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## Question

With regard to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada: (a) what investigations were undertaken before making the determination that First Nations and Indigenous peoples were designated a priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccines; (b) who made the recommendation in (a), and who approved the determination; (c) has the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services received any correspondence in the last five years from any First Nations or Indigenous tribunals, either Canadian or international, about the COVID-19 vaccines; (d) if the answer to (c) is affirmative, what was the content of the correspondence and what actions took place; (e) were investigations undertaken by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada or by the Government of Canada to investigate the rates of adverse events, including fatalities, in the First Nations and Indigenous populations following the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine; (f) what information or conclusions were made from the investigations in (e); (g) what action did the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services take to protect First Nations and Indigenous populations once it was discovered that the mRNA injections were contaminated with excess deoxyribonucleic acid combined with an SV40 nuclear targeting agent; (h) did Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the First Nations and Indigenous population, and, if so, how much and from what source; (i) did any or all bands receive funding specifically in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine; (j) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, how much funding was received by each band, was the funding contingent on specific compliance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine or its promotion, and, if so, what were those conditions; (k) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, who or what agency provided the funding, and was any funding directed towards (i) preventing vaccine hesitancy, (ii) promoting awareness of adverse reactions, (iii) other, and how much was allocated for (i), (ii) and (iii); (l) in relation to the Vaccine Injury Support Program, (i) how many First Nations and Indigenous persons have applied to the Vaccine Injury Support Program, (ii) how many applications have been accepted, (iii) how many fatalities have been recorded in this population, (iv) how much money in total has been awarded through this program to First Nations and Indigenous persons; (m) if the answer to (l) is negative, is there another application process or vaccine injury support program specifically for First Nations and Indigenous persons who have suffered a vaccine injury or fatality; and (n) if the answer to (m) is affirmative, (i) what is the name of the program, (ii) how many First Nations and Indigenous persons have applied to this program, (iii) how many applications have been accepted, (iv) how many fatalities have been recorded in this population, (v) how much money in total has been awarded through this program?

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## Response

This response was tabled in the House of Commons on January 26, 2026, as Sessional Paper 8555-451-660.

<p>Tabled on January 26, 2026</p> <p>Sessional Paper 8555-451-660</p>
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Order/Address of the House of Commons

Question number  
Q-660

Asked by  
Jamie Schmale (Haliburton—  
Kawartha Lakes)

Date asked  
December 8, 2025

Presented by

Kevin Lamoureux

Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Leader of the Government in  
the House of Commons

## Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Reply by: the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Name of Signatory: Jaime Battiste

Reply

## Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

(c) has the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services received any correspondence in the last five years from any First Nations or Indigenous tribunals, either Canadian or international, about the COVID-19 vaccines?

Yes, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations has received correspondence in the last five years from First Nations or Indigenous tribunals, either Canadian or international, about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Information prior to 2021 is unavailable, as the correspondence system in use at the time is no longer operational and related records were archived. As a result, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is unable to respond fully, as the information requested is not systematically tracked in a centralized database. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada concluded that producing and validating a comprehensive response would require a manual search that is not possible in the time allotted and could lead to the disclosure of incomplete or misleading information.

(d) if the answer to (c) is affirmative, what was the content of the correspondence and what actions took place?

Type of correspondence	What was the content of the correspondence	What actions took place
Letter	Alberta COVID-19 4th Wave Impacts on First Nations Urgent Surge Support Needed in all First Nations in the Province of Alberta.	Logged in the tracking system and closed.
Letter	Concerns regarding expired doses of COVID-19 vaccine.	Logged in the tracking system and closed.
Letter	Prime Minister's office referral regarding thanks from the Battleford Agency Tribal Chiefs for the leadership during COVID-19.	Logged in the tracking system and closed.

(h) did Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the First Nations and Indigenous population, and, if so, how much and from what source?

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada did not receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the First Nations and Indigenous population.

(i) did any or all bands receive funding specifically in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine? (j) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, how much funding was received by each band, was the funding contingent on specific compliance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine or its promotion, and, if so, what were those conditions? (k) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, who or what agency provided the funding, and was any funding directed towards (i) preventing vaccine hesitancy, (ii) promoting awareness of adverse reactions, (iii) other, and how much was allocated for (i), (ii) and (iii)?

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada did not provide funding specifically in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine to any bands.

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**Health Canada**

Reply by: the Minister of Health

Name of Signatory: Signed by Maggie Chi

## Public Health Agency of Canada

(a) what investigations were undertaken before making the determination that First Nations and Indigenous peoples were designated a priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccines?

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization is an external advisory body comprised of 16 experts in the fields of pediatrics, infectious diseases, immunology, pharmacy, nursing, epidemiology, pharmacoeconomics, social science and public health, that provides independent, expert advice to the Public Health Agency of Canada on the optimal use of vaccines authorized in Canada. The Committee released its [Preliminary guidance on key populations for early COVID-19 immunization](#) in November 2020 to inform planning for the efficient, effective, and equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine(s) once authorized for use in Canada when limited initial vaccine supply would necessitate the prioritization of immunization in some populations earlier than others. The key populations identified for early COVID-19 immunization included: those at high risk for severe illness and death, those most likely to transmit to those at high-risk and workers essential to COVID-19 response, essential services for the functioning of society, and those in living or working conditions with elevated risk for infection or disproportionate consequences, including Indigenous communities.

As additional information on vaccine characteristics, results of clinical trials, and the number of available doses became available, on December 18, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada published the National Advisory Committee on Immunization [Guidance on the prioritization of initial doses of COVID-19 vaccine\(s\)](#). The recommendations were intended to help provinces and territories plan for the efficient and equitable allocation of initial doses of authorized COVID-19 vaccines when limited initial vaccine supply necessitated the immunization of certain groups earlier than others.

(b) who made the recommendation in (a), and who approved the determination?

In accordance with [its mandate](#), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization submitted its recommendations to the Public Health Agency of Canada, which is responsible for disseminating them.

However, guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization is advisory in nature. Provinces and territories are responsible for all determinations on the design and delivery of their immunization and vaccination policies and programs.

(c) has the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services received any correspondence in the last five years from any First Nations or Indigenous tribunals, either Canadian or international, about the COVID-19 vaccines; (d) if the answer to (c) is affirmative, what was the content of the correspondence and what actions took place?

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services Canada will respond to these questions.

(e) were investigations undertaken by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada or by the Government of Canada to

investigate the rates of adverse events, including fatalities, in the First Nations and Indigenous populations following the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine; (f) what information or conclusions were made from the investigations in (e)?

Provinces and territories are responsible for the delivery of their immunization and vaccination policies and programs, including gathering and reporting data. While the Public Health Agency of Canada's national Adverse Events Following Immunization reporting form includes a field for Indigenous status, not all provinces and territories use the national form when submitting Adverse Events Following Immunization reports to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Among provinces and territories that submit the data through this form, information regarding Indigenous status is not consistently collected and/or reported. As a result, the available data are insufficient to support a reliable assessment of Adverse Events Following Immunization rates specific within the Indigenous populations.

(g) what action did the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services take to protect First Nations and Indigenous populations once it was discovered that the mRNA injections were contaminated with excess deoxyribonucleic acid combined with an SV40 nuclear targeting agent; (h) did Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the First Nations and Indigenous population, and, if so, how much and from what source; (i) did any or all bands receive funding specifically in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine; (j) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, how much funding was received by each band, was the funding contingent on specific compliance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine or its promotion, and, if so, what were those conditions; (k) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, who or what agency provided the funding, and was any funding directed towards (i) preventing vaccine hesitancy, (ii) promoting awareness of adverse reactions, (iii) other, and how much was allocated for (i), (ii) and (iii)?

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services Canada will respond to these questions.

(l) in relation to the Vaccine Injury Support Program, (i) how many First Nations and Indigenous persons have applied to the Vaccine Injury Support Program, (ii) how many applications have been accepted, (iii) how many fatalities have been recorded in this population, (iv) how much money in total has been awarded through this program to First Nations and Indigenous persons; (m) if the answer to (l) is negative, is there another application process or vaccine injury support program specifically for First Nations and Indigenous persons who have suffered a vaccine injury or fatality; and (n) if the answer to (m) is

affirmative, (i) what is the name of the program, (ii) how many First Nations and Indigenous persons have applied to this program, (iii) how many applications have been accepted, (iv) how many fatalities have been recorded in this population, (v) how much money in total has been awarded through this program?

The Vaccine Injury Support Program is the federal, pan-Canadian no-fault vaccine injury compensation program that applies equally to all people in Canada except for those living in Quebec, as that province administers its own longstanding vaccine injury compensation program. Since its launch in 2021, the Vaccine Injury Support Program was implemented and has been administered since its launch by a third-party organization. This third-party administrator is responsible for all aspects of the program, including receiving and processing applications. Under the terms of the contribution agreement with the third-party administrator, Public Health Agency of Canada does not receive disaggregated data, including on claimant identity or demographic characteristics. Data available on the [Vaccine Injury Support Program](#).

As was announced in September 2025, based on a review of how similar programs are managed in other G7 countries and in Quebec, the federal government will assume management of the Vaccine Injury Support Program in April 2026.

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## Indigenous Services Canada

Reply by: the Minister of Indigenous Services

Name of Signatory: Ginette Lavack

Reply

## Indigenous Services Canada

(c) has the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations or the Minister of Indigenous Services received any correspondence in the last five years from any First Nations or Indigenous tribunals, either Canadian or international, about the COVID-19 vaccines?

The Minister of Indigenous Services has received correspondence related to the COVID-19 vaccines in the last five years. Indigenous Services Canada's response reflects information from 2021 to the present day.

Information prior to 2021 is unavailable, as the correspondence system in use at the time is no longer operational and related records were archived. As a result, Indigenous Services Canada is unable to respond fully, as the information requested is not systematically tracked in a centralized database. Indigenous Services Canada concluded that producing and validating a comprehensive response would require a manual search that is not possible in the time allotted and could lead to the disclosure of incomplete or misleading information.

(d) if the answer to (c) is affirmative, what was the content of the correspondence and what actions took place?

Type of correspondence	What was the content of the correspondence	What actions took place
Email	Annual Flu Vaccinations/COVID Booster Vaccinations.	The Department responded the same day.
Email	Second Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine for Band Residents.	Logged in the tracking system and closed.
Email	Oversight that Indigenous Services Canada and Transport Canada may have had in the development of the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination requirements for travelers in Canada.	Logged in the tracking system and closed.
Email	Requesting expedited and emergency approval of Paxlovid for treatment of covid-19 infection for First Nation patients.	Health Canada responded to the co-addressed correspondence.
Letter	COVID Vaccines in Alberta - concerns about the funding for COVID-19 vaccines.	Response has been prepared and is currently under approval.

(h) did Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the First Nations and Indigenous population, and, if so, how much and from what source?

Indigenous Services Canada did not receive any funding to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to Indigenous Peoples.

(i) did any or all bands receive funding specifically in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine; (j) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, how much funding was received by each band, was the funding contingent on specific compliance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine or its promotion, and, if so, what were those conditions; (k) if the answer to (i) is affirmative, who or what agency provided the funding, and was any funding directed towards (i) preventing vaccine hesitancy, (ii) promoting awareness of adverse reactions, (iii) other, and how much was allocated for (i), (ii) and (iii)?

Indigenous Services Canada is unable to respond as the information requested is not systematically tracked in a centralized database.

Indigenous Services Canada concluded that producing and validating a comprehensive response to this question would require a manual search that is not possible in the time allotted and could lead to the disclosure of incomplete or misleading

information.