact Drake Henry via email at D.Henry@BCMetis.com.