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Kivalliq Inuit Association
ᑎᑎᖅᑲᖅᑕᐅᒃ/P.O. Box 340, ᑲᖏᖅᓱᓂᖅ/Rankin Inlet, ᓄᓇᕗᑦ/Nunavut X0C 0G0
ᐅᖃᓗᑖ/Tel: (867) 645-5725 ᓱᒃᑲᔪᒃᑯᑦ/Fax: (867) 645-2348/645-2355ᐊᑭᖃᖏᑦᑐᒃᑯᑦToll free: 1-800-220-6581

KivIA Covid 19 Response Initiative Phase 2

December 8, 2020

By KIA

Announcements / Inuit Programs & Services

RANKIN INLET, NU – December 7, 2020 – The Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) is pleased to announce the launch of the second phase of its COVID-19 initiatives for its members. Initiatives that included support for its Elders, traditional activities, and support to all its members within our communities had ended. The additional funds for KivIA's second phase COVID-19 response plan come from additional funding from the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF).

The KivIA had carefully considered various options to roll out this additional funding from the federal government. The discussion led to a consensus on a plan that would…

- Eliminate the need to have the program become application based
- Allow the general public, KIA staff and Inuit to not come in contact with each other in order to carry out this program, therefore following the Public Health Measures currently in effect.
- Allow the Inuit in the Kivalliq communities to quickly receive the relief funds without any delay due to administrative time.
- Benefit local Inuit owned companies with their services
- Maximize the funding effectiveness with the addition of added funds from the vendor and ability for its members to add on to their dividends.
- Prevent any tax implications for the Inuit from the federal government in receiving this relief funding.

With the above factors put into consideration, it was suggested by the Covid-19 Planning Committee that the ICS Funding would be rolled out with a partnership with the Arctic Cooperatives Limited to provide $1500 gift cards to every Inuit household in the Kivalliq Region. This has been presented and approved by the KivIA Board of Directors.

Every household in the Kivalliq Region that house Inuit will be eligible to receive this funding, to be used for anything that the local Arctic Co-op Store has to offer, with the exception of tobacco and bingo products. This will allow residents of each household to buy food and assist with the expenses of going on the land, and where those communities that have their petroleum products contracted by the ACL, the gift certificates can be used for household fuel and gasoline purchases.

The Arctic Co-operative Limited Gift cards are geared toward assisting Kivalliq Inuit with the Covid-19 Pandemic and will not be used toward any payment to the store accounts in which the households may have with their respective Co-op store.

It is very important to note!! The Co-op gift cards are not available yet. The KIA is working with each of the hamlet staff and co-op store to come up with a plan to roll out these gift cards. Each community, either with the

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hamlet staff deliveries or pickup in person will have their own plan to have each customer utilize their gift cards. The KivIA will also be discussing the gift cards roll out plan with the Chief Public Health Officer in order to ensure that all public health orders and guidelines will be followed.

In addition to this gift card program with the Arctic Co-operative Limited, the KivIA and NTI are actively collaborating on a separate program to be announced shortly in an effort to assist those communities directly affected by Covid-19 with food security and initiatives to encourage social distance/on-the-land programs. More information about this program will be made available when finalized.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association is a "Designated Inuit Organization" (DIO), which represents the interests of all Inuit living in the Kivalliq Region, acts as a lobbying group, administers and monitors certain provisions of the Nunavut Final Agreement in the Kivalliq Region. The KivIA mission is to represent, in a fair and democratic manner, Inuit of the Kivalliq Region in the development, protection, administration and advancement of their rights and benefits as an aboriginal people; as well as to promote their economic, social, political and cultural well-being through succeeding generations.

More details about these initiatives can be found on our website kivalliqinuit.ca/documents or by emailing us at: info@kivalliqinuit.ca