Minister's Transition Binder

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC (EMBC)

Ministry:

Emergencies can cause significant impacts across all levels of society that can cause widespread harm to social, environmental and economic systems. They can disproportionately affect the elderly, those living with physical and psychological disability, and those living in poverty. Indigenous communities are often disproportionally impacted by emergency events given their relatively remote locations, lack of access to services, and reliance on natural ecosystems.

The four pillars of emergency management; mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are critical to protecting the health and safety of residents, as well as local, provincial and national infrastructure. EMBC administers programs such as disaster financial assistance, emergency support services and mitigation funding programs that make our communities and people more resilient when challenged by emergent and urgent threats to public safety.

Ministry Mandate:

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is responsible for leading the management of provincial-level emergencies and disasters and supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction in British Columbia. EMBC works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous local governments, federal departments, other provinces and territories, industry, non-governmental organizations, volunteers and within the provincial government network to support activities across the four phases of emergency management.

EMBC ensures the Minister responsible for the *Emergency Program Act* can effectively carry out his/her responsibilities including the declaration of states of emergency and the exercise of extraordinary powers necessary to respond to or alleviate the impact of emergencies.

Volunteers play an incredibly important role in emergency management and EMBC Is responsible for the coordination and funding of Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers including: Search and Rescue, Emergency Radio Communications, Emergency Support Services, Provincial Emergency Program Air, and Road Rescue.

EMBC is also responsible for the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), the senior fire authority in the province accountable for fire safety and prevention. Under the authority of the *Fire Services Act* (FSA), services include the general administration and enforcement of the FSA which includes: training of local assistants to the fire commissioner, fire loss statistics collection, fire investigation, fire inspection, response to major fire emergencies, advice to local governments on delivery of fire protection services, public fire safety education, and certification of fire fighters.

Budget:

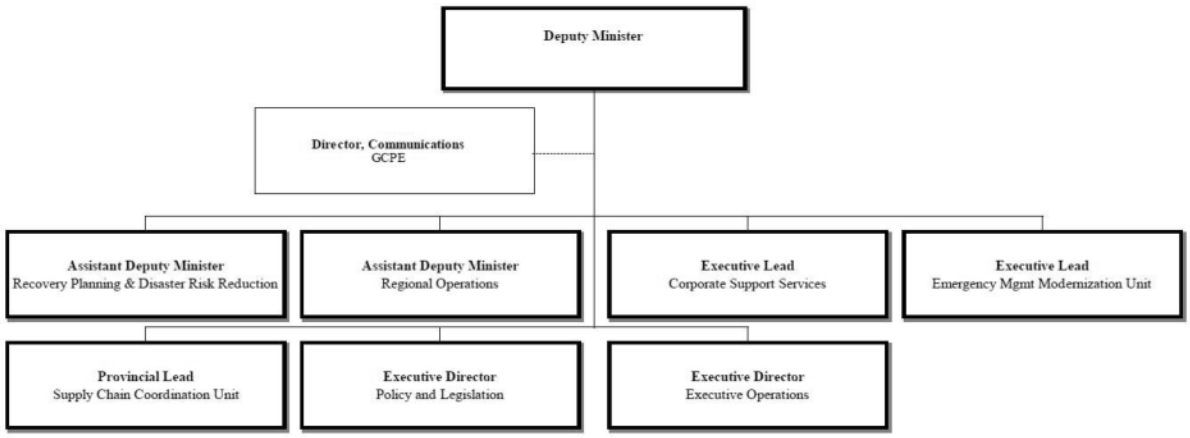
Resource Summary: Emergency Management BC

Core Business Area	2019/20 Restated Budget[1]	2020/21 Estimate	2021/22 Plan	2022/23 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Emergency Management BC (Vote 39)	18,568	29,454	Government Financial Information; Advice/Recommentations	
EMBC Deputy Ministers Office (Vote 39)[2]	779	779		
***Emergency Program Act* (Vote 40)**	14,819	36,527		
Total	**34,166**	**66,760**		

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2019/20 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2020/21 Estimates. This table shows EMBC related funding which is provided for in the 2020/21 estimates under the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG).
[2] EMBC Deputy Ministers Office is funded through PSSG Executive and Support Services budget allocation. Budget shown reflects 2020/21 working budget allocation.
* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 249

Executive Organizational Chart:



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION

ISSUE: Overview of emergency management in BC.

SUMMARY:

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is the Province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including executive coordination, strategic planning, multi-agency facilitation, and provincial preparedness.
- Consistent with an all-of-society emergency management approach, EMBC works closely with provincial ministries, local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers.
- The *Emergency Program Act* (1996) and associated regulations provide the provincial legislative framework for emergency management of disasters and emergencies in BC.
- The federal *Emergencies Act* (1985) authorizes special temporary powers for federal agencies during national emergencies, and the *Emergency Management Act* (2007) establishes the legislative foundation for federal emergency management activities.

BACKGROUND:

- The Province developed and adopted the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS), which establishes a coordinated and organized approach to managing emergencies and disasters across the four phases of emergency management – mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- BCEMS provides the standards and guiding principles for coordination between first responders, local government and First Nation emergency operations centres (EOCs), EMBC's six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs), and EMBC's central Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC).
- In BC, local governments lead the initial response to emergencies and disasters in their communities, which often includes the activation of their community's EOC. As required by law, local governments have prepared emergency plans and maintain an emergency management organization. This is to ensure the safety of citizens when a situation escalates beyond the first responder level.
- Canada is responsible for reserve lands, and this responsibility is delegated to the Minister of Indigenous Services. Indigenous Services Canada supports the four pillars of emergency management on-reserve and has a service agreement with EMBC to ensure that First Nations have access to the provincial emergency management platform and services.
- If an emergency is beyond the capacity of a local government or First Nations EOC, EMBC's PREOCs can be activated to provide support. PREOCs are provincial

offices comprised of emergency management staff, trained to assist local governments and First Nations with planning, coordination and logistics. There are six PREOCs across BC located in each of EMBC's regions.
- If multiple PREOCs are opened, the PECC at EMBC headquarters in Victoria can be activated to support them. The PECC has the ability to coordinate resources and communications, request provincial government assistance, reach out to other provinces or the federal government, and support decision making by the Office of the Deputy Minister for Emergency Management.
- The Office of the Deputy Minister for Emergency Management works as an interface with the Minister responsible for emergency management.
- Interprovincial and federal coordination is guided by the National Emergency Response System (2011), which outlines authorities, governance, key response activities, and the respective roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- As noted above, EMBC also coordinates with non-government organizations (e.g., Canadian Red Cross; Salvation Army), critical infrastructure owners (e.g., BC Hydro; FortisBC), and public safety lifeline volunteers (e.g., Search and Rescue; Emergency Support Services).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:
- Specific Ministries have lead roles with respect to specific hazards as per Schedules 1 and 2 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* (see Attachments 1 and 2).
- All Ministries have the responsibility to develop, maintain, and implement business continuity plans.

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Attachments:
1. Schedule 1 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*: Ministers Responsible for Coordinating Government Response to Specified Hazards
2. Schedule 2 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*: Duties of Ministers and Government Corporations in the Event of an Emergency

Schedule 1 of the Emergency Program Management Regulation: Ministers Responsible for Coordinating Government Response to Specified Hazards

Accidents	• air crashes • marine accidents • motor vehicle: crashes	AG AG AG
Atmosphere	• snow storms • blizzards • ice storms and fog • hailstorms • lightning • hurricanes • tornadoes • heat waves	AG AG AG AG AG AG AG AG
Dam Failure	• dam failure (includes foundations and abutments)	ENV
Disease and Epidemics	• human diseases • animal diseases • plant diseases • pest infestations	HLTH AGRI AGRI AGRI
Explosions and Emissions	• gas and gas leaks (pipeline) • gas and gas leaks (gas wells) • mine • other explosions	ENV EMPR EMPR MAH
Fire — Urban and Rural	• fire (urban and rural — excludes interface fire)	MAH
General	• General — non-specific or not identified	AG
Geological	• avalanches: — highways — other • debris avalanches and debris flows • landslides: — highways — other • submarine slides • land subsidence	 TRAN AG ENV TRAN AG ENV EMPR
Hazardous materials	• hazardous spills — general (on site or transport routes) — radiation — infectious materials	 ENV HLTH HLTH
Hydrologic	• drought • erosion and accretion • flooding • ice jams • storm surges	AG ENV TRAN TRAN AG
Power outage	• electrical power outage	AG
Riots	• riots/public disorder	AG

Seismic	• ground motion effects • Tsunamis	AG
Space object	• space object crash	AG
Structural	• structural collapse	AG
Terrorism	• terrorism (hostile act against state)	AG
Volcanic	• ash falls • pyroclastic flows • lava flows • mudflows	AG AG AG AG
Wildfire	• wildfire (includes interface fire)	FLNR

Schedule 2 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*: Duties of Ministers and Government Corporations in the Event of an Emergency

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

- provide advice to farmers, aquaculturists and fishers on the protection of crops, livestock and Provincially managed fish and marine plant stocks;
- coordinate the emergency evacuation and care of poultry and livestock;
- inspect and regulate food quality;
- identify food and potable water supplies;
- assist the Minister of Health in the inspection and regulation of food safety.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- provide advice to local governments and Provincial ministries and government corporations on legal matters relating to the preparation and promulgation of emergency orders, regulations, declarations and contractual arrangements;
- prepare, promulgate and implement orders relating to law enforcement and internal security
- through the police force having jurisdiction, provide:
    - advice to local authorities respecting the maintenance of law and order;
    - reinforcement of local police services;
    - security control of emergency areas;
    - traffic and crowd control;
    - search and rescue services for missing persons on land and in inland waters;
- provide coroner's services including the operation of temporary morgues, identification of the dead and registration of death;
- through the Provincial Emergency Program:
    - provide a 24-hour capability to direct requests for emergency assistance to appropriate municipal, provincial, federal or private sector agencies;
    - serve as the point of contact for requests for emergency assistance from and to the government of Canada, unless otherwise specified in intergovernmental agreements;
    - administer the emergency assistance vote to cover those of the incremental costs
        a) that are incurred by local governments, ministries and government corporations in responding to an emergency, and
        b) that the minister has approved;
    - organize and administer registered volunteers and temporary workers as requested or detailed in emergency response plans;
    - coordinate the emergency response activities of supporting ministries as requested or detailed in emergency response plans.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS

- provide professional and technical advice and direction at hazardous material spills or pollution spills;
- ensure the proper disposal of hazardous wastes and pollutants;
- assess and monitor air quality;

- provide flood forecasts and bulletins;
- provide flood assessment, technical services and planning staff at government operation centres in the case of floods;
- provide conservation officers to act as special constables to reinforce police forces in law and order and traffic duties;
- provide dam safety and inspection services.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RELATIONS

- provide risk management services in respect of possible compensation and liability claims;
- arrange the assignment of suitably qualified public employees from various ministries to special emergency duties;
- coordinate, in cooperation with ministries, the establishment and maintenance of Emergency Financial Response and Back-up Teams throughout British Columbia.

MINISTER OF FORESTS

- provide Ministry of Forests personnel, equipment, supplies, telecommunications equipment, aviation support and weather information to assist in emergency response operations.

MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- provide government aircraft and vehicles;
- provide for the leasing or purchase of emergency supplies and equipment;
- through government communications office, coordinate the Provincial government emergency information services.

MINISTER OF HEALTH

- provide public health measures including epidemic control and immunization programs;
- provide and coordinate ambulance services and triage, treatment, transportation and care of casualties;
- provide the continuity of care for persons evacuated from hospitals or other health institutions and for medically dependant persons from other care facilities;
- provide standard medical units consisting of emergency hospitals, advanced treatment centres, casualty collection units and blood donor packs;
- inspect and monitor potable water supplies;
- inspect and regulate food quality with the assistance of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- provide critical incident stress debriefing and counselling services;
- provide support and supervision services for physically challenged or medically disabled persons affected by an emergency.

MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

- through the office of the fire commissioner, coordinate fire fighting in a declared state of emergency.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- provide the following:
    - food, clothing and shelter in private or congregate facilities;
    - registration and information to assist in locating and reuniting of families;
    - care of children who are not accompanied by a guardian or custodian, and mentally challenged persons;
- necessary financial assistance or assistance in kind;provide clothing, food, shelter, registration and information services as may be required by emergency workers;
- provide assistance to local authorities in the planning and operation of emergency social services consisting of emergency feeding, clothing, lodging, registration and inquiry and personal services.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS
- coordinate and arrange for transportation, engineering and construction resources.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FERRY CORPORATION
- provide priority loading for the transport of emergency personnel, equipment and supplies;
- provide ferries to serve as reception centres, hospitals, response centres or other emergency facilities.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY
- coordinate the restoration of electric facilities, taking into account domestic, commercial, industrial and government requirements;
- interrupt hydro services when they pose a threat to life or property;
- conduct safety measures in respect to B.C. Hydro dams, including initiating warnings in the event of dam failures.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RAIL LIMITED
- provide priority movement of emergency personnel, equipment and supplies;
- in cooperation with Transport Canada, assist at railway crashes, derailments in the conduct of rescue operations, removal of debris and the cleanup of hazardous material;
- provide railcars for emergency facilities;
- provide specialized equipment.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SYSTEMS CORPORATION
- provide technical advice and assistance on the acquisition of telecommunications equipment, systems and computers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSIT
- coordinate requirements for public transportation, including school and privately owned buses.

BRITISH COLUMBIA BUILDINGS CORPORATION

- provide priority allocation of government buildings for operational accommodation, storage or other emergency requirements;
- make emergency rental or lease arrangements for private sector buildings or other infrastructure requirements;
- assess damage to government buildings.

Emergency Management BC – 30/60/90 Day Decisions

Name	Brief Description	Timeline – 30 / 60 /90	Implications of Not Making Decision	Decision
Consideration of Extending the Provincial State of Emergency	The Province declared a provincial state of emergency (SOE) on March 18, 2020 to address widespread impacts of COVID-19 and complement authorities of the Provincial Health Officer afforded by the Public Health Emergency declared March 17, 2020. Extensions to the SOE are required every 14 days and must be done by OIC.	Within 30 days consideration of extensions of the Provincial State of Emergency would be required by October 27, November 10 and November 24, etc.		Corporate
			Advice/Recommentations	
	Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Governm			
Delegation Matrix	As per long-standing convention, there is currently in place a Ministerial Order that delegates certain Minister's powers and duties to the director (statutory, senior staff	30 days		Minister

Emergency Management BC – 30/60/90 Day Decisions

Name	Brief Description	Timeline – 30 / 60 /90	Implications of Not Making Decision	Decision
	at EMBC) under the Emergency Program Act (EPA). The existing delegation remains in effect unless it is rescinded by the Minister, or a new Minister is appointed where a new order is recommended.			

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Governme

Avalanche Funding and Support	Avalanche Canada is facing a 2020/21 funding shortfall of $250k related uncertainty with private sector donations. Advice/Recommentations BC Parks and Recreation BC Sites and Trails have recorded increased use in the range of 300% during spring/summer 2020 due to COVID-19 Advice/Recommentations Advice/Recommentations	30 days	Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations	Minister
Transition of Emergency Orders under the Covid-19 Related Measures Act	Should the Provincial State of Emergency be lifted, decisions will need to be made to extend individual orders beyond their 45 or 90-day expiry to July 10, 2021, the maximum permitted under the legislation.	30 – 90 days		Corporate

Emergency Management BC – 30/60/90 Day Decisions

Name	Brief Description	Timeline – 30 / 60 /90	Implications of Not Making Decision	Decision
Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program (under Federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program)	Minister approval to submit 'shovel ready' provincial project list to Infrastructure Canada for approval is required in December. Announcement of an accelerated ARDM intake for additional projects is required as soon as interregnum period is complete. A subsequent Minister decision on the provincial project list to be submitted to Infrastructure Canada for approval will be required in February 2021.	30 days 90 days	Advice/Recommentations	Minister

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

Emergency Management BC – 30/60/90 Day Decisions

Name	Brief Description	Timeline – 30 / 60 /90	Implications of Not Making Decision	Decision
Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) implementation – Project Plan and Grants and Contributions proposal	Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications	60 days	Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications	Deputy Minister
Signing the Interior Nations Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (EMBC, BCWS, FNHA, Interior Region Nation Executive, ISC)	Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information	90 days		Minister
Fraser River Debris Trap – Operating Contract and Shxw'ōwhámel FN involvement	Award for ~1.1M annual operating contract for woody debris removal from the Fraser River Debris Trap.	90 days		Deputy Minister
Fire Safety Act	The Fire Safety Act (FSA) was given royal assent in 2016, it has not been implemented Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications	90 days		Minister

Emergency Management BC – 30/60/90 Day Decisions

Name	Brief Description	Timeline – 30 / 60 /90	Implications of Not Making Decision	Decision
	Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations			
Road Rescue	Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications	90 days	Advice/Recommentations	Deputy

30/60/90 DAY DECISION NOTE

Issue:

- A decision on whether to extend the current state of provincial emergency will be required by October 27, November 10, November 24 and every two weeks thereafter, until decision is made to end the state of provincial emergency.

Background:

- BC declared a state of provincial emergency under the *Emergency Program Act* on March 18, 2020 to ensure public safety, address widespread impacts of COVID-19 and to augment authorities of the Provincial Health Officer under the *Public Health Act.*
- Within a state of provincial emergency, the *Emergency Program Act* provides that the Minister responsible may do all acts and implement all procedures that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including to:
    - Implement a provincial emergency plan or measures;
    - Authorize or require a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or measures;
    - Acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to respond to the emergency;
    - Authorize or require any qualified person to provide assistance to others to respond to the emergency;
    - Control or prohibit travel to or from any area of BC;
    - Provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies;
    - Provide, maintain, and coordinate emergency medical, welfare, and other essential services in BC;
    - Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals, and personal property from any area of BC affected by the emergency, and make arrangements for their adequate care and protection;
    - Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan, if the Minister considers necessary;
    - Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures, or crops, if the Minister considers necessary;
    - Construct something that the Minister considers necessary to respond to the emergency; and,
    - Procure, fix prices for, or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies, or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources, or equipment within any part of BC.
- Extensions to the state of provincial emergency are required every 14 days and must be done by Order in Council (OIC).
- The *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA) was brought into force on July 10, 2020. The CRMA provides a temporary legal framework to allow for flexibility when the state of provincial emergency is ended, by allowing the effects of certain orders to continue. This is important to ensure that British Columbians are not faced with unintended practical and legal consequences.

- Most, but not all, orders made under the Emergency Program Act were made provisions of the CRMA with dates of repeal set at 45 or 90 days after the last day of the expiry of the state of provincial emergency. These 45 and 90 day expiry dates can be further extended by OIC to a maximum of July 10, 2021, provided they have not already lapsed and if LGIC is satisfied that they are necessary to respond to or alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision required:

- Extend the current state of provincial emergency; or
- Rescind it before the set date of termination, or
- Allow it to expire.

    - If the state of provincial emergency is not extended, there will be reduced powers available to government to address new/unforeseen issues related to pandemic.
    - Expiry of the state of provincial emergency will trigger the expiry of a number of orders within 45 or 90 days after the expiry of the last extension.

Ministerial Order No. M 259

DELEGATION ORDER

Emergency Program Act

General

The Government of British Columbia is responsible for an emergency management system to minimize human suffering in an emergency or disaster. Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) was formed in 2006 to be the lead agency in government for all of Governments' emergency management activities. EMBC's purpose is to enhance safety for individuals and communities through integrated emergency mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Prompt coordination by Government enhances public safety and reduces property and economic loss from actual or imminent emergencies or disasters. EMBC provides emergency management through a number of programs, including the administration of the *Emergency Program Act.*

Delegation

The following powers and duties of the *Emergency Program Act,* R.S.B.C. 1996, ch.111, are hereby delegated to the appointed director of the Provincial Emergency Program, as authorized by section 4(2)(i) of that Act:

(a) The powers and duties set out in sections 4(2) (a) to (d) and (f) to (h), 5(a), (c) and (d), 7, 10(1) (a), (b) and (d) to (l), 16, and 20(2).
(b) The power to appoint committees to advise or assist the director under section 3(1).

August 3, 2017
Date

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Emergency Program Act*., R.S.B.C. 1996, c.111, s. 4(2)(i)

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
	Committees				
3(1)	May appoint the committees the minister considers necessary or desirable to advise or assist the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the minister or the director	➡	X		
	General Powers and Duties				
4(1)	Must prepare emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters	X			
4(2)(a)	May conduct public information programs relating to emergency preparedness and recommend preventive measures to alleviate the effects of emergencies or disasters	➡	X		
4(2)(b)	May make surveys and studies to identify and record actual and potential hazards that may cause emergencies or disasters	➡	X		
4(2)(c)	Make payments and grants, subject to any terms or conditions that the minister may impose, to local authorities for the purposes of assisting in emergency prevention, preparedness and response	➡	X		
4(2)(d)	Enter into agreements with and make payments or grants, or both, to persons or organizations for the provision of services in the development or implementation of emergency plans or programs	➡	X		
4(2)(e)	Enter into agreements with the government of Canada or of any other province, or with any agency of such a government, dealing with emergency plans and programs	X			

[1] Most of the director's powers and duties under the EPA are delegated from the minister. The note indicates that the duties/powers delegated to the director cannot be further delegated.

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
4(2)(f)	Review and recommend modification of local emergency plans of local authorities	➡	X		
4(2)(g)	Establish training and training exercise programs	➡	X		
4(2)(h)	Provide support to volunteers as prescribed in the regulations	➡	X		
4(2)(i)	Delegate in writing to the director any of the powers or duties vested in the minister by this Act, except a power (i) To make or cancel a declaration of a state of emergency (ii) To cancel a declaration of a state of local emergency, or (iii) To make an order under s 13(2) (order that a local authority refrain or desist from exercising emergency powers in s 13(1)(b) or (c)	X			
	Ministerial Orders				
5(a)	May, by order, divide British Columbia into various subdivisions for the purpose of organizing integrated plans and programs in relation to emergency preparedness, response and recovery	➡	X		
5(b)	May, by order, require local authorities of the municipalities or electoral areas located within a subdivision referred to in paragraph (a) to prepare, in cooperation with designated ministries, integrated plans and programs, satisfactory to the minister, to deal with emergencies	X			
5(c)	May, by order, establish procedures required for the prompt and efficient implementation of plans and programs to meet emergencies and disasters	➡	X		

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
5(d)	May, by order, require a person to develop plans and programs in cooperation with one or more local authorities, designated ministries and government corporations and agencies to remedy, alleviate or meet any emergency that might arise from any hazard to persons or property and that is or may be created by (i) the person engaging in any operation, (ii) the person utilizing any process, (iii) the person using property in any manner, or (iv) any condition that exists or may exist on the person's land	➡	X		
	Preparation of Local Emergency Plans				
6(3.2)(a)	May, by order, establish (if a local authority has not complied with s. 6(2) and (2.1)), the date by which the local emergency plan or plans required under those subsections must be prepared, with power to establish, for the board of a regional district, different dates for the preparation of local emergency plans for different electoral areas within the regional district	X			
6(3.2)(b)	May, by order, establish (if a local authority has not complied with s. 6(3)), the date by which the emergency management organization or organizations required under that subsection must be established, with power to establish, for the board of a regional district, different dates for the establishment of emergency management organizations for different electoral areas within the regional district	X			
	Implementation of Provincial Emergency Plans				
7	The minister or a person designated in a Provincial emergency plan may, whether or not a state of emergency has been declared under section 9 (1), cause a Provincial emergency plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the minister or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens	➡	X		X

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
	Declaration of State of Emergency				
9(1)	If satisfied that an emergency exists or is imminent, may, by order, declare a state of emergency relating to all or any part of British Columbia	X		X	
9(3)	Immediately after a declaration of a state of emergency is made, must cause the details of the declaration to be published by a means of communication that the minister considers most likely to make the contents of the declaration known to the majority of the population of the affected area	X			
9(4)	May extend a declaration of a state of emergency for further periods of not more than 14 days each			X	
	Powers of Minister in Declared State of Emergency				
10(1)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, do all acts and implement all procedures that the minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster	X			
10(1)(a)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, implement a Provincial emergency plan or any Provincial emergency measures	➡	X		
10(1)(b)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, authorize a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility	➡	X		
10(1)(c)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, require a local authority for a municipality or an electoral area to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the municipality or electoral area for which the local authority has responsibility	X			

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
10(1)(d)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster	➡	X		
10(1)(e)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide or that otherwise is or may be required to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster	➡	X		
10(1)(f)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia	➡	X		
10(1)(g)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of British Columbia	➡	X		
10(1)(h)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area of British Columbia that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property	➡	X		
10(1)(i)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the minister to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster	➡	X		

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
10(1)(j)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster	➡	X		
10(1)(k)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, construct works considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster	➡	X		
10(1)(l)	May, after a declaration of a state of emergency is made and for the duration of the emergency, procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any part of British Columbia for the duration of the state of emergency	➡	X		
10(2)	After a declaration of a state of emergency, the director or such other person as the minister may appoint is responsible for the coordination and implementation of necessary plans or programs prepared under this Act		X		X
	Cancellation of Declaration of State of Emergency				
11(1)	Must make an order cancelling the declaration of a state of emergency in respect of that area when of the opinion that an emergency no longer exists in an area in relation to which a declaration of a state of emergency was made	X		X	
11(2)	Immediately after a state of emergency is cancelled or expires, must cause the details of the cancellation or expiry to be published by a means of communication that considers most likely to make the contents of the cancellation order or the fact of the cancellation or expiry known to the majority of the population of the affected area	X			

Provincial Duties and Powers in the EPA

EPA ref	**Duties and Powers** (arrow = currently delegated by the minister to the Director[1])	Minister	Director	LGiC	Designated Person
	Declaration of State of Local Emergency				
12(6)	May approve an extension of a state of local emergency for periods of not more than 7 days each, when requested by the local authority	X		X	
	Power of Minister in Declared State of Local Emergency				
13(2)	If a state of local emergency has been declared, may order a local authority to refrain or desist from exercising its emergency powers	X			
13(3)	If an order is made under s. 13(2), must cause the details of the order to be communicated to the local authority affected by the order and to any other persons the minister considers appropriate	X			
	Cancellation of Declaration of State of Local Emergency				
14(1)	May cancel a state of local emergency at any time it is considered appropriate in the circumstances	X		X	
	Expenditures				
16(1)	May pay any expenditure under the act considered necessary by the minister to implement a Provincial emergency plan or Provincial emergency measures, under section 7 or 10 (1) (a) out of the consolidated revenue fund without an appropriation other than this section.	➡	X		
	Disaster Financial Assistance				
20(2)	May provide disaster financial assistance in accordance with the regulations to persons who suffer loss as a result of a disaster.	➡	X		

Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Delegation of Minister's powers and duties under the *Emergency Program Act*

BACKGROUND:

On August 3, 2017, the Minister made an Order delegating certain powers and duties to the director under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA). The existing delegation (Attachment 1) remains in effect unless 1) it is rescinded by the Minister, or 2) a new Minister is appointed.

The director is a statutory role in the EPA that oversees appeals of disaster financial assistance claims, and emergency coordination tasks, unless an "other person" is appointed under s. 10(2)(a). The current director is EMBC's Assistant Deputy Minister, Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction. The current "other person" tasked with coordination of emergency plans, programs and agencies is EMBC's Executive Director of Response Operations.

Section 4(2)(i) of the EPA provides that the Minister can delegate all the powers of the Minister to the director, with the exception of the powers to:

- declare a state of provincial emergency;
- cancel a state of provincial emergency;
- cancel a state of local emergency; or
- issue an order to a local authority to refrain or desist from the use of extraordinary powers under a declared state of local emergency.

A new delegation, if warranted, will take the form of a letter to the incumbent director and will be limited to powers and duties that relate to disaster financial assistance program administration.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Equitable administration of the Disaster Finanical Assistance program, as if it applied on reserve lands, is a requirement of the 2017-2027 bilateral emergency management funding service agreement between BC and Canada.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

Legal Information

PREPARED BY:
Erin Scraba
Government Financial Information

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM		
ED	HB	Oct 27

Attachment(s)
2017 Delegation from Minister Farnworth to director, Emergency Program Act

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

30/60/90 DAY DECISION NOTE

Issue:

- To support government's response to COVID-19, a number of Ministerial Orders and Orders in Council (OIC) have been enacted under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA). Many of these Orders have expiry dates that are linked to the State of Provincial Emergency (SOPE) initially declared on March 18, 2020. The SOPE was recently extended to expire on October 27, 2020, and is anticipated to be further extended to November 10, 2020, at a minimum.
- Some CRMA orders will expire in tandem with the expiration of the SOPE, while other CRMA orders will expire 45 or 90 days following the expiration of the SOPE. There are currently a number of requests to extend these orders by OIC to the maximum time limit (July 10, 2021) permitted under the CRMA; decisions regarding these extensions will be required within 30 – 90 days, as described below.

Background:

- Under sections 10 and 10.1 of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA), once a SOPE is declared, the Minister and the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) may make orders and regulations to prevent, respond to, or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of orders and regulations were made under these authorities.
- The CRMA, passed in July 2020, enables these orders and regulations to continue as appropriate following the expiration of the SOPE. Orders and regulations previously made under the EPA were incorporated into CRMA.
- Section 3 of the CRMA enables the LGIC to extend an order or regulation COVID-19 provision; however, extensions are restricted to no later than one year after the CRMA comes into force, and extensions may only be made if the LGIC is satisfied that they are necessary to respond to or alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The expiry of some CRMA orders and regulations, such as orders related to encampments in Vancouver and Victoria, have already occurred, while other expiry dates may require further review and decisions taking into account issues related to the pandemic.
- Current expiry time horizons are identified in the Table on Page 2.

Decision required:

- It is anticipated that the SOPE will be extended to November 10, 2020, at a minimum. Upon expiry of the SOPE, decisions will be required whether to extend CRMA orders beyond the expiration of the SOPE, including whether to extend to the maximum duration allowable under the CRMA (July 10, 2021). These decisions will be required within 30 days and 60 days, respectively.
- Materials related to each extension decision will be presented to Cabinet separately.

Table 1: CRMA Orders and Expiry Dates

Order	Ministerial or OIC Number	Expiry Date
Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Vancouver Enforcement Order	M152/2020	At expiration of SOPE
Electronic Witnessing of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements (COVID-19) Order	M162/2020	At expiration of SOPE
Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Victoria Enforcement Order	M166/2020	At expiration of SOPE
Supreme Court Civil and Family Applications (COVID-19) Order	M121/2020	45 days after SOPE expires
COVID-19 (Limitation Periods in Court Proceedings) Regulation (section 1(1)(a) only)	OIC 453	45 days after SOPE expires
Electronic Attendance at Strata Property Meetings (COVID-19) Order	M114/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Electronic Attendance at Corporate Meetings (COVID-19) Order	M116/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Electronic Attendance at Credit Union Meetings (COVID-19) Order	M138/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Electronic Attendance at Statutory Meetings (COVID-19) Order	M167/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Correctional Centre Measures (COVID-19) Order	M193/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order	M082/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Local Authorities and Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order	M084/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Provincial Compliance Officer (COVD-19) Order	M093/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Limitation Periods (COVID-19) Order	M098/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Prohibition on Unconscionable Prices for Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order	M115/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Employment and Assistance (COVID-19) Order	M133/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Local Government Finance (COVID-19) Order	M159/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Electronic Attendance at UBCM Convention (COVID-19) Order	M168/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Local Government Meetings and Bylaw process (COVID-19) Order No. 3	M192/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
Food and Liquor Premises, Gatherings and Events (COVID-19) Order	M358/2020	90 days after SOPE expires
COVID-19 (Limitation Periods in Court Proceedings) Regulation (except section 1(1)(a))	OIC 453	90 days after SOPE expires
Health Care Labour Adjustment (COVID-19) Order	M220/2020	July 10, 2021
BC Ferries Medical Travel (COVID-19) Order	M256/2020	July 10, 2021
COVID-19 (*Passenger Transportation Act*) Regulation	OIC 457	July 10, 2021
COVID-19 (*Residential Tenancy Act* and *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act*) (No. 2) Regulation (ss. 8 and 17 only)	OIC 475	November 30, 2020
COVID-19 (*Residential Tenancy Act* and *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act*) (No. 2) Regulation (except ss. 8 and 17)	OIC 475	July 10, 2021

CORPORATE ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY NOTE

Issue:

- Modernization of BC's emergency management system holds the opportunity to strengthen British Columbia's resiliency in the face of emergencies and disasters.

Background:

- Emergencies and disasters are becoming more impactful, costly and common in British Columbia, in part due to climate change. These emergencies and disasters have profound economic and social consequences, often disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable people and communities. Over the past decade, multiple reports have provided recommendations on how B.C. can improve emergency management.
- Partly in response to these recommendations, in 2018, the Province of BC adopted United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework). The Sendai framework entails an 'all of society' approach to emergency management, and a focus on disaster risk reduction, as opposed to a traditional focus on emergency response actions. A key element includes the principle of "Build Back Better" – build back stronger, build back faster and build back inclusively.
- Since then, numerous piecemeal improvements have been made to British Columbia's emergency management system. Currently, several larger initiatives and concepts are being developed to strengthen and improve emergency management in BC.
- Together, these initiatives as well as a number of supporting actions within EMBC can be thought of as an overall Emergency Management Modernization effort, which could (if pursued and capitalized upon) dramatically improve British Columbia's resiliency in the face of emergencies and disasters. This broad Emergency Management Modernization undertaking also involves opportunities to protect vulnerable populations, recognize First Nations' rights to self-determination in emergency management, and promote economic development and recovery.

Issue/Opportunity:

- As noted above, a number of potential initiatives can support the overall opportunity of an Emergency Management Modernization initiative. If supported by government as a coherent initiative or strategy, these separate initiatives could achieve modernization benefits far in excess of any one or more initiatives pursued individually. Potential initiatives for pursuit under an overall Emergency Management Modernization strategy include the following:

    1. **Modernized Emergency Management Legislation:** A cornerstone of Emergency Management Modernization is the modernization of BC's Emergency Program Act, BC's primary emergency management legislation. This legislative initiative is currently underway, led by EMBC. If government decides to continue with this initiative, BC's modernized emergency management legislation will fully reflect the disaster risk reduction approach of the Sendai Framework, recognize the right of self-determination for First Nations in emergency management, and promote an all-of society approach to emergencies and disasters in BC.

Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences

2. **Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy:** As the provincial coordinating body for emergency management, EMBC is leading the development of an overall approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), informed by the Sendai framework. A comprehensive DRR approach and strategy could more fully implement the objectives of the Sendai framework by implementing integrated and inclusive DRR measures across all ministries and across numerous sectors. Such measures would prevent and reduce vulnerability to disasters, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and strengthen resilience.

Advice/Recommentations

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Government Financial Information

CORPORATE ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY NOTE

Issue:

- The risk of a significant flood event in the Lower Mainland is substantial and growing due to climate change; Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

Background:

- The Lower Mainland is home to the traditional territories of 31 Coast Salish First Nations, 2 regional districts and 26 municipalities.

Advice/Recommentations

- The Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS) aims to increase flood resilience across the Lower Mainland by reducing risk from both the lower Fraser River and coastal storm surge floods.
- The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is leading the multi-party work on the LMFMS, by engaging with federal, provincial, First Nations, local governments, other non-governmental agencies and the private sector.
- A leadership committee for the LMFMS was established in 2018; composed of 4 First Nations, 4 elected leaders from local government across the Lower Mainland, 2 provincial government, 2 federal government and 1 representative from the infrastructure sector.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

Issue/Opportunity:

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

General Information					Implementation Assessment				Operating Commitments ($ Millions)				
Category	Platform Page #	Commitment	Lead Ministry	Other Ministries	Status of Policy Development	Key implementation Issues	Legislative Implications	Other Comments	Operating 2020/21	Operating 2021/22	Operating 2022/23	Operating 2023/24	Operating Total
Health	10	Launch a Silver Alert system	PSSG/EMBC	SDPR;HLTH									
Health	34	Update emergency procedures and infrastructure to keep our province safer (EMBC) From wildfires to, now, COVID-19, British Columbia's emergency preparedness resources are being stretched further and further. We will work with communities to identify holes in existing emergency response procedures and resources, with the goal of updating and future-proofing our province-wide ability to respond to crises.	PSSG/EMBC	All Ministries - Re general obligations such as business continuity planning Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentation FLNR, ENV, MOTI, HLTH, AGRI for hazard specific responsibilities. JEDC - EM Tech cluster.									

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



LORI HALLS
Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

Lori Halls was appointed Deputy Minister of Emergency Management BC on January 29, 2019. During this time she has enhanced the organization's operational performance, championed the modernization of BC's approach to Emergency Management including the legal framework under which it operates and the digitization of emergency support services. Lori co-chaired the Deputy Ministers' Committee on COVID-19 helping to facilitate an all of government approach to the response and recovery during the longest Provincial State of Emergency in the province's history. Prior to taking on this role Lori was the Deputy Minister of the BC Public Service Agency since September 15, 2015. There she championed corporate succession management efforts, implemented changes to compensation and benefits to better attract and retain talent and implemented effective changes to ethics management in the Public Service.

Lori was the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Environmental Protection Branch with the Ministry of Environment and among other responsibilities was the Ministry's lead on the response to the Mount Polley breach. During her time with the Ministry of Environment, Lori also served as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division. In that role, she was responsible for the management of the parks and protected area system that makes up 14.3% of the land base in British Columbia and responsible for the enforcement of natural resource laws.

Lori has also served as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Talent Management Division with the BC Public Service Agency and was responsible for transforming recruitment, corporate learning and performance management within the Public Service.

Lori started her career in government as a coop student in Victoria in 1993 and held many progressively responsible positions within the Ministry of Health. One of her major accomplishments was establishing HealthLink BC as an operating entity under the Emergency and Health Services Commission. Prior to this she was the Lead Negotiator for the alternative service delivery procurement process, and, ultimately, was appointed Chief Operating Officer at HealthLink BC, a position she held from 2006 to 2009. As the Chief Operating Officer, she was responsible for the implementation of the province's 8-1-1 service.

Lori has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Victoria. Personal Information

Personal Information

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

MADELINE MALEY
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations Division
Emergency Management BC



Madeline Maley is an Assistant Deputy Minister for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)-Regional Operations and has been with EMBC as ADM since September 2018. As ADM Regional Operations she was responsible for: implementing many of the lessons learned coming from the unprecedented 2017 and 2018 wildfires; implementing a sustainable funding model for the Ground Search and Rescue Program; leading the modernization of the emergency support services program, including the development and implementation of digital tools to support evacuees, host communities and businesses; and the resetting of the Office of the Fire Commissioner to reinstate the Office of the Fire Commissioner as the authority for Fire Service in British Columbia. In response to COIVD-19, Madeline led key several initiatives including the development and implementation of infection and prevention programs for Temporary Foreign Workers and Silviculture Camps, and the self-isolation programs for International Students and BC Wildfire crews returning from international deployments.

Madeline joined the Forest Service in 1995 as an Inventory Forester in the Port Alberni Forest District and worked on the coast until moving to Kamloops in 2003 as the Operations Manager for the Kamloops Forest District. She moved to the Southern Interior Regional Office in Kamloops as the Regional Staff Manager of Stewardship and Compliance and Enforcement in 2007 and was Acting Regional Executive Director from 2009 to 2010. Madeline held the position of Executive Director for Regional Operations in the South Area, with Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource from 2010 to 2015. In 2016, she took on the role of Executive Director for the BC Wildfire Service with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource a position she held until 2018.

Madeline is a Registered Professional Forester and has a Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Master of Science in Forestry from the Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



DAVE PETERSON
Assistant Deputy Minister
Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction
Emergency Management BC

In February 2019, Dave Peterson was appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction for Emergency Management BC (EMBC) in the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

This new position enabled EMBC to assume the lead for disaster recovery across the provincial government, and is part of a greater emphasis within EMBC on disaster recovery, mitigation and preparedness, and the advancement of a number of initiatives, including the modernization of the *Emergency Program Act* and Emergency Support Services, and implementing initiatives consistent with the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction Division is comprised of three areas of responsibility including: 1) Disaster Risk Reduction, 2) Strategic Partnerships which includes extensive work with First Nations partners, and 3) Disaster Mitigation and Community Recovery.

More recently, Dave has been actively engaged with ministries, agencies and First Nations leaders as part of EMBC's leadership role in the province's response and recovery actions as the result of COVID-19.

Before coming to EMBC, Dave was the Assistant Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Lands and Innovation within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), where he held various Assistant Deputy Minister positions since 2005 as well as two significant additional roles. In May 2012, he was appointed to the position of Provincial Chief Forester until December 2014. He was also temporarily appointed as the Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in 2013.

Personal Information

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



CAMERON LEWIS
Executive Lead
Emergency Management Modernization Unit
Emergency Management BC

Cameron Lewis is the Executive Lead for Emergency Management BC's (EMBC's) newly-created Emergency Management Modernization Unit.

Cameron co-chairs the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee (along with the former president of UBCM) and leads EMBC's consultation with UBCM on the modernization of the Emergency Program Act.

Earlier this year, Cameron led the cross-government traveler self-isolation initiative as part of government's Covid-19 response. This initiative involved deployment of public servants to YVR airport and 17 land border crossings, as well as tens of thousands of compliance and wellness calls to returned travelers.

In a previous Executive Lead role with EMBC, Cameron led government's response to the public report authored by Chief Maureen Chapman and George Abbott titled "*Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia.*" This report, commissioned by the Province, developed recommendations based on the devastating 2017 floods and wildfires.

Cameron began his career in 1998 as a Treasury Board Analyst within the Ministry of Finance. Since then, he has held a variety of management and leadership roles across several Ministries including the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and the former Ministry of Management Services.

Cameron has an undergraduate degree in political science, and a master's degree in public administration.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



ALEX CHANDLER
Executive Lead
Corporate Support Services
Emergency Management BC

Alex has been the Executive Lead of the Corporate Support Services division since April 2019. During this time he has been responsible for developing the capacity and capability of the corporate services function accountable for finance, IT and operational emergency systems, change management and human resources, and facilities to support the demands of a growing organization. Key accomplishments include developing and implementing an action plan to address recommendations made by Internal Audit and Advisory Services' review of EMBC's financial management practises, building increased confidence in EMBC's financial acumen with the Ministry of Finance by demonstrating greater financial awareness and transparency and improved process and controls; the provision of executive leadership and a corporate approach to financial issues; and supporting the modernization of emergency management including the financial and IMIT aspect of the digitization of Emergency Support Services.

Prior to this role, Alex spent almost ten years at Treasury Board Staff in progressively more responsible roles. As an Executive Director at Treasury Board Staff, he was accountable for the development and oversight of the budget plans for economic ministries (Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Agriculture, and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation) and the Ministry of Finance.

Alex joined the BC Public Service in 2007 and has worked in various roles in his career including as the manager of performance management and a budget manager at the Ministry of Finance.

Alex has an undergraduate degree in Geography and master's degree in business administration from the University of Victoria.

Personal Information

Personal Information

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE

Deputy Minister Responsible: Lori Halls

Core Business:

The Office of the Deputy Minister (DMO) for Emergency Management BC works as an interface with both the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary responsible for emergency management, internal and external government organizations, and the full range of stakeholders in the field of emergency management to fulfill the mandate to prevent, manage, respond and recover from emergencies and natural disasters effectively to minimize the social, environmental and economic impacts to the province.

1. **Policy and Legislation** – this team is responsible for the development of the organization's legislation, regulations and policies. The two primary pieces of legislation include the Emergency Program Act and the Fire Services Act. During the Pandemic the team has been responsible for drafting many of the orders issued under the Emergency Program act. A key accountability has been to deliver modernized emergency management legislation Cabinet Confidences with regulations to follow, as directed by government. The Province released a discussion paper in October 2019 seeking input from all levels of government, Indigenous Nations, industry and the public until the end of January 2020 when the comment period ended. A "What We Heard" report was released in August 2020 seeking additional comment which ended September 30. In addition to input from all sectors, the new legislation will reflect lessons learned from recent flood and wildfire emergency events, as well as the current pandemic.

2. **Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit (PSCCU)** – this temporary unit was established on March 26, 2020 to ensure a coordinated cross-government approach to address supply chain disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSCCU is responsible for the Provincial Supply Hub which coordinates donated materials, procures adequate supply of critical items required by core government and other government reporting entities and the broader public sector on a cost recovery basis to support continued operation of essential services across the province until December 2020.

3. **Executive Operations** – this team provides operational and administrative support to the Deputy Minister and ensures a coordinated approach to supporting the EMBC Executive. The branch coordinates the organization's Freedom of Information requests, manages ministerial correspondence, ministerial briefing notes, and is the primary liaison with the Minister's Office. The team is also responsible for coordination of all administrative functions across EMBC.

Budget:

Government Financial Information	
	EMBC operations
	EMBC DMO (Budget held under PSSG Corporate Services)
	Total funding under Vote 39
$36.527M	*Emergency Program Act (Vote 40)*

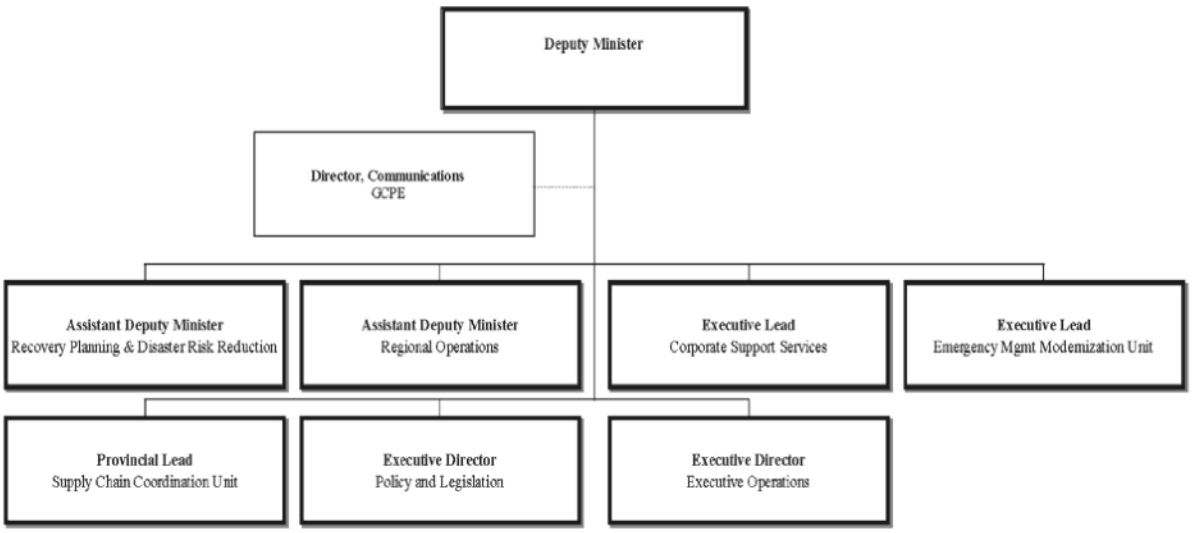
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 30

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*
- *Fire Services Act*
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- *Procurement Services Act*

Organizational Chart:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
Deputy Minister Direct Reports
October 2020



REGIONAL OPERATIONS

ADM Responsible: Madeline Maley

EMBC Regional Operations is comprised of three branches: Regional Operations, Public Education and Online Communication, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Core Business:

Regional Operations

The Regional Operations Branch coordinates the provincial and regional response to emergencies and disasters and ensures the integration of key regional and provincial stakeholders including local authorities, First Nations, provincial and federal staff, industry leaders and the public.

Six regional offices are in Surrey, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George and Terrace, with the Vancouver Island Regional Office co-located at the EMBC Headquarters in Victoria. Each regional office maintains 24/7 emergency management capability within their region through the Regional Duty Manager program and has a Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC). The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) is in the EMBC Headquarters facility in Victoria and is activated to support PREOCs in the event of large-scale regional events, and/or provincial events. In addition, EMBC HQ houses the Emergency Coordination Centre and Provincial Duty Managers providing 24/7 situational awareness, response to emergencies and tsunami alerting.

This branch also coordinates BC's Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer groups, who provide an array of critical, front-line emergency services, including: ground and air search and rescue, road rescue, emergency support services and emergency radio communications.

Public Education and Online Communication

This branch supports effective emergency management practices by promoting a culture of preparedness through public education, stakeholder engagement and online communications. The key public education initiatives are: Master of Disaster, education program for elementary school students, High Ground Hike, Preparing for a Tsunami, Partners in Preparedness, retail partnerships in the creation of emergency preparedness kits and Prepared BC, paper and online preparedness guides as well as social media outreach.

The Branch also maintains EmergencyInfoBC website and social media outreach providing official communications regarding response and recovery, as well as verified event information from trusted partners during partial and full-scale provincial emergencies.

Office of the Fire Commissioner

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is the senior fire authority in the province with respect to the establishment and provision of fire protection services in the province. Services include administration and enforcement of fire safety legislation, provision of training and appointment of local assistants to the fire commissioner, fire loss statistics collection, fire investigation, fire inspection, response to major fire emergencies, advice to local governments on delivery of fire protection services, public fire safety education, and fire fighter training standards.

The OFC administers the *Fire Services Act* and regulations along with the British Columbia Fire Code

(BCFC) and provides leadership in fire safety public education. The OFC maintains ae fire loss reporting system that collects all reported fire loss statistics in BC; the statistical information is then disseminated through annual reports. The OFC supports the BC Wildfire Services (BCWS) Structural Protection Program which helps to protect communities and other critical infrastructure during wildland urban interface fires. OFC staff are in both EMBC Headquarters and 4 of the 6 EMBC regional offices.

Budget: Government Financial Information

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 74

Related Legislation:

Emergency Program Act
This Act clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the provincial government and local authorities (municipalities or regional districts). For example, local governments having responsibility for response.
Fire Services Act
This Act provides the mandate, authorities and responsibilities of the Fire Commissioner and their associated staff. The act also outlines the responsibility for fire safety education, prevention and enforcement of the BC Fire Code in the province.

Organizational Chart:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
Regional Operations
October 2020



RECOVERY, PLANNING AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

ADM Responsible: Dave Peterson

Core Business:

The Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction division is comprised of three areas of responsibility including: 1) Disaster Mitigation and Community Recovery, 2) Disaster Risk Reduction, and 3) Strategic Partnerships.

The Disaster Mitigation and Community Recovery branch consists of three program areas: Recovery Operations, Recovery and Funding programs and Disaster Mitigation. Recovery Operations provides leadership and support to communities following large disaster events and provides training and preparedness for recovery. The Recovery and Funding area delivers recovery funding through the Disaster Financial Assistance program and coordinates federal funding through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements agreement with the Government of Canada. Lastly, the Disaster Mitigation area leads and coordinates disaster mitigation funding programs, including the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and the management of the Fraser River Debris Trap.

The Disaster Risk Reduction branch consists of two program areas: Planning, and Training and Exercises. Planning develops, maintains and implements emergency plans that address priority BC hazards, functional areas of responsibility, and operational processes and guidelines. The Planning area also includes the Business Continuity Management work unit which leads and provides a common framework for the development and administration of ministry business continuity management programs, including the establishment of provincial business continuity plans. The Training and Exercises area supports Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the Province through the management and delivery of emergency management training and exercises designed to ensure a high degree of preparedness is maintained at the provincial, regional and community levels.

The Strategic Partnerships branch builds and fosters formal and informal inter-agency and inter-governmental trust-based relationships and partnerships to build First Nations and community resilience across British Columbia. This area provides leadership and strategic guidance to EMBC regarding these relationships and partnerships, through a collaborative approach that respects and embraces common interests, multi-jurisdictional emergency management challenges and mutual opportunities. Strategic Partnerships also supports developing cultural safety and Indigenous Gender Base Plus (IGBA+) practices across the organization.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 58

Budget: Government Financial Information

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*
- Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation
- Bill 41 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Organizational Chart:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
Recovery, Planning & Disaster Risk Reduction
October 2020



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION UNIT

Executive Responsible: Cameron Lewis

Program Area Description:

The Emergency Management Modernization Unit was formed in June 2020. Its mandate is to plan and coordinate the implementation of a multi-year modernization of emergency management in British Columbia. Reflecting the lessons learned from the unprecedented Flood and Wildfire seasons of 2017 and 2018 and the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, this work will begin to position British Columbia to become more resilient and includes:

- Leading implementation of planned changes to British Columbia's emergency management legislation and regulations (currently the *Emergency Program Act* and associated regulations) across the entire emergency management system. This implementation will involve all ministries, local authorities, First Nations, critical infrastructure owners, volunteers, etc.
- Leading engagement with staff, other ministries, and external emergency management partners/stakeholders regarding modernization efforts, including legislative and regulatory changes.
- Coordinating other emergency management modernization efforts, including those involving information technology, human resources, financial procedures, and other business processes.
- Tracking various projects, across multiple program areas, ministries, and emergency management partners, that contribute to emergency management modernization.

Budget: Government Financial Information

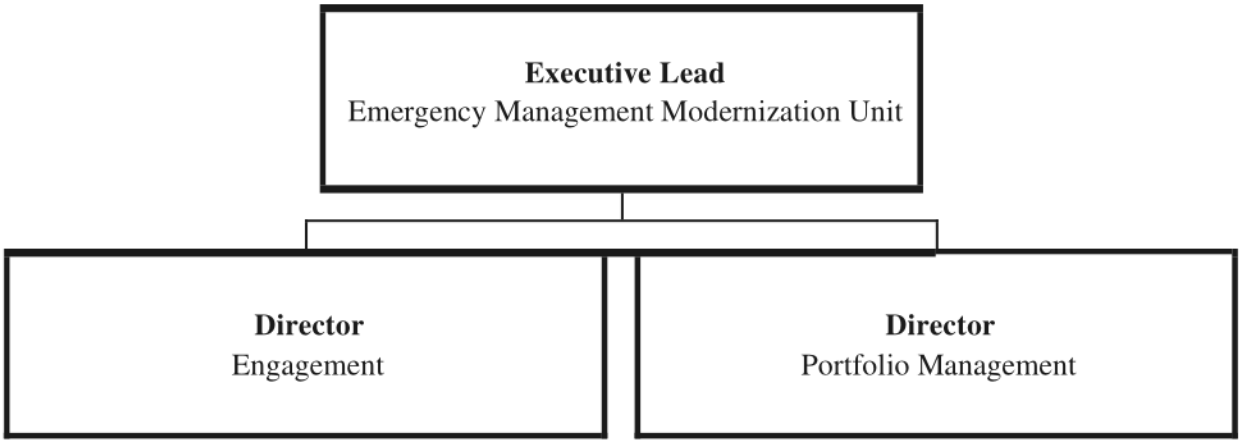
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 9

Related Legislation:

Emergency Program Act

Organizational Chart:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
Emergency Management Modernization Unit
October 2020



CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

Executive Responsible: Alex Chandler

Core Business:

The Corporate Support Services Division is responsible for the provision of strategic advice and the delivery of corporate services to support EMBC programs and services.

This includes:

- Financial Services such as the coordination of Treasury Board submissions and budget request, budget management, reporting, forecasting, procurement, accounts payable, revenue management, and general corporate governance and oversight.
- Change Management and Human Resources including human resources, workforce planning, and learning and training development, and internal communications.
- Information Technology and Operational Emergency Management Systems including the provision of technical support for EMBC's line of business applications and other operational processes.
- Facilities including space planning, vehicle fleet management, tenant improvements, and furniture and equipment management.
- Risk Management advice and services.
- Oversight and coordination of EMBC's Business Continuity Plan.

Budget: Government Financial Information

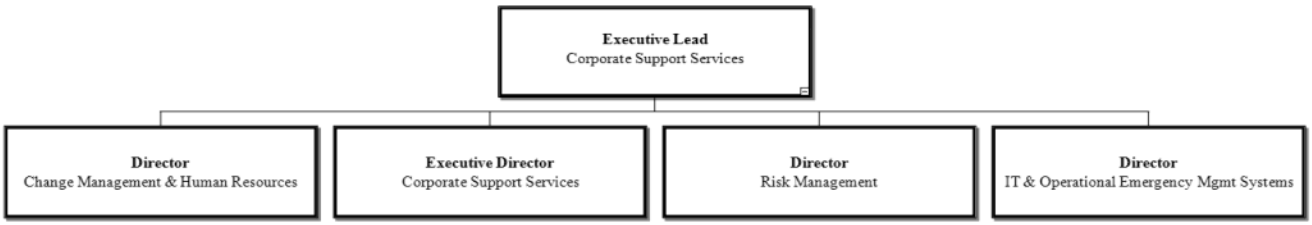
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 29

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*
- *Fire Services Act*
- *Financial Administration Act*
- *Personal Information Protection Act*

Organizational Chart:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
Corporate Support Services
October 2020



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Budget Overview

BACKGROUND:

- In the 2020/21 estimates Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is the accountability of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG). Consequently, its funding is reported in PSSG's resource summary table which is presented below.

Resource Summary: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Core Business Area	2019/20 Restated Budget[1]	2020/21 Estimate	2021/22 Plan	2022/23 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Corrections	250,528	253,459	256,599	256,552
Policing and Security	396,882	405,474	405,233	404,611
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	51,369	58,870	59,899	60,550
BC Coroners Service	16,667	17,116	17,161	17,214
RoadSafetyBC	17,313	16,758	17,052	17,052
Emergency Management BC	18,568	29,454	29,927	36,138
Executive and Support Services	20,409	19,221	19,312	19,312
Emergency Program Act	14,819	36,527	36,613	36,613
Statutory Services[2]	14,796	14,814	14,825	14,825
Total	801,351	851,693	856,621	862,867
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive and Support Services	12,059	11,262	10,988	10,988
Total	**12,059**	**11,262**	**10,988**	**10,988**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2019/20 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the

- EMBC is unique in that its operations and programs are funded through two separate Votes.
  - A sub vote under Vote 39 (see EMBC in table above) provides for core operations; and
  - Vote 40 - Emergency Program Act provides for the Disaster Financial Assistance program and emergency response related cost. The Vote 40 allocation also provides for the Statutory Spending for costs which exceed the budgeted allocation.

Budget 2020 Funding Changes

Budget 2020 Summary for EMBC Operations allocation under Vote 39

Fiscal Year ($M)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
***Budget 2019* Track**	18.568	18.514	18.514	18.514
***Budget 2020* decisions**	-	10.940	11.413	17.624
***Budget 2020* Track**	**-**	**29.454**	**29.927**	**36.138**
Year-over-Year % Change	**-**	**58%**	**2%**	**21%**

- EMBC's operations vote increased $10.9M for 2020/21 this reflects:
  - a transfer of operational funding formerly held under the Emergency Program Act vote of $8.2M; and
  - net new funding of $2.7M for additional staffing capacity which increases to $3M for 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively to address caseload needs.
- The budget grows by an additional $6.2M in 2022/23 reflecting funding approved by Treasury Board provide for an ongoing annual contribution to the BC Search and Rescue Association to support ground search and rescue groups across the province.

Budget 2020 Summary for Vote 40 - Emergency Program Act

Fiscal Year ($M)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
***Budget 2019* Track**	14.819	14.809	14.809	14.809
***Budget 2020* decisions**	-	21.718	21.804	21.804
***Budget 2020* Track**	**-**	**36.527**	**36.613**	**36.613**
Year-over-Year % Change	**-**	**146%**	**0%**	**0%**

- The *Emergency Program Act* vote was increased by $21.8M in Budget 2020. This reflects net new funding of $30M for response and recovery related costs offset by a transfer of $8.2M to EMBC's operations vote.
- The $8.2M transferred to Vote 39 relates to ongoing EMBC operations. Moving the funds simplified budget management and increased transparency by focusing the activities funded through Vote 40 on response and recovery.

Vote 39 - EMBC Operations - Overview

- 2020/21 budget of $29.454M.
- Provides for all EMBC's core operational expenditures and programming supporting emergency management planning and preparedness, policy development, disaster risk reduction and mitigation activities and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
- Includes mitigation budget allocation of $6.94M which is used to address mitigation needs across the province and to participate in cost shared federal mitigation programs such as the recently concluded National Disaster Mitigation Program.
- Funding of approximately $2.8M per year from Indigenous Services Canada for the Emergency Services Bilateral Agreement flows through this Vote. This funds approximately 16 positions across the organization who support the work associated with the delivery of emergency management support services to on-reserve First Nations communities across the province.

Vote 40 – Emergency Program Act Overview

- 2020/21 budget of $36.5M.
- Provides for emergency response and recovery costs including:
    - $6.5M for the Disaster Financial Assistance program
    - $10M for minor emergency response costs including:
        - Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers response costs (such as for ground search and rescue, and road/medical rescue);
        - Incremental Local government and First Nations costs associated with minor events such as localized flooding;
        - Dangerous goods spill response; and
        - Emergency Support Services provided to evacuees
    - $20M related to costs incurred by provincial ministries and transferred to EMBC which relate to the recovery from prior years large scale emergency events which are eligible for federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program cost sharing.
- Response costs above the voted budget are funded through the statutory spending authority provided for under the *Emergency Program Act*. See table 1 below for a summary of total expenditures against the *Emergency Program Act* in recent years.

Table 1: *Emergency Program Act* expenditures

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
$129M	$276M	$275M	$108M	$95M

- The expenditures have an incremental impact on government's fiscal plan, EMBC provides regular updates to Treasury Board Staff on forecast spending under the Emergency Program Act to assist with fiscal planning.
- With the approval of Treasury Board, the statutory spending authority can also be used to fund grants to support emergency preparedness, mitigation and response. In recent years this has been used to finance grants to:
    - the Union of BC Municipalities to fund the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund;
    - various communities for structural mitigation projects including major work in Grand Forks;
    - the BC Search and Rescue Association to support provincial ground search and rescue groups; and
    - Ocean Networks Canada to support the implementation of the coastal earthquake early warning system.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMBC support all communities including First Nations equitably.
- Costs related to First Nations response claims are subsequently reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada consistent with the bilateral Emergency Services Agreement.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:
Alex Chandler
Executive Lead
Corporate Support Services

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
ADM		
ED		
Pgm Dir/Mgr		

Attachment(s)
[As referenced in the Note]

Cliff: XXXXXX
Date Prepared: November 2, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

Overview of upcoming Treasury Board submissions

BACKGROUND:

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous considerations where applicable will be identified in the respective submissions as required by the Treasury Board request for decision template.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:
Alex Chandler
Executive Lead
EMBC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
Exec Leader	AC	11-2-2020

Attachment(s)
Not applicable

Action Plan and Progress Assessment (APPA) for the implementation of audit recommendations from the Internal Audit & Advisory Services

[Review of Emergency Management British Columbia - Released [06/2019]

Initial APPA **9/22/2020** **Prepared by: Alex Chandler, Executive Lead, Emergency Management BC** **Reviewed by: Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC**

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)
1. Yes	EMBC should ensure its legislation, Vote descriptions and policy have clearly established the source and distinct purpose of funding.	• In collaboration with Treasury Board staff, EMBC will review the vote descriptions and make changes as appropriate for *Budget 2020*. **Target Date:** 2/18/2020 • EMBC will continue its ongoing review and update of internal and externally facing polices to ensure expenditures are managed, funded and reported consistently and inform the EPA modernization. **Target Date:** 12/31/2020	**Progress Assessment:** Fully Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • Through the *Budget 2020* process, EMBC worked with Treasury Board Staff to make structural changes to EMBC's budget structure and update vote descriptions. The result is a consolidation of operational related funding under one vote to increase transparency of spending and reduced the degree of overlap between the votes. **Progress Assessment:** In Progress **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • EMBC is continuing to review and strengthen its internal financial management practises and externally facing policies to ensure expenditures are managed, funded and reported consistently.
2. Yes	EMBC should ensure disaster financial assistance payments are made under the appropriate authority.	• EMBC will review DFA policy to ensure policy for DFA payments is clear. • As the EPA is modernized, EMBC will ensure that legislation, regulations and policies clearly define expenditure types and funding mechanism. **Target Date:** 6/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Partially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • EMBC Finance has an active role in a number of working groups informing the modernization of the *Emergency Program Act*. This involvement will enable EMBC Finance to provide additional context into the development process with the intent being greater clarity about eligible or ineligible actions and appropriate funding sources

[1] For each recommendation, the audited organization should state whether or not they have accepted the recommendation and plan to implement it fully by typing either "Yes" or "No" under the number of the recommendation.
[2] Target date is the date that audited organization expects to have "fully or substantially implemented" the recommendation. If several actions are planned to implement one recommendation, indicate target dates for each if they are different.
[3] IAAS will request that the audited organization provide a yearly update (i.e completed "Assessment of Progress and Actions Taken" column) until all recommendations are fully implemented or otherwise addressed. This is for the APPA update.
[4] This action plan and the subsequent updates have not been audited by the IAAS. However, at a future date IAAS may undertake work to determine whether the entity has implemented the recommendations. The results of that work will be reported in a separate report prepared by the IAAS.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Action Plan and Progress Assessment (APPA) for the implementation of audit recommendations from the Internal Audit & Advisory Services

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)

3.
Yes
	EMBC should ensure it has appropriate oversight over all costs accepted under its statutory appropriation.	• Provide dedicated capacity to enhance oversight of DFAA related costs.
		• Key priorities to address include:
		  • Review and enhancement of guidance provided to entities external to government to improve consistency of submissions.
		  • Review the DFAA process and ensure guidance is clear to partner ministries to ensure cost sharing in maximized (including mitigative enhancements).
		Target Date: 11/30/2020
			Progress Assessment: Partially Implemented
			Actions Taken & Discussion:
			• Creation of a revenue analyst position to provide dedicated financial capacity. Recruitment is underway.
			• Implementation of a quality assurance program – that includes regional financial officer claim review, spot audits, as well as requesting more frequent (quarterly) Journal Vouchers for DFAA transfers to allow time for a more fulsome review of expenditures claimed.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)
4. Yes	EMBC should strengthen its financial practices and controls to reduce the risk of payment processing errors.	• Implement corrective measures to reduce risks to government informed by a review of: o financial processes, procedures and controls; o decision making processes, including the documentation requirements; and, o record keeping requirements. **Target Date:** 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Substantively Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** The following action have been taken to improve fiscal controls to ensure compliance with Core Policy and Procedures Manual requirements: • Implemented enhanced quality assurance process: o Financial spot audits of LG/FN response claims to ensure correct documentation is provided as part of the submission, correct forms are use and claims letters are provided, and signatures are within current EA Matrix guidelines; and o Monthly review of CAS to identify potential duplicate payments. • Updated the EA Matrix and implemented a quarterly review process to ensure levels continue to reflect operational requirements to supplement annual training requirement. • Developed and implemented enhanced response claims submission forms and final claims notice letters designed to improve Government Transfer eligibility documentation and formal agreement requirements as per CPPM. • Developed detailed process instructions for payment processing including clear batch naming convention requirements and cross validation steps as part of the batch payment process. • Provided response claim training to local government, First Nations communities and regional staff to communicate requirements for documentation standards. Other internal actions to increase financial accountability: • Developed financial guidance documents to build organizational awareness of best practises, policy and documentation requirements.
5. Yes	EMBC should make advanced and interim payment requests based on projected event costs as early as practical.	• Review this process in consultation with partner ministries that deliver DFAA eligible project to determine to what degree documentation is available to support interim payment requests. • Engage with Canada to determine opportunities to accelerate advance/interim payments informed by this information. **Target Date:** 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Substantively Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • Internally realigning accountability for financial aspects of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements process. • This includes reviewing financial processes including forecasting to identify opportunities to make claims more quickly.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Action Plan and Progress Assessment (APPA) for the implementation of audit recommendations from the Internal Audit & Advisory Services

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)
6. Yes	EMBC should understand the root cause of why expenses are removed from claims and implement appropriate practices to ensure claims only exclude ineligible costs.	• Development of a response claims review process where documentation standards will mirror federal DFAA guidelines and enhancements internal processes to ensure that CAS entries have clear descriptors to provide reviewer with adequate information to substantiate the claims charges. **Target Date:** 4/30/2020	**Progress Assessment:** Substantially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** EMBC has moved towards electronic records keeping. Key progress to date includes: • EMBC Finance has moved away from using paper copy TASK files as the "book of record" for payments processed. Prior to 2016 EMBC kept minimal payment information within CAS batch records and instead filed into TASK boxes. Going forward any payment that is processed will have all the supporting documentation contained within the CAS batch files as the "book of record." This aligns with standard government process and makes it less time consuming to work through claims. • Having electronic files as "book of record" reduces the likelihood of lost or incomplete backup documentation. • More thorough and timely review of other ministry expenditure JV's will identify ineligible expense items sooner (before final submission).
7. Yes	EMBC should determine how best to utilize the DFAA mitigation enhancement and innovative recovery solutions in making future recovery decisions.	• As lead for government recovery efforts, EMBC through ADMCEM, DMCEM and the Recovery Working group ensure consistent awareness of funding available for mitigation enhancements and innovative recovery solutions under the existing provincial framework and DFAA program. • In the context of the EPA modernization to ensure government is presented with options to maximize partner contributions towards building back better consistent with the Sendai Framework. **Target Date:** Completion 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Partially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • Building cross government awareness of the ability to leverage additional contribution toward innovative recovery solutions including the recent announcement of the West Fraser Road being reconstructed on a new alignment. • EMBC has engaged with other provinces to gain a better understanding of how funding available for mitigative enhancements and innovative recovery solutions is being used in other jurisdictions.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Action Plan and Progress Assessment (APPA) for the implementation of audit recommendations from the Internal Audit & Advisory Services

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)
8. Yes	EMBC should determine a cost-benefit threshold for claiming Emergency Social Services costs and ensure claims are submitted when they meet the threshold.	• Engage with other provinces and Canada to develop an approach to access and maximize eligible portions of ESS. • Ensure as ESS is modernized the system includes the ability to collect recipients' details in addition to information related to dates of service and amount paid to support the DFAA claim. **Target Date:** Completion 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Partially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • The Emergency Support Services program is being modernized. The modernization includes implementation of IMIT solution which will allow for a more streamlined collection of a recipients' details in addition to information related to dates of service and amount paid. This information should allow EMBC to maximize cost recovery for expenditures eligible for federal cost sharing.
9. Yes	EMBC should structure third-party contracts in order to maximize the Province's DFAA reimbursement opportunities.	• EMBC to engage with Canada to determine how to maximize reimbursement potential. **Target Date:** Completion 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Partially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • EMBC continues to review the role of third parties in respect to emergency response and recovery.
10. Yes	EMBC should work with the Comptroller General to review the accounting policy for revenue recognition of DFAA.	• Review the accounting policy for revenue recognition of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement recoveries in collaboration with the Office of the Comptroller General and Treasury Board Staff by September 30, 2019. **Target Date:** 8/30/2019	**Progress Assessment:** Fully Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • EMBC met with the Office of the Comptroller General in August 2019. EMBC will continue to work to make advance, interim and final claims in a timely manner supported by financial process improvements.
11. Yes	EMBC should lead the establishment of a strategic oversight committee responsible for making key response and recovery decisions.	• The Interim Disaster Recovery Framework was recently approved by Cabinet and will inform the modernization of the *Emergency Program Act*. **Target Date:** Completed 8/30/2019	**Progress Assessment:** Fully Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • The Interim Disaster Recovery Framework identifies EMBC as the coordinating body for response and recovery through the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (DMCEM) and Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (ADMCEM)/Assistant Deputy Ministers' Emergency Council. • As the EPA is modernized policy options will be brought forward for consideration relating to DFA which will include consideration of supporting 'Building Back Better'.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Action Plan and Progress Assessment (APPA) for the implementation of audit recommendations from the Internal Audit & Advisory Services

Rec. # Accepted? Yes / No[1]	IAAS Recommendations	Actions Planned & Target Date(s)[2]	Assessment of Progress to date[3] and Actions Taken[4] (APPA update)
12. Yes	EMBC should ensure that staff are adequately trained to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.	• Development of documented standard processes for data entry and training material to support the onboarding of new and seasonal hires. • Development of documentation and ongoing training to support ministry DFAA administration. **Target Date:** 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Fully Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • New EMBC finance hires are being provided with consistent training as a component of onboarding. In addition, regular financial training is being provided to key regional staff to ensure awareness and adherence to financial policies. • Dedicated Financial Officers have been hired in Surrey, Prince George and Kamloops to increase regional financial oversight capacity and allow for standard processing and review of claims and better support for local authorities. • A dedicated revenue analyst is under to support ministries (i.e. to ensure consistency of claims and application of guidelines) and provide quality assurance capacity at EMBC for claims received.
13. Yes	EMBC should review its utilization of government's corporate financial and records management systems to ensure they fully meet their financial and documentation requirements and supplement with other systems if needed.	• Review financial processes, use of corporate financial and records management systems and other IT enablers (i.e. e-approvals) to improve record keeping, streamline processes, and make information easier to access and retrieve as required. **Target Date:** 4/30/2020	**Progress Assessment:** Fully Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • The Corporate Accounting System (CAS) is now relied upon as a single source of record. EMBC has shifted towards a paperless system which is expected to improve record keeping and make information required to support claims easier to access and retrieve as required. • Ongoing monitoring will continue and adjustment is expected we work move through the 2020/21 fiscal year.
14. Yes	EMBC should develop clear goals and objectives, and monitor its progress using key performance indicators.	• EMBC will develop performance indicators to measure, monitor and report on its progress towards achieving its key priorities. **Target Date:** 4/30/2021	**Progress Assessment:** Partially Implemented **Actions Taken & Discussion:** • Hiring of a revenue analyst will help build an oversight program that reports on the accuracy of claim submissions as well as the timeliness/average duration of the claims • EMBC does not currently have an annual report to embed KPIs. However, work is underway to establish performance metrics that include timeliness of claim payments and accuracy of claim estimates.

Please provide your email response to:
Email: Internal Audit & Advisory Services at IAaction@gov.bc.ca

Cliff: 578216
Date Prepared: October 27, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

To summarize some of the significant financial governance improvements that have occured within Emergency Management BC (EMBC) during the past year with an overview of continuous improvements planned for the coming year.

BACKGROUND:

- In recent years, EMBC had become a concern to many central government agencies with respect to a lack of compliance with government processes, procedures and financial controls. The need for improvement has been highlighted by:
    - the Corporate Compliance and Controls Monitoring branch (3CMB) of the Office of the Comptroller General through ongoing audit sampling. In the past, EMBC would consistently demonstrate very poor compliance with core policy. With gradual improvements being made, EMBC has received fewer requests from 3CMB, which is an indication that fewer instances of noncompliance have occurred.
    - Internal Audit and Advisory Services conducted a Review of EMBC management of response activities and the subsequent recovery of some costs from the federal government through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). The final report published in September 2019 made 14 recommendations specifically around governance, accountability and management of response claims and any subsequent revenues that return to the province through DFAA reimburesements. EMBC has developed an Action Plan to implement the Internal Audit and Advisory Services recommendations (attached as appendix 1).
    - Treasury Board Staff had difficulties interpreting the information received from EMBC, understanding the nature of the statutory expenditures and were not appropriately consulted/informed as decisions with significant fiscal plan implications were being made.
- EMBC also faced considerable criticism following the 2017 wildfires for the time it took to process and reimburse claims from local governments, First Nations and businesses for this event.
- In response to these issues EMBC has prioritized financial process improvements and built these into its workplan to ensure that its financial practices are in line with government expectations of probity, prudence and transparency.
- Some of the key actions taken to date include:
    - Building financial acumen through the establishment of financial analyst positions at the Kamloops, Prince George and Surrey regional offices to

enhance the financial capacity and better support local governments and First Nations;
  - implementing electronic invoice payment processing within EMBC to increase efficiencies, reduce costs and the need for paper-based files and filing to reduce lost and missing documentation;
  - building process efficiencies through the implementation of a supplier payment portal as part of the Emergency Support Services modernization project to streamline reimbursements to busineses delivering supports to evacuees; and
  - the development and delivery of financial training for EMBC staff.
- EMBC has focused on building trust with its core government partners and core ministry contacts by providing timely and transparent information. Through access to better data and analysis, EMBC has been able to generate more accurate forecasting which have a significant impact on the government's fiscal plan.
- In the coming year, EBMC will be focusing on improving revenue management, most of which is received by the federal government through DFAA eligible reimbursements. Given the timing and size of these reimbursements have a material impact on to province's fiscal plan improved revenue management by EMBC is a priority for the Ministry of Finance particularly in light of the increased frequency of eligible events.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous communities benefit from responsive and timely financial processes. Emergency costs are often extensive and the cash outlay involved is significant. Unnecessary delays in reimbursement can cause cash flow issues to indigeneous communities.
- Costs related to First Nations response claims are subsequently reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada consistent with the bilateral Emergency Services Agreement.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Finance

PREPARED BY:
Alex Chandler
Executive Lead
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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
Exec Lead	AC	10-29-20
ED	MM	10-29-20

Attachment(s)
Appendix 1: Internal Audit Action Plan

REVIEW OF:

Emergency Management BC's Financial Management

IAAS | INTERNAL AUDIT & ADVISORY SERVICES

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Finance

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Executive Summary

Natural disasters are increasing in both frequency and severity in British Columbia. Emergencies and disasters have cost the Government of British Columbia (Province) more than $3.3 billion over the last ten years. Emergency Management British Columbia's (EMBC) purpose is to enhance safety for individuals and communities through integrated emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. EMBC is responsible for leading the management of large, provincial level emergencies and disasters and for providing support to local authorities. Prompt coordination by the Province enhances public safety and reduces property damage and economic loss from actual or imminent emergencies or disasters.

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the federal government provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through its Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program.

Spending Mandate

EMBC must meet its objectives and responsibilities within the funding and powers provided by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. EMBC receives its funding through two Voted appropriations, as well as a statutory appropriation under the *Emergency Program Act*. Overlapping language in EMBC's Vote descriptions and the broad nature of the *Emergency Program Act* have led to inconsistency in how EMBC's costs were spent. There were instances where EMBC, when faced with budget pressures, transferred expenditures between Votes and the statutory appropriation.

Financial Practices and Controls

To help fulfill its mandate, EMBC purchases equipment, supplies, and services as well as provides financial supports to enhance the safety of citizens and communities. Over the last five years, EMBC has faced a significant increase in the volume of financial transactions related to disaster events and has used auxiliary staff and staff borrowed from other ministries to help offset this additional work. The high volume of transactions and the use of auxiliary and borrowed staff increases the risk of errors. There are opportunities for EMBC to strengthen some of its financial practices and controls particularly around directly awarded contracts, purchase of capital assets and payment processing.

Maximizing Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Reimbursements

Over the last ten years, approximately $1.2 billion of the Province's costs are expected to be shared with the federal government through DFAA, with the federal government contributing about $840 million. Our analysis of EMBC's historic claims determined that EMBC was not maximizing the amount it was able to claim from the DFAA program. Several areas were identified where EMBC could increase its use of DFAA:

- the Province has not requested mitigative enhancement funding to improve British Columbia's infrastructure to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters;
- EMBC has not claimed eligible Emergency Social Service costs related to wildfires; and
- EMBC has not pursued eligible costs associated with a significant third-party agreement.

Ensuring all eligible expenses are included would result in an increased reimbursement from the federal government and decrease the financial burden on the Province.

As the cost of recovering from disaster events can be incurred over several years, EMBC has five years to submit a DFAA claim. The DFAA guidelines provide the option to request payments prior to submitting the final claim. EMBC takes an average of 29 months to request an interim payment. Our analysis found that EMBC would be in a position to request an interim payment 17 months earlier.

The DFAA guidelines allow EMBC to make requests for interim payment based on projected event costs. Projected event costs are costs incurred to date plus forecasted future costs. EMBC makes interim requests based on costs incurred to date and does not include forecasted future costs. Had EMBC included forecasted future costs in its requests, the Province would have received up to an additional $75 million in interim payments, rather than waiting to receive these funds through their final claim.

Governance and Oversight

EMBC has a broad mandate to deliver the full range of emergency management services within the province. This requires strong governance and oversight. There is opportunity for EMBC to strengthen a number of strategic and governance matters. As a result of turnover within the organization, there has been some uncertainty in strategic level oversight. There is also multiple ministries involved in making significant response and recovery decisions. A multi-ministry oversight committee would help facilitate decision-making more strategically across ministries. EMBC should conduct its own strategic exercise to establish key goals and objectives and ensure that it plans for the financial capacity, training and information systems it needs to meet the demands of its workload.

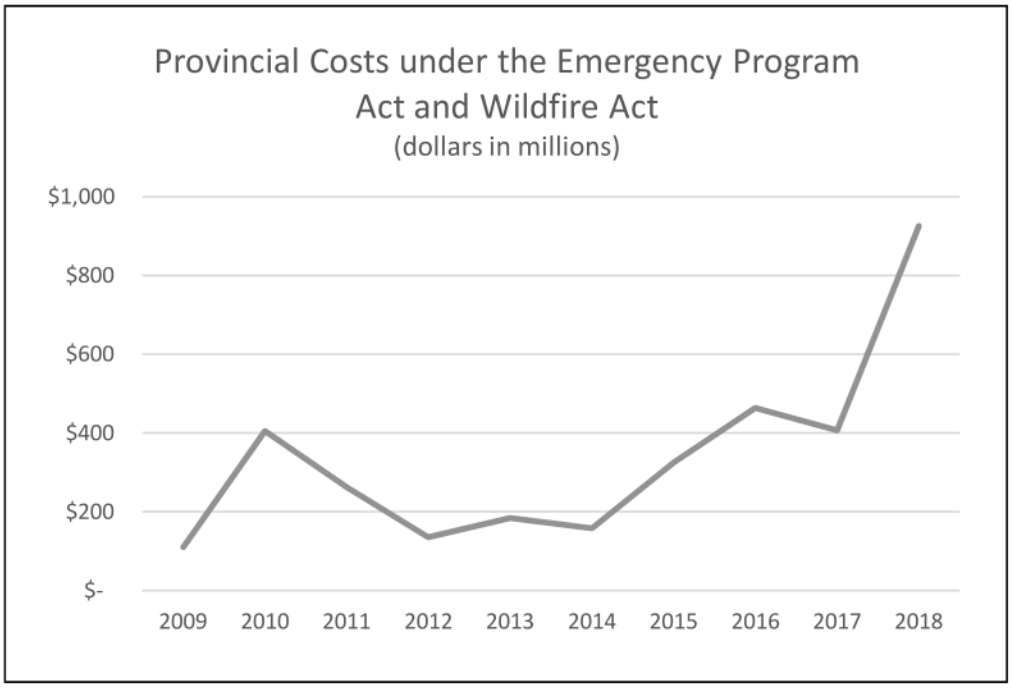
We would like to thank the management and staff at the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, in particular within Emergency Management British Columbia, who participated in and contributed to this review for their cooperation and assistance.



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Ministry of Finance

Introduction

Emergencies and disasters have cost the Government of British Columbia (Province) over $3.3 billion during the last ten years, as shown in the chart below. As the frequency and magnitude of disasters increase, so do costs. Over the last three years the Province has incurred about $1.8 billion in disaster related costs with $925 million incurred in 2018 alone.



Source: Public Accounts Consolidated Revenue Fund Supplementary Schedules

Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is responsible for leading the management of provincial level emergencies and disasters and supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction. EMBC was formed in 2006 to be the lead coordinating agency in the Province for all emergency management activities. EMBC's purpose is to enhance safety for individuals and communities through integrated emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Prompt coordination by the Province enhances public safety and reduces property damage and economic loss from actual or imminent emergencies or disasters.

In BC, managing disasters is guided by the *Emergency Program Act (EPA)*. The *EPA* was introduced in 1993 and forms the legislative framework for the management of disasters and emergencies in the Province. Since that time, best practices in the field of emergency management have evolved, and disaster events have become more common and severe. EMBC has been tasked with modernizing the *EPA* to incorporate this changing landscape of emergency management.

The updated legislation will include consideration of the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This framework places responsibility on each country to reduce disaster risk. A key policy tool for reducing disaster risk is through the application of mitigation funding that would allow the Province to rebuild damaged or lost infrastructure to a condition better than simply replacing it to pre-disaster condition.

In addition to its provincial coordination role, EMBC also provides financial support to local governments, farm operations, small businesses, individuals and not-for-profit organizations when a disaster occurs.

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the federal government provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through its Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program. The DFAA program supports provinces and territories when disaster costs place a significant burden on the provincial economy and exceed what provincial or territorial governments may reasonably be expected to bear on their own.

Between 2009 and 2018 the Province incurred approximately $1.2 billion of DFAA eligible costs, of which about $840 million will be reimbursed through the federal government's DFAA program.

Purpose

The purpose of this review was to establish whether disaster response and recovery costs were being appropriately managed and DFAA cost recoveries from the federal government were reasonable.

The review evaluated and, as appropriate, made recommendations relating to the following:

- determining whether costs were appropriately managed before, during and after emergencies and disasters; and
- determining whether DFAA was claimed appropriately to ensure all eligible costs were recovered from the federal government.

Our approach included:

- conducting interviews with key management and staff across EMBC, and other relevant ministries and organizations;
- judgemental sampling and analyzing data provided by EMBC;
- reviewing legislation and policies; and
- reviewing information provided by other assurance providers.

The review was conducted by Internal Audit & Advisory Services, Ministry of Finance and fieldwork was completed in April 2019.

1.0 Spending Mandate

The Legislative Assembly of BC approves government's spending each year through the *Supply Act*. All government expenditures must be authorized by either an appropriation through the *Supply Act* or through a specific provision in another statute. Ministry appropriations are referred to as Votes and are summarized annually in the Estimates publication. The Votes in the Estimates are the details of that fiscal year's appropriations for each ministry. The Vote descriptions provide the framework for legislative control of government spending, since funds can only be expended for the purposes stated in the Estimates.

1.1 Funding Allocation

EMBC's activities are funded through two Votes and a statutory appropriation. In 2018/19, EMBC was allocated:

- $17 million in the Ministry's Operations Vote (Operations Vote);
- $15 million for the Emergency Program Act Vote (EPA Vote); and
- a **statutory appropriation** in the EPA Vote which allows EMBC to make payments from the **Consolidated Revenue Fund** to meet its responsibilities under the *EPA.*

A **statutory appropriation** is authorization to access public money as part of an Act (other than a *Supply Act*). A statutory appropriation does not have a defined budget.

The **Consolidated Revenue Fund** is the fund into which all public money other than trust funds must be paid.

EMBC undertakes a wide range of activities to meet its mandate. Some activities, such as those that help the Province and local governments prepare for an event, can be planned for based on need, risk, and government's financial priorities. Other activities, particularly those occurring during a disaster event and shortly after, require immediate access to a source of funds that, if overly restrictive, would have a negative impact on the well-being of people and communities. After the event, the recovery of lost and damaged infrastructure and the associated cost of restoring them may be ongoing for many years.

Each ministry responsible for disaster response and recovery incurs the costs from their annual budget. When event costs are significant enough to be eligible for cost-sharing with the federal government, ministries will transfer eligible costs to EMBC. EMBC will then use the *EPA's* statutory appropriation to pay for those costs.

We expected EMBC to clearly delineate its varied responsibilities with its sources of available funding to ensure that expenditures are used for the purposes intended. We found the two Vote descriptions contain overlapping language and the *EPA* gives broad responsibilities. This has led to inconsistencies in how preparedness, response, and recovery activities were funded.

We also found that EMBC transferred costs between its two Votes and statutory appropriation to address budgetary constraints. In 2017/18, EMBC transferred the costs of program activities and staffing from the Operations Vote to the EPA Vote to meet budgetary constraints. Further, in 2018/19 EMBC transferred expenditures from the *EPA* Vote to the statutory appropriation because of higher than expected costs. As a result, costs for preparedness activities were incurred in both Votes as well as the statutory appropriation in the 2018/19 fiscal year.

Transferring expenditures between Votes and a statutory appropriation negates the intended purpose and controls inherent within an appropriation. This risk increases when expenditures are incurred through a statutory appropriation as there are no budgetary constraints.

There is an opportunity for EMBC to clarify its current Vote structure including whether:

- preparedness activities should be paid through one appropriation with an established budget for that purpose;
- expenditures through the statutory appropriation should be reserved for costs to address an imminent need such as responding to and the short-term recovery from, a flood or fire; and
- multi-year recovery activities, which can be planned and budgeted for, should be paid through an appropriation with an established budget for that purpose.

In areas where requirements are unclear, or have overlapping purposes, EMBC could establish policies to further clarify how it will spend from each of its Votes and its statutory appropriation.

Recommendation:

(1) EMBC should ensure its legislation, Vote descriptions and policy have clearly established the source and distinct purpose of funding.

1.2 Disaster Financial Assistance Payments

Under the *EPA*, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) may provide disaster financial assistance in accordance with the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (Regulation). The Regulation sets out the criteria for providing disaster financial assistance to local governments, businesses, non-profits, and individuals. The Minister of PSSG has delegated the power to administer disaster financial assistance to EMBC.

We expected EMBC to have a process in place to ensure disaster financial assistance payments are made in accordance with the relevant acts, regulations, Treasury Board directives, and government policies.

Under the Regulation, EMBC can provide disaster financial assistance to local governments for their response and recovery costs. While EMBC's current practice is to fund local government recovery costs under the Regulation, they fund the local government response costs directly from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (through the *EPA's* statutory appropriation).

Our review of legislation indicates that disaster financial assistance should not be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. In the Regulation, response costs are included as disaster financial assistance. By paying all response costs directly through the *EPA's* statutory appropriation, EMBC is bypassing the regulation and may not be in compliance with the *EPA.*

Recommendation:

(2) EMBC should ensure disaster financial assistance payments are made under the appropriate authority.

1.3 Accountability for Spending under the *Emergency Program Act*

Provincial emergencies require significant involvement from other ministries including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for flooding and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development from wildfires. Response and recovery costs are initially covered through each ministry's annual budget. However, when the federal government has authorized assistance, EMBC's practice is to accept the transfer of eligible costs incurred by other ministries under its statutory appropriation in anticipation of a future claim for reimbursement.

In 2018/19, EMBC implemented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ministries that incur eligible expenses under DFAA guidelines. The intention of the MOU is to reduce EMBC's workload when managing DFAA claims on behalf of ministries and to help hold ministries accountable for the claim's accuracy. EMBC accepts these costs under its statutory appropriation upon receiving written assurance that the ministry has:

- claimed only eligible costs;
- established sufficient internal controls; and
- retained the necessary records required to meet the federal audit.

While EMBC has the responsibility for all spending under the *EPA*, including costs transferred by other ministries, it has not established sufficient controls to ensure that transferred costs are appropriate. By not scrutinizing whether these costs are appropriate, there is a risk that EMBC is accepting ineligible costs or costs that are not authorized by the *EPA*.

Recommendation:

(3) EMBC should ensure it has appropriate oversight over all costs accepted under its statutory appropriation.

2.0 Financial Practices and Controls

To help fulfill its mandate EMBC purchases equipment, supplies and services as well as provides financial supports to enhance the safety of citizens and communities. For example, EMBC may acquire geotechnical services, purchase flood control assets or pay the response and recovery costs of local governments.

Over the last five years, EMBC has faced a significant increase in the volume of financial transactions related to disaster events. During periods of high volume, EMBC uses auxiliary and borrowed staff to help offset the additional work. This creates a heightened risk of errors. The review assessed EMBC's financial practices and controls to determine whether funds were being managed and used appropriately. We identified opportunities for EMBC to strengthen these areas.

2.1 Payment Processing

EMBC reimburses eligible response and recovery costs of local governments, First Nations, private citizens, Emergency Social Service vendors, and Not-for-Profit organizations to help reduce the economic and social impacts of emergencies and disasters.

Local governments make claims to be reimbursed for eligible response and recovery costs they have incurred during a disaster. We identified deficiencies in this process that resulted in a number of incorrect payments, such as:

- insufficient documentation was available to review the claim's accuracy before payments were processed;
- payments were not regularly reviewed by a peer, supervisor or manager before being paid;
- EMBC staff receiving and authorizing expenses did not sufficiently review supporting documentation to ensure expenses were appropriate; and
- inconsistent naming conventions were used when inputting claims to the Corporate Financial System resulting in the system not being able to identify duplicate payments.

The most significant impact of the deficiencies that we identified was related to duplicate payments. A sample identified $982,000 worth of duplicate payments made to local governments between 2017/18 and 2018/19. These have been brought to EMBC's attention and management has advised that requests for repayment have been made for all duplicate payments, and some have been repaid.

We found that there are insufficient controls to prevent local governments from submitting invoices multiple times, resulting in duplicate payments. EMBC has established a process for certain payments that allows them to pre-approve expenses. The documentation of pre-approval allows EMBC to match a local government's invoices to the pre-approved expenses. This match and review process helps reduce the risk of duplicate payments and promotes cost management. However, there are currently a large volume of costs submitted by local governments that fall outside of this process. EMBC should implement this matching process for all significant expenses to reduce the risk of future errors.

Recommendation:

(4) EMBC should strengthen its financial practices and controls to reduce the risk of payment processing errors.

2.2 Procurement Processes

EMBC will issue Invitations to Quote to acquire goods and services through an open and transparent process. However, when a disaster occurs and there is no time to complete a competitive process, EMBC has the option to use an Emergency Purchase Order (EPO) to directly acquire the goods or services. For example, in 2017, EMBC purchased an additional 2.8 million sandbags and other flood control assets through EPOs.

An **Invitation to Quote** is used when the only evaluation criterion is price. The award must go to the lowest-priced qualified bidder.

Government policy allows EPOs "when extraordinary deadlines have pre-empted the ability to access the normal acquisition processes for goods and services." When a ministry determines it is essential to proceed with an EPO, a written explanation of the need for an emergency purchase must be kept on record and be available when requested.

A sample of emergency purchases identified that financial practices and controls were not always adhered to. The review identified instances where EPOs had no written explanation to justify an emergency purchase, and instances where EPOs were used without the need to meet an extraordinary deadline.

Our review also assessed the cost of purchasing through Invitation to Quotes compared with purchasing through EPOs. We found that EMBC paid a 50% premium when purchasing sandbags through EPOs compared to the price paid through Invitation to Quotes. EMBC should use a competitive process, as opposed to EPOs, whenever possible to promote fairness, value-for-money, transparency and accountability in purchasing.

An option to reduce the need for EPOs would be to establish fixed price contracts prior to emergency periods. This would allow EMBC to engage in an open and transparent process, reduce price volatility, and ensure goods or services are readily available during a disaster.

EMBC is aware of these issues and has recently hired a procurement specialist.

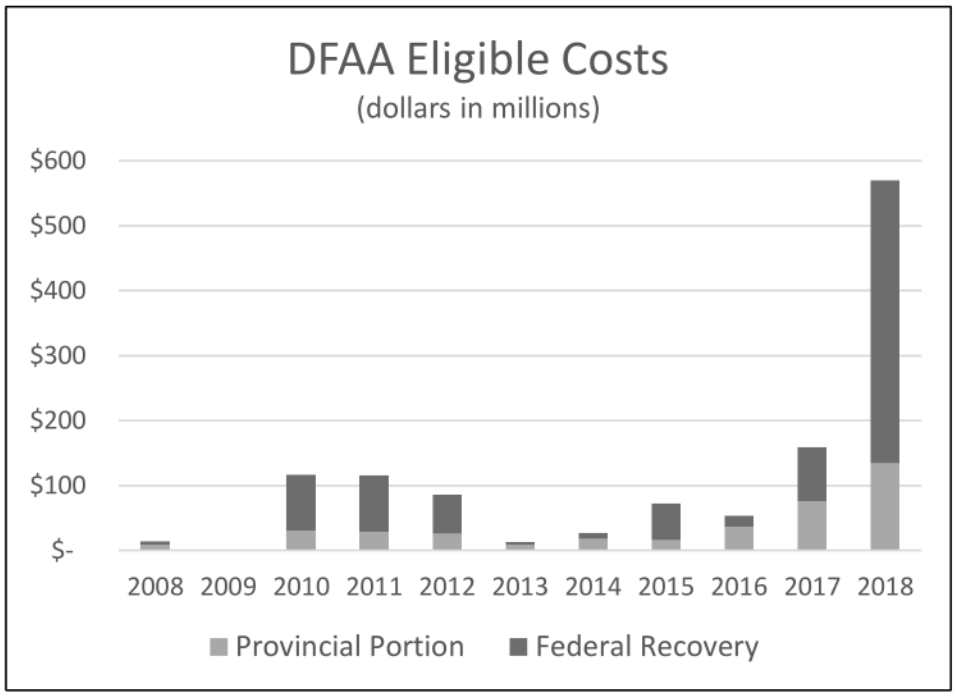
2.3 Capital Asset Purchases

During the 2017/18 and 2018/19 flood-events EMBC purchased Tiger Dams, a reusable alternative to sandbags, for $6.4 million. These dams were purchased under the statutory appropriation and were recorded as an expenditure on the understanding that they were not re-usable. We enquired with EMBC staff and determined that Tiger Dams have a useful life in excess of five years, which means that they should be recorded as an asset rather than an expenditure. By purchasing capital assets through the statutory appropriation instead of the PSSG's capital budget, it negates the intent of having a capital budget. EMBC should ensure that it applies sufficient diligence over the nature of its purchases to ensure appropriate accounting treatment and budget approval.

3.0 Maximizing Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Reimbursements

The DFAA program supports provinces with the costs of dealing with a disaster. The DFAA program has established guidelines for cost-sharing with provinces based on population thresholds and eligible costs incurred. Eligible costs include evacuation costs, providing the necessities of life, restoring public works and infrastructure, as well as replacing or repairing essential personal property of individuals, small businesses and farms. Provinces may also claim mitigative enhancement costs to repair and rebuild projects to reduce future vulnerability.

Over the last ten years, BC has had at least one large-scale natural disaster every year except in 2009. Approximately $1.2 billion of costs were incurred during this time, with the federal government contributing about $840 million, as shown in the chart below.

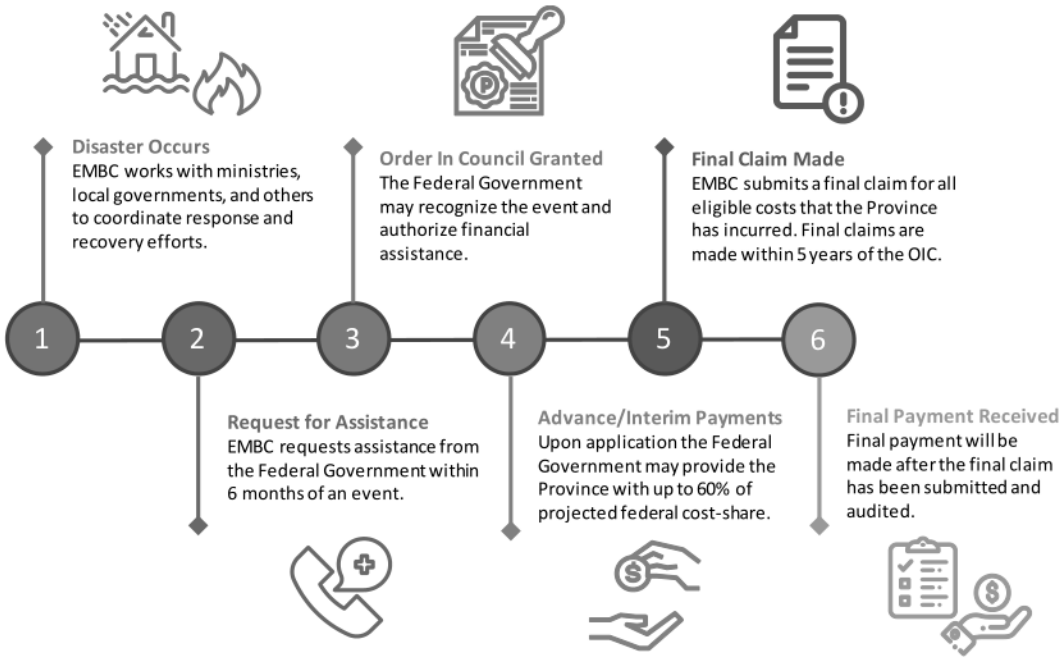


Source: EMBC

The review compared the DFAA categories with those areas that EMBC has claimed reimbursement for to ensure that EMBC was maximizing the amount it claimed from the federal government. The review also assessed EMBC's payment request process to determine whether EMBC was requesting reimbursement as early as practical.

3.1 Claims Process

To recognize an event, the Minister of PSSG or the Premier of BC must formally make a request to the federal government within six months of the event. If the request is approved, the federal government issues an Order in Council to authorize the provision of federal assistance based on the general eligibility criteria set out in the DFAA guidelines. The following diagram illustrates the DFAA claims process.



Source: EMBC and DFAA Guidelines

Once EMBC identifies an event is likely to qualify for DFAA, it will notify the ministries involved in the response and recovery to track costs and retain supporting documentation. After the federal government provides authorization through an Order in Council, EMBC has five years to submit its final DFAA claim for reimbursement. Prior to making its final claim, EMBC may request advanced and interim payments based on projected event costs.

Advance Payment Requests

The DFAA guidelines allow provinces to make claims for reimbursement within the first year of an event, known as advance payment requests. To receive an advance payment, the Province must make a request within the first 12 months following an event, with supporting documentation detailing actual and projected event costs. The Province can receive advance payments of up to 50% of the projected federal cost-share.

Our review found that of the 15 DFAA events since 2008, EMBC has requested one advance payment. It is good financial practice to maximize cash flow by recovering funds as quickly as possible. Requesting advance payments would provide the Province with funds several years earlier to help offset the initial costs of an event.

Interim Payment Requests

The DFAA guidelines allow provinces to request interim payments based on an estimate of the total projected event costs. For interim payments, we expected that EMBC would make a request for reimbursement as early as practical. Our review found that EMBC makes a request for an interim payment, on average, 29 months after an event. One reason for this extended timeline is that EMBC does not request an interim payment until they have validated actual costs incurred to date.

Provinces can receive up to 60% of the federal portion of projected event costs through an interim payment. Projected event costs include costs incurred to date plus forecasted future costs. Historically, EMBC has made requests for interim payment based on costs incurred to date but has not included forecasted future costs.

EMBC has not included forecasted future costs in its interim claims because it is concerned about the accuracy of its forecasts and the potential that the Province might be required to repay a portion of funding received. However, the 60% DFAA interim payment cap already incorporates this potential, as it allows a 40% margin of error. An analysis of claims between 2009 and 2016 found that, on average, EMBC's projected event costs varied by 12% at the fiscal year-end subsequent to the event. This means that EMBC has reasonable estimates of projected costs 12 months after an event and EMBC could request an interim payment about 17 months earlier.

Had EMBC chosen to make interim payment requests based on costs incurred to date and forecasted future costs, it would have resulted in the Province receiving up to an additional $75 million in its interim payments, rather than waiting to receive these funds through their final claim.

Accuracy of Final Claim

EMBC must submit a final DFAA claim on behalf of the Province within five years of the federal Order in Council. To do this, EMBC and ministries compile their costs and retain supporting documentation for each eligible event. Prior to submitting a final claim, EMBC or the ministry that incurred the costs determine whether the costs are supported by appropriate documentation. A review of five federally audited claims showed that EMBC has a 96% claim acceptance rate.

Part of this success is a result of removing expenses that do not have sufficient documentation. For example, a review of a 2012 DFAA event claim found that EMBC removed approximately $286,000 (5%) from the claim because of insufficient documentation.

EMBC faces significant challenges with the large volume of expenses requiring review after each event and insufficient staffing to complete the work in a timely manner. At the time of this review, EMBC was validating expenses related to the 2016 DFAA events. The lag between when the initial costs were incurred, and their validation hinders EMBC's ability to follow up on any missing documentation, even though the expenses may have been eligible.

Recommendations:

(5) **EMBC should make advanced and interim payment requests based on projected event costs as early as practical.**

(6) **EMBC should understand the root cause of why expenses are removed from claims and implement appropriate practices to ensure claims only exclude ineligible costs.**

3.2 Claim Maximization

This review analyzed a sample of EMBC's historic claims to ensure that EMBC was maximizing the amount it was able to claim through the DFAA program. The review identified areas where EMBC could submit more of the Province's costs for reimbursement. Ensuring all eligible expenses are pursued would result in an increased reimbursement from the federal government.

Mitigative Enhancement Costs

The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have adopted the United Nations' Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction as the guiding approach for disaster risk reduction. A component of the Sendai framework involves rebuilding damaged or destroyed infrastructure to a higher standard in order to reduce or eliminate the impacts of subsequent disasters.

> "Mitigation is the most effective approach to reduce costs associated with disaster recovery. The evaluation found that mitigation can improve disaster resilience of Canadian communities and reduce financial burden from future disasters."
>
> Public Safety Canada, 2017

The DFAA guidelines allow for mitigative enhancements intended to reduce the impact of future disasters as part of reimbursing eligible recovery costs. Between 2008 and 2017, the DFAA guidelines allowed provinces and territories to add 15% of a project's estimated cost of repair to make mitigative enhancements. For example, if a culvert needs to be replaced, the province could be reimbursed up to 15% extra to build a larger culvert to mitigate against future vulnerability. In 2017, the guidelines were revised from a project by project basis to an event basis where 15% of a province's total eligible recovery costs (less administrative and engineering costs) may be applied against one or more recovery projects. This means that the Province is no longer restricted to 15% of the repair or replacement costs of a single project but can use its discretion to allocate any portion of the available event mitigation funding to any project or combination of projects.

An analysis of claims since 2008 indicates that the Province has not made a claim for mitigation. EMBC anticipates that it will request DFAA cost-sharing of approximately $4 million for mitigation costs resulting from the 2016 floods but has no further plans to request mitigation costs for other events at the time of this review.

Given an approximately $380 million estimate of total DFAA recovery costs between 2009 and 2018, there remains a significant opportunity for the Province to leverage funding from the federal government to make mitigative enhancements. If the Province had pursued mitigative enhancements of $52 million, about $45 million would have been eligible for reimbursement. For recovery projects that are not yet completed, there remains an opportunity for the Province to consider utilizing mitigation cost-sharing. Our review estimates that the Province could still invest $30 million in mitigative recovery projects from 2016-2019 disaster events and receive $26 million back from the federal government.

In addition to mitigative enhancements, DFAA also allows for innovative recovery solutions. These are any solutions, including new construction or relocation of existing infrastructure, that would reduce or prevent the recurrence of damages. Examples include:

- relocating a road;
- constructing a new bridge in a different location;
- development relocation to less disaster-prone areas; or
- buy-out and permanent removal of structures on vulnerable properties that were damaged during an event.

EMBC has not made use of DFAA's innovative recovery solutions. Combining mitigation funding with innovative recovery solutions would allow the Province to implement solutions that prevent the reoccurrence of similar types of damage, reducing the impact of future disasters.

Emergency Social Services Costs

During a disaster, there may be instances where part or all of a community needs to evacuate until the danger has passed. In these situations, the Province provides funding for ESS to those displaced from their homes. This may include payments for temporary accommodation, food, clothing, rescue and transportation, and other social services. The DFAA guidelines allow for ESS expenses paid by the Province to be reimbursed as long as they are not generally insurable. For example, when individual homeowners are evacuated, their home insurance may provide reimbursement for some of these costs. The DFAA guidelines only permit claims for the portion of ESS costs that are not covered by insurance.

EMBC advised that it includes ESS costs for flood events in its DFAA claims but does not include wildfire events because insurance is generally available. DFAA guidelines allow ESS costs to be claimed where insurance was not available or does not cover the full extent of the damages. For example, during the 2009 wildfires, the Province incurred about $2.2 million in ESS costs. When these costs were claimed through the DFAA program, they were denied because they lacked supporting documentation to demonstrate that the ESS costs were not insurable. To demonstrate eligibility, the federal government suggested that EMBC survey private insurers to establish maximum coverages. Any provincially paid costs over this amount may be DFAA eligible.

Given that the Province incurred about $18 million in 2017/18 and $5 million in 2018/19 in wildfire ESS costs, there remains a significant portion of ESS that may be eligible under DFAA guidelines.

Third-Party Contract Costs

During the 2017 wildfire season, EMBC entered into an agreement with a third-party organization to support displaced citizens. EMBC provided $100 million to this organization to fund a variety of response and recovery activities. We expected that EMBC would structure third-party contracts to ensure that DFAA eligible costs are supported and later claimed.

A review of the agreement indicated that some of the response and recovery activities met DFAA eligibility requirements and therefore could be reimbursable. At the time of this review, it was unclear whether EMBC would include these costs in a DFAA claim, or whether there would be sufficient documentation available to claim these costs.

As part of this review, we enquired with the federal government about the eligibility of the activities performed by the third-party organization. The federal government confirmed that most of the activities would be eligible as long as the Province has appropriate documentation to demonstrate these activities have been both provided and paid for. Given the significant dollar amount involved and the likelihood for eligibility, there remains opportunity for EMBC to work with the third-party to obtain necessary documentation for inclusion in the final claim.

Recommendations:

(7) **EMBC should determine how best to utilize the DFAA mitigation enhancement and innovative recovery solutions in making future recovery decisions.**

(8) **EMBC should determine a cost-benefit threshold for claiming Emergency Social Services costs and ensure claims are submitted when they meet the threshold.**

(9) **EMBC should structure third-party contracts in order to maximize the Province's DFAA reimbursement opportunities.**

3.3 Revenue Recognition

Revenue recognition is an accounting principle that is used to identify when revenue should be recorded. Currently, the Province and the BC Auditor General have differing opinions about when revenue should be recorded for DFAA. In 2017/18, this difference in opinion resulted in a $251 million proposed adjustment by the BC Auditor General to recognize revenue, which the Province subsequently recorded.

DFAA funding is received from the federal government as an advance, interim or final claim. The current policy of the provincial government is to recognize revenue when a claim is filed. Since costs are generally incurred over a five-year period, this means that revenue is recognized several years after the related costs are incurred. Since 2012, the BC Auditor General has recommended that DFAA revenue be recorded when a federal Order in Council has authorized the event and as eligible costs are incurred.

Public Sector Accounting Standards require revenue to be recorded by a recipient government once:

- a transfer is authorized; and
- when all eligibility criteria have been met.

Our analysis concluded that a transfer is authorized when the federal government issues an Order in Council and all eligibility criteria are met once eligible costs are incurred. On this basis, for all events with an Order in Council, an annual accrual to record revenue would be made in the year that the related eligible costs are incurred.

As part of this review, we analyzed the supporting documentation for the $251 million adjustment. Our analysis determined that the adjustment included costs incurred to date as well as forecasted costs but should have only included costs incurred to date. This resulted in an overstatement of revenue by $51 million in fiscal 2017/18.

Recommendation:

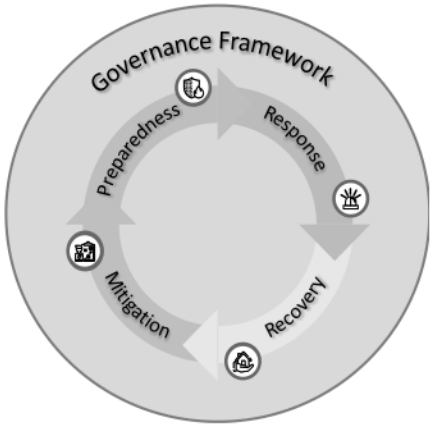
(10) EMBC should work with the Comptroller General to review the accounting policy for revenue recognition of DFAA.

4.0 Governance and Oversight

Governance refers to the organizational structures and processes that are necessary to direct and control the activities of the organization and help ensure that intended outcomes are defined and achieved. Good governance builds accountability and is the foundation that helps ensure an organization achieves its objectives. During this review a number of strategic and governance matters were identified that EMBC could strengthen.

4.1 Strategic Oversight

EMBC has a broad mandate to deliver a full range of emergency management services and advice to citizens, local governments and other ministries. To deliver its emergency management mandate, we expected that EMBC would have a well-defined oversight framework that outlines the various roles and responsibilities for strategic-level oversight and decision making.



The review found that there has been significant turnover within the organization leading to some uncertainty in strategic level oversight related to significant response and recovery decisions. Further, key ministries involved in DFAA claims do not effectively coordinate their efforts or decision making, particularly over recovery decisions. EMBC has already begun to make changes through a recent reorganization and expansion of their leadership team.

Given the complexities of a broad mandate, the multiple ministries responsible for making response and recovery decisions, as well as the potential for targeting mitigation and other opportunities, a multi-ministry oversight committee would help facilitate decision-making. This would also help ensure decisions are being made strategically across ministries.

Recommendation:

(11) EMBC should lead the establishment of a strategic oversight committee responsible for making key response and recovery decisions.

4.2 Training and Resources

The volume of EMBC's financial transactions fluctuate through the year depending on the extent of ongoing emergency response and recovery activities. Over the last three years, disaster costs and the corresponding volume of transactions have grown significantly. To help compensate for the volume of transactions, EMBC hires auxiliary staff and borrows financial staff from other ministries. Throughout this busy period is it important that EMBC maintains effective financial oversight and that staff receive appropriate training and support.

EMBC advised that it requires additional financial capacity in its regional offices. There are opportunities to strengthen EMBC's financial capacity by ensuring staff in the regions are sufficiently trained and to strengthen regional financial practices and controls. In 2018, EMBC developed a resource request for this purpose but were unsuccessful at securing the necessary funding.

The review also identified a need for training regarding the DFAA guidelines. Currently, individual ministries are expected to understand the DFAA guidelines and eligibility criteria. Given the complexities of the guidelines, ministries would benefit from EMBC providing guidance on the administration and eligibility of DFAA. Under EMBC's agreement with ministries, EMBC is to coordinate annual DFAA training and inter-ministry workshops. Enquiries with staff within the ministries demonstrated a mixed level of understanding regarding the DFAA guidelines. If those involved with preparing DFAA claim files are not provided with sufficient training or oversight, there is an increased risk that claim items may be missed or rejected.

Recommendation:

(12) EMBC should ensure that staff are adequately trained to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

4.3 Information Management

Appropriate information management is essential to good financial practices and controls. EMBC and the ministries involved with responding to and recovering from a disaster event, process a significant volume of financial transactions each year. Our review identified opportunities to improve records management relating to the accounts payable process and the storage and retrieval of DFAA documentation.

Ministries are expected to use the suite of corporate financial systems available to them in processing financial information. To meet the information and documentation needs of their program, ministries also, at times, require a records management system to store and retrieve supporting documentation.

EMBC's accounts payable processing is heavily manual. Once payments are processed, invoices are photocopied and the originals are stored in a batch box with a copy being kept in a task box. Fully utilizing the government's corporate financial system with the supporting documentation being stored in an electronic records management system, would make it easier for EMBC to retrieve supporting invoices. Coding invoices by task number would also allow for an easier and more accurate way for operations to summarize expenses by task number.

EMBC expressed an interest reviewing its utilization of its financial system and whether it is sufficient to meet the financial and documentation requirements of both government policy and the DFAA program. EMBC also advised that they are in the process of streamlining their ESS process and moving it from a paper-based to an online program.

Recommendation:

(13) EMBC should review its utilization of government's corporate financial and records management systems to ensure they fully meet their financial and documentation requirements and supplement with other systems if needed.

4.4 Measuring Performance

An important part of good governance and oversight involves setting organizational goals and objectives where progress can be measured. With goals and objectives in place, relevant key performance indicators can be set to measure how well the organization is achieving its intended results. Establishing an annual report with organization goals, objectives and key performance measures is a common and transparent way for organizations to set out what it intends to achieve.

PSSG is responsible for EMBC and have published a service plan. However, given the size and scope of PSSG, EMBC has limited profile within that service plan. There is opportunity for EMBC to conduct its own strategic exercise to establish key short, medium and long-term goals and objectives. This will enable EMBC to develop key performance indicators to measure, monitor and report on the organizations progress.

Recommendation:

(14) EMBC should develop clear goals and objectives, and monitor its progress using key performance indicators.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Recommendations

1	EMBC should ensure its legislation, Vote descriptions and policy have clearly established the source and distinct purpose of funding.
2	EMBC should ensure disaster financial assistance payments are made under the appropriate authority.
3	EMBC should ensure it has appropriate oversight over all costs accepted under its statutory appropriation.
4	EMBC should strengthen its financial practices and controls to reduce the risk of payment processing errors.
5	EMBC should make advanced and interim payment requests based on projected event costs as early as practical.
6	EMBC should understand the root cause of why expenses are removed from claims and implement appropriate practices to ensure claims only exclude ineligible costs.
7	EMBC should determine how best to utilize the DFAA mitigation enhancement and innovative recovery solutions in making future recovery decisions.
8	EMBC should determine a cost-benefit threshold for claiming Emergency Social Services costs and ensure claims are submitted when they meet the threshold.
9	EMBC should structure third-party contracts in order to maximize the Province's DFAA reimbursement opportunities.
10	EMBC should work with the Comptroller General to review the accounting policy for revenue recognition of DFAA.
11	EMBC should lead the establishment of a strategic oversight committee responsible for making key response and recovery decisions.
12	EMBC should ensure that staff are adequately trained to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
13	EMBC should review its utilization of government's corporate financial and records management systems to ensure they fully meet their financial and documentation requirements and supplement with other systems if needed.
14	EMBC should develop clear goals and objectives, and monitor its progress using key performance indicators.

BC Public Service's Response to COVID-19

On March 6, 2020 to protect people in B.C. against novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and mitigate the impact of the illness on communities, the B.C. government and the provincial health officer developed the British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Co-ordination Plan to respond to the evolving outbreak. A deputy ministers' committee was appointed to oversee a whole-of-government approach to implementing the plan, reporting directly to a new cabinet committee that Premier and Health Minister co-chaired.

Following the declaration of a public health emergency on March 17, 2020 by the provincial health officer, the province declared a Provincial State of Emergency on March 18, 2020.

In response to the public health emergency the BC Public Service was responsible for the following primary functions:

1) Manage the provincial state of emergency and ensure the necessary authorities/orders were in place to respond to and alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2) Implement programs or initiatives.
3) Ensure appropriate compliance and enforcement measures were in place.

Managing Provincial State of Emergency

The declaration of the Provincial State of Emergency permits the Minister responsible to exercise powers under section 10(1) of the Emergency Program Act including the powers to control or prohibit travel to or within BC and to implement price fixing and supply rationing. The powers of the Minister are broad-reaching and include all procedures that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to, or alleviate the effects of an emergency, in this instance to slow the progression of COVID-19 and the adverse effects on public welfare.

As of October 19th, 2020 39 Ministerial Orders have been made under the Emergency Program Act including the original declaration of the provincial State of Emergency. Some orders have been repealed and replaced to reflect changing circumstances or as issues further developed. These orders have ensured communities across the province are prepared to respond to outbreaks, can effectively manage other emergencies they may face (eg. floods and wildfires) while ensuring safe COVID-19 operating procedures, and removed barriers/restrictions within other legislation to ensure administrative functions could continue to be performed in light of COVID-19.

To ensure a consistent approach under the Provincial State of Emergency, local governments were prohibited from initiating their own states of local emergency unless authorized by the Minister and specific circumstances warranted such an action as was the case in response to the community outbreaks in Alert Bay and Haida Gwaii.

In response to the pandemic, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and all Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centres were activated in March and continue to be activated today albeit with reduced hours. The Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centres collect situational awareness and were instrumental in supporting local efforts to address community outbreaks in Alert

Bay and Haida Gwaii for instance. Initially a Joint Information Centre was established as a centralized communications hub to disseminate information those directly impacted by the pandemic, including the public, media, internal and external stakeholders, partner agencies, First Nations and local authorities. To alleviate call volumes on 8-1-1, a 1-888 COVID19 line was established to address non-clinical inquiries. As of October 18th, 2020 168,475 calls and 19,646 texts have been received.

Given the powers and authorities under the Emergency Program Act and our ability to mobilize resources to implement those authorities and respond to changing circumstances, BC did not feel it was necessary to request the federal government initiate a National State of Emergency.

Implement Programs

As part of its all of government approach and in response to the changing circumstances, the BC Public Service initiated several programs to manage the spread of COVID-19.

Traveller Self-Isolation

A Provincial Health Oder required international travellers to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to British Columbia and to submit a self-isolation plan. This requirement was backed up by a suite of measures including: provincial checkpoints at the border and at YVR airport, staffed by BC Public Servants; compliance and wellness follow-up calls by Service BC to all returning travellers; provincially provided accommodation for travellers who did not have an appropriate location to self-isolate; and an online tool for travellers to register their self-isolation plans.

Beginning June 21, 2020 the federal government demonstrated their ability to take on responsibility for the program. Service BC remains responsible for conducting compliance and wellness follow-up calls. Currently, approximately 91% of traveller records are received within 7 days. BC and Public Health Agency of Canada staff continue to work together to improve the timeliness of the traveller records.

Self Isolation Plans: Airport and Border Crossings

# of air passengers	116,358
# of ground passengers	65,699
# of passengers with unknown entry point	3,316
# of marine passengers	227
Total number of passengers	185,507
# of individuals provided accommodation by BC	158
# of individuals provided accommodation by Canada	590
% of British Columbians returning to BC with a self-isolation plan completed in advance	53
Follow Up Calls:	
# of successful outbound calls by Service BC to ensure individuals are supported and complying with their self-isolation plans	108,400
# of individuals referred to 8-1-1	444
# of individuals referred to compliance and enforcement	8,602

Statistics from June 21st now being provided by federal government re: passengers/accommodation

Temporary Foreign Workers

Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) employed annually through the Federal Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, are a critical workforce for British Columbia's agriculture industry. Following an outbreak at Bylands Nursery in West Kelowna on March 27th, the BC Public Service worked with the provincial health oficer to put in place a program that required TFWs to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival in BC in provincially provided hotel accommodations. BC public servants were deployed to inspect farms to ensure facilities were appropriate and could safely operate following COVID-19 guidelines. While other jurisdictions, notably Quebec and Ontario, experienced multiple COVID-19 outbreaks among TFWs, resulting in a number of deaths, BC's program has been a success and was publicly recognized by the Mexican Consulate.

Temporary Foreign Workers:

# placed in managed self-isolation to date	4723
# currently in accommodation	89
# expected to arrive by December	467
# of TFWs who tested positive for COVID-19	62
# of farms inspected/no action required	750
# of farms passed inspection	629
# of farms requiring follow up	75

*TFW stats are as of October 29th, 2020

Silviculture

In its largest seedling program ever, 300 million seedlings were grown to be planted in 2020. Tree planting operations were required to follow the Industrial Camps Order issued by the provincial health officer. Building on the success of the COVID-19 Temporary Foreign Workers Program, BC public servants conducted inspections of camps, worked with operators to ensure tree planters were following guidelines at non-camp accommodations (motels/hotels/rentals) and were key to helping build confidence in local communities that this activity could safely be undertaken. There were no COVID-19 cases among the 2020 tree-planters.

Silviculture:

# of camps inspected	289
# of camps passed inspection	282
Compliance Rate	98
# of Silviculture Workers	7,806

** Silviculture stats as of November 3rd, 2020

International Students:

With the 2020/2021 school year underway in September, all K-12 and post-secondary international students were required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to attending school program. Similar to the traveller self-isolation program, supports to students were coordinated through individual institutions.

International Students – Public and Independent Schools:

Health Authority	No. Students Currently Enrolled	No. of Students in Quarantine	No. Students Cleared Quarantine	No. of Students in Extended Quarantine
Interior	432	1	357	0
Fraser	4654	14	1882	0
Vancouver Coastal	3742	23	1545	7
Vancouver Island	1557	4	1044	0
Northern	34	0	15	0
Grand Total	**10,419**	**42**	**4,843**	**7**

*Stats as of October 25th, 2020 for period from October 19th - 25th, 2020

International Students - Post Secondary Institutes:

	Enrollments	In Self-Isolation		
	Number of new arrivals this week	Number currently in self-isolation	Number of new positive cases during self-isolation	Total number of positive cases cleared to return to class
Week 1: Aug 20	146	161	0	0
Week 2: Aug 27	300	391	0	0
Week 3: Sept 3	312	639	0	0
Week 4: Sept 10	443	827	1	0
Week 5. Sept 17	211	751	0	1
Week 6: Sept 24	191	520	0	0
Week 7: Oct 1	151	382	0	0
Week 8: Oct 8	88	266	0	0
Week 9: Oct 15	50	199	0	0
Week 10: Oct 22	72	148	0	0
Week 11: Oct 29	95	160	0	0
TOTAL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	**2,061**	**4,444**	**1**	**1**

**Stats as of October 30th

Compliance and Enforcement

The COVID-19 pandemic marked the first time Ministerial Orders were issued during a provincial state of emergency. In doing so, it became clear that additional compliance and enforcement mechanisms would be needed, over and above the current enforcement provision in the Emergency Program Act. BC's approach, led by the provincial health officer, has been to focus on compliance and education. Bylaw officers continue to play a key role in compliance and education efforts. Police and other enforcement officers (cannabis, liquor and gaming inspectors, community safety unit inspectors and conservation officers) are empowered to enforce public health orders and issue violation tickets for infractions. This includes the ability to issue $2000 fines to owners, operators and organizers for contraventions of the provincial health officer's order on gatherings and events.

For the period ending November 1st, 2020

COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA) Contravention	Provision	Ticketed Amount	Weekly # of Tickets Issued	Total tickets issued to date	Fine Totals
Item 23.4 A contravention of the PHO Food and Liquor Serving Premises Order	**Section 2 (2)**	$2,300	1	2	$4,600
Item 23.4 A contravention of the PHO Gatherings and Events Order	**Section 2 (2)**	$2,300	5	18	$41,400
Item 23.4 Promote or encourage attendance at non-compliant gathering or event	**Section 4**	$230	0	3	$690
Item 23.4 Fail to comply with direction from enforcement officer	**Section 5**	$230	0	0	$0
Item 23.4 Abusive or belligerent behaviour	**Section 6 (1)**	$230	0	6	$1,380
Item 23.4 Fail to comply with patron distancing conditions	**Section 7**	$230	0	13	$2,990
Uncategorized		$230		4	$920
		Total	6	**46**	**$51,980**
Quarantine Act					
Quarantine Act	**Section 58**	$1,150	7	53	$60,950.00
	Section 15 (3)	$575		3	$1,725.00
	Section 66	$316		1	$316.25
			Total	57	$62,991.25

- Violation Tickets include a 15% surcharge.

In addition to the ticketable offenses above Section 27 of the Emergency Program Act establishes that it is an offence to contravene the Act or regulation or to interfere with or obstruct the use of a power or performance of a duty under the Act and provides for jail terms up to one year and fines of up to $10,000.

5.13 COVID-19 Pandemic Response Task Number Eligibility

5.13.1 GENERAL

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic event is considered an "emergency" within the meaning of both the *Public Health Act* and the *Emergency Program Act*. A recognized medical authority must declare that an emergency exists for the Emergency Program Act to apply. On March 17, 2020, a public health emergency was declared under the *Public Health Act.*

As a result, task numbers for local and First Nations governments will be available for eligible emergency response costs, effective on the date of this policy, and within the meaning of the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation.

Related Policies and Guidelines:

- Policy 2.02 TASK AUTHORIZATION
- *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations*

5.13.2 POLICY STATEMENT

(1) Costs accrued by First Nations and local governments responding to COVID-19 prior to the effective date of this policy (i.e. retroactive costs) will not be reimbursed.

(2) Prospective COVID-19 pandemic response costs eligible for reimbursement by EMBC will include:
   - Incremental costs associated with activating an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) including activities related to planning, implementation or monitoring of any specific response actions or measures directed by the Province of British Columbia through the Public Health Officer or Emergency Management BC, or by federal counterparts in collaboration with First Nations governments within the Province.
   - Incremental costs related to any actions required to support additional health capacity including the establishment of testing stations, isolation facilities or others that may be requested or directed by a health authority.
   - Incremental costs related to the implementation of any provincial measures to restrict activities, movement or other actions directed by the province, federal government or First Nation in collaboration with the applicable Health Authority to manage COVID-19.

- Incremental costs for the continuation of locally-administered essential services. Included in local government and First Nations plans, essential services are considered critical to preserving life, health and basic societal functioning.
- Costs associated with the organization of appropriately trained and equipped personnel, including volunteers, to meet the needs of vulnerable persons in isolation who are unable to access support networks.

(3) Emergency Management BC (EMBC) will work with First Nations and local governments to receive all response claims electronically in order to meet the expected demands, need for expedited payments, as well as to enable remote approvals by payment processing staff.

(4) This is an iterative policy and may be adjusted in response to unanticipated consequences or to reflect the dynamic reality of the COVID-19 pandemic event.

5.13.3 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

Considerations:
Given the probable long-term economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic event on all Canadians and British Columbians, Local government and First Nations EOCs are asked to consider:

- Prudent use of staffing and physical assets;
- Employing the full range of employees that may be available, as well as volunteers, to implement necessary measures to sustain long-term activation of a local EOC; and
- Exercising patience when requesting expenditure authorization and resources from Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres, given the all-of-society impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic event.

5.13.4 AUTHORITIES

Emergency Program Act
Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Lori Halls
Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC
March 18, 2020

Effective Date: October 6, 2020

Eligibility Assessment Supplement to *Policy 5.13 COVID-19 Pandemic Response Task Number*			
Policy 5.13	**Response Item**	**Eligible**	**Not Eligible**
The long-term nature of the COVID response and the number of EOC's required to be activated for this event necessitates EMBCs modification of the eligibility criteria for response events contained in the *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs* Guidance. This Supplement to Policy 5.13 establishes the **eligible components for the duration of this event based on the effective date** until the Provincial declaration is removed.			
Incremental costs associated with activating an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) including activities related to planning, implementation or monitoring of any specific response actions or measures directed by the Province of British Columbia through the Public Health Officer or Emergency Management BC, or by federal counterparts in collaboration with First Nations governments within the Province.	**Emergency Operation Centre**	• All overtime must be approved in advance by EAF • EOC meals: one meal per EOC staff residing within the EOC per operational period, not to exceed $15 • EOC materials/supplies consumed for the COVID event.	• meals for remote workers
Incremental costs related to any actions required to support additional health capacity including the establishment of testing stations, isolation facilities or others that may be requested or directed by a health authority.	**Facilities support**	• Reasonable incremental cleaning (to meet Public Health Officer direction), security and support staffing costs for additional health capacity directed by a health authority	• Non industry standard overtime • Regular wages or employee benefits
	Provision of facility	• Rental of a facility not owned by the local authority or First Nation, if no community owned facility is available, when approved by EAF • Rental of equipment/furniture as required by Health Authority and approved by EAF	• Purchase of equipment/furniture • Rental of community-owned facilities are not eligible

	Changes to a facility required by Health Authority	• Temporary changes to plumbing, electrical, or other facility systems and restoration to original condition when approved by EAF	• Permanent changes to facility systems • Permanent improvements
Incremental costs related to the implementation of any Provincial measures to restrict activities, movement or other actions directed by the province, federal government or First Nation in collaboration with the applicable Health Authority to manage COVID-19.	**Security**	• Based on recent guidance from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the Province no longer requires medical health officers to authorize implementation of such checkpoints for First Nations communities. • EMBC and the Provincial Health Office continue to respect and recognize the rights of First Nations to determine when to implement measures to restrict access into communities as a measure to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. • The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) have made funding available for First Nations communities that communities can choose to apply towards security and checkpoints on a preventative basis, including through the Indigenous Community Support Fund, and that any provincial funding through EMBC will be incremental to that support. EMBC will continue to work in close partnership with the FNHA and ISC to coordinate the provision of this funding. • Where a community cluster or outbreak of COVID-19 exists (as verified by FNHA or the appropriate Health Authority), costs associated with contracting personnel for staffing of public health checkpoints to monitor community	• Any time not approved in the EAF • Eligibility reimbursement for pandemic checkpoints to monitor community closures/travel restrictions is limited to containing a verified cluster or outbreak of COVID-19. Checkpoints to restrict travel where there is not a verified community COVID-19 cluster or outbreak will not be considered for reimbursement • Permanent or temporary installation of fixed or immovable barriers or gates is not an eligible expense.

		closures/travel restrictions may be an eligible expense.
		
		• Eligible costs per checkpoint **must be pre-approved** by an Expense Authorization Form (EAF, and may include:
		  ○ Up to 2 contracted personnel per checkpoint up to 24 hours a day at a maximum rate of $24.66/hour.
		  ○ Rental of temporary traffic control measures including cones, traffic barriers, temporary tent or light shelter, and appropriate personal protective equipment to support worker safety.
		  ○ Rental of portable toilets where no public or accessible private facility is located within a reasonable distance.
		• Expenses that support community safety measures including information officers for public education and signage to advise community members and travelers on the current COVID-19 situation and advise of existing community closures are also eligible for reimbursement following EAF pre-approval
		• EAFs that are submitted must articulate the overall plan for security checkpoints, including the total number of checkpoints, the staffing plan for each checkpoint and any additional expenses such as signage and information officers.	

		• Reimbursements are limited to pandemic checkpoints within the jurisdictional boundary of the impacted community; for municipalities and regional districts as defined by the Local Government Act/Community Charter, and for First Nations to checkpoints located on reserves, as defined in section 2(1) of the Indian Act (Canada), modern treaty settlement lands, Tsilhqot'in title area lands, Sechelt lands administered according to the *Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act* (Canada), and Westbank lands administered by Westbank First Nation as defined in the agreement approved under the *Westbank First Nation Self-Government Act* (Canada). Checkpoints located on Provincial rights of way are not eligible for reimbursement, except where approved by the Province. • A State of Local Emergency will be required, in addition to EAF approval through relevant PREOC. • Eligibility will cease with a notice by FNHA or health authority that the cluster or outbreak is concluded.	
	Bylaw Capacity to Support Compliance with Health Orders	• local government or First Nations without bylaw officers can hire up to one FTE for COVID Public Awareness through EAF when supported by a plan for how the resource will be utilized. Duration not to exceed the provincial emergency declaration.	• local government or First Nation with substantial existing capacity are not expected to request reimbursement for 'additional' officers but to ensure utilization of its existing capacity to support compliance with public health orders

		• local government or First Nations who determine they have insufficient bylaw capacity can request additional support through EAF with a plan for how the additional capacity will be utilized. Duration not to exceed the provincial emergency declaration.	
	Shelter	• Costs associated with short-term housing of vulnerable populations in shelter alternatives, including commercial accommodation, if directed by or with the written approval of public health officials (e.g. to comply with physical distancing). [governmental options, including direct support provided by BC Housing, non-government organizations, and Health Authorities must have been explored, and exhausted] • Temporary changes to plumbing, electrical, or other facility systems and their restoration to original condition when approved by EAF	• Implementation of "transition to permanent housing" strategies • Shelter alternatives not directed by public health officials • Rental fees for community-owned facilities currently closed due to COVID-19 response
Incremental costs for the continuation of locally-administered essential services. Included in local government and First Nations plans, essential services are considered critical to preserving life, health and basic societal functioning.	**Support for remote work for essential services**	• Equipment rental (including computers to support working from home) • Case by case rental of 'incremental' and short-term' temporary upgrades may be approved based on demonstrated incremental need	• Capital equipment purchases and renovation of facilities • Software purchases
	Continuity of operations with an active EOC	• Backfilling essential positions where individuals are vital to fulfilling an EOC role • Incremental and case-by case support for EOC systems and facilities to adopt appropriate physical distancing, including supports to relocate the EOC to another community-owned facility, and temporary licensing of certain	• Contracting staff to fulfill all functions of local government

		network architecture to allow for virtual EOC operation	
	Wages and overtime	• Incremental overtime for essential services, as defined by per contract or collective agreement terms and conditions	• Regular salaries or straight time for current staff; benefits and taxes; and the incremental payroll expenses (when working outside of the deployment shift length guidelines are ineligible. For example: ○ The regular salary or hourly wage expense associated with response activities ○ Benefits, taxes and overhead or loading costs for current staff ○ Overtime or double time incurred by employees working outside of the deployment/shift length guidelines ○ Payroll expenditures not directly related to response activities (i.e. the backlog of regular work due to time spent working on the event) ○ Overtime policies designed specifically to be in effect only during EMBC response eligible events ○ Use of contractors in place of existing internal staff capacity, except with an EAF
	Specialist workers	• Contracting of workers with specialist skillsets where those specialists are unavailable or do not have capacity within the local government or First Nation, approved by EAF	• Contracting of medical services consultants and specialized consultants for business lines where Provincial experts exist, or a Provincial agency provides regulation
	Personal Protective Equipment	• First Nations and local governments with approved EAFs from EMBC PREOCs – continue with your procurement as authorized and submit a claim for reimbursement through established EMBC processes	• As of May 5, 2020, PPE for health essential services are **no longer eligible under this Policy 5.13**. All requests for health essential services PPE should be directed to the Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit.

		• Effective the date of this notice, EAFs for PPE should include details showing how:
		  ○ the PPE is part of items regularly consumed or introduced as a result of a public health requirement,
		  ○ is incremental to baseline consumption and
		  ○ establishes that the number of weeks being procured for does not exceed the duration of the provincial order.
			• Fire and Police Department PPE is to be requested through Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit through a parallel process coordinated by the Fire Chiefs Association of BC and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
			• EMBC will not reimburse the cost of counterfeit or substandard PPE acquired through separate government or agency procurement processes.

	Portable washrooms and handwashing stations	• When serving a vulnerable population, where no other public facility exists, short-term rental of portable washrooms and hand washing stations to be approved by EAF	• Rental of portable washrooms and handwashing stations are not permitted when simply replacing a closed public washroom.
	COVID warning signage	• If the rationale and extent of the proposed signage is reasonable to the circumstances	• Signage indicating a local government use of emergency powers without having been granted by the Minister responsible for the State of Provincial Emergency
Costs associated with the organization of appropriately trained and equipped personnel, including volunteers, to meet the needs of vulnerable persons in isolation who are unable to access support networks.	**Food delivery**	• Mileage reimbursement consistent with current provincial rates • Reasonable costs to contract an outside delivery service	• Purchase of Food • Provision of food or other goods to NGO services (food bank, meals on wheels, etc.) • Direct funding of secondary NGO services
	Just-in-time training	• Reasonable costs to provide role training required for new staff/volunteers to respond to COVID-19	• Training not related to COVID-19 response
	Community-owned facilities to support vulnerable persons	• Incremental cleaning and operating costs related to ensuring public facilities (public washrooms, shower facilities, additional security, etc.) remain open to vulnerable persons and the restoration to original condition afterwards	

Cliff: 578189
Date Prepared: October 29, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

COVID-19 Response Funding for Local Government and First Nations (Policy 5.13)

BACKGROUND:
The COVID-19 pandemic event is considered an "emergency" within the meaning of both the *Public Health Act* and *Emergency Program Act*. This was confirmed to local and First Nations government through EMBC Policy 5.13 which was published March 18, 2020 (see attachment 1). Consistent with other emergencies local and First Nations governments may be reimbursed for eligible emergency response costs through the *Emergency Program Act*.

Key actions eligible for funding under the policy include incremental response costs:

- for activating an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC);
- related to any actions required to support additional health capacity that may be requested or directed by a health authority; and
- related to the implementation of any provincial measures to restrict activities, movement or other actions directed by the province, federal government or First Nation in collaboration with the applicable Health Authority to manage COVID-19.

Given the unique nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, EMBC published an eligibility supplement to provide additional clarity on the range of actions which may be considered for reimbursement under this policy (see attachment 2).

The policy was developed early in the pandemic to provide greater funding certainty for local and First Nations government to ensure response actions would be undertaken without delay caused by concerns around their eligibility. This was particularly important early in the COVID-19 pandemic as defined funding through the Health sector and through other ministries/agencies to support the health response and support for vulnerable populations had not yet been clearly articulated by the province.

In early October, the eligibility supplement was revised to provide clarity in respect to the eligibility of costs associated with the staffing of public health checkpoints to monitor community closures and/or travel restrictions in the event of verified COVID-19 cluster, outbreak or cases in a community or an immediately adjacent jurisdiction which has been identified as a significant risk to a community.

In early November, EMBC subsequently revised Policy 5.13 to eliminate areas of overlap with actions delivered and funded through the health sector through the fall and

winter preparedness plan and the COVID specific restart funding for local governments to be provided through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing which can be used for local government facility reopening and operating costs, emergency response costs, the needs of vulnerable populations, and other COVID-19 related impacts.

With the revision, Policy 5.13 is focused on incremental EOC related response costs, however, this does not prevent EMBC from supporting urgent COVID-19 related actions as required. EMBC continues to work closely with local and First Nations government in this regard.

As of October 30, 2020 over 800 COVID-19 related response claims totaling an estimated $20M have been recieved by EMBC regional offices. EMBC is working to process and reimburse local and First Nations governments' eligible response claims in a timely fashion, while also reviewing its reimbursement procedures to look for greater efficiencies and better practices.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The bilateral Emergency Management Services agreement between British Columbia and the Government of Canada provides First Nations communities on reserves with emergency management support equal to what is provided to non-Indigenous communities. This includes the reimbursement of COVID-19 response related costs.
- Costs related to First Nations response claims are subsequently reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada consistent with the bilateral Emergency Services Agreement.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Finance – Treasury Board Staff
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 3, 2020
ADM	DP / MM	10-29-20
Exec Lead	AC	10-29-20

Attachment(s)
Attachment 1: Policy 5.13
Attachment 2: Policy 5.13 Eligibility Supplement

Summary of *Emergency Program Act* and *Public Health Act* (pertaining to health concerns)

Emergency Program Act

What is it?

Introduced in 1993 and administered by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the *Emergency Program Act* (*EPA*) provides the legislative framework for the management of disasters and emergencies in BC. Under the *EPA*, the Minister responsible for the Act has a number of duties and powers, including preparing emergency plans, entering into agreements, conducting training and exercising programs, and reviewing and recommending modifications to local government plans. [Note that government is currently reviewing the *EPA*, and has been working toward introduction of legislation supporting a modernized framework for disaster risk management and emergency management in Fall, 2020.]

What defines an emergency?

The definition of an emergency under the *EPA* is limited to a present or imminent event caused by fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature and requires prompt coordinated action or special regulation to protect the health, safety, or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property. The *EPA* has guided the province through events such as Kelowna Interface fires in 2003, the Johnson's Landing landslide in 2012, and the Grand Forks flooding in 2018; the powers of the Act have largely been used in situations where emergencies originate in natural or human-caused events that have a range of impacts on citizens, businesses, communities, the environment, and infrastructure.

Under the *EPA*, the Minister responsible for the Act or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may declare a provincial state of emergency for no more than 14 days if it is deemed that an emergency exists or is imminent and an extraordinary power under the Act is required. This period can be extended beyond 14 days by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Similarly, a local authority (e.g. municipal council), may declare a state of local emergency of no more than seven days, if the body deems that an emergency exists or is imminent. This period can be extended beyond seven days upon request to the Minister responsible for the Act or the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

What powers are available during an emergency?

After a declaration of a state of provincial emergency, the EPA provides that the Minister responsible may do all acts and implement all procedures that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including to:

1) Implement a provincial emergency plan or measures;
2) Authorize or require a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or measures;
3) Acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to respond to the emergency;
4) Authorize or require any qualified person to provide assistance to others to respond to the emergency;
5) Control or prohibit travel to or from any area of BC;
6) Provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies;

7) Provide, maintain, and coordinate emergency medical, welfare, and other essential services in BC;
8) Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals, and personal property from any area of BC affected by the emergency, and make arrangements for their adequate care and protection;
9) Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan, if the Minister considers necessary;
10) Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures, or crops, if the Minister considers necessary;
11) Construct something that the Minister considers necessary to respond to the emergency; and
12) Procure, fix prices for, or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies, or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources, or equipment within any part of BC.

The declaration of a state of local emergency provides that the local authority may do all acts and implement all procedures that the local authority considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including to:

- Implement its local emergency plan or measures;
- Exercise many of the same powers available to the Minister responsible for the Act during a state of emergency (i.e. #3-12 above) within the jurisdictional area affected by the local declaration; and
- Delegate, in writing, any of the powers available to the Minister (inclusive of #3-12 presented above) responsible for the Act to any persons involved in the operation of a local emergency plan.
- Note that the Minister may order a local authority to refrain or desist, either generally or in respect of any matter, from exercising any power.
- By bylaw ratified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but without obtaining approval or assent of the electors, a local authority may borrow any money necessary to pay expenses caused by the emergency.

In addition, the EPA provides that whether or not a state of provincial or local emergency has been declared, the Minister or the head of a local authority may implement a provincial or local emergency plan, respectively, if in their opinion, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens.

<u>When does an emergency end?</u>

The Lieutenant Governor in Council, Minister responsible for the Act must cancel the declaration of a state of provincial emergency when the emergency no longer exists and may cancel a state of local emergency at any time the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council considerations appropriate in the circumstances. The local authority which declared a state of local emergency must also cancel the declaration when that emergency no longer exists.

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Public Health Act

What is it?

Administered by the Ministry of Health, the *Public Health Act (PHA)* replaced the *Health Act* in 2009. The *PHA* provides a comprehensive framework for dealing with current and emerging public health issues, including communicable disease prevention and control, health promotion, and health protection. The *PHA* provides the Minister, public health officials, regional health authorities, local governments, and others with important tools, such as the ability to issue orders necessary to respond to public health emergencies. The scope of the *PHA* is narrower than the *EPA* insofar as it is restricted to the health context, and considers and addresses health impacts for citizens, rather than impacts on businesses, the environment or infrastructure.

Examples of powers to address infectious diseases

Under the *PHA,* a medical health officer has broad powers to issue an order to a person to do anything necessary to determine whether an "infectious agent" or "hazardous agent" exists or to prevent their transmission. Infectious agents and hazardous agents are prescribed by regulations. In an emergency, the Minister responsible for the Act may bypass the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations to prescribe an infectious agent or a hazardous agent.

Under the *PHA*, the Minister may, by order, designate a place as a quarantine facility if the Minister reasonably believes that the temporary use of the place for the purposes of isolating or detaining infected persons is necessary to protect public health, and the owner of the facility must provide the place to the Minister or a medical health officer.

What defines an emergency?

Part 5 of the *PHA* outlines additional powers that the Minister or a health officer may exercise in case of an emergency. A situation qualifies as an emergency when a certain number of specific conditions are met.

For localized events—that is, when there are immediate and significant public health risks that are limited to a localized area—a person must believe that the following two conditions are met:

1) Immediate action is required to protect public health from significant harm; and
2) Normal compliance of the Act would hinder mitigating the risk to public health.

For regional events—that is, when there are immediate and significant public health risks throughout a region or the province—the Provincial Health Officer must provide notice that at least two of the following conditions must be met:

1. The regional event could have a serious impact on public health;
2. The regional event is unusual or unexpected;
3. There is a significant risk of the spread of an infectious agent or a hazardous agent;
4. There is a significant risk of travel or trade restrictions as a result of the regional event.

What powers are available during an emergency?

In an emergency, health officers are given extraordinary powers to perform their duties. Health officers may perform their duties in a more expeditious manner (e.g. not provide a notice, provide an oral notice instead of in writing, conduct an inspection without warrant, act in a shorter or longer time period than otherwise required).

In an emergency, the Provincial Health Officer or medical health officer may order a person to take preventive measures (e.g. being treated, vaccinated, taking preventive medication, undergoing disinfection and decontamination measures, wearing a type of clothing or other personal protective equipment), conduct an inspection at any time without warrant, including of a private dwelling, and order that a specified infectious agent, hazardous agent, health hazards, or other matter be reported.

When does an emergency end?

The authority to act under extraordinary powers end as soon as reasonably practical after the emergency has passed for a localized event. For a regional event, these powers end when the Provincial Health Officer provide notice that the emergency has passed.

Relationship Between EPA and PHA

Cabinet Confidences; Legal Information

COVID-19 Emergency Program Act (EPA) Ministerial Orders
Currently in Effect

- The following *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) Ministerial Orders are currently in effect. These orders, in addition to the 4 Orders in Council also listed, will continue to have effect when the provincial state of emergency (SOE) ends as they are listed by schedule in the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA) which was brought into force July 10, 2020. Some of these orders will expire when the SOE ends, others will expire 45 or 90 days following the end of the SOE, and a number have been extended to July 10, 2021; the maximum time period permitted under the legislation.

- COVID-19 related Ministerial Orders under the EPA that were repealed or were contingent on dates that have since passed are not listed. There are 16 such orders that are no longer in effect.

- There are a number of COVID-19 related orders that have been made under the authority of statutes other than the EPA.

M082/2020 – Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for local government bylaw enforcement officers to enforce public health orders.

M084/2020 – Local Authorities and Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides a range of authorities related to protecting the supply chain, protecting consumers, ensuring critical travel (including minimum service levels), protecting vulnerable people, better co-ordination between the Province and local governments.
- Provisions related to local states of emergency, local emergency plans and BC Ferries were repealed by OIC451 on July 30, 2020.

M093/2020 – Provincial Compliance Officer (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Designates inspectors under the *Cannabis Control and Licencing Act*, the *Liquor Control and Licencing Act* and the *Gaming Control Act* as Provincial compliance officers and empowers them to support compliance with public health orders made under the *Public Health Act.*

Denotes orders that are the responsibility of Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

M098/2020 - Limitation Periods (COVID-19) Order No. 2 (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Suspends mandatory limitation periods under the *Limitation Act* within which a civil or family action, proceeding, claim or appeal must be commenced in the Provincial Court of BC, Supreme Court of BC or BC Court of Appeal, as well as granting a person, tribunal or other body that has a statutory power of decision the ability to waive, suspend or extend a mandatory time period.

M114/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Strata Property Meetings (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Permits electronic attendance for strata meetings.

M115/2020 – Prohibition on Unconscionable Prices for Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Prohibits the sale of essential goods and supplies in a retail environment at an unconscionable price and is enforceable by police officers and enforcement officials through $2000 violation tickets.

M116/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Corporate Meetings (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Enables voting and other participation at corporate meetings to occur via telephone (or any other electronic method), provided all persons are able to communicate during the meeting.

M121/2020 – Supreme Court Civil and Family Applications (COVID-19) Order (in effect 45 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice to vary Supreme Court civil and family rules to be consistent with the orders and guidelines of the Public Health Officer.
- Also allows applications to the BC Supreme Court to be made by written submissions, telephone, video conference or other communication means rather than in person.

M133/2020 – Employment and Assistance (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Varies the *Employment and Assistance Act* and the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act to allow verbal communications to confirm eligibility for assistance or to appeal decisions.
- Also suspends the requirement to report other sources of income provided through federal employment insurance.

Denotes orders that are the responsibility of Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

M138/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Credit Union Meetings (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Permits credit unions to hold remote meetings.

M150/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Order No. 2 (expires when SOE ends)

- Extends the deadline for the City of Victoria encampment disbursement to provide for adequate alternative living arrangements and other health and social supports to be available.

M152/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Vancouver Enforcement Order (expires when SOE ends)

- Outlines enforcement authorities associated with the closure of the Oppenheimer encampment.

M159/2020 – Local Government Finance (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Postpones late payment penalties for commercial property taxes and allows local governments to use funds from their 'statutory reserve fund' for emergency expenses.
- Allows local governments to delay the statutory date for property tax sales until 2021 and postpones statutory deadlines for filing requirements with the Province.

M162/2020 – Electronic Witnessing of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Permits remote execution of wills.

M166/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Victoria Enforcement Order (expires when SOE ends)

- Outlines enforcement authorities and the closure of the Pandora Avenue Corridor and Topaz Park encampments.

M167/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Statutory Meetings (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Allows e-meetings for any entity that is required by statute or bylaw to hold meetings.

M168/2020 – Electronic Attendance at UBCM Convention (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

Denotes orders that are the responsibility of Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

- Allows electronic attendance at UBCM's Convention/AGM.

M179/2020 – Commercial Tenancy (COVID-19) Order (was in effect until October 1, 2020)

- Prevented a landlord (or sub-landlord) from taking a variety of actions due to a failure of a tenant (including a sub-tenant) to pay rent.
- Eviction ban applied to landlords that chose not to avail themselves of the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program.

M192/2020 – Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Order No. 3 (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for local governments to hold public meetings while meeting Provincial Health Officer directives and guidance.
- Carries forward authorities related to electronic public hearings and meetings, and deferral of improvement district requirements.

M193/2020 – Correctional Centre Measures (COVID-19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Authorizes wardens of correctional centres to designate units to manage classes of inmates for the purpose of preventing transmission or containing spread of communicable diseases, in accordance with provincial health directives.
- Allows Corrections to house inmates arriving at the institution separate from the rest of the inmate population for a 14-day period in order to limit the risk of COVID-19 being introduced into a correctional centre.

M220/2020 – Health Care Labour Adjustment (COVID-19) Order No. 2 (in effect until July 10, 2021)

- Obligates health care employers, its staff, and any bargaining agent for unionized staff of the employer to implement a Single Site Order, pursuant to the *Public Health Act*. The order also requires employers to follow specified labour/employment terms.

M256/2020 – BC Ferries Medical Travel (COVID-19) Order (in effect until July 10, 2021)

- Orders BC Ferries to administer their Medical Assured Loading Program in a way that does not restrict access for eligible patients.

OIC 453 – COVID-19 (Limitation Periods in Court Proceedings) Regulation (one provision in effect 45 days after the expiry of the SOE – remaining provisions 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

Denotes orders that are the responsibility of Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

- The regulation makes no changes to the breadth of the suspension of limitation periods and other mandatory time periods in M098 as well as no change to the exemption of the *Builders Lien Act* or the *Strata Property Act*.
- Changes the end date for the suspension of the Court of Appeal and an ability to set individual end dates for each level of court.

OIC 457 – COVID-19 (Passenger Transportation Act) Regulation (in effect until July 10, 2021)

- The regulation exempts passenger transportation licensees, such as tour bus operators, that have ceased operations due to COVID-19 from the requirement to pay an application fee when they submit an application to renew their licence.
- The regulation requires that the application fee must be paid prior to the Registrar renewing the licence. The regulation also requires that the application fee must be paid before the earlier of the date that is one year after the licensee makes the application or June 30, 2021.

OIC 475 – COVID-19 (Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act) (No. 2) Regulation (date being considered for extension to July 10, 2021 – remaining provisions currently extended to July 10, 2021) – Cabinet Confidences

- Establishes timeframes for the repayment framework of rents owed and establishes when tenants may face eviction if they do not pay their monthly rent in full and on time.
- Government imposed a rent increase freeze on March 30, 2020 in retired M089/2020 which continues until November 30, 2020 in this order.

M358 (via OIC 566) – Food and Liquor Premises, Gatherings and Events (COVID 19) Order (in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Aligns the Province's ticketing measures with the Provincial Health Officer's updated orders on Food and Liquor Serving Premises and Gatherings and Events, giving police and other provincial enforcement officers the ability to issue violation tickets for contraventions.

Denotes orders that are the responsibility of Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – AVALANCHE FUNDING AND SUPPORT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The Province has provided over $400,000 in annual funding through ministries for the existing services provided by Avalanche Canada, including:
    - $150,000 in funding from Emergency Management BC to support public avalanche bulletins;
    - $250,000 in community gaming grants through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for operational costs; and
    - Approximately $10,000 annually for Special Avalanche Warning alerts. These are issued when public safety is at risk ($2,500 per alert).
- The Province also supports Ground Search and Rescue volunteers with avalanche training and response, including:
    - Training for ground search and rescue volunteers aimed at keeping responders safe in avalanche terrain; and,
    - Reimbursement of costs if Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) staff or contractors are required for avalanche safety assessments.

Advice/Recommentations

BACKGROUND:

Avalanche Canada currently relies on grant-based funding (outlined below) and donations, which makes it difficult to project year-to-year funding that supports long-term planning. The organization has noted a decline in corporate donations, hearing frequently that avalanche is a public safety issue. The organization is seeking contributions from various F/P/T sources (primarily from the areas with avalanche risk) and notes that B.C. has the highest risk and the majority of avalanche-related incidents. Business Information

Business Information

OTHER FUNDING:

On July 8, 2019, the Government of Canada announced a one-time endowment of $25 million to support Avalanche Canada's long-term sustainability and expansion of services. The funding is targeted toward expanding the size and scope of Avalanche Canada's safety program to new areas, including Northern British Columbia, parts of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Yukon.

Advice/Recommentations

- Avalanche Canada has developed their national strategy after receiving this $25 million endowment from Public Safety Canada and is seeking increased provincial funding to support the National Strategy. In B.C., the funding being sought is $1 million annually — an increase of $840,000 (includes gaming funds).

Advice/Recommentations

Avalanche Canada provides:

- Public forecast and blogs to help raise awareness of the risks and current conditions;
- Curriculum and resources to increase avalanche awareness for youth; and
- Resources such as the Mountain Information Network and Throttle Decisions video series.

Avalanche Canada is also the primary source for public avalanche training information and provides:

- Free online avalanche awareness tutorials;
- Companion rescue skills training; and
- Avalanche Skills Training with two course levels.

Industry (Heli Ski, MOTI, Hydro, Mines, Rail, etc.) provides necessary information (weather, snowpack data) to a system (INFOEX) that supports Avalanche Canada with forecasts. The estimated value of this system is over $5 million annually.

- The data supplied from industry is needed for Avalanche forecasting. In 2020, forecasting ended on March 23rd for the season, approximately one month earlier than normal due to the lack of field data from industry partners.
- The COVID-19 event has negatively impacted funding and data for Avalanche Canada.

Advice/Recommentations

- Changes to the landscape associated with climate change, wildfires, natural resource extraction and development have both decreased the ability to rely on historical environmental knowledge and increased the need for more accurate forecasting and well-trained practitioners in the field.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) works in partnership with Avalanche Canada and industry representatives to disseminate province-wide information when conditions call for a special public avalanche warning (SPAW).

ROLE OF BC CORONERS SERVICE:

- The BC Coroners Service and Avalanche Canada collaborate under an interagency MOU to support the investigation of fatal avalanche incidents, the timely release of appropriate information and engaging in public education programs; and stressing the need for proper training, equipment and knowledge of terrain when venturing into the backcountry.

FLNRORD INVOLVEMENT:

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's (FLNRORD) Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) branch works with Avalanche Canada to provide Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) mapping and signs in new areas.

- From 2009 - 2015, RSTBC provided a total of $535,000 in funding to Avalanche Canada to improve public safety, education and information related to avalanche risks for mountain snowmobilers and backcountry skiers. This includes working with Avalanche Canada and GeoBC to assess and map over 125 backcountry recreation areas using ATES and to install corresponding signs at more than 90 of those sites.

CONTROLLED AVALANCHES IN B.C.:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) provides a provincewide program to ensure safety from avalanches for motorists on the highway.

- MOTI's program manages more than 60 avalanche areas, including almost 1,400 individual paths.

- MOTI Avalanche Program staff work with Avalanche Canada Forecasters, providing access to remote weather information station data and sharing forecast knowledge in remote areas of adjoining coverage.

- MOTI avalanche programs only provide avalanche control for areas within the ministry's highway network and do not undertake avalanche control in backcountry areas.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-29

EMBC – CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN B.C.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan details how the Province will lead and coordinate during a catastrophic earthquake, as well as articulating the roles, responsibilities, and integration of governments, agencies and partners.
- B.C. works with the federal government to develop earthquake scenarios and plans to address national support strategies.
- In 2016, the Province held the first-ever, full-scale, provincial-level earthquake and tsunami exercise – Exercise Coastal Response – that integrated all levels of government, First Nations communities, the Canadian Armed Forces, and non-governmental organizations.
- A second large-scale earthquake exercise is currently being planned – Exercise Coastal Response 2022 – to practice an integrated response to a major earthquake event.
- B.C. is actively incorporating lessons learned from exercises and recent emergency events, including COVID-19, wildfire and freshet, into planning for a major B.C. earthquake.
- We continue to reinforce the importance of personal preparedness, including having emergency kits and a family emergency plan in place.
- All British Columbians should be prepared to manage on their own for a minimum of 72 hours in the event of an emergency. It's best that people are ready to cope on their own for one to two weeks.

BACKGROUND:

Some of the largest and most heavily populated urban centers in B.C. are exposed to serious earthquake and tsunami risks. The BC Office of the Auditor General's report: "Following the Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014), and the BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (2015) were critical of the Province's level of preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake. In May 2018, the National Post reported that documents gathered through an information request pointed to concerns about the B.C. government's ability to respond to a catastrophic earthquake, including gaps in First Nations support, coordination of complex disasters, early warning systems, and earthquake exercises.

EMBC'S ROLE:

Local authorities and First Nations lead the initial response to emergencies and disasters, including earthquakes, and are supported in their efforts by the Province through Emergency Management BC (EMBC). EMBC works with First Nations, local authorities and other partners to ensure they have emergency plans in place and staff are trained to respond accordingly.

PREPAREDNESS MEASURES:

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Cabinet Confidences

- B.C. has agreements in place with all Canadian provinces and territories, and the states of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, to share emergency management resources in the event of a significant disaster such as an earthquake.
- There are back-up communications and power systems in place at the EMBC Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and all six EMBC Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs).
- The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) operates with a designated back-up facility in place to ensure continuous operations.
- EMBC has initiated planning for a Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC) that aims to provide overarching emergency management response and recovery coordination to all levels of government, First Nations, and key partners through an integrated, centralized operations centre in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.
- The Province has identified Catastrophic Response Actions across government. These are the Province's most critical functions required for the continuity of government and public service delivery in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophic event and the required ministry IT and facility resources to support critical services.
- EMBC has also launched a number of initiatives, that although not catastrophic-focused, will enable preparedness, response and recovery for catastrophic events, including:
    - In 2015, the Province created PreparedBC, British Columbia's official disaster preparedness education program serving the public, local authorities, First Nations and schools. *Details on their programs are found under: "Public Education" below.*
    - A $95,000 investment to improve the speed of delivery for the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) used to initiate tsunami alerts in B.C.
    - In 2020, EMBC plans to release a modernized Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) toolkit for First Nations and Local Authorities that aims to help community leaders make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards and prepare for response and recovery from emergencies.

EMERGENCY EXERCISES:

- EMBC maintains a continuous exercise and training calendar and is currently planning to conduct a series of interrelated earthquake training and exercise activities focused on response efforts in the lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island through 2022.
- The Province will continue to enhance preparedness by preparing for Exercise Coastal Response 2022, to practice an integrated response to a large-scale earthquake.
- The planning for this exercise in 2022 will involve a series of training and planning milestones, including tabletop exercises.

- Lessons learned from these exercises will help further shape inter-agency planning for earthquake response among all levels of government, First Nations and other partners.
- EMBC's emergency exercise plans are in keeping with the plans and processes of local, national and international agencies.
- The Province also works with the federal government, including Public Safety Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and the Canadian Armed Forces, to develop earthquake scenarios and plans to address national support strategies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

EMBC's PreparedBC public education program raises awareness about regional hazards and how to prepare for a disaster, including earthquakes and tsunamis. It also supports the annual ShakeOutBC earthquake drill. Specific PreparedBC initiatives include:

- PreparedBC Pandemic Guide – launched in October 2020 and created in partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Health, with a foreword from Dr. Bonnie Henry.
    - The new guide is a proactive resource to help British Columbians prepare for the onset of flu season and the anticipated second wave of COVID-19 cases. It's currently available online at PreparedBC.ca.
- Master of Disaster – launched in 2016, this is a classroom-based program that educates students in grades 4-8 about the hazards they face and how to prepare for them.
    - In 2020, the new and improved program was made available. It incorporates traditional Indigenous knowledge and was prepared in partnership with Indigenous communities to provide more comprehensive information and a greater lens on cultural sensitivity.
- Partners in Preparedness – Retail program that partners with businesses to promote emergency readiness through the sale of disaster supplies. Early adopters of the program include Save-On-Foods and London Drugs.
- High Ground Hike – Community-led event supported by PreparedBC that encourages public knowledge of and practice using tsunami evacuation routes as participants run, walk or hike to safe ground.

FUNDING PROGRAMS:

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund:

A suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. It is funded by the B.C. Government and administered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The funding streams include:

- Emergency Support Services
- Evacuation Route Planning
- Emergency Operations Centres and Training
- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning
- Structural Flood Mitigation
- Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training (announced in 2019)
- Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training (announced in 2019)

The Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF):

A 10-year, $2 billion national program designed to help communities better withstand current and future risks of natural hazards. DMAF will support large-scale infrastructure projects with a

minimum cost of $20 million.

The Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Program:
A component of the wider Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which supports infrastructure projects in communities across the province that have populations of 25,000 or less.

First Nations Adapt Program:
Federal funding program that provides funding to First Nations communities located below the 60th parallel to assess and respond to climate change impacts on community infrastructure and emergency management.

EMBC – COVID-19 BORDER MEASURES

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- In early April, COVID-19 border screening measures were introduced, unprecedented in Canada, to help ensure British Columbians returning home from international destinations had the support they needed to manage their 14-day self-isolation plans and keep B.C. communities safe.

- To this end – provincial staff oversaw a suite of measures:

    - provincial checkpoints at the border and at YVR airport, staffed by B.C. public servants
    - compliance and wellness follow-up calls by Service BC to all returning travellers
    - provincially-provided accommodation for travellers who did not have an appropriate location in which to self-isolate
    - an online tool for travellers to register their self-isolation plans.

- Following a transition period with the Federal Government, B.C. stood down the provincially-led border checkpoints on Saturday, June 20. Federal screening measures at ports of entry continue.

- The evolution of the federal border screenings and our transition over the past months has allowed the BC Public Service to step back from border screening and redeploy our resources in this all-of-government response to limit the spread of COVID-19 in British Columbia.

- B.C. continues to be a North American leader in the fight against COVID-19, and much credit goes to the hundreds of BC Public Service employees who raised their hands to make sure those arriving home do so safely.

If asked why it is now safe to end B.C.-led measures:

- In early May, the Federal Government implemented their own enhanced screening measures for those arriving from international destinations (including the United States) to a British Columbian port of entry.

- Anyone arriving in Canada must now document their self-isolation plans, for example through the ArriveCan App. The Federal Government will continue to ensure those arriving in B.C. are self-isolating for 14 days, per the federal Quarantine Act – unless they have symptoms – in which case they must quarantine in federal accommodations for two weeks.

- The Province continues to work with the federal government to ensure timely transmission of data so that follow up compliance and support calls can be made by Service BC.

If asked about Temporary Foreign Workers:

- All Temporary Foreign Workers arriving in B.C. for seasonal farm work are required to self-isolate in government-funded accommodations near the airport for 14 days prior to being transported to farms throughout B.C.

- During their self-isolation period:
    - The Province conducts screening for symptoms during their stay, as well as prior to leaving the hotel;
    - All workers are given guidance on how to self-assess for symptoms and who to contact; and,
    - Service BC conducts check-in calls with each worker during their stay.

- All workers are screened by health professionals prior to leaving self-isolation to go to the farms.

- Once on the farms, workers continue to self-monitor and as well are monitored for symptoms by their employer.

BACKGROUND:

B.C.'s program of enhanced self-isolation for travellers entering Canada was announced April 8, 2020.

Staff from 13 ministries across government were involved in the program – notable participation is from Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural Development, Environment, Transportation, Citizens Services, and Public Safety.

The Provincial Health Officer's Travellers and Employers Order outlining requirements for international travellers returning to British Columbia came into effect April 10.

To implement this Order, the Province established:

- A webform for travellers to submit an online self-isolation plan.
- Provincial checkpoints at YVR airport and 17 land points of entry.
- Hotel accommodation arrangements for those returning travellers who do not have an appropriate location in which to self-isolate.
- Wellness and compliance follow-up calls to recently-returned travellers through Service BC.

On April 15, Canada implemented similar enhanced self-isolation provisions under OIC10:

https://orders-in-council.canada.ca/attachment.php?attach=39166&lang=en

1. Modelled in part on B.C.'s process, the federal process includes the requirement to have a self-isolation plan that meets similar criteria to the B.C. requirements (e.g. a location to self isolate, access to the essentials of life, no vulnerable individuals at that location).

In June 2021 the federal government took over responsibility for the border program in BC. Service BC remains responsible for conducting compliance and wellness follow up calls. Currently approximately 91% of travelers' records are received within 7 days. BC and Public Health Agency of Canada staff continue to work together to improve the timeliness of the transmission of traveler records.

EMBC – COVID-19 PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- COVID-19 is a serious, global issue, with far-reaching effects on the health, safety and security of British Columbians.
- This declaration has facilitated a fast response to a rapidly-evolving situation, while ensuring federal, provincial and local resources are delivered in a joint, coordinated way to protect British Columbians.
- To ensure a cohesive, provincewide response to the pandemic and avoid a patchwork of rules and regulations, the Province issued an order (MO84) in late March to stop local governments from declaring their own states of local emergency.
- Many local governments, regional districts and First Nations have stepped up to prepare and protect their communities, but in a global crisis like this, we all need to work from the same playbook whenever possible.
- Once the Provincial State of Emergency is over, those orders enacted under the Emergency Program Act that need to remain in place will continue to do so under provisions created in the COVID-19 Related Measures Act, passed on July 10.
- Over the past few months, the province has enacted 39 orders under the EPA:
    - Orders to protect consumers, employers and employees.
    - Orders to allow governments to function.
    - Orders to help keep business afloat and a roof over people's heads.
- B.C. is not out of the woods. Everyone must continue to be diligent and follow the directions of the Provincial Health Officer.

BACKGROUND:

On March 18, 2020, B.C. declared a Provincial State of Emergency due to COVID-19, after Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a Public Health Emergency the previous day. Every two weeks since, the B.C. government has formally extended the provincial state of emergency.

The extension of the provincial state of emergency is based on recommendations from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials, allowing government to continue to take the

necessary steps to keep British Columbians safe.

A provincial declaration of a state of emergency allows the Province to implement provincial emergency measures and allows access to all assets that may be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency. This is a temporary measure authorized by the *Emergency Program Act*.

EMBC – COVID-19 SUPPLY CHAIN

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- As B.C. restarts the economy, keeping people safe is the highest priority.

- During this pandemic, the first priority has, and continues to be, ensuring the health care sector is well-equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies.

- Now that the Province has stabilized supply for frontline health care workers, supplies are being made available for purchase by broader public sector and social service organizations, through the COVID-19 supply hub.

- While global supply chains for these items continue to be disrupted, some manufacturers and suppliers have started to increase production and sell a range of PPE products and cleaning supplies. As a result, some public and private sectors have been able to purchase supplies.

- British Columbians should use every effort to employ risk mitigation strategies to reduce the need for these critical supplies, including:

    - following any guidance on the appropriate use of PPE from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control,

    - PPE conservation, using appropriate PPE alternatives,

    - reducing service levels, engineering approaches (e.g. plexiglass barriers), and changes in operational timing.

BACKGROUND:

On March 26, 2020, the Province announced the use of extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act (EPA), in support of a government-wide approach to COVID-19 response and recovery.

Under the EPA, the Province established a provincial supply chain coordination unit and is ensuring the transportation network is maintained for food, medicine and other essential goods. The new Supply Chain Coordination Unit, led by Emergency Management B.C., is an integrated

team across four ministries that is working in partnership with the Provincial Health Services Authority to:

- source and procure critical supplies to ensure essential service providers and communities have what they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- develop local manufacturing capability for critical supplies such as hand sanitizer, face shields and masks.
- co-ordinate the distribution of critical supplies in partnership with industry.
- ensure the transportation of critical supplies by land, air, marine and rail.
- suspend any bylaws restricting goods delivery at any time of day.
- identify and take control of warehouses and other facilities for gathering supplies and resources if required.

On April 1, 2020, the Province launched the COVID-19 Supply Hub to receive supplier and donation information. This single point of entry was established to help coordinate, source and expedite medical supplies for provincial health authorities to support front-line health workers fighting COVID-19.

In August, the Supply Hub expanded to allow the following eligible organizations to request PPE and cleaning supplies:

- First responders (e.g., fire departments, police services, ambulance services)
- Local governments
- First Nation governments and Indigenous organizations
- Entities in the Government Reporting Entity, as defined in the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act
- Broader public sector and other entities, including public and private social service providers:
    - Contracted social service providers
    - Substance use and addictions services including outreach
    - Residential and care facilities for substance use, addictions, and mental health services
    - Transitional, social and supportive housing
    - Single-room occupancy housing (SROs) and emergency shelters
    - Food banks, community kitchens, voluntary and community service providers
    - Childcare providers
    - Independent schools (e.g., private (K-12) education)
    - Critical incident service responders and workplace inspection entities
    - Victim services organizations
    - Community services and outreach for immigrants, refugees, vulnerable populations

A resource request team has been established to manage the incoming requests and inquiries related to PPE and other critical supplies for non-health workers.

The supply team is also working with food retailers, such as the BC Retail Council, to closely monitor the supply of critical food and sundry items.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING AND SEISMIC MONITORING

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- B.C. continues to work with partners in the public and private sectors to ensure better preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake or tsunami event.
- Work in Earthquake Early Warning and Seismic Monitoring reflects the principles of the United Nations Sendai Framework – an approach to addressing disasters that emphasizes disaster risk reduction.
- This work will help the Province respond more effectively to disaster and emergency situations, which will lead to better outcomes in response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- At the same time, B.C. continues to reinforce the importance of personal preparedness through resources such as the PreparedBC program and events like the annual Great British Columbia ShakeOut.

Ocean Networks Canada – Earthquake Early Warning System

- In March 2016, the Province invested $5 million in Ocean Networks Canada – a University of Victoria initiative – to develop an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone.
- This funding helped support the development of a system intended to deliver notifications directly to key partners in B.C.

Other Ongoing Seismic Monitoring Initiatives

- Provincial staff have been in discussions with the Federal Government about their new emergency management initiatives, which include the development of an earthquake early warning (EEW) system for Canada.
- Staff are working with the Federal Government on their system and will help explore best approaches for implementing that system in B.C., including direct connections with the earthquake early warning system in the United States.
- Additionally, EMBC continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation on work to further develop the BC Smart Infrastructure Monitoring System,

which monitors ground shaking and the performance of select bridges and tunnels in an earthquake.

- Staff have been working with the Ministry of Citizens' Services on a pilot project to install sensors in a selection of government facilities to better understand the performance of those facilities in an earthquake and to help inform decision making in emergency response.

- As well, UBC continues to operate an earthquake early warning system that has been implemented in a selection of schools in the greater Vancouver area and on Vancouver Island.

BACKGROUND:

An earthquake early warning (EEW) system rapidly detects an earthquake and provides alerts to areas outside of where the earthquake originated prior to the arrival of damaging shaking. These systems can provide a few critical seconds of warning to allow citizens, businesses, and automated systems to take protective action including Drop, Cover, and Hold on, opening the bay doors of a fire hall, or halting surgeries. EEW is enabled by seismic monitoring systems that consist of a network of sensors distributed across regions of high seismic activity and robust telecommunications infrastructure.

Seismic monitoring systems are also used to monitor for potentially damaging shaking from an earthquake, including its effects on structures and infrastructure.

Ocean Networks Canada:

In 2016, the Province invested $5 million into Ocean Networks Canada's (ONC) earthquake early warning (EEW) system in B.C. to install EEW sensors, increase the number of offshore strong motion sensors, and to integrate them with land-based sensors for robust collection and analysis of seismic activity.

This system is intended to feed a centralized source that, in turn, can immediately deliver early detection notifications prior to the arrival of damaging waves caused by an earthquake.

In 2020, the Province invested an additional $1.7 million to support the commissioning of the system and an initial phase of operations. The investment matches funding that ONC received from the federal government for this phase of work for their system.

National Earthquake Early Warning Initiative:

The Federal Government, through Natural Resources Canada, has secured funds to develop an earthquake early warning system for Canada. The system is anticipated to be developed in areas of the country with high seismic hazard (including the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the North Coast, and Haida Gwaii) and where there is critical infrastructure of national significance. The Province has been meeting regularly with the federal government to discuss the initiative and its implementation in B.C. The initiative is still in its initial stages; however,

there will be a grants and contribution element that will allow local governments and other organizations to secure funds to help them integrate into this system.

The Province has committed to working with Natural Resources Canada and Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) toward the alignment and integration of their respective sensor networks. Part of this work also involves determining how information from earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring systems can be shared with communities in British Columbia.

Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response:

In 2018, the Province invested $250,000 in a pilot project with the Seismic Resilience Innovation Corporation, known as Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response (PPR). PPR is a system that provides real-time information on the performance of critical facilities in an earthquake and helps response agencies with decision-making in emergency response. The system also promotes pre-earthquake planning for response to and within buildings and infrastructure.

The pilot includes the installation of the system in six government facilities in the Victoria area and potential expansion to other critical facilities in southwestern B.C. The facilities that are part of the pilot include: 2261 Keating Cross Road (EMBC Headquarters), 940 Blanshard Street (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Headquarters), 1515 Blanshard Street (Ministry of Health Headquarters), 1810 Blanshard Street (Jack Davis Building), 617 Government Street (Ministry of Finance Headquarters), and 4000 Seymour Place (Office of the Chief Information Officer).

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – AUDIT AND CURRENT FINANCIALS

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

IF ASKED ABOUT THE AUDIT OF EMBC:

- This audit tells us where we are on track and where we need to improve.
- The report is timely. Emergencies and disasters have cost the Province about over the last three years. [Funded through the *Emergency Program Act* and the *Wildfire Act*]

Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommentations

- As the *Emergency Program Act* is modernized, necessary improvements will be addressed through the legislative process.
- *Emergency Program Act* spending in the 2018/19 fiscal year totalled $275 million.

BACKGROUND:

Audit of EMBC

Internal Audit & Advisory Services (IAAS) has completed a review of Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC), which focused on the financial management of disaster response and recovery costs and federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) recoveries. The IAAS report identifies several areas for improvement and provides fourteen recommendations. The report was released publicly via the Ministry of Finance Internal Audit webpage in September 2019.

The results of the audit have highlighted that EMBC has some work to do to improve the processes in place to manage provincial expenditures as well as ensure related federal DFAA recoveries are maximized. The report identifies the occurrence of spending and financial practices that are not fully aligned with EMBC's mandate and government's Core Policy. The report also suggests the Province may not be maximizing the recoveries available under the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) agreement and more timely claims could be made.

Emergency Management Expenditures

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) administers the *Emergency Program Act* to support the

provincial response to emergencies and disasters. The *Emergency Program Act* includes a voted appropriation and provides direct access to the Government Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). Funding may be provided to Local Authorities and First Nations, as well as private citizens impacted by emergencies or disaster.

The *Emergency Program Act* voted appropriation of $14.8 million has seen little to no change over the past five fiscal years, with the exception of fiscal year 2017/18 which saw the voted appropriation increase to $237.9 million (forecasting known costs as the *Budget 2017 Update* was developed) before returning to the standard $14.8 million appropriation in fiscal year 2018/19.

The financial implications to the Province as a result of the increased scope, scale, complexity, and duration of recent emergency and disaster events in recent years are provided below:

Emergency Program Act 5-year historical spend (in 000's)

FY2014/15	FY2015/16	FY2016/17	FY2017/18	FY2018/19
$26.981	$91.778	$128.112	$275.986	$275.443

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-29

EMBC – EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- To ensure British Columbia and its citizens are more resilient in the event of a disaster, B.C. will be modernizing the Emergency Program Act (EPA) legislation, with a focus on risk reduction.
- Last fall, B.C. released a discussion paper that outlined the proposed direction for modernized emergency management legislation. During the three-month comment period, EMBC conducted 172 engagement sessions, through teleconferences and in-person meetings, and received 239 written submissions.
- The COVID-19 pandemic delayed planned timelines to release a report summarizing this feedback and to introduce the new legislation.
- On August 30, 2020, EMBC released the What We Heard Report summarizing the feedback on the discussion paper. Partners and stakeholders were invited to provide any additional comments, focusing on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional 39 submissions were received.
- This additional feedback will be incorporated into the modernization of the Act as appropriate.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

WHY THE LEGISLATION NEEDS UPDATING:

- The EPA was introduced more than two decades ago and remains largely unchanged.
- It hasn't kept up with evolving emergency management practices that have a stronger emphasis on risk identification, avoidance and mitigation.
- B.C. is working to improve outcomes for people in disaster-impacted communities by ensuring this legislation and our practices reflect:
    - the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,
    - the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act,
    - the Province's Interim Disaster Recovery Framework, and
    - lessons learned during the unprecedented 2017 and 2018 wildfire and

flood seasons, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

EMBC has been directed to modernize the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support more effective management of emergencies in B.C.

This will incorporate international best practices in disaster risk reduction, including:

- The United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- *The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

In late October 2019, Emergency Management BC released a discussion paper for comment on the modernization of its emergency management legislation (the Emergency Program Act) outlining the proposed policy direction for modernized emergency management legislation. The engagement period ended on January 31, 2020. During that time, EMBC conducted 172 engagement sessions and received 239 written responses. Overall, there was a high level of support for the discussion paper proposals.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to modernize B.C.'s emergency management legislation. EMBC will work with partners and stakeholders to identify lessons learned from the pandemic that should be incorporated in the new legislative framework.

ABOUT THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT (EPA)

The EPA is B.C.'s primary piece of legislation for supporting disaster risk management. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and the provincial government when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. The Act establishes the conditions under which governments may declare a state of emergency and deploy emergency powers to protect livelihoods and damage to property.

The EPA provides a framework for the B.C. government and local authorities to plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. The EPA also:

- Provides for the use of extraordinary powers if a state of emergency or state of local emergency is declared;
- Authorizes and establishes eligibility for response and recovery expenditures; and
- Protects emergency service workers from civil liability.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, of which Canada is a signatory and B.C. adopted in November 2018, prioritizes governance for disaster risk management and calls on governments to review their legal frameworks to ensure integration of disaster risk management across all sectors. B.C. was the first and, to date, only province to adopt the Sendai Framework. The Framework was originally adopted by UN Member States and is a 15-year, voluntary and non-binding agreement.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-29

EMBC – ESS MODERNIZATION

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- It's important to make the Emergency Support Services (ESS) process easier for large-scale evacuations and make it safer while physical distancing measures are in place.
- The digital registration system for Emergency Support Services – the Evacuee Registration and Assistance tool – means that people who are evacuated during an emergency will have a virtual way to access support while maintaining physical distancing.
- This tool allows volunteers to concentrate on the needs of the most vulnerable people during an evacuation.
- Modernizing the registration system ensures evacuees have quick access to the supports they need, streamlines the financial processes for suppliers, and reduces the administration time for ESS volunteers.
- EMBC has been working hard to facilitate a transition to a digital platform for delivering supports to evacuees impacted by floods and fires.
- In fact, this system was successfully used in real-life scenarios in 2020, including flood evacuations near Williams Lake in the spring, as well as large-scale evacuation preparation in Penticton due to wildfires last August.

BACKGROUND:

Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is improving the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program by digitizing and modernizing ESS delivery.

EMBC is modernizing Emergency Support Services (ESS) by developing a final system based on validation and evaluation of the proof of concept that was piloted in four communities in 2019: Prince George, Kamloops, Tk'emlups First Nation (*Tuh-come'-loops*), and the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO). These pilot communities were chosen based on their:

- capacity,
- history as host communities to large numbers of evacuees,
- likelihood of experiencing seasonal events such as flooding and wildfire, and
- expressed interest in participating in the pilot and evaluation process.

A provincial implementation strategy was developed to support the roll-out of the final system, with the plan for early adopter communities to onboard in April 2020. The impacts from COVID-

19 required an acceleration of the implementation plan, and the project team quickly pivoted to support provincial roll-out of the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool throughout the month of April. The goal of the project is to create an adaptable, scalable program that allows ESS teams to focus on providing in-person support to vulnerable citizens affected by disasters, while also incorporating self-serve digital options outside of reception centres. This project will meet the growing expectations of British Columbians regarding access, timeliness and convenience of government services.

PHASES:

Phase one, the validation and evaluation of the proof of concept piloted in four communities in 2019, is complete.

Phase two is focused on the development and provincial implementation of the online Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool and was launched provincially in April 2020:

- The ERA tool is being developed and implemented in a phased approach, enabling communities to realize the benefits in real-time as they become available.
- As of April 2020, the ERA tool has the functionality to support evacuee self-registration, digital registration and referrals, and basic reporting. The benefits have been realized in real-time during both Evacuation Alerts and Evacuation Orders issued during Freshet Flooding events in 2020.
- Increased functionality has been developed and implemented, including a Supplier Portal that went live across the Province on June 2, 2020, improving the process and time for ESS suppliers to be reimbursed.

Advice/Recommentations

To ensure modernization is meeting the needs of the ESS community, EMBC is continuing to engage with communities to address program feedback around rebranding. The program name changed on April 1, 2019 from Emergency Social Services to Emergency Support Services – a name that more accurately reflects the nature of the program. EMBC has worked to incorporate the logo feedback received from across the province and released the new ESS program logo in January 2020. The use of the provincial ESS logo is optional, there is no requirement for communities to adopt the provincial logo for their local ESS program. Advancements are also being made to provide clear policies and procedures addressing feedback, lessons learned and after-action recommendations. In August 2019, evacuee meal per-diems were increased by five dollars per day to align with provincial standards.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, the ESS program released comprehensive guidelines to adapt the ESS program to ensure it met COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines while continuing to provide supports to evacuees, prioritizing the safety and well-being of ESS responders, volunteers and suppliers.

ERA TOOL IN USE IN 2020

SUMMARY (ALL EVENTS)

- There are **68 ESS Teams** who have onboarded (entered in PROD and are able to utilize the tool) with over **573** active users of the ERA tool (total includes all ERA User Groups).
- There are currently **4743** individuals who have self-registered online who are either on Evacuation ALERT or ORDER (not finalized). There are **644 Finalized Evacuees** (**537** have received referrals, meaning they have received emergency supports). That is a total of **5387** ACTIVE evacuees within the ERA tool.
- The ERA tool has been used in a total of **43 ESS Events** (number of task numbers within the ERA tool with finalized evacuees).

The first use of the ERA tool was in Williams Lake during freshet, where16 people signed up and used ESS supports

The largest use of the ERA tool has been the wildfire near Penticton (Task 212419) where 4,549 people self-registered with the system, and 270 people received ESS supports.

PRINCE GEORGE AND ESS MODERNIZATION

In the past, the City of Prince George has gone to the media expressing frustration over ESS and a willingness to develop their own registration system, providing that the Province pay for it.

Following the implementation of the pilot in April 2019, the City of Prince George has been an active participant and champion of the pilot and, overall, is supportive of the advancements made to the ESS program. In June 2019, the city did a large-scale exercise to test the system, which was regarded as a success. The city has also provided a participant to join the provincial ESS modernization expert advisory group and has agreed to continued engagement on the ESS modernization project, with expressed interest in being an early adopter of the digital platform.

The City of Price George continues to be a champion of the ESS modernization project and active user of the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool.

EMBC – FIRE SAFETY ACT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The new *Fire Safety Act* (*FSA*) received Royal Assent on May 19, 2016, and it will replace the current *Fire Services Act* once it's brought into force.

- Subsequent to receiving Royal Assent, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) requested an amendment to the *FSA* related to the mandatory appointments of fire inspectors/investigators by regional districts.

- Staff are working hard to bring this Act into force, which includes further consultation to address implementation concerns, particularly in relation to regional districts.

CONSULTATION:

- Staff have been consulting with UBCM and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding changes to the *Fire Safety Act* to address any concerns and are working on addressing challenges faced by smaller local authorities.

- The information gathered will be used to work through any issues and identify possible solutions.

- The engagement process will also inform the direction of amendments to Bill 4: *Fire Safety Act*, as well as the development of support tools and resources.

BACKGROUND:

The *Fire Services Act* is the current legislation and is the foundation that provides power to the Fire Commissioner to conduct inspections, investigations, and to ensure compliance with the Act and the B.C. Fire Code.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is mandated under the *Fire Services Act* to consult with and give advice to fire chiefs and fire departments with respect to fire safety, prevention and suppression as well as the collection and dissemination of fire loss data.

The *Fire Services Act* provides for a system of Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC) appointments that provide the powers of fire inspection and investigation along with related fire loss data reporting.

The *Fire Services Act* was last substantially updated in 1979; the passing of legislation such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Community Charter, enacted since that revision, created the need to update aspects of the legislation to reflect their impacts.

- The goal of the new *Fire Safety Act* (FSA) is to modernize the legislation and to make improvements including:
    - Providing local authorities the power to evacuate and secure premises;
    - Enabling local authorities to designate fire inspectors/investigators;
    - Providing effective tools for Fire Code enforcement; and
    - Permitting the flexibility to match resources to compliance requirements.

- The *FSA* includes the following elements:
    - A manageable and streamlined out-of-court enforcement system with administrative penalties that will improve compliance;
    - Providing local authorities with the power to evacuate or close a building where there is immediate danger to life and/or property;
    - Streamlining the fire inspection and investigation process;
    - Eliminating LAFCs appointed by the OFC and replacing them with inspectors and investigators appointed directly by local authorities where appropriate, and
    - Providing inspection and investigation consistency in B.C. with the OFC setting the qualification standards.

After the *FSA* received Royal Assent, Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – FLOOD RISK REPORT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- B.C. supports several major flood prevention and emergency preparedness projects.
- For example, communities have been able to access funds through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and other flood mitigation projects throughout B.C.
- As well, B.C. is working on a new climate preparedness and adaptation strategy, in partnership with all levels of government, Indigenous peoples, and other partners.
- Preparing for and reducing flood risk is expected to be an important part of that strategy.
- The Province has also been working to modernize the Emergency Program Act (EPA) legislation, with a focus on risk reduction.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN FLOOD-RISK SPOTS

- Approvals for developing in flood hazard areas rests with local governments though approving officers, building inspectors or other representatives.
- The Province, through the Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural Development (FLNRORD), provides standards for flood hazard area land use for Local Authorities and First Nations to follow.

BACKGROUND:

On August 7, 2020, the Times Colonist reported on a University of Waterloo report from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, called Climate Change and the Preparedness of Canadian Provinces and Territories to Limit Flood Risk. The report gives provincial governments an average grade of C for flood preparedness (B.C. got a C+). The Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation is funded through Intact Financial Corporation, a Canadian property and casualty insurer.

The article highlights a number of areas in the report where improvements need to be made, including:

- The need for flood map updating, with B.C. (and Saskatchewan) noted as not having updated their flood maps in more than two decades;
- The lack of regulations preventing new developments in flood-risk spots; and,

- The need to assess and protect critical buildings such as hospitals and schools.

Flood map updating:
Actions the Province, through FLNRORD, has taken to support flood plain mapping by Local Authorities and First Nations include:

  - Regional collaboration on flood modelling / mapping projects in the Okanagan, Lower Mainland and Columbia Valley
  - Since 2016, the Province of BC has provided $15.8 million in funding through the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), and other grants to fund 91 floodplain mapping-related projects by First Nations, municipalities, regional districts, and regional collaborations. They are encouraged to make their flood map updates available to the public and many are located on their websites.
    - 18 NDMP projects: $4.7M provincial contribution
    - 7 grant projects that produced flood maps: $2M provincial contribution
    - 66 CEPF Flood Planning projects for intakes ’17, ’19, ’20: $9.1M provincial contribution
  - In addition, the province has funded projects that support gathering the base information required for flood plain mapping, including Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) acquisition and modelling.
  - B.C. is working with the Government of Canada and other Provinces and Territories as part of a working group to review developing national flood plain mapping standards.
  - The province seeks to work with the Government of Canada to establish a Provincial Floodplain Mapping Program and to include future climate projections and sea level rise in updated floodplain maps to ensure consistent information about current and future flood risk is available to inform flood risk management planning.

- Since legislative changes in BC in 2003, the responsibility for updating flood mapping rests with Local Authorities and First Nations. The Province, through the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), provides guidelines and standards for flood hazard area land use for Local Authorities and First Nations to follow.
- To receive provincial funding for flood planning (risk assessments, mapping and planning) Local Authorities and First Nations are advised that their qualified professionals follow these practice guidelines.
- The Province is currently initiating the development of a new BC Flood Risk Strategy, which is intended to provide more strategic direction for flood management in B.C.

New developments in flood-risk spots:

- The approving authority for developing in flood hazard areas rests with the Local Governments in the form of an Approving Officer, Building Inspector or other representative. Within regional districts, the role of Approving Officer for unincorporated areas such as electoral areas sits with the provincial government, but the building inspector is from the regional district.
- The Province, through the BC Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources and Rural development (FLNRORD), provides guidelines and standards for flood hazard area land use for Local Authorities and First Nations to follow.

Assessing and protecting critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools:

- The Climate Action Secretariat is leading a pilot project to determine the risks to provincial building assets owned by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Citizens' Services and Fraser Health Authority in the Richmond and Surrey area using the XDI cross-dependency software platform. The software determines the likelihood of asset failure due to different climate events (such as coastal inundation or riverine flooding) out to 2100 and provides a risk cost based on this analysis. The tool also allows users to model potential adaptation actions and determine how the risk cost changes based on those actions. This is the second pilot project using this software – an initial pilot was conducted on the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- B.C. continues to improve the delivery of emergency management services for all British Columbians, including First Nations communities.
- First Nations communities were disproportionately impacted by the unprecedented wildfire and flooding seasons in 2017 and 2018.
- These events highlighted the critical importance of working side-by-side, and enhancing our meaningful partnerships with First Nations communities to better support their emergency management needs.
- Government staff are committed to working in collaboration with First Nations communities and advancing reconciliation through improving emergency management supports.
- Examples of this include:
    - ***Dialogue on EPA modernization:*** Engaging First Nations communities in regional dialogue sessions regarding modernizing the Emergency Program Act (EPA) and incorporating lessons learned from the 2017/2018 seasons and recommendations from after-action reports and reviews. *Examples: Abbott-Chapman, Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) report.*
    - ***Tripartite MOU:*** In April 2019, the signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on emergency management with the First Nations Leadership Council and Canada to ensure First Nations communities' role in governance and operations is acknowledged.
    - ***Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement with the TNG*****:** In February 2018, the signing of the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) with the TNG to improve emergency management services and supports for Tsilhqot'in communities.
    - ***First Nations Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables:*** Development of First Nations Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables to provide a venue for First Nations and provincial agency emergency managers to meet, plan and identify capacity in First Nations communities.
    - ***Dedicated staff:*** Dedicating new EMBC staff to supporting First Nations communities.

- ***First Nations Coordination Calls:*** Daily First Nations coordination calls during an emergency.
- ***Targeted tool kit:*** Production and distribution of a First Nations-specific emergency management tool kit.
- ***Enhanced training and public education:*** Enhanced training and public education resources to better support the needs of First Nations communities.
- ***Local and traditional knowledge:*** Use of local and traditional knowledge to help guide operations and operational priorities.

BACKGROUND

Agreements

- On April 1, 2017, EMBC began implementation of a 10-year, $30 million service agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide emergency management services and support to on-reserve First Nations communities. This agreement replaces a 1993 Letter of Understanding (LOU) and allows EMBC to increase its capacity to better support First Nations communities.
- In April 2019, EMBC, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), ISC and the BC Wildfire Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that commits all parties to ongoing engagement. Through this MOU, a technical working group has been established with a work plan to support all areas of First Nations Emergency Management.

First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables

- To strengthen relationships and support emergency planning in Indigenous communities, seven First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables were created in six different regions in B.C.
- The purpose of these partnership tables is to build capacity in Indigenous communities by bringing together First Nations, EMBC and First Nations Emergency Services Society representatives in regional planning and preparedness activities.
- The development of the partnership tables is supported by EMBC's 10-year agreement with the Government of Canada to deliver enhanced emergency management services to First Nations communities in B.C.
- The activities of the partnership tables are co-developed by First Nations communities and EMBC to ensure both parties are equal participants.

Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) -Tsilhqot'in

- In February 2018, the provincial government entered into a Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) and the federal government to improve emergency management services.

- A CEMA steering committee meets regularly to discuss strategic emergency management issues.
- Fire and flood season preparedness meetings are now held in Tsilhqot'in communities with EMBC and BC Wildfire staff to better prepare for these primary hazards.
- Several benefits have flowed from the signing of this agreement, including improved working relationships with Tsilhqot'in communities and the ability to provide supports and resources to prepare the community for future wildfire seasons.
- For example:
    - In June 2018, the Tsilhqot'in were provided with a structural protection unit, along with training on the unit in 2018 and 2019, to mitigate wildfire damage to homes and infrastructure and trained approximately 30 TNG members on its use.
    - A FireSmart initiative was funded for the Nemiah Valley last year.
    - An emergency response protocol and emergency communications procedures have been developed.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – OMBUDSPERSON INVESTIGATES PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- British Columbia was fortunate to have a robust public health response implemented in a timely way to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Province took swift action to support British Columbians, guided by the advice of Dr. Henry and public health advice every step of the way.
- The Province took a balanced approach – never implementing a strict lockdown or heavy-handed enforcement. The Province collaborated with the opposition parties, providing briefings and including them in major decision.
- The powers available to me under the *Emergency Program Act* allowed government to address many of the pandemic's effects on the lives of British Columbians – including the functioning of the court system and of local government meetings.
- As we communicated to the Ombudsperson, government has been working on legislation that addresses the issues raised in the Ombudsperson's report – which was introduced at the start of session.

Advice/Recommentations

IF PRESSED…. OMBUDSPERSON'S POWERS:

Advice/Recommentations

BACKGROUND:

On May 15, 2020 the Ombudsperson for British Columbia wrote to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General – who is responsible for the declaration of Provincial States of Emergency (PSOE) – challenging certain orders issued under Section 10 of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA).

The office of the Ombudsperson reviewed the orders made by the minister under the EPA and identified several orders that purported to amend or suspend the operation of other legislation. They are concerned that such orders were not authorized by the EPA. Given the far-reaching effects of the orders, and the fundamental importance of the rule of law to our system of government, they investigated whether the orders were authorized by the EPA and, if they were, whether they were made in accordance with appropriate safeguards and principles of good administration.

The Ombudsperson asserts his concern that certain orders triggered under the Provincial State of Emergency place limits on various administrative tribunals and local governments that exceed the Minister's legal authority and would be deemed unlawful. He notes that "if the minister does not have legal authority under the Emergency Program Act to issue an order amending or suspending the statues of the province, or to sub-delegate to others the power to amend or suspend laws" then the legislature must pass the relevant laws to "safeguard the democratic process" or to amend the EPA to confer the necessary authority on the minister.

The Ombudsperson identified two orders that demonstrated the concerns described above. These are Ministerial Order M098, Limitation Periods (COVID-19) Order No.2, and Ministerial Order M139, Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19). Order No.2. Ministerial Order M098 suspends mandatory limitation periods related to court proceedings, and allows statutory decision makers to waive, suspend or extend a mandatory time period relating to their decision-making powers. Ministerial Order M139 exempts local governments from statutory requirements related to the conduct of meetings and public hearings and the passage

of bylaws.

The Ombudsperson recommends that legal invalidity of the ministerial orders can be corrected by way of legislation – even retroactive legislation, and that the government introduce such legislation for the consideration of legislators in the next sitting of the legislative assembly.

The Ministry of Attorney General, supported by Emergency Management BC (EMBC), has been developing legislation that would:

i. Clarify that all ministerial orders made under the EPA in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were valid from the date they were issued;
ii. amend the EPA to provide the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) with clear authority to suspend, modify or make exceptions to provisions of other statutes, including a requirement to assess the proportionality of the benefits and impacts of a regulation which affects the provisions of another statute.

The proposed legislation would also:

- extend some of the Ministerial Orders (MO) for 45 or 90 days to ensure the province has a smooth transition to manage the effects of the pandemic after the state of emergency ends; and
- establish authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) to make regulations to:
  - provide for a different expiry date for MOs, with a possible extension up to one year after the end of a state of emergency; and
  - provide immunity from civil liability for COVID-19-related damages, with respect to prescribed activities defined in the regulation.

The Solicitor General and Attorney General advised the Ombudsperson in a letter dated May 20, 2020 that this legislation was under development and invited the Ombudsperson to provide input. That invitation was not taken up.

HERE ARE THE FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO DATE FROM THE OMBUDSPERSON'S REPORT, RELEASED IN JUNE 2020.

Findings:

1	To the extent that they purport to suspend or amend the provisions of other statutes and delegate the power to do the same to statutory decision makers, Ministerial Orders M098 and M139 are contrary to law, as they are not authorized by s. 10(1) of the *Emergency Program Act*.
2	In addition to being unauthorized, neither Ministerial Order M098 nor Ministerial Order M139 imposes any legally binding conditions on sub-delegates when suspending or amending legislation. As a result, they do not demonstrate consideration of the principle of proportionality.

Recommendations:

1	Government introduce, for consideration by the legislative assembly, legislation to validate any *Emergency Program Act* orders purporting to suspend or amend a statute that have been made since the declaration of a provincial state of emergency on March 18, 2020.
2	The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General refrain from making further orders under s. 10(1) of the *Emergency Program Act* that purport to suspend or amend provisions of B.C. statutes, or that delegate the power to do the same to statutory decision makers, unless the legislative assembly passes legislation to specifically authorize the minister to make such orders.
3	In the event that government introduces legislation to validate any *Emergency Program Act* orders purporting to suspend or amend a statute that have been made since the declaration of a provincial state of emergency on March 18, 2020, such legislation include provisions that impose appropriate conditions on the exercise of powers by sub-delegates, given the context of the sub-delegation.
4	In the event that government introduces legislation to authorize the minister to make further emergency orders that suspend or amend legislation, such legislation also require the minister to: (a) expressly consider principles of necessity and proportionality before issuing such an order, and (b) if the minister is authorized to sub-delegate their power to suspend or amend legislation, that sub-delegation be limited by appropriate conditions given the context of the specific sub-delegation at issue.
5	In the event that government introduces legislation that authorizes the minister to make emergency orders suspending or amending legislation, that legislation also: (a) require the minister to make public all such emergency orders (b) require the minister to report to the legislative assembly during and after the emergency on orders made to respond to the emergency and the rationale for those orders (c) provide that those orders expire after a fixed number of sitting days of the legislative assembly following the making of the order.

GOVERNMENT ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE:

1. **The COVID-19 Related Measures Act will enact all Ministerial Orders made under the EPA in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has the effect of validating them.**

2. **The COVID-19 Related Measures Act proposes to amend the Emergency Program Act to provide the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) with clear authority to**

suspend or modify provisions in other statutes during a provincial state of emergency.

3. **See #4 below.**

4. **(a) The COVID-19 Related Measures Act includes consideration of necessity and proportionality. (b) When making regulations that temporarily suspend or modify provisions of statutes, government will consider whether any appropriate conditions are required. Decisions of administrative decision-makers are subject to judicial review for reasonableness and procedural fairness.**

5. **(a) All Ministerial Orders made under the EPA are made public, as are all LGIC regulations. (b) This will be considered during the modernization of the EPA. (c) The COVID-19 Related Measures Act will establish measures to ensure that all existing Ministerial Orders and any new LGIC regulations made in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic will have expiry dates.**

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – PUBLIC ALERTING SYSTEMS

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- Tests of the wireless emergency alerting system have been successful in B.C. and across Canada.
- The next public alert test is November 25, 2020, at 1:55 p.m.
- A scheduled test in May 2020 was cancelled across Canada due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Testing improves public awareness about the system and what to expect in the event of an actual emergency alert.
- It also provides an opportunity to address issues with the system before it's used for a real emergency and to ensure it functions as intended.
- These wireless compatible device alerts are just one method of receiving broadcast intrusive alerts: the alerts are concurrently broadcast on radio and television.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts may be sent to radio and television or to wireless compatible devices together or separately by issuer choice.
- It's important to note that the public alerting system is currently only used in B.C. for tsunami notifications, AMBER and policing incident alerts.

ISSUES AND GAPS IN THE SYSTEM

- LTE connections, phone compatibility, and software updates are the biggest factors in whether someone will receive the alert or not.
- If device software is up to date and their phone is compatible and connected to an LTE network, individuals should receive the alert.
- Pelmorex, the company that manages Alert Ready, works closely with the federal government, other provinces and territories, and the wireless companies on these tests to address any issues that are identified during tests of the system.

WHY THE PROVINCE IS NOT USING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR FIRES AND FLOOD ALERTS LIKE OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- We're examining what role the alerting systems could play in respect to public

notification for other hazards.

- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, such as local government emergency notification systems and the National Alert Ready system.

USING PUBLIC ALERTS FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS

- We're continually looking at what role an alerting system could play in emergencies.
- The EMBC alert system is available to police in large scale emergencies. Police in B.C. are working with EMBC to examine its usefulness in mobile active shooter situations and have developed an appropriate alerting protocol through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division.
- An alert in this type of situation would only be made by police and at their direction to ensure that all operational factors are considered.

BACKGROUND:

Building an effective and reliable public alerting system in Canada is a responsibility shared by all levels of government, industry partners and individual Canadians. Tests allow us to better understand the impact and reach of an alert. That helps emergency managers determine if this is the correct tool in an emergency or if other means should be used.

Tests are conducted twice a year, usually in late November and during Emergency Preparedness Week in May. Cellular providers are also constantly updating their network capabilities. It is expected that as more tests are done, and more people have up-to-date software, the reach of the test will increase. As well, the natural lifespan of incompatible hardware means a slow but steady move towards all phones being compatible.

The last test of wireless alerting in the province was conducted on November 27, 2019. Normally, there is a test of the public alerting system in May but this was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province continues to work with Pelmorex, the company that manages the Alert Ready system, other provinces and territories, and the distributors (cellular companies, and television and radio broadcasters) to investigate why some compatible phones on a 3G network did not get an alert. The next public alert test is scheduled for November 25, 2020 at 1:55 p.m.

Public emergency alerting will complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and/or local governments. Current emergency alerting mechanisms include:

- The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS).
- Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email.

Notably, several communities have already implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls. The national system, AlertReady, does not require a subscription and is the only system that creates broadcast intrusive messages that are fed to all compatible cell phones within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). The local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages. Also, the Weather Network sends alerts for weather-related events. These alerts can be shared with the public through the Weather Network App. There are currently approximately one million unique users of the app in B.C.

WIRELESS COMPATIBILITY

- For emergency alerts to be received on a wireless device, the device must be:
    - Wireless public alerting compatible;
    - Connected to an LTE cellular network at the time the emergency alert is issued;
    - Within the emergency alert area; and
    - Have updated software installed that is compatible Wireless Public Alerting (WPA).
- People can visit the new alertready.ca site to learn if their devices are compatible.

HOW THE WIRELESS ALERTING SYSTEM WORKS

- Emergency alerts, on radio, television and compatible wireless devices, begin with a distinct sound, known as the Canadian Alert Attention Signal.
- On compatible wireless devices, the emergency alert will display an “EMERGENCY ALERT” banner, followed by text that describes the situation and provides instructions on what actions to take and where to find more information. At the top of each emergency alert, the issuing government agency will be clearly indicated.
- Emergency alerts sent to compatible wireless devices may also cause the phone to vibrate.
- If the phone is off, the message will not be received.

HOW THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION (PENS) ALERT SYSTEM

- The Provincial Emergency Notification System is designed to alert local governments, emergency response officials and the media of tsunami alerts. These organizations are then tasked with alerting those communities most at risk.
- Alert Ready automatically pushes alerts to the public through TV, radio and compatible LTE connected smartphones. Alert Ready requires no subscription or opt-in requirement.
- More tools for communicating alerts can translate into saved lives and safer and more resilient communities.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – ROAD RESCUE PROGRAM FUNDING

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- British Columbia is fortunate to have dedicated and skilled emergency personnel who support public safety by responding to incidents on our highways.
- Highway rescue services within local areas are currently funded through local taxation.
- The Province provides support to road rescue providers that are willing and able to respond outside their local government rescue service areas.
- Reimbursement rates are intended to offset response costs and provide for WorkSafeBC coverage and exemption from civil liability. Rates are reviewed periodically and adjusted to reflect provincial rates and actual operational costs.
- In 2017, the Fire Chiefs Association of BC received a one-time funding grant of $1 million to research a possible framework governing the management of road rescue.

Advice/Recommentations

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, a UBCM resolution called for the provincial government to fully fund highway rescue services in B.C.

Currently, highway rescue services are available on some highways. They are funded through local taxation if the incident location is within the local rescue service response-area boundary. They are funded in part by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) if the incident location is outside of the local rescue service area boundary. The partial EMBC funding is intended to offset response costs and provide for WorkSafeBC coverage and exemption from civil liability.

Intergovernmental Communications

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-16

EMBC – GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE (GSAR) FUNDING

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) volunteers in British Columbia are among the best in the world, and B.C. is committed to supporting their invaluable work.
- The Province provided a one-time grant of $18.6 million in spring 2019 to support operations, training and expanded equipment and activities over the following three years.
- This funding has been very well-received by the GSAR groups and has provided funding certainty as work got underway to establish a sustainable funding model.
- Emergency Management BC, in collaboration with the BC Search and Rescue Association, have worked to enhance governance and refine the long-term approach to funding these groups across the province.
- *Budget 2020* provided an ongoing annual $6 million contribution starting in 2022/23.
- This ongoing funding is in addition to funding that the Province already provides each year ($10 million in 2019-20) to cover GSAR operational costs for deployment, training and equipment costs, insurance and liability.

WHAT IMPACT HAS COVID-19 HAD ON GSAR GROUPS?

- The BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) health and safety committee has created a critical personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution network to support GSAR groups that find their stocks are critically low. When this occurs, PPE is shipped from a regional stockpile.
- The joint health and safety committee has also been working on regular safety advisories, with direction on how GSAR groups can respond safely to call-outs.

HOW ELSE ARE GSAR GROUPS SUPPORTED?

- The Province recognizes ground search and rescue groups as a critical

resource in B.C. and GSAR is supported with direct operating costs.

- During FY 2019/20, government provided over $9.7 million in operational funding, including:
  - $6.47 million in support of operational tasks
    - $4.01M in reimbursements
    - $2.46M in aircraft costs (primarily helicopter)
  - $2.25 million from gaming funds (equipment and training)
  - $425,000 from capital gaming funds
  - $250,000 GSAR training (Justice Institute of BC contract)
  - $35,000 to support administrative functions in BCSARA
  - $25,000 to support travel for the annual BCSARA board meeting
  - $254,000 in Algoma Liability Insurance for Volunteer Search and Rescue Directors and Officers.

MAKING SEARCH AND RESCUE A "PUBLIC SERVICE" OR PAYING VOLUNTEERS:

- Ground Search and Rescue is a volunteer program and volunteers are currently reimbursed for operational and eligible out-of-pocket expenses incurred during deployment, including meals, transportation and accommodation costs.

- EMBC is committed to continuing to support this valuable Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer program.

- It's a model that is recognized nationally and internationally and is endorsed by the BC Search and Rescue Association.

FUNDING FOR CAVE RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS:

- EMBC has met with the BC Cave Rescue Service to identify funding needs and possible funding options.

- EMBC, BC Emergency Health Services, and the RCMP have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BC Cave Rescue Service to respond to incidents in caves.

- When deployed, EMBC provides BC Cave Rescue Service with the same reimbursement as ground search and rescue groups.

- EMBC covers operational costs for all deployments, including meals, transportation and accommodation costs.

CHARGING FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE COSTS IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION IN UNSAFE CONDITIONS:

- Charging for a search and rescue response could directly affect whether or not a lost or injured person will request help, as well as the timeliness of that call.

- Anyone requiring search and rescue support is urged to contact authorities without delay.

- As recreational activity picks up in backcountry areas, EMBC, the BC Search and Rescue Association, GSAR groups and AdventureSmart issue public information about risks and the safety precautions that should be followed.

BACKGROUND:

EMBC continues to enjoy a positive and longstanding working relationship with the BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) board. However, long-term and stable funding remains the core concern for BCSARA. There are 79 EMBC recognized ground search and rescue groups in B.C. as of December 31, 2019 (Saanich SAR has ceased operations and volunteers have been given an opportunity with neighbouring GSAR groups. The Saanich region will now be supported by Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization in Sidney, as well as Metchosin SAR). B.C.'s GSAR groups take part in over 1,700 ground search missions each year – more than the rest of Canada combined. The responses of these ground search and rescue groups are funded by EMBC, including their insurance costs. The GSAR groups supplement this by accessing provincial community gaming grants and fundraising.

INITIATING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION:

- GSAR groups can be requested by a number of provincial and federal agencies, including:
  - Police/RCMP (lost/missing persons),
  - BC Emergency Health Services (injured persons),
  - Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (air/marine SAR),
  - Parks Canada (within a National Park),
  - BC Coroners Service (recovery of deceased persons),
  - Fire services (rescue within jurisdiction),
  - Local Authorities (to support community emergency response).

- Activation is done directly through the Ground Search and Rescue group or through the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). In either case, the ECC and EMBC Regional Duty Manager are notified.

ACTIVATING AND SUSPENDING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION:

- The decision to activate or suspend a search is the responsibility of the police.

- The police will consult with the Search Manager (a GSAR volunteer) once a TASK number has been issued. Search Manager recommendations are based on search management training, including all information relating to the search itself, including risks to searchers, areas searched, subject behaviour profiles, survivability, the number of hours/days/weeks missing, and relevant clues.

- Although EMBC Regional Managers and SAR Specialists are included in discussions, recommendations regarding whether to continue or suspend the search are left to the police with input and recommendations from the Search Manager.

ISSUES NOTE: Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020-10-29

EMBC – SILVER ALERTS

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The safe and speedy location of missing seniors suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive disabilities is an important public safety consideration given our aging population.
- And that's why this government has committed to exploring the implementation of a Silver Alert public notification system to solicit the public's help in finding missing seniors.
- Local police have primary responsibility for the location of missing individuals. Currently, these agencies effectively use localized channels, including social media and traditional media, to advise and seek help from the public when searching for missing individuals.
- Our government wants to make sure we're doing everything we can to locate missing seniors, Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

- B.C. will continue to work with all stakeholders including local governments and police forces, as well as the federal government, which is working on a national dementia strategy to ensure the safety of our vulnerable seniors is considered.

IF ASKED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE AMBER ALERTS:

- Police have noted that, given the number of cases fitting Silver Alert criteria, sending alerts through the broadcast intrusive altering system may not be appropriate as the public may become desensitized to the alerts.
- The Amber Alert public notification system is premised on providing specific information to the broader public that can assist in locating a missing child.
- Information that has proven valuable and can be easily transmitted and understood include descriptions of a vehicle or persons likely to be with a missing child.

- When seniors wander, it is not typically far – therefore the work of local authorities, as well as the use of local media and social media, often achieves rapid and positive results.
- From 2011 to 2013, Ontario took steps to implement a 'Silver Advisory' system but abandoned it due to a wide range of stakeholders seeking similar advisories. Ontario subsequently re-aligned its efforts on developing a Wandering Prevention Program focused on risk awareness and safety planning for families.

BACKGROUND:

Numerous incidents involving missing seniors have renewed calls for the Province to introduce a Silver Alert System.

On January 28, 2020, Burnaby's 86-year-old Su Wan Chow went missing but was eventually found safe and, in a separate incident, 86-year-old Donald Beck went missing from West Vancouver and was also found safe. Most recently, on May 15, 2020, 88-year-old Jarnail Sanghera was reported missing. After an exhaustive search that found no sign of him, he was found deceased in a wooded area on May 24, 2020. A similar issue came up in relation to the October 2019 death of an elderly man with Alzheimers, who went missing in Chilliwack. 79-year-old John Pop was last seen in his Promontory neighbourhood late in the afternoon on Oct. 22. An exhaustive search by RCMP, local volunteers, family and Chilliwack Search and Rescue turned up no sign of him until his body was found days later off Bridlewood Trail near Chilliwack Lake Road.

BC Silver Alert, an organization that helps spread the word about missing individuals with cognitive impairment, is calling for an official Silver Alert system in British Columbia. Michael Coyle is one of the co-founders of the organization, as well as a volunteer with Coquitlam Search and Rescue. He believes a Silver Alert system could be useful, and rather than going out provincewide, could be quite local and have a different tone than other alerts. He believes that it would be "overkill" to adopt the national Alert Ready system for a Silver Alert.

Silver Alert in B.C.

At the present time, there are provincial standards for Missing Person Investigations, and Silver Alerts would be included in this. There is currently no policy in development specific to Silver Alerts (SAs).

Advice/Recommentations

Use of Silver Alerts in other jurisdictions:

Many states in the U.S. employ such a system, each with its own criteria as to when to issue such alerts. In California, for example, an alert will only be issued if a missing person is 65 or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired, and the law enforcement agency has determined that the person has gone missing under "unexplained or suspicious circumstances."

States will use various means of informing the public that a person is missing, including "be on the lookout" broadcasts to other law enforcement, through the media, as well as dynamic-message signs next to highways. But many of the systems in the United States are different from Amber Alerts in that they don't sound an alarm on people's mobile devices.

In 2017, Alberta and Manitoba amended their Missing Persons Act to allow for Silver Alerts. The amendments allow police to activate alerts in certain circumstances involving vulnerable people with cognitive impairments and to provide the public with information about a missing individual. For example, in September 2019, a Silver Alert was issued in Winnipeg that was used to successfully find an 86-year-old man.

From 2011 to 2013, Ontario took steps to implement a ‘Silver Advisory’ system but abandoned it due to a wide range of stakeholders seeking similar advisories. Ontario subsequently re-aligned its efforts on developing a Wandering Prevention Program focused on risk awareness and safety planning for families.

Potential Opportunities

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in mitigating, preparing for, and responding to emergencies. The Province provided UBCM with capital to establish a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) to support disaster response and recovery projects. This is part of an initiative by EMBC to increase resiliency across all communities in British Columbia and improve B.C.'s overall emergency preparedness.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program

The proposed ARDM stream is a component of the broader Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The ARDM – 2020 intake will fund flood mitigation infrastructure projects that support an increase in structural capacity and/or an increased natural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Event opportunity: Announce launch of ARDM in BC, the successor of the popular fed/prov National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) extension

Timeline: subject to fed-prov agreement being signed

- Opportunity for new funding to assist communities to complete flood mitigation projects cut short by COVID-19 – October 2021 (more info coming by end of 2020)

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommentations

Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response (PPR)

In 2018, the Province invested $250,000 in a pilot project with the Seismic Resilience Innovation Corporation, known as Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response (PPR). PPR is a system that provides real-time information on the performance of critical facilities in an earthquake and helps response agencies with decision-making in emergency response. The system also promotes pre-earthquake planning for response to and within buildings and infrastructure.

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Emergency Program Act Modernization

EMBC has been directed to modernize the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support more effective management of emergencies in B.C. This will incorporate international best practices in disaster risk reduction, including:

- The United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- *The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Avalanche Funding and Support

Avalanche Canada currently relies on grant-based funding (outlined below) and donations (e.g. Mountain Equipment Co-op, Teck), which makes it difficult to project year-to-year funding that supports long-term planning. The organization is seeking contributions from various F/P/T sources (primarily from the areas with avalanche risk) and notes that B.C. has the highest risk and the majority of avalanche-related incidents. The federal government recently announced $25 million for Avalanche Canada over 10 years with the expectation that provinces and territories will provide additional support. The organization has noted a decline in corporate donations, due to recent losses of large-scale sponsors such as MEC due to corporate restructuring, as well as the loss of other sponsors after the federal announcement.

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

Details:

- **EMBC annual grants to Avalanche Canada**

  Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

  The Province currently provides Avalanche Canada with approximately $410,000 annually across several ministries allocated as follows:
  - $150,000 in annual grant funding to support public avalanche bulletins through Emergency Management BC (EMBC);
  - $250,000 gaming grant through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) for operational costs; and
  - Average reimbursement of $10,000 annually through EMBC for the issuance of Special Public Avalanche Warnings.

Advice/Recommentations

North Shore Search and Rescue – Night Vision goggles

Advice/Recommentations

Potential Issues

Public Alerting:

Issue:

Intergovernmental Communications

Background:

The Alert Ready system has never been deployed in British Columbia as it is currently limited to tsunami alerts and none have yet needed to be issued.

Alert Ready tests are conducted twice a year, usually in late November and during Emergency Preparedness Week in May. Cellular providers are also constantly updating their network capabilities. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

The last test of wireless alerting in the province was conducted on November 27, 2019. Normally, there is a test of the public alerting system in May, but this was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province continues to work with Pelmorex, the company that manages the Alert Ready system, other provinces and territories, and the distributors (cellular companies, and television and radio broadcasters) to investigate why some compatible phones on a 3G network did not get an alert.

Public emergency alerting will complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and/or local governments. Current emergency alerting mechanisms include:

- The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS).
- Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email.

Current Lines:

WHY THE PROVINCE IS NOT USING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR FIRES AND FLOOD ALERTS LIKE OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- We're examining what role the alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, such as local government emergency notification systems and the National Alert Ready system.

USING PUBLIC ALERTS FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS

- We're continually looking at what role an alerting system could play in emergencies.
- The EMBC alert system is available to police in large-scale emergencies. Police in B.C. are working with EMBC to examine its usefulness in mobile active shooter situations and have developed an appropriate alerting protocol through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division.
- An alert in this type of situation would only be made by police and at their direction to ensure that all operational factors are considered.

Avalanche Funding and Support:

Issue:

Avalanche Canada's January 2020 newsletter states the organization's funding shortfall remains significant: *We had budgeted for $1 million annually from B.C., the amount stated by Honorable Minister Farnworth in the legislature on May 30, 2019. Now, almost a year later, we are still without a funding commitment. Planning for next year is already underway, and we must consider the possibility of cutting programs in B.C. unless the provincial government fulfills its promise.*

Background:

Avalanche Canada currently relies on grant-based funding and donations (e.g. Mountain Equipment Co-op, Teck), which makes it difficult to project year-to-year funding that supports long-term planning. The organization has noted a decline in corporate donations, hearing frequently that avalanche is a public safety issue. Business Information

Business Information

Emergency Program Act:

Issue:

Advice/Recommentations

Background:

EMBC has been directed to modernize the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support more effective management of emergencies in B.C.

This will incorporate international best practices in disaster risk reduction, including:

- The United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- *The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

In late October 2019, Emergency Management BC released a discussion paper for comment on the modernization of its emergency management legislation (the Emergency Program Act) outlining the proposed policy direction for modernized emergency management legislation. The engagement period ended on January 31, 2020. During that time, EMBC conducted 172 engagement sessions and received 239 written responses. Overall, there was a high level of support for the discussion paper proposals.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to modernize B.C.'s emergency management legislation. EMBC will work with partners and stakeholders to identify lessons learned from the pandemic that should be incorporated in the new legislative framework.

ABOUT THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT (EPA)

The EPA is B.C.'s primary piece of legislation for supporting disaster risk management. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and the provincial government when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. The Act establishes the conditions under which governments may declare a state of emergency and deploy emergency powers to protect livelihoods and damage to property.

Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre:

Issue:

Advice/Recommentations

Background:

Following the introduction of the Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC) in the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan in 2015, EMBC developed the CERRC Concept of Operations (CONOPS) in collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Public Safety Canada (PSC), City of Vancouver, District of Saanich, Ministries of Health and Citizens' Services (CITZ), and the Canadian Red Cross.

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

Earthquake Early Response Systems:

Issue:

Ocean Networks Canada was awarded $5 million in 2016 (and additional funds since) to develop an offshore earthquake warning system. The deliverv of that svstem was supposed to be in early 2019. Work is still underway, Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Recommentatio Meanwhile, there is a parallel Natural Resource Canada early earthquake warning system in development that is land-based, Advice/Recommentations

Background:

An earthquake early warning (EEW) system rapidly detects an earthquake and provides alerts to areas outside of where the earthquake originated prior to the arrival of

damaging shaking. These systems can provide a few critical seconds of warning to allow citizens, businesses, and automated systems to take protective action including Drop, Cover, and Hold on, opening the bay doors of a fire hall, or halting surgeries. EEW is enabled by seismic monitoring systems that consist of a network of sensors distributed across regions of high seismic activity and robust telecommunications infrastructure.

Seismic monitoring systems are also used to monitor for potentially damaging shaking from an earthquake, including its effects on structures and infrastructure.

OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA:

In 2016, the Province invested $5 million into Ocean Networks Canada's (ONC) earthquake early warning (EEW) system in B.C. to install EEW sensors, increase the number of offshore strong motion sensors, and to integrate them with land-based sensors for robust collection and analysis of seismic activity.

This system is intended to feed a centralized source that, in turn, can immediately deliver early detection notifications prior to the arrival of the damaging waves from an earthquake.

In 2020, the Province invested an additional $1.7 million to support the commissioning of the system and an initial phase of operations. The investment matches funding that ONC received from the federal government for this phase of work for their system. Advice/Recommentatio ns

Advice/Recommentations

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE:

The Federal Government, through Natural Resources Canada, has secured funds to develop an EEW system for Canada. The system is anticipated to be developed in areas of the country with high seismic hazard (including the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the North Coast, and Haida Gwaii) and where there is critical infrastructure of national significance. The Province has been meeting regularly with the federal government to discuss the initiative and its implementation in B.C. The initiative is still in its initial stages; Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

The Province has committed to working with Natural Resources Canada and Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) toward the alignment and integration of their respective sensor networks. Part of this work also involves determining how information from earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring systems can be shared with communities in British Columbia.

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Silver Alerts:

Issue:

BC Silver Alert, an organization that helps spread the word about missing individuals with cognitive impairment, is calling for an official Silver Alert system in British Columbia. Michael Coyle is one of the co-founders of the organization, as well as a volunteer with Coquitlam Search and Rescue. He believes a Silver Alert system could

be useful, and rather than going out provincewide, could be quite local and have a different tone than other alerts.

NDP promised to bring in a Silver Alert program in their election platform.

Background:

Several recent incidents involving missing seniors have renewed calls for the Province to introduce a Silver Alert System.

USE OF SILVER ALERTS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:

Many states in the U.S. employ such a system, each with its own criteria as to when to issue such alerts. In California, for example, an alert will only be issued if a missing person is 65 or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired, and the law enforcement agency has determined that the person has gone missing under "unexplained or suspicious circumstances."

States will use various means of informing the public that a person is missing, including "be on the lookout" broadcasts to other law enforcement, through the media, as well as dynamic-message signs next to highways. But many of the systems in the United States are different from Amber Alerts in that they don't sound an alarm on people's mobile devices.

In 2017, Alberta and Manitoba amended their Missing Persons Act to allow for Silver Alerts. The amendments allow police to activate alerts in certain circumstances involving vulnerable people with cognitive impairments and to provide the public with information about a missing individual. For example, in September 2019, a silver alert was issued in Winnipeg that was used to successfully find an 86-year-old man.

From 2011 to 2013, Ontario took steps to implement a ‘Silver Advisory’ system but abandoned it due to a wide range of stakeholders seeking similar advisories. Ontario subsequently re-aligned its efforts on developing a Wandering Prevention Program focused on risk awareness and safety planning for families.

First Nations, COVID, Travel Restrictions and Checkpoints:

Issue:

Travel to Haida Gwaii was temporarily stopped via Ministerial Order, Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

Background:

On August 28, 2020, an order restricting non-resident travel to Haida Gwaii was rescinded.

While the ministerial order has been rescinded, the Council of Haida Nation's State of Emergency continues. The Province recognizes the right of the Haida Nations to use emergency provisions on reserve lands to manage this emergency in a way that they feel most appropriate to safeguard their communities.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, First Nations throughout B.C. have expressed concerns about their ability to manage an outbreak, given the high density in many First Nations communities and vulnerable members such as elders, low-income families, and those with chronic health conditions like diabetes and COPD.

As part of their State of Emergency declarations, many First Nations have announced restrictions on travel in and out of their communities. Some communities are taking the further step of setting up checkpoints with the aim of reducing unnecessary travel through their communities.

Many First Nations have also asked non-resident members to avoid traveling to their home communities. Members that do return are being asked to respect the 14-day isolation recommendations from the public health officer.

Several First Nations have manned checkpoints (using forestry rangers) reinforcing their restrictions non-essential travel, local travel and physical distancing. There have been no reported problems and no restrictions on essential services such as police, fire and ambulance.

First Nations do not have jurisdiction to close or regulate traffic on provincial public highways. Non-provincial roads on reserve lands fall within federal jurisdiction and First Nations may be able to restrict traffic on those roads.

Some First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs also have called for industrial work camps to be shut down, to reduce the number of outsiders coming into the territories and bringing the risk of COVID-19 transmission with them. This includes the Site C dam and Coastal Gaslink LNG pipeline projects.

Tent City Evictions Under the Emergency Program Act:

Issue:

Advice/Recommentations

Background:

On April 25, Minister Simpson announced that the Province, along with the cities of

Vancouver and Victoria, is working to transition people living in encampments in Oppenheimer Park, Topaz Park and on Pandora Avenue into safe, temporary accommodations with wraparound supports to protect their health and safety in the overlapping COVID-19 and overdose crises.
https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0020-000759

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province worked with the City of Victoria to transition people living in encampments on Pandora Ave. and Topaz Park into safe, temporary accommodations with wraparound supports to protect their health and safety. BC Housing offered accommodations to everyone in the encampments, and 344 people were transitioned out of the encampments to indoor spaces over two weeks.

As of October 18, 2020, more than 110 people continue to camp at Victoria's Beacon Hill Park. Outreach teams are currently connecting with people who are experiencing homelessness in Beacon Hill Park to offer support Advice/Recommentations
Advice/Reco The City is exploring an injunction that would prohibit campers from settling in the environmentally sensitive areas of the park. In addition, some city staff are refusing to enter the park after being harassed by one of the campers. A public petition to remove the campers has amassed over 21,000 signatures online.

As of October 18, 2020, there are 175 tents, approximately 200 people and 40 vehicles camping at Strathcona Park in Vancouver.

After the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority issued an injunction to vacate the Port-owned CRAB Park, the encampment residents relocated to Strathcona Park. The City of Vancouver has installed portable toilets, fresh drinking water and handwashing stations at the park and park rangers visit several times daily. Activists at the park are calling for permanent housing or a permanent tent city.

On July 14, 2020, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion to amend the Parks Control Bylaw to allow for temporary overnight sheltering in parks. The amended bylaw includes provisions to more effectively manage temporary structures and tents for those seeking shelter in parks. The amendment allows homeless people to sleep in some Vancouver parks overnight — reflecting B.C. Supreme Court precedent — but requires them to be taken down the next morning. This reflects court decisions stating it's a constitutional right, given the lack of adequate shelter space.

Seawatch Sinkholes:

Issue:

The District of Sechelt, along with the Province, have been named as defendants in civil claims by owners in the Seawatch Subdivision which has been evacuated since February 2019 due to multiple sinkholes.

Background:

On February 15, 2019, the District of Sechelt (DoS) issued an evacuation order for residents of 14 homes in the Seawatch subdivision and declared a state of local emergency (SOLE) due to threat to safety and life resulting from geotechnical instability.

Emergencies are handled at the local level, and the decision to issue a SOLE is the purview of the local authority or First Nations leadership.
A declaration of a SOLE allows local authorities or First Nations leaders to access emergency powers that they feel are necessary to facilitate required actions to effectively respond to an emergency within their jurisdiction.

This evacuation order and SOLE came in response to an engineering report on the ongoing sinkhole issues in the subdivision, which concluded, “The high hazard of sinkhole collapse in combination with the consequences of potential injury or death result in a high, and in our opinion, unacceptable level of risk to the public.” This report followed the most recent development of a large sinkhole in the subdivision, in December 2018.

Grand Forks - Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and Recovery:

Issue:

The city of Grand Forks made the decision to rent out some of the homes purchased by Grand Forks in the low-lying Ruckle neighbourhood after severe 2018 flooding. Brian Taylor, Grand Forks mayor, has said he is hopeful the temporary rentals will help to ease the city's housing crunch. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations .

Background:

In May 2018, flooding overtook dikes and undermined riverbanks, causing catastrophic damage in and around the City of Grand Forks. More than 400 homes and 100 businesses were severely damaged, resulting in economic, social, infrastructure and environmental impacts.

On September 4, 2018, the City of Grand Forks endorsed, as its preferred option, the recommendations of the Don Dobson [hydrology] Report, calling for some or all of the North and South Ruckle and Johnson Flats neighbourhoods to be rezoned as non-residential to allow these areas to return to natural flood plain.

In January 2019, the City of Grand Forks requested approximately $50 million in recovery funding from the Province and Infrastructure Canada through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). The intent is to protect both residential neighbourhoods and vulnerable areas in the downtown core and to recreate wetland

areas destroyed by flooding. Planned projects include re-establishing wetlands, building dikes, raising roads, installing pumps for storm water drainage, and bank stabilization.

On June 26, 2019, the Province of BC announced more than $50 million in funding from three levels of government to complete these works. The $52.4 million funding is shared as follows;

- **$31.5 million** from the Province (comprised of $28.9 million for the DMAF application and an additional $2.6 for downtown protective works),
- $**19.9 million** from Infrastructure Canada, and
- $**1 million** from the City of Grand Forks.

EMBC Calendar

November 2020

Date	Event	Significance
November 1 – 7, 2020 (Sunday to Saturday)	Office of the Fire Commissioner: Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week	• Promote awareness and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning. • Second-ever Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week in B.C. in conjunction with Ontario's. • There have been injuries and death associated with carbon monoxide poisoning in B.C. – this week is about awareness and prevention.
Tuesday, Nov. 3 – Thursday, Nov. 5 2020	Third Party: Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference (EPBCC)	• THIRD-PARTY CONFERENCE: Brings together professional emergency planners, business continuity planners and others with a responsibility for emergency preparedness and business continuity. • Emergency Management BC representatives attend and present every year. • The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of the need for emergency preparedness from a business continuity perspective.
November 5	United Nations: World Tsunami Day	• Tsunami awareness and approaches to risk reduction
November 12 – 23, 2020	EMBC: High Ground Hikes – COVID Edition	• Reframing of annual event to focus on family "bubbles." Households will be asked to identify safe ground in their communities then independently walk, run or hike there. Those who take a picture and share it with PreparedBC on social media will be entered in a contest for a family set of grab-and-go bags.
Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020	Alert Ready – National Public Alerting System test	• The National Public Alerting System tests are scheduled twice a year: May (Emergency Preparedness Week) and November (usually third week) • Canada has a National Public Alerting System (NPAS) which provides emergency management organizations across the country with the capability to rapidly warn the public of imminent or unfolding hazards to life.

		• Public alerts are issued through radio, cable and satellite television, email, text services and on compatible wireless devices. • This system will be used during large-scale disasters or emergencies where loss of life is imminent and possible.

Advice/Recommentations

December 2020

Date	Event	Significance
December 10 – 25, 2020	Office of the Fire Commissioner: Holiday Fire Safety	• Opportunity to remind people of the holiday-time fire hazards so they can prevent fires in their homes. • Social media promotion and engagement will be led by Public Education and Online Communications team.
December 10 – 25, 2020	EMBC: Preparedness-Themed Gift-Giving	• Opportunity to remind people of the opportunity to prepare loved ones for emergencies by considering preparedness-themed gifts. • Social media promotion and engagement will be led by Public Education and Online Communications team.

January 2021

Date	Event	Significance

Advice/Recommentations

January 1 – 6, 2021	EMBC: New Years' Resolutions – Resolve to Prepare	• Opportunity to encourage people to consider emergency preparedness when forming New Year's resolutions.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommentations

BRITISH COLUMBIA | PreparedBC

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Email **PreparedBC@gov.bc.ca** to order any of the below resources.

Core Guides



Household Emergency Plan

This fill-in-the-blanks emergency plan is a playbook for how you and your household will respond to a disaster. Keep a copy of it in your emergency kit for reference.



Household Emergency Guide

This guide is a supplement to the Household Emergency Plan. It explains in more detail how to identify hazards, make an emergency plan, and build an emergency kit.

Hazard-Specific Guides



Pandemic Preparedness Guide (New!)

This new guide takes lessons we've learned from COVID-19, and other past pandemics, and explains how to prepare for future pandemics and remain prepared during one.



Flood Preparedness Guide

Floods are common in BC and can happen at any time of year. This guide will help you prepare your household, protect your property and know what to do if a flood occurs.



Wildfire Preparedness Guide

This guide will help you prepare your household, protect your property and understand what to do if a wildfire is close to your community.



Earthquake and Tsunami Guide

A must-read for British Columbians along the west coast, where the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis is very real. This guide dives into what to do before, during, and after these events.

Circumstance-Specific Guides



Guide for Apartments and Condos

This guide provides tailored advice for British Columbians living in multi-family housing, such as apartments, condominiums or townhomes.



Resources for Disabilities

Having a disability means you likely need to take preparedness actions above and beyond the "basics." This guide dives into what these extra considerations may entail.



Prepare Your Pets Guide

Pets are important members of the household, too! This one-page offers tips on how to include pets in your emergency plan.



Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide

This guide explores ways you can join forces with your neighbours to respond better to emergencies and recover faster.



Guide for Small Businesses

This guide is tailored to the unique needs of small business owners. Use this guide's advice to help protect your investment and those who depend on it for income and stability.



Guide for Tourism Operators

This guide is tailored to the unique needs of tourism operators. Use this guide's advice to help you look out for the safety of your guests.

Youth Education Programming



Master of Disaster (Newly Revised!)

The newly revised Master of Disaster is a free, pre-packaged program designed to help young people learn about emergency preparedness. The new program teaches youth in grades 4-8 about the Top 10 hazards in B.C. They also learn how to gather supplies for a Home Emergency Kit and a Grab-and-Go Bag, and how to make a Home Emergency Plan. The revised materials feature more inclusive content, a celebration of Indigenous traditional knowledge and enhanced learning activities.

You can learn more about the program, and order your classroom kit, at:
preparedbc.ca/masterofdisaster

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FUNDING AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA,
as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
(hereinafter referred to as "Canada")

AND

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
as represented by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
(hereinafter referred to as "Province")

WHEREAS:

A. Canada is responsible for emergency management services on Lands set apart by Canada for the use and benefit of Indian bands.
B. The Province, through Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has significant expertise in emergency management, including prevention of emergencies, preparation for emergencies, response to emergencies, and recovery from emergencies within the province.
C. Canada wishes the Province to provide equivalent emergency management services, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to the jurisdictions of Lands set apart by Canada for the use and benefit of Indian bands to protect Lands and assets as well as key public environmental values.
D. The parties have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (collectively referred to as the First Nations Leadership Council), establishing a collaborative and constructive working relationship, through a joint high-level dialogue process, that focuses on a mutually developed agenda related to issues of common interest and concern regarding emergency management in British Columbia at the provincial, regional and local levels, and supporting the effective implementation of this Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement;
E. The parties wish to enter into this Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement whereby Canada will pay for the Province to deliver services with respect to emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery on Lands set apart by Canada for the use and benefit of Indian bands;
F. The minister responsible for emergency management in the Province may enter into Agreements with the government of Canada, for the purpose of dealing with emergency plans and programs in accordance with the *Emergency Program Act,* and
G. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) was authorized to enter into this Agreement under the terms and conditions of the Emergency Management Assistance Program approved by the Minister of DIAND on February 11, 2013.

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

1.0 INTERPRETATION

WEB COPY

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 In this Agreement, unless otherwise provided:

"Agency" means, an authority, board, committee, or other entity authorized to act on behalf of the Province;

"Agreement" means this Agreement and includes all Schedules, any Notices of Budget Adjustment, and any amendments made in writing by the parties;

"DIAND" means the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development also known as Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC);

"**Emergency**" means a present or imminent event or circumstance that

a) Is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or the forces of nature, and
b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person and to limit damage to property;

"Emergency Management Assistance Program or EMAP" means the program authorized and funded by the Treasury Board of Canada's Funding Authority(s) (330 and 331), under which DIAND provides emergency management support to First Nations on-reserve;

"Emergency Management British Columbia or EMBC" means the Province of British Columbia's leading emergency management agency for all emergency management activities, including planning, training, testing and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness;

"Federal Department" means DIAND or any other federal government institution with respect to which a Minister representing Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada in this Agreement presides and through which Canada provides funding under this Agreement;

Federal Authorities 330 and 331 are the Treasury Board of Canada's Funding Authorities under which DIAND provides emergency management support to First Nations on-reserve;

"First Nation" means a Band as defined in the *Indian Act,* R.S.C. 1985, c.I-5, as amended;

"Fiscal Year" means a one year period, beginning April 1 of a year and ending March 31 of the following year that covers or partly covers the term of this Agreement;

"Indian" as per definition in the ***Indian Act*** (R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5);

"**Lands**" means those lands within a "reserve", as that term is defined in the ***Indian Act*** (R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5), located within the Province of British Columbia;

"Non-essential Services" means those programs, services and activities identified in Schedule "DIAND-3" that are not immediately or directly related to an impending or ongoing "emergency" or "disaster" event as defined within that Schedule;

"Notice of Budget Adjustment" means a notice to the Province from Canada that changes the amount of funding provided under this Agreement;

"Reserve" means a tract of land as defined in the *Indian Act,* R.S.C. 1985, c.I-5;

"Schedule" means a Schedule to this Agreement.

WEB COPY

1.2 Multiple Funding Departments

1.2.1 Except where otherwise indicated or prohibited by law, where more than one Federal Department provides funding under this Agreement, Canada's rights and remedies under this Agreement may be exercised by any Federal Department, and Canada's obligations under this Agreement may be carried out by any Federal Department, as determined by Canada.

2.0 TERM

Subject to section 3.2 (Funding Subject to Appropriations and Departmental Funding Authorities), article 8.0 (Remedies on Default) and article 10.0 (Termination), and subject to the renewal of the DIAND Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) the term of this Agreement will be from the 1st day of April, 2017 until the 31st day of March, 2027.

3.0 FUNDING FROM CANADA

3.1 Provision of Funding

3.1.1 Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Canada shall transfer to the Province funding for each Fiscal Year covered by this Agreement in accordance with Schedule "**DIAND-2"** of this Agreement up to the amount set out in Schedule "**FED-1**".

3.1.2 If funding is provided under this Agreement by more than one Federal Department, DIAND may transfer those funding amounts on behalf of other Federal Departments.

3.2 Funding Subject to Appropriations and Departmental Funding Authorities

3.2.1 Any funding by Canada under this Agreement is subject to an appropriation of those funds by Parliament and, similarly any funding by the Province under this Agreement is subject to an appropriation by the Provincial Legislature. If, at any time during the life of this Agreement, the Parliament of Canada or the Provincial Legislature does not make an appropriation relating to funding under this Agreement, Canada and the Province shall make the necessary adjustments to this Agreement under section 11.3 (Amendments).

3.2.2 In the event that authorities for the Program are amended or terminated or if funding levels are reduced or cancelled (by Parliament, the Provincial Legislature, or otherwise) for any Fiscal Year in which a payment is to be made under this Agreement, both parties may reduce or terminate any further payments to be made under this Agreement.

3.2.3 Where funding under this Agreement is to be reduced or terminated under section 3.2.2 Canada shall provide the Province with 12 months written notice of the reduction or termination and shall reimburse the Province for any Eligible Expenditures to the date upon which the reduction/termination is to take effect.

3.2.4 Where funding under this Agreement is to be reduced or terminated under section 3.2.2, the Province's commitment to delivering services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement will be reduced or terminated commensurately.

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4.0 THE PROVINCE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Programs, Services and Activities

4.1.1 The Province shall provide the programs and services and carry out the activities for which funding is provided under this Agreement in accordance with the delivery requirements set out in the Schedules.

4.2 Record Keeping

4.2.1 The Province will adhere to its own records retention requirements which meet or exceed Canada's requirements of 7 years.

4.3 Reporting

4.3.1 Canada may, by notice to the Province, extend the deadline for the receipt of any reports to be submitted to Canada under this section if the Province provides notice before the applicable due dates of circumstances beyond the Province's control preventing the Province from meeting the deadlines.

4.3.2 EMBC shall on behalf of the Province fulfill all other reporting requirements set out in the Schedules.

4.3.3 This section survives the expiry or termination of this Agreement.

4.4 Ineligible Expenditures

4.4.1 Where either party disputes the eligibility of expenditures and/or any unexpended funding under this Agreement, the dispute will be referred to the Dispute Resolution process set out in article 9.0 (Dispute Resolution).

5.0 AMOUNTS OWING TO CANADA

5.1 The Province shall promptly notify Canada of any amount owing to Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada under this Agreement.

5.2 Section 5.1 survives the expiry or termination of this Agreement.

6.0 DELEGATION OF OBLIGATIONS

6.1 Delegation

6.1.1 Where EMBC delegates any or all of its obligations under this Agreement to an Agency or transfers funding to an Agency to provide, in whole or in part, programs, services or activities for which funding is provided under this Agreement, EMBC shall ensure that the Agency:

(a) has a specified mandate, a clearly identified role and a defined relationship with EMBC;

(b) adheres to the accountability principles set out in this Agreement;

6.2 Province Remains Responsible

6.2.1 Where a delegation under this section occurs, the Province will remain responsible for the fulfillment of all of its obligations under this Agreement.

6.2.2 This section survives the expiry or termination of this Agreement.

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6.3 Additional Obligations

6.3.1 EMBC shall comply with any additional obligations on delegation, and any obligations on subcontracting and assignment, that are set out in the Schedules.

6.3.2 This Agreement shall not be assigned in whole or in part by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. No assignment of this Agreement shall relieve either party from any obligation under the Agreement or impose any liability upon Canada and the Province.

7.0 DEFAULT

7.1 Where the Province fails to perform or observe any term, condition or covenant contained herein, then, the Province shall be deemed to be in default hereunder. Such a determination shall be communicated in writing to the Province pursuant to article 12.0 (Notices). Any right of action available to Canada against the Province in respect of any default of a covenant herein contained shall not be thereby prejudiced.

7.2 Where Canada fails to perform or observe any term, condition or covenant contained herein, then, Canada shall be deemed to be in default hereunder. Such a determination shall be communicated in writing to Canada pursuant to article 12.0 (Notices). Any right of action available to the Province against Canada in respect of any default of a covenant herein contained shall not be thereby prejudiced.

8.0 REMEDIES ON DEFAULT

8.1 Parties Will Meet

8.1.1 Without limiting any remedy or other action Canada may take under this Agreement, in the event the Province is in default, the parties will communicate or meet to review the situation.

8.1.2 Without limiting any remedy or other action the Province may take under this Agreement, in the event Canada is in default, the parties will communicate or meet to review the situation.

8.2 Actions Canada or the Province May Take

8.2.1 In the event the Province is in default under this Agreement, Canada may take one or more of the following actions as may reasonably be necessary, having regard to the nature and extent of the default:

(a) withhold any funds otherwise payable under this Agreement;

(b) require the Province to take any other reasonable action necessary to remedy the default;

(c) take such other reasonable action as Canada deems necessary, including any remedies which may be set out in any Schedule; or

(d) terminate this Agreement in accordance with article 10.0 (Termination).

8.2.2 In the event Canada is in default under this Agreement, the Province may take one or more of the following actions as may reasonably be necessary, having regard to the nature and extent of the default:

(a) withhold Non-essential services provided by EMBC under this Agreement to on Reserve First Nations as defined in Schedule “DIAND-3” until the breach is remedied; or

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(b) terminate this Agreement in accordance with article 10.0 (Termination).

8.3 Where Reporting Requirements Not Met

8.3.1 Without limiting remedies available to Canada set out in section 8.2 (Actions Canada or the Province May Take), Canada may withhold funding otherwise payable under this Agreement if any other reports to be submitted under section 4.3 (Reporting), are not provided by EMBC to Canada as required under this Agreement. Subject to article 5.0 (Amounts Owing to Canada), any amounts so withheld must be paid by Canada to the Province within forty-five (45) days of Canada's acceptance of subsequently submitted reports.

9.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1. In the event that a dispute arises from or is related to this Agreement, the parties agree to attempt to resolve the dispute through negotiation or through another alternate dispute resolution process to which the parties agree and set out in writing.

10.0 TERMINATION

10.1 Parties May Terminate

10.1.1 Without limiting section 3.2 (Funding Subject to Appropriations and Departmental Funding Authorities) or Canada's right to terminate under section 8.2 (Actions Canada or the Province May Take), this Agreement may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party, stipulating the reason for termination, provided that before any such termination can become effective:

(a) the parties undertake reasonable steps to resolve differences in a dispute resolution process initiated under article 9.0 (Dispute Resolution); and

(b) the parties agree on a time frame to terminate the Agreement in a manner that will not jeopardize the administration and delivery of the programs, services and activities for which funding is provided under this Agreement; and

(c) if the parties cannot agree on a time frame, this Agreement may be terminated without cause by either party with 12 months' notice in writing delivered to the address noted in article 12.0 (Notices). The period of notice may be varied by written mutual consent.

10.2 When Parties Terminate

10.2.1 In the event of the termination of this Agreement:

(a) subject to Canada's right to any amount owing to Canada under this Agreement, Canada shall pay to the Province any monies owed to EMBC, up to the termination date of this Agreement, unless the Province and Canada agree otherwise in writing; and

(b) the Province shall fulfill any other obligation relating to termination set out in any Schedule.

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11.0 GENERAL

11.1 Schedules

11.1.1 The following Schedules are attached to and form part of this Agreement:

SCHEDULE "Fed-1" – cash flow

SCHEDULE "DIAND-2" – DIAND Funding

SCHEDULE "DIAND-3" - Program, service and activity delivery requirements, adjustment factors and reporting requirements with due dates

11.1.2 In the case of conflicts or discrepancies between the body of this Agreement and any of the Schedules which form part of this Agreement, the body of this Agreement shall take precedence and govern.

11.2 Entire Agreement

11.2.1 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all previous negotiations, agreements, commitments, and writing between the parties in relation to the subject matter of this Agreement.

11.2.2 This Agreement is binding upon the parties and their respective administrators and successors.

11.2.3 The separate but related Memorandum of Understanding between the parties of this Agreement and the First Nations Leadership Council provides the forum for the First Nations Leadership Council to provide guidance on the delivery of programs and services for which funding is provided under this Agreement and the Schedules.

11.3 Amendments

11.3.1 A written amending agreement signed by both parties is required to amend this Agreement.

11.4 Effect on Relationship of Parties

11.4.1 Nothing in this Agreement creates or is intended to create an agency, association, employer-employee, or joint venture relationship between the Province and Canada, and the Province shall not represent otherwise.

11.5 Audit and Evaluation

11.5.1 The Province will share with Canada the results of any audit (financial or otherwise), prepared by or on behalf of the Province in respect of funds received under this Agreement within ninety (90) calendar days of the completion of such audit.

11.5.2 Canada may initiate an audit of EMBC's accounts and records relating to the Agreement for a period of up to seven (7) years following the expiration or termination of this Agreement to ensure compliance with the terms of the Agreement.

11.5.3 The scope, coverage and timing of any such audits will be determined by both parties and be carried out by external auditors. The Province will provide to the auditors in a timely manner, any records, documents and information necessary to conduct the audit and shall provide such other information as may be reasonably required upon request by the auditors.

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11.5.4 Canada and the Province agree on the importance of assessing what has been accomplished in terms of the objectives and expected results outlined in this agreement. The Province is responsible for the evaluation of its programs and measures under its jurisdiction. The Province agrees to share with Canada the public results of those evaluations related to this agreement. Canada's programs are routinely subject to evaluation. Canada may request input from EMBC in such evaluations and may use the information provided under the agreement to evaluate the project. If additional information is required, such information shall be discussed between Canada and the Province.

11.6 Headings

11.6.1 Descriptive headings are inserted solely for convenience of reference and do not form part of this Agreement.

11.7 Waiver

11.7.1 No provision of this Agreement and no event of default by either party of any provision of this Agreement will be deemed to have been waived unless the waiver is in writing and signed by the other party.

11.7.2 The waiver by a party of default by the other party or of any provision of this Agreement will not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent default by the other party or of the same or any other provision of this Agreement.

11.8 Confidentiality, Information Disclosure, and Privacy

11.8.1 Both parties shall treat any information acquired as a result of this Agreement in strict confidence and with the care and security required to ensure that it is not disclosed or made known to any person except with the written consent of each party or in compliance with the provincial *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or the federal *Access to Information Act* or the *Privacy Act*.

11.9 Public Disclosure

11.9.1 Canada has an obligation to publicly disclose information under the *Access to Information Act* and the Province has an obligation to publicly disclose information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Regulation.*

11.10 Legislation and Government Publications

11.10.1 All references throughout this Agreement to legislation and particular government publications are deemed to refer to the legislation and government publication in force or issued at the effective date of this Agreement, and include any subsequent amendments or replacements thereof, as the case may be.

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12.0 NOTICES

12.1 Where any notice, request or other communication is required to be given or made by either party to the other party under this Agreement, it must be in writing addressed to the party for whom it is intended at the applicable address noted in section 12.4 and may be given or made by either party by their duly authorized representatives.

12.2 The notice referred to in section 12.1 will be effective by using any one of the following methods, and deemed to have been given as at the date specified for each method:

(a) by personal delivery, on the date upon which the notice is delivered;

(b) by registered mail or courier, on the date upon which receipt of the notice is acknowledged by the other party;

(c) by facsimile or electronic mail, on the date upon which the notice is transmitted and receipt of such transmission by the other party can be confirmed.

12.3 Either party may change the address information referred to in section 12.4 by providing notice to the other party of such change.

12.4 Notices will be sent to:

(a) Canada at:
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, BC Region
Programs and Partnerships Directorate
Suite 600, 1138 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4S3
Attention: Director, Programs and Partnerships

(b) The Province at:
Emergency Management of BC
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9201, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1
Attention: Executive Director; First Nations Coordination

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This Agreement has been executed by Canada and the Province of British Columbia by their duly authorized representatives.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA, as represented by the
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada

by: ELECTRONIC COPY
Hon. Carolyn Bennett,
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, as represented by the
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

by: ELECTRONIC COPY
Hon. Todd G. Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

AS WITNESSED BY:

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS, as represented by the Regional Chief:

__ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Shane Gottfriedson

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT, as represented by the Task Group Members:

__ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Cheryl Casimer

___ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Grand Chief Edward John

__ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Robert Phillips

ON BEHALF OF THE UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS, as represented by the Executive:

__ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

___ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Chief Bob Chamberlin

__ ELECTRONIC COPY _____
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (the "MOU")

This MOU is dated for reference the _____ day of _____, 2019

Between

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS (UBCIC)
BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (BCAFN)
FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT (FNS)

Collectively referred to as the "FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL" (FNLC)

And

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA ("CANADA")

As represented by
THE MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES (ISC)

And

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ("THE PROVINCE")

As represented by
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL (PSSG) and
MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (FLNRORD)

Collectively referred to as "the Parties"

WHEREAS

A. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is a collaborative, working relationship among the political executives of the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nations. The FNLC mandate includes working together to improve the socio-economic conditions of First Nations in British Columbia, and to advance recognition and reconciliation of pre-existing Aboriginal Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights, with the assertion of Crown sovereignty. The FNLC is not an Aboriginal Title and Rights or Treaty Rights holder and cannot engage in processes to establish and provide free, prior and informed consent on behalf of individual First Nations.

B. On Nov 13, 2009, the FNLC and the First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS) entered into a Declaration and Protocol Agreement of recognition, support, cooperation and coordination. In support of the FNLC mandate, FNESS works collaboratively to improve conditions for First Nations. FNESS is incorporated under the BC Societies Act and is governed by First Nations Directors. FNESS has a mandate to support First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through delivery of programs and services focused upon Emergency Management, Forest Fuel Management, and (structural) Fire Services.

C. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) works collaboratively to support high-quality services and improve quality of life for Indigenous peoples, with emphasis on five priority areas: health; education; children and families; infrastructure; and economic prosperity. ISC's Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) is the federal authority that provides funding and reimbursement of eligible expenditures related to all-hazards emergencies (i.e., floods, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.) that threaten the health, safety or assets of Firs Nations on-reserve. The department also works to facilitate the path to self-determination in all sectors.

D. Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is the lead coordinating agency on behalf of the provincial government for all emergency management activities in British Columbia. EMBC provides executive coordination, strategic planning, multi-agency facilitation and strives to develop effective working relationships in an increasingly complex emergency management environment. EMBC works with local authorities, First Nations, local and federal governments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers to support the emergency management phases of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. EMBC also engages provincial, national and international partners to enhance the collective emergency capabilities of the Province.

E. The British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS) is mandated to provide leadership and expertise in wildfire prevention, mitigation and response services for the provincial government. The overall vision of the BCWS is a sustainable, healthier and more resilient British Columbia. To meet this mandate, the BCWS will provide for the safety of its workers and the public; deliver effective, innovative and cost-efficient wildfire management services; provide emergency response support and services, and work to establish and maintain strong and collaborative relationships with our partners and clients.

F. The *2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* states that natural disasters are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity. The Sendai Framework also outlines a set of practical recommendations to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels of government and across society. It calls for a people-centred, preventive approach to disaster risk through multi-hazard and multi-sectoral practices that are inclusive and accessible. Through programming and education, the Sendai Framework supports empowerment through non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to historically marginalized peoples who are often disproportionately affected by disasters.

G. The "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples" was reached in September 2014. Paragraph 36 of the Outcome Document provides that, "We confirm that indigenous peoples' knowledge and strategies to sustain their environment should be respected and taken into account when we develop national and international approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation." Further, the December 2015 Paris Agreement acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind and states that "the Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development […]".

H. As part of a commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia the parties will work collaboratively to identify and support ways to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (The UN Declaration) as it relates to emergency management, including:

Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions;

Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

I. On July 14, 2017 the Government of Canada released ten Principles aimed at a renewed "nation-to-nation, government-to-government" relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership as the foundation for transformative change. Further, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gave a speech in the House of Commons on February 14, 2018, setting out the foundation for a new fundamental and transformative change in the relationship with Indigenous peoples grounded in the recognition and implementation of inherent Aboriginal Title and Rights.

J. On May 22, 2018 the Province released its *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* directed at renewing the Crown-Indigenous relationship and ending the denial of Indigenous rights. The accompanying BC Government press release identified that the draft provincial principles have been shared with all 27,000 provincial public service employees to guide their conduct and work going forward.

K. The Parties recognize that the honour of the Crown guides the conduct of the Crown in all of its dealings with Indigenous peoples.

L. The Parties recognize that delivery of their respective mandates regarding emergency management, and the implementation of policies regarding emergency management structures, involve collaboration with First Nations and other partners at all levels. Further, the Parties also recognize that in seeking to implement mandates, statutes, policies and operational approaches there must be flexibility and respect for First Nations knowledge, laws, values and approaches, and a demonstrable pathway to the inclusion of First Nations within emergency management.

M. The Parties seek to establish a formal relationship to engage in regular dialogue on emergency management issues of mutual interest and concern, and to work constructively together.

THEREFORE, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this MOU is to establish a process whereby the parties can work collectively to advance meaningful recognition and enhanced capacity of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management (i.e., preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery).

2.0 Goals and Objectives

2.1 The parties to this MOU share the common goals of supporting a relationship based on recognition of:

- First Nations' existence in British Columbia and the continued existence of inherent Aboriginal Title and Rights in British Columbia, as recognized and affirmed by s. 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- First Nations' historic use, occupation, ownership and governance of lands which now constitute British Columbia;
- the inherent nature of Aboriginal Title and Rights, which are tied to First Nations' homelands, territories, waters, resources, and Indigenous laws, and that Aboriginal Title includes an inescapable economic component and encompasses the right to choose to what uses Aboriginal Title land can be put.
- Canada's evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government, consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the UN Declaration and with reference to the TRC Calls to Action and other pivotal sources of guidance, and which includes the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal, treaty and Indigenous human rights and the recognition of the inherent jurisdiction and legal orders of Indigenous nations.
- the inherent right of self-determination held by First Nations peoples, and that by virtue of that right, First Nations peoples freely determine their own political status and freedom to pursue their own economic, social, and cultural development, in accordance with Article 3 of the UN Declaration;
- the inherent right of self-government held by First Nations peoples in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, in accordance with Indigenous laws and section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982,* as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions, in accordance with Article 4 of the UN Declaration;
- strong First Nation Governments and self-determination through: the exercise of their Aboriginal Title, including its inescapable economic component; exercising

their jurisdiction through their own governance and decision-making structures; and, negotiations, legislative and policy change recognizing and supporting the exercise of their Aboriginal Title and Rights and, therefore, reconciliation.

- that meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their free, prior and informed consent before Crown actions occur that may impact their rights, including their lands, territories and resources, and recognizes the right of First Nations people to participate in decision-making in matters which affect their rights, through their own representative institutions;
- that Canada and the Province have a legal duty to consult with Indigenous peoples prior to making decisions or taking actions which may adversely impact the rights of Indigenous peoples, including their lands, territories and resources;
- that First Nations' spiritual, social and cultural practices are associated with the land, environment and natural resources and share the vision of healthy, resilient communities for current and future generations; and
- that First Nations have been observing and collecting information about their local hazard profiles for generations.

2.2 The Parties share the common goal of incorporating First Nations' traditional, evolving and invaluable knowledge into the practice, policy development and decision-making around emergency management.

2.3 The Parties share the common goal of improving the overall emergency management capability for the benefit of all British Columbians, including First Nation individuals, families and communities.

2.4 The Parties share the common goal of supporting First Nation communities to respond, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change in order to reduce the impact of emergency events.

3.0 Activities and Responsibilities

3.1 The Parties intend to accomplish the above goals by supporting the co-ordination and continuous dialogue amongst governments, First Nations and other relevant bodies.

3.2 This MOU presents an opportunity to formally recognize and strengthen the existing mechanisms of dialogue. The Parties intend to, and where possible will:

- exchange experiences, strategic advice and best practices for relationship building with First Nations;

- discuss emerging concerns, considerations, policy and process issues and co-ordinate joint responses, where appropriate; and
- recognize and support other existing mechanisms for co-operation, including the FNESS.

Political-level Engagement

3.3 The Parties acknowledge that discussions may occur at the political level during the term of this MOU, as may be requested.

3.4 For greater clarity, the Parties intend that the participants in political-level meetings described in 3.3 will be the First Nations Leadership Council, the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Senior Official-level Engagement

3.5 The Parties acknowledge that senior-level meetings between the Assistant Deputy Minister of EMBC, the Associate Deputy Minister of BCWS, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), the ISC Regional Director General, FNLC representatives and the Executive Director of FNESS may be appropriate during the term of this MOU. The Parties intend to meet at least twice annually; however, frequency may be revised upon first review of the MOU. The meetings are scheduled to:

- identify priority issues to inform an annual work-plan that will be developed within 60 days of the conclusion of this MOU;
- determine and direct action items to be jointly undertaken in an effort to advance the annual work-plan; and
- discuss any other issues related to the implementation of this MOU.

Technical-level Engagement

3.6 The Parties, when appropriate, will establish working group(s), comprised of representatives of each of the Parties and, as appropriate, First Nations, service organizations and other provincial and/or federal departments and partners, such as Environment and Climate Change Canada, to discuss emerging concerns, considerations, policy and process issues and to undertake and complete items as agreed and to make recommendations to the Parties.

3.7 The working group(s) will meet as directed by the Parties, or as needed, to carry out work as directed and report back to political-level representatives as required on progress of work.

3.8 EMBC, BCWS, MIRR, ISC and the FNESS intend to work collaboratively to:

- identify FNESS's capacity and determine their appropriate on-going emergency management role in supporting on-reserve First Nations communities in British Columbia;
- support FNESS in working with First Nations communities to assess First Nations' technical and resource capacity, training needs;
- identify relevant tools to better assist First Nation service providers and communities in building capacity (i.e. guidelines, templates, etc.); and
- identify issues and recommendations to share for consideration of the working group(s) and the political representatives as appropriate.

Province-wide Forum

3.9 In furtherance of this MOU and with the commitment to information sharing and capacity development, the Parties intend to work together to deliver a province-wide technical and educational forum focused on validating the annual work plan and understanding:

- First Nations values, Indigenous laws and approaches to emergency management response;
- provincial and federal emergency management and response;
- disaster reduction;
- the role of local officials, including the RCMP; and
- other related issues.

Funding

3.10 The Parties recognize that First Nations require resources, infrastructure and enhanced capacity in order to advance the practice of emergency management in a manner that supports and reinforces their own governance, institutions and decision-making authority.

3.11 ISC and the Province commit to working collaboratively to identify resources for First Nations, their institutions and their representative organizations to be full partners in emergency management in accordance with 3.10.

3.12 The Parties also recognize that resources are needed for the FNLC and FNESS to fully participate in the work of this MOU consistent with the mandates provided by First Nations in British Columbia, and will prepare a mutually agreeable budget proposal based on the annual work plan

3.13 The Parties recognize that any federal or provincial funding that may be identified in accordance with this section is subject to necessary approvals and the appropriation of funds by the Parliament of Canada or the Legislature of British Columbia.

4.0 General Provisions

4.1 The Parties agree that this MOU:

- does not and is not intended to displace, any legal duty that the Crown may have to directly engage with First Nations;
- does not and is not intended to create, amend, define, establish or extinguish any Aboriginal or Treaty Rights;
- does not interfere with any decision making authority or jurisdiction over emergency management and response of any Party;
- does not limit or affect any Party's mandate; and
- does not and is not intended to be legally binding or to create legally enforceable rights or obligations between the Parties.

5.0 Term and Review

5.1 This MOU shall take effect from the date that it is signed by the Parties and continue until it is terminated in writing by any Party with 60 days written notice, or by mutual agreement of all the Parties.

5.2 This MOU, the Annual Workplan and the activities associated with this MOU will be reviewed annually by the Parties to determine whether the purpose of the MOU is being advanced.

5.3 The first review of the MOU will take place by the Parties meeting within 60 days of the first anniversary of the signing.

5.4 The Parties may agree in writing to amend this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HAVE EXECUTED
THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019,
IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA,
as represented by the Minister of Indigenous Services

ELECTRONIC COPY

Hon. Seamus O'Regan

ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
as represented by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

ELECTRONIC COPY

Hon. Mike Farnworth

and

as represented by the Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ELECTRONIC COPY

Hon. Doug Donaldson

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS,
as represented by the Regional Chief

ELECTRONIC COPY

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT,
as represented by the Task Group Members

ELECTRONIC COPY	*ELECTRONIC COPY*	*ELECTRONIC COPY*
Cheryl Casimer	Grand Chief Edward John	Robert Phillips

ON BEHALF OF THE UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS,
as represented by the Executive

ELECTRONIC COPY	*ELECTRONIC COPY*
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip	Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

Cliff: 578046
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Deputy Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **First Nations Overview and Partnership Agreements**

BACKGROUND:

- One of the key priorities of EMBC is to facilitate First Nations in their desire to play a full partnership role in the delivery of emergency management services to Indigenous peoples in BC. That priority is consistent with the Province's objectives for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and with the BC *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.*
- This priority is being advanced through a variety of measures, including:
    - Recognizing that the 203 First Nations in BC are separate and distinct with rich and varied cultures, histories and traditions.
    - Entering into a number of key, formal Agreements with Key First Nations and Indigenous Agencies and Organizations;
    - Targetted outreach to First Nations communities by EMBC regional offices, support to those communities in dealing with emergency events and assisting First Nations in their preparedness for future events, through venues such as the Regional Partnership Tables;
    - Integrating cultural safety and humility principles into EMBC's day-to-day practices at the local, regional and provincial levels
    - Focussed engagement with First Nations regarding the modernization of the Emergency Program Act.
    - Developing strategies for offering enhanced training and public education resources to better support the needs of First Nations communities and using local and traditional knowledge to help guide operations and operational priorities
    - Responding to lessons learned from the 2017 and 2018 BC fires and flood seasons based on recommendations outlined in the *Fires Awakened Us: Tsilhqot'in report – 2017 Wildfires* and *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia*. First Nations communities were disproportionaely impacted by the 2017 and 2018 flood and wildfires, and the province is continuing to learn how to provide better support before, during and after emergencies for continuous improvement and enhanced community resilience.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS:

- Prior to April 1, 2017 (as mandated by a 1993 Letter of Understanding with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)), EMBC funded and provided provincial support services to First Nation communities during the response and recovery phases of an emergency event.
- On April 1, 2017, EMBC and ISC signed a ten-year, bilateral service agreement (Attachment 1) to deliver emergency management services to First Nations communities. The agreement expands EMBC's mandate to support First Nation communities in the preparedness and mitigation phases of emergency management.
- Under this agreement, EMBC provides First Nations emergency management practitioners with the same level of support as local authorities, in a consistent and equitable manner, based on needs identified. It also provides practitioners with an opportunity to participate in interagency coordination and training for greater consistency of practice and coordination throughout the Province.
- EMBC recognizes the funding challenges that First Nations face to hire and support programs associated with emergency management.
-

Intergovernmental Communications

- Although the Province does not provide direct funding to local authorities or First Nation communities for emergency management practitioners, EMBC has been facilitating Nation-to-Nation, and Nation-to-Local Government Partnership agreements.
- Through these partnership agreements, EMBC is supporting innovative approaches to capacity building through shared cost-arrangements that directly benefit First Nation communities.
- The Province has also entered into a Tripartite MoU on emergency management with Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council (Attachment 2), to collaboratively advance meaningful recognition and enhanced capacity of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management (i.e. preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery).
- The Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) is an agreement signed by BC, Canada and the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) to enhance emergency management following the disastrous wildfires impacting the Tsilhqot'in communities in 2017.
- The Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership (CCREMP) is another good example of this partnership, where a regional emergency program coordinator was hired to undertake regional projects set by the CCREMP Steering Committee represented by Central Coast Regional District, Nuxalk Nation and EMBC. Regional projects include the development of emergency plans and coordination of training and exercises, which require collaboration between people in communities, organizations and all levels of government.
- EMBC is also working in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority, Interior Region Nation Executives, BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) and ISC, to develop a Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement covering the

Interior region of the First Nations Health Council. The signing of this agreement has been delayed due to COVID-19, however, in the interim as part of the collaboration, six of the seven ISC-funded Nation-based Emergency Planning Coordinators have been hired.

- Other forums of collaboration are the First Nation Regional Emergency Management Partnership Tables. EMBC plans to hold the next Partnership Table virtually in January 2021. At these tables, First Nation practitioners build relationships and partnerships with other communities, emergency management service providers and EMBC. These meetings provide an opportunity for Nation-to-Nation knowledge sharing as well as practitioner awareness and support. These forums facilitate the sharing of resources across communities to increase overall capacity and resilience.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMBC's partnerships with First Nations communities and partner organizations is aligned with the British Columbia *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of BC's Relationship with Indigenous Partners.
- Support for community-led emergency management across the pillars of emergency management supports Nation's self-determination and resilience.
- EMBC also continues to train staff and integrate cultural safety and humility principles to enhance respectful, trust-based relationships at the local, regional and provincial levels.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

PREPARED BY:
Carol McClintock
Executive Director,
Strategic Partnerships
EMBC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Oct 29
ADM	DP	Oct 29
ED	CM	Oct 28

Attachment(s)
Attachment 1: Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement
Attachment 2: Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding

Canadian Red Cross Quarterly Report to the Province of British Columbia On the 2017 British Columbia Wildfires Project

October 19, 2020



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CONFIDENTIAL

Pictured on cover: *A Red Cross staff member overlooks fire suppression activity related to the 2017 BC Wildfires.*

Report Format

The following reporting requirements were agreed to in the Schedule A of the Agreement between the Province of British Columbia and the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) signed on July 27, 2017.

1. Funding disbursed by each of the Program activities known as Program 1 through 8 described in Schedule B;
2. Total funding remaining and if there are any outstanding allocations/ commitments;
3. Projected cash flow over the term of the Agreement, if applicable;
4. Number of households, businesses or community organizations that have received funding;
5. Geographic breakdown of the recipients by municipality or regional district;
6. References to any special considerations requested and provided by CRC, including rationale, for funds issued outside of the agreed upon criteria; and,
7. Final status of funds, if in surplus the balance is required to be repaid to the Province of BC within 60 days.

Each of the indicators above is reported on at the high level in the narrative below, with details available in the Annexes. Of the above, number one, two and three are addressed in Annex 1: Financial Reporting, while number four and five are addressed in Annex 2: Results.

A modification to the agreement was agreed upon on March 27, 2020 which changed the end date of the agreement to May 15, 2021.

CONFIDENTIAL

Funding Disbursed by Program Activities

As of September 30th, 2020, the funding disbursed by program activity was as follows:

Table 1:

#	Program Name	Funding Disbursed (of $10M from Gov. of BC)	Funding Disbursed (of $90M from Gov. of BC)
1	Relief Support and Direct Financial Assistance	Business Information	
2	Safety and Wellbeing		
3	Community Partnerships		
4	Support to Small Business, Not-For-Profit Organizations & First Nations Cultural Livelihoods		
5	Support to Re-Entry		
6	Support to Self-Recovery		
7	Transitional Shelter/Lodging/Housing		
8	Capacity Building/Disaster Risk Reduction		

For a further breakdown of these sums please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

Total Funding Remaining

As of September 30th, 2020, the total funding remaining for these grants was as follows:

- Province of British Columbia: $0 of $10,000,000
- Province of British Columbia: $4,898,087 of $90,000,000

For a further breakdown of these sums, including outstanding allocations and commitments, please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

Projected Cash Flow

For information regarding projected cash flow please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

Number of Households, Businesses and Community Organizations that Received Funding and Geographic Breakdown of Recipients

As of September 30th, 2020, the Canadian Red Cross had provided financial assistance to:

- Program One: Relief Support and Direct Financial Assistance
  - 22,127 households spanning more than 21 Regional Districts
- Program Three: Community Partnerships
  - 197 community organizations spanning more than eight Regional Districts
- Program Four: Support to Small Business, Not-For-Profit Organizations & First Nations Cultural Livelihoods
  - Phase 1: 2,494 recipients, spanning more than 9 Regional Districts
  - Phase 2: 3,112 recipients, spanning more than 10 Regional Districts
- Program Five: Support to Re-Entry
  - 21,876 households spanning more than 20 Regional Districts
- Program Six: Support to Self-Recovery
  - 3,712 households spanning more than 17 Regional Districts
- Program Seven: Transitional Shelter/Lodging/Housing
  - 148 households spanning four Regional Districts

Eligibility for Relief Support (Program One) included those who were not permanent residents of the affected areas, including those who were visiting the area at the time of the fires (e.g. camping) and arrived at a reception centre or reached out to the Canadian Red Cross for assistance. This accounts for the broad geographic spread.

For a more detailed breakdown of the number and geographic breakdown of funding recipients please see Annex 2: Results.

Final Status of Funds

For information regarding the final status of funds please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Business Information

Note 1: The spend to date figures for Program Three includes financial assistance provided to eligible not-for-profit organizations under the Support to Small Business program application and review process.

Note 2: Both the allocated and spend to date figures for Program One include the distribution of relief items in person, such as blankets.

Business Information

Personal Information

Note 1: Case files where the household registered using an invalid town name, unrecognized municipality (ex unincorporated area), or used a registered mailing address outside of BC are classified as Other. This includes households who may have registered in person using a paper base system and did not complete all the fields properly or legibly but whose ID was authenticated by a Red Cross personnel on the ground.

Note 2: In some cases, community organizations that have received funding were outside the affected area but provided service delivery within the affected area. Such is the case with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), which is a provincial agency based in Greater Vancouver, but was provided funding for activities serving fire affected regions.

For a further breakdown of households assisted within Program One – Relief Support, please see below:

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Personal Information

Canadian Red Cross Final Report to the Province of British Columbia On the 2018 British Columbia Wildfires Project

October 19, 2020



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Pictured on cover: *Ye Fan and Lisa Donahoe, Canadian Red Cross Caseworkers, providing support to the Nadleh Whut'en First Nations community impacted by the B.C. Wildfires.*

Report Format

The following reporting requirements were agreed to in the 2018 Fire Season – Community Recovery Funding Grant between the Province of British Columbia and the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) signed on November 13, 2018.

1. Funding disbursed by each of the following program activities:
   - Early recovery including re-entry supports e.g. Fridge and freezer disposal and replacements, and alternative heating sources (firewood).
   - Debris removal on private land, and repair and reconstruction related to uninsured damages caused by 2018 wildfires.
   - Health and wellbeing supports (which is included in the early recovery assistance).
   - All other direct, operational, programmatic and support service costs incurred to carry out activities listed above including, but not limited to: personnel costs, subcontractor, logistics, travel expenses and project equipment and inventory.
   - Financial assistance to small businesses
2. Expenditures by support type as of the last day of the quarter being reported on;
3. Projected cash flow by support type committed but not yet expended;
4. Number of payments (by household) issued by support type to impacted individuals;
5. Number of hours provided to support case management.

Each of the indicators above is reported on at the high level in the narrative below, with details available in the Annexes. Of the above, number one, two and three are addressed in Annex 1: Financial Reporting, while number four is addressed in Annex 2: Results.

A modification to the Agreement was signed on June 7, 2019 for the inclusion of Support to Small Business programming. As a result, Support to Small Business has been added to the reporting document in Annex 3.

On March 16, 2020, EMBC Assistant Deputy Minister Response Operations and CRC Vice President BC & Yukon agreed on behalf of their respective organizations that CRC would retain unexpended funds in CRC trust and to amend the existing Agreement to define the instrument by which these funds would be used for future disaster events. Revisions to the Agreement will be developed through separate correspondence.

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Funding Disbursed by Program Activities

As of September 30th, 2020, the funding disbursed by program activity was as follows:

Table 1:

#	Program Name	Funding Disbursed*
1	Early Recovery including re-entry supports	$1,741,115
2	Debris removal and repair and reconstruction	$500,000
3	Support to Small Business	$1,607,714[1]

* Includes direct costs to deliver the program in addition to funds distributed to beneficiaries

Note 1: Health and wellbeing supports are a part of Program 1 and 2 programming.

For a further breakdown of these sums please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

Total Funding Remaining

As of September 30th, 2020, the total funding remaining for this grant was as follows:

- Province of British Columbia: $5,330,681 of $10,000,000

For a further breakdown of these sums, including outstanding allocations and commitments, please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

Projected Cash Flow

For information regarding projected cash flow please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

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[1] Figure has decreased due to reallocation of compensation and expenses

Number of Households, Businesses and Community Organizations that Received Funding and Geographic Breakdown of Recipients

From December 17, 2018 to September 30th, 2020 the Canadian Red Cross had provided financial assistance to:

- Program One: Early recovery including re-entry supports
    - 1879 payments to 1515 households in 36 communities (Cities and First Nations)
- Program Two: Debris removal and repair and reconstruction
    - 83 payments to 42 households in 11 communities

For a more detailed breakdown of the number and geographic breakdown of funding households please see Annex 2: Results.

Number of hours provided to support case management and support to small business

Canadian Red Cross Case Workers and Case Work Supervisors have provided over 12,701 hours of support to case management and support to small business from December 17, 2018 to September 30th, 2020.

The support to small business program concluded in October 2019. Any increase in hours of support are regarding support to case management.

Final Status of Funds

For information regarding the final status of funds please see Annex 1: Financial Reporting.

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Business Information

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Annex 3: Support to Small Business

Number and type of small businesses who received assistance

This program concluded in October 2019.

Table 3:

Type of business/organization	#	Total $ paid to date
Corporation	24	$564,640
Franchise	0	$0
Partnership	10	$179,730
Sole Proprietor	32	$580,446
Not for Profit Organizations	10	$80,364
Total	**76**	**$1,405,180**

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Cliff: 578143
Date Prepared: October 28, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

Relationship with Canadian Red Cross and Funding Considerations

BACKGROUND:

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) is considered to be a national and global leader in the provision of humanitarian aid and is a major supporting entity in the field of emergency management across Canada and internationally. Pat Quealey was appointed CRC Vice President for BC and the Yukon in June 2019.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has a strong working relationship with the CRC and collaborates with the organization on provincial-level committees in the development of integrated emergency management plans and emergency response and recovery efforts.

In the spirit of collaboration, the Government of British Columbia and the Canadian Red Cross signed two non-binding agreements in September 2012:

1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the CRC and the ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General (EMBC), Health and Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The intent of the MOU is to acknowledge the CRC as an Auxiliary to Government (ATG) organization and develop a framework for collaboration in the delivery of humanitarian aid programs and services in times of a catastrophic disaster.
2) Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed between the CRC and the ministries of Justice and Health to facilitate the timely and effective deployment of out-of-province Emergency Response Units and Field Assessment Coordination Teams as a temporary resource into B.C. in times of major disaster and could be activated immediately following a catastrophic earthquake.

During the catastrophic wildfires and flooding in 2017 and 2018, EMBC collaborated with the CRC on the following initiatives:

- Supports for Small Businesses
- Fridge and freezer replacement programs, and provision of winter firewood
- The Household Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) which was jointly developed by EMBC and CRC and launched in July 2018 in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

- CRC provided volunteer support for:
    - Reception Centres in municipalities of Chilliwack, Surrey, Vernon, Lumby, Princeton and Prince George in 2017,
    - Group Lodging for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and
    - Resilience Centres in municipalities of Grand Forks and Fort St John in 2018.

The CRC received one-time grants of $100M in 2017 and $10M in 2018 to support response and recovery from 2017 and 2018 wildfire activity. Reporting from the CRC on these funds indicates as of October 2020:

- the entire $100M provided in 2017 is committed to ongoing projects as detailed in attachment 1:
    - This includes the $5M provided to the Fire Chiefs Association of BC to support communities in addressing their fire related equipment and training needs.
        - The first phase of this program is complete with $2.1M committed to fire departments in communities directly impacted by the 2017 wildfires.
        -

Advice/Recommentations

Business Information

Business Information

EMBC will work with the CRC and the Ministry of Finance to allow for 2018 residual funds to be directed towards shared priorities. EMBC notes any future funding advanced to the CRC should be informed by a needs assessment.

CRC is a member of the Integrated Disaster Council of BC, a provincial level committee comprised of volunteer agencies and non-profit organizations involved with emergency response.

CRC is currently contracted as a third-party service provider to the following local governments to administer the Provincial Emergency Support Service (ESS) program:

- Regional Districts: Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, Alberni-Clayoquot, North Okanagan, Capital and Qathet
- Municipalities: Lillooet, Pemberton, Squamish, Tofino, Victoria, and Whistler.

CRC also provided input on EMBC's strategic supply chain project and the development of the interim disaster recovery framework.

EMBC continues to engage with the CRC to determine how the province can best leverage its capacity and expertise to support provincial emergency response and recovery needs particularly in the event of catastrophic emergencies to supplement

services provided by other Non-Governmental Organizations and community-based groups.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The CRC has provided and is equipped to support to all BC citizens including First Nations Communities in a culturally safe manner.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Finance

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
EL	AC	10-28-20

Attachment(s):

Attachment 1 – BC Fires 2017 Quarterly Report from the CRC
Attachment 2 – BC Fires 2018 Quarterly Report from the CRC

Cliff: 578304
Date Prepared: October 28, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

Claims Handling Process - Expenditure Authorization Forms and Reimbursement

BACKGROUND:
Disasters can be expensive, the cost of responding to events can quickly reach hundred of thousands of dollars. Safeguarding the public, protecting property, and implementing other response objectives can require substantial short-term expenditures that may present a financial challenge for local governments and First Nation governments.

Provincial legislation and policies are designed to help offset local authority expenditures incurred during an emergency or disaster. However, not all emergency response costs qualify for financial reimbursement. Local Authorities and First Nations pay their emergency response costs first and then submit claims to EMBC for reimbursement of eligible expenses.

Expenditure Authorizations and Reimbursement

Typically, local authorities through their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) submit an Expenditure Authorization Form (EAF) to the local Provincial Regional Operations Centre (PREOC) to confirm the Province will fund specific response expenses. Once an EAF has been authorized by the PREOC, the local authority is assured the province will provide assistance to the dollar limit identified provided the proper supporting documentation is submitted with the resultant claim.

Local authorities do not need an EAF approval before taking response actions when immediate action is appropriate to reduce the immediate threat. However, local authorities are advised to obtain authorization whenever practical to check assumptions about which response costs the province considers eligible for financial assistance, especially when dealing with large cost items.

Following the event, the local authority submits a claim through the PREOC for reimbursement of eligible costs by EMBC. Eligibility for financial assistance does not depend on a declaration of a state of emergency by the province or local authority.

Response and Recovery Costs

Response costs are those incurred by a local authority to protect lives, property, animals, and the environment from an active threat of injury or damage. The costs may include those taken to address the “imminent threat” of an emergency event before it has human consequence impacts, or to address the actual impacts of an emergency in progress. This includes efforts related to evacuation, such as ESS Reception Centre operations, and all functions coordinated through the Emergency Operations Centre. Some emergency and temporary repairs of critical infrastructure fall into this category when such actions reduce further damage and loss from the same event. Direct response costs and incremental overtime for staff engaged in the response are also eligible for reimbursement.

Recovery costs relate to repairing or replacing, to pre-disaster condition, local authority facilities or public works that have been damaged by an emergency or disaster. In certain emergencies, local government and First Nations can be eligible for reimbursement of a portion (80%) of their recovery costs through the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program. DFA eligible events must be declared by the appropriate authority within EMBC and generally apply only to essential uninsurable losses.

Reimbursement Process

Claims from local authorities must include supporting documentation which confirms the rationale for the expenditure, the costs of the items, date the materials/services were used, and proof the local authority paid the supplier or contractor.

Claims are assessed by EMBC against approved EAFs and local authorities are reimbursed accordingly. It is not unusual for there to be interim payments made in the event initial claim submissions are incomplete.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Emergencies impact all communities. The bilateral Emergency Management Services agreement between British Columbia and the Government of Canada provides First Nations communities on reserves with emergency management support equal to what is provided to non-Indigenous communities.
- This includes both reimbursement of response related costs and recovery costs through the DFA program where applicable.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:
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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	10/30/2020
Exec Lead	AC	10/27/2020
ED	BR	10/27/2020

Attachment(s)
N/A

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: The role of critical infrastructure in emergency management within BC.

BACKGROUND:

- Federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada define critical infrastructure as the processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets and services essential to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of people and the effective functioning of government.
- There are ten recognized critical infrastructure sectors: Energy & Utilities; Communications; Transportation; Water; Health; Safety; Government; Food; Finance; and Manufacturing.
- The Province coordinates with the critical infrastructure community before, during and after emergency events, particularly the Energy & Utilities, Transportation, and Information & Communication Technology Sectors.
- Critical infrastructure owners are often highly involved in emergency events, such as the 2017 and 2018 flooding and wildfire events. At such times, government agencies such as Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and owners work closely together to ensure that impacts to critical infrastructure such as cellular towers, power lines, pipelines, etc. are understood, and mitigated where possible. Such cooperation is important since critical infrastructure and its services are essential to emergency response, community function, and effective community recovery after emergency events.
- Occasionally, critical infrastructure may also be the cause of an emergency event, such as the 2018 Enbridge pipeline explosion. In such cases, close cooperation between agencies such as EMBC and owners is also essential.
- In BC, many critical infrastructure operators already demonstrate exceptional emergency management practices, often going beyond existing regulatory requirements, as observed during the 2017 and 2018 flood and wildfire events.
- However, BC's *Emergency Program Act* does not reference critical infrastructure specifically. Critical infrastructure is regulated at both the provincial and federal levels within various pieces of legislation that are typically specific to a single sector or sub-sector. Therefore, requirements for emergency management activities are not consistent across sectors and may not be integrated with other emergency management plans (such as provincial or local authority plans).

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Citizens' Services
- Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Deputy Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: Disaster Mitigation Funding Programs

BACKGROUND:

- Spending on mitigation measures delivers a significant return on investment. Public Safety Canada estimates for every $1 invested in mitigation, $7 to $10 can be saved in post-disaster recovery costs.
- Mitigation funding programs play a significant role in helping communities complete projects they would not otherwise have the financial resources to undertake on their own.
- The Province through EMBC provides contributions towards the disaster risk reduction activities of local authorities and First Nations through several mechanisms including:
    - Provincial initiatives including:
        - EMBC's disaster mitigation program; and
        - the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) delivered by UBCM
    - Contributions towards projects funded through federal cost sharing programs including:
        - the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP);
        - the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF); and
        - the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program – announcement pending.
- These programs are focused on helping communities understand disaster risk and funding for structural and non-structural mitigation projects.
- EMBC collaborates closely with other provincial and federal agencies delivering complementary disaster risk reduction funding programs, including:
    - Municipal Affairs and Housing - Rural and Northern Communities (RNC),
    - Indigenous Services Canada - First Nation Adapt and Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP), and
    - Infrastructure Canada - Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF).
- Since 2016, the Province has contributed approximately $163 million toward 899 disaster risk reduction projects, with a total project value of over $200 million (including provincial, federal, local authority, and First Nation contributions).

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

EMBC Disaster Mitigation Funding

- Since the 2015/16 fiscal year, EMBC has funded 53 disaster mitigation projects in BC, with a total value of $106.1 million (provincially shared $93 million).
- Funded projects include flood mapping, structural flood mitigation (dikes, pump stations, etc.), seismic projects (micro zonation mapping, earthquake early warning), and avalanche risk assessments.
- These investments have been financed through both EMBC's mitigation budget ($6.94M per year) and one-time grants funded through the *Emergency Program Act* statutory spending authority. Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommentations; Cabinet Confidences

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

- The CEPF is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.
- Since its inception in 2017, the Province has provided year-end funding contributions of $69.5 million to sustain the program.
- The CEPF is intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and First Nations communities. The funding streams, as of October 2020 include:
    - Emergency Support Services,
    - Evacuation Route Planning,
    - Emergency Operations Centres and Training,
    - Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning,
    - Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training,
    - Structural Flood Mitigation (up to $750,000 maximum contribution per project); and
    - Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment.
- To date approximately $53.3 million has been dispersed toward 764 projects managed by local authorities and First Nations across the province (see Attachment 1).

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)

- Public Safety Canada (PSC) launched the five year, $200-million flood-focused NDMP in April 2015. The program ended on March 31, 2020.
- It is a merit-based program where successful proponents could receive up to 50 per cent funding from the federal government and up to 50 per cent funding from the provincial government. The total requested funding per project could not exceed $3 million.
- Eligible proposals could request funding towards non-structural mitigation, such as flood risk assessments and flood mapping, or for small-scale structural mitigation, such as upgrading existing diking structures to improve flood resilience.
- The NDMP has resulted in federal contributions of approximately $22 million, and

the provincial government contributions of approximately $16 million toward 82 flood mitigation projects in BC.

- Intergovernmental Communications
  Should the extension be approved, BC will may need to provide some matching funding in order to leverage available funding.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

- DMAF is a federal program delivered by Infrastructure Canada that aims to strengthen the resilience of Canadian communities through investment in large-scale projects.
- As such projects must have a minimum of $20 million in eligible expenditures.
- The Province is not required to contribute towards DMAF projects. The program has contributed towards projects in Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna, Richmond, and, Skwashway (Chilliwack).
- The Province is providing a contribution of $31.6 million toward the $50 million Grand Forks flood mitigation project being co-funded with Canada.

Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program

- EMBC is working with the federal government to develop new mitigation cost sharing programs, such as the ARDM stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- A COVID-19 accelerated ARDM stream worth $56.25 million is anticipated to roll out in fall 2020, pending a new BC/Canada agreement. This will be 80% federal, 20% provincial funding split with BC contributing $11.25 million.

Linkages to Climate Change Adaptation

- Climate change adaptation is strongly linked to disaster risk reduction and the two share similar goals in understanding risk, mitigating existing and future risks, and preventing the creation of new risks.
- In 2018, the Province adopted the United Nations *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, which recognizes how climate change increases the risk of disasters. The priorities of the *Sendai Framework* that aim to reduce disaster risk, including those attributed to climate change, Cabinet Confidences
  Cabinet Confidences
- EMBC mitigation funding programs include requirements for proposals to adequately consider and address climate change to be considered for funding.
- The Climate Action Secretariat, within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, leads the Province's *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy,* which articulates government's approach to laying the foundation for climate resilience in BC.
- Preparing for increased flooding and reducing flood risk is an important part of the *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy* and builds on actions already underway to help BC prepare for climate change.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- All EMBC disaster risk reduction funding programs are open to First Nations (including treaty First Nations), in addition to local governments. EMBC has funded 107 indigenous communities since 2016 through the above-mentioned programs.
- The federal government delivers additional disaster mitigation programs for First Nations through Indigenous Services Canada including:
    - the First Nation Infrastructure Fund which provides up to $10 million per recipient towards Structural Mitigation projects; and
    - the Emergency Management Assistance Program which supports mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery projects to a maximum of $10 million per recipient.

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 3, 20
ADM	DP	29 Oct 20
ED	RB	29 Oct 20
Pgm Dir/Mgr	AG	29 Oct 20

Attachment(s)
Attachment 1: CEPF Funding Summary

Attachment 1 – CEPF Funding Summary

Funding Stream	No. of Approved Projects	Total Value
1. Flood Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Mitigation Planning To ensure communities have accurate knowledge of the flood hazards they face and to develop effective strategies to mitigate and prepare for those risks. Maximum grant value $150k. Next intake January 2021 with $2.5M allocated.	86	$9.1M
2. Emergency Support Services To build local capacity to provide emergency support services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of ESS equipment. Maximum grant value $25k. Next intake January 2021 with $2M allocated.	213	$5.3M
3. Emergency Operations Centres & Training To build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises. Maximum grant value $25k. Next intake March 2021 with $2.1M allocated.	239	$5.7M
4. Structural Flood Mitigation To prevent, eliminate or reduce the impact of flood and geological hazards through construction of structural mitigation projects (e.g. floodways, dikes, pump stations). Maximum grant value $750k. Next intake November 2020 with $7.9M allocated.	37	$23.7M
5. Evacuation Route Planning To develop Evacuation Route Plans for communities that would otherwise be challenged to successfully undertake an evacuation operation during an emergency. Maximum grant value $750k. Next intake November 2020 with $700K allocated.	60	$1.5M

6. Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Equipment & Training To build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment, and to facilitate the delivery of training and exercises. No further intakes planned.	108	$4.7M
7. Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility Training To support eligible applicants to provide emergency management personnel with cultural safety and humility training to more effectively partner with, and provide assistance to, Indigenous communities during times of emergency. No further intakes planned.	21	$548K
Total	**764**	**$53.3 million**

Cliff: 578054
Date: October 29, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Deputy Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: Management of the Fraser River Debris Trap

BACKGROUND:

- The Fraser River Debris Trap (FRDT) is located on the Fraser River about 17 kilometres southwest of Hope. The debris trap captures up to 100,000 cubic metres (approx. 2,000 logging truck loads) of debris annually. Constructed in 1979, it prevents woody debris from floating downstream and significantly reduces the risk to people, the environment, navigation, and foreshore structures.
- With an annual operating cost of roughly $1.2 million, the FRDT prevents approximately $10 million in damages each year related to the clean-up, repair, and maintenance of vessels, bridges, foreshore infrastructure, and riparian habitat.
- EMBC contracts a third-party service provider (Drake FRDT Operations) to operate the FRDT, including the removal of woody debris from the basin, processing/disposal of the debris, and regrading of the basin. Significant environmental monitoring activities and measures to reduce impact to fish habitat are also included in the work.
- The current operating contract ends July 2021, and EMBC is working on two options for future operations:

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications; Cabinet Confidences

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In 2011, when EMBC took over FRDT operations from the Fraser Basin Council, EMBC provided annual lease payments to SFN for use of its land to facilitate woody debris removal.
- In 2015, SFN issued notice to EMBC that access and use of its land had been terminated due to concerns over the potential impacts to their land. As a result, site access and all operations were relocated from reserve lands to Crown land, and lease payments were ceased.
- In September 2016, SFN launched an aboriginal rights and title claim against the provincial and federal governments over an area that includes the FRDT.

Intergovernmental Communications

-

Intergovernmental Communications

- SFN is part of the Tiyt Tribe First Nations, located in the upper Fraser Valley between Bridal Falls and Yale. The Tiyt Tribe consist of the following eight communities: Chawathil, Seabird Island, Shxw'ōwhámel, Skawahlook, Peters, Popkum, Yale and Union Bar First Nations.
- On December 19, 2018, EMBC, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), and Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) met with SFN to discuss the above initiatives and comments from Tiyt Tribe on a draft Reconciliation Framework Agreement. Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

- MIRR held several meetings with SFN and Tiyt Tribe on the Reconciliation Agreement discussion through 2019 and early 2020. Due to COVID-19 and other priorities of Tiyt communities, discussion has been paused.
- In February 2020, Deputy Ministers from EMBC and MIRR met with SFN and pivoted the discussion to focus on a co-management agreement Intergovernmental Communications Intergovernmental Communications Eight meetings took place between April and July, resulting in a partial draft of a three-column document reflecting SFN interests / EMBC interests / level of consensus Intergovernmental Communications
-

Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

- At the July 23 meeting with SFN, EMBC, MIRR, and MAG, SFN withdrew from further co-management and direct award discussions, Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

- On November 2, Deputy Ministers from EMBC and MIRR restarted conversations with SFN to discuss the status of the co-management discussion. SFN restated their interests in resolving long-standing concerns as noted above. Intergovernmental Communications;

Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations

- The Province remains committed to working with SFN on shared decision-making and economic opportunities in the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible operations of the debris trap.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Provides permits required for operations under *Water Sustainability Act*, *Land Act Reserve*, and License to Cut
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Assists with negotiations with SFN
- Ministry of Environment – Provides support regarding contaminated sites
- Ministry of Attorney General – Provides legal support regarding negotiations with SFN.

PREPARED BY:
Andrew Giles
Director - Disaster Mitigation, EMBC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	**Date**
DM	LH	Nov 3/20
ADM	DP	28 Oct/20
ED	RB	26 Oct/20
Pgm Dir/Mgr	AG	26 Oct 20

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Deputy Minister Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) and Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Program (DFAA)**

BACKGROUND:

- DFA is a provincial program available which may provide financial support to help individuals, local and First Nation governments recover from the impact of an emergency event.
- The federal DFAA program is a federal program which can provide financial support when disaster costs place a significant burden on the provincial economy or would exceed what the province could reasonably be expected to bear on its own.

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)

- When a disaster has a significant impact on a community, the Province may declare the disaster eligible for DFA. Those impacted by the disaster may apply to the Province for DFA where the losses could not be insured or where other programs are not available.
- Since 2007, the program has provided more than $37 million to residents and organizations, and more than $36 million to local governments.
- DFA may provide assistance to replace or restore essential items and property that have been destroyed or damaged to a pre-disaster condition.
- DFA can compensate 80 per cent of eligible claims, after the first $1,000 and to a maximum claim of $300,000. There is no maximum for a local government claim.
- DFA is only for uninsurable losses and for losses where there is no other program offered by local, provincial, federal or international governments or agencies.
- DFA is available for essential items only. It provides or reinstates the necessities of life, including help to repair and restore damaged homes (land damage is not eligible) and to re-establish or maintain the viability of small businesses and working farms. For local governments it is available to help restore essential infrastructure.
- The authority to apply or not to apply DFA to any given emergency event is delegated to the EMBC Assistant Deputy Minister. In general, those events that qualify for DFA are major events with significant losses that were unforeseen and generally not predictable.
- In making a decision to recommend DFA authorization or not, the EMBC Regional Office assesses the information provided by various sources (Local Authorities, Environment Canada, River Forecast Centre, Provincial Ministries,

Federal Agencies, etc), the cause of the damage, the severity of the event (what is abnormal about the event), the safety of people, the extent of the damage and the number of people and/or communities affected.

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)

- For large-scale disasters where response and recovery costs exceed what the Province could be reasonably expected to bear on its own, the Government of Canada may provide financial assistance through DFAA.
- The majority of the Province's disaster-related emergency response costs and recovery related expenditures, which includes funding provided through DFA can be included in the Province's DFAA claim.
- The DFAA funding formula provides for a progressively higher share of federal funding when the province's disaster response and recovery costs exceed $3 per capita, which is approximately 4.7 million.
- Since 2007, BC has spent $1.5 billion on disaster response with expected recoveries of $1 billion through the DFAA program.
    - DFA expenditures related to the 2018 flooding were $12.9 million, and the total provincial costs were $122.1 million.The province expects to submit a DFAA claim of $135 million for this event.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In accordance with the 10 year bi-lateral agreement, EMBC will continue to coordinate and assist in recovery activities after an emergency in order to repair and restore conditions to the level that existed prior to the emergency in the same manner as if the provincial Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation applied on-reserve.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Finance

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Oct 30/20
ADM		
ED	RB	
Pgm Dir/Mgr	CD	

Attachment(s)
None

Cliff: 578002
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Provincial Business Continuity Management Program - Internal Audit and Advisory Services Review**

BACKGROUND:

- At the request of EMBC, the Ministry of Finance, Internal Audit and Advisory Services (IAAS) agreed to conduct a cross-government review of the Provincial Business Continuity Management Program (BCMP) to identify potential program efficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- The review has two phases. Phase I was conducted between October 2019-March 2020 and focused on the oversight, coordination, and integration processes necessary to support a robust BCMP. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

- IAAS selected five core government organizations for the review: EMBC, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI), Ministry of Health (HLTH), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH), and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).

Advice/Recommentations

- EMBC and IAAS collaborated on the content of the public facing "Report on Business Continuity Management", Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- None

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

Advice/Recommentations

PREPARED BY:

Rian Jones
Senior Provincial Advisor, BCMP
Disaster Risk Reduction

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	28/10/20
ADM	DP	27/10/20
A/ED	KC	26/10/20
Pgm Dir/Mgr	RJ	26/10/20

Attachment(s)
None

Cliff: 578053
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS)**

BACKGROUND:

- The risk of a major flood event in the Lower Mainland is high and growing due to climate change, Advice/Recommentations
  Advice/Recommentations
- LMFMS aims to increase flood resilience across the Lower Mainland (Squamish to Hope) by reducing risk from both the lower Fraser River and coastal storm surge floods.
- The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is leading the multi-party work on the LMFMS, by engaging with federal, provincial, First Nations, local governments, other non-governmental agencies and the private sector.
- The Province has provided over $4.4 million to FBC for LMFMS-related projects over the past four years. Additionally, $1.4 million has been provided to projects directly delivered by the Province to inform and complement the LMFMS.
- The LMFMS is an opportunity for decision-makers to work collaboratively on flood management, including the ability to:
  - share information
  - fill knowledge gaps
  - enhance communications
  - identify regional priorities and inter-dependencies
  - identify and advance projects of regional benefit
  - explore cost-sharing solutions
  - build consensus

- LMFMS Phase 1 (2014-2016) provided an analysis of flood scenarios, a regional assessment of flood vulnerabilities and a review of flood protection works and practices; Phase 2 (2017-2021) develops a long-term strategy (draft expected early 2021); and Phase 3 (2021+) focuses on LMFMS implementation.
- A leadership committee was established in 2018 to seek guidance and advice from decision-makers regarding the LMFMS, with emphasis on governance and funding. The leadership committee is comprised of 4 First Nations and 4 local government elected leaders, 2 provincial and 2 federal government senior staff (DM/ADM/Regional Director) and 1 representative of the infrastructure sector. Currently the Deputy Minister of EMBC and Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations are the two provincial representatives.

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications; Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Flood risk disproportionately affects First Nations and vulnerable populations. Reserve lands are often situated in flood plains or low-lying coastal areas.
- Although Indigenous peoples have been living in harmony with the forces of nature since time immemorial, often the capacity and resources to plan for, respond to and rebuild after flooding within the current systems are constrained.
- The Leadership Committee includes representation from 4 First Nations.
- The Joint Program Committee and Working Group includes representation from First Nations through the First Nations Emergency Planning Secretariat.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	10/29/20
ADM	DP	10/27/20
ED	RB	10/27/20
Pgm Dir/Mgr	AG	10/26/20

Cliff: 578028
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Grand Forks Flood Mitigation and Adaptation**

BACKGROUND:

The City of Grand Forks, and surrounding area, was hit by a significant freshet flood event in spring 2018; impacting over 400 homes and numerous businesses. The Province has been assisting the City and the Regional District Kooteny Boundary in their response and recovery since. The most-significant continued activity is a substantial mitigation and adaptation project being delivered by the City that includes the construction of protective works, dykes and berms as well as the relocation of 98 houses to return the area to natural food plain.

Project Contribution Funds

- The Contribution Agreement for the Mitigation and Adaptation Project was signed on December 17, 2019. The City of Grand Forks is leading the project, which consists of work proposed under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Program, as well as additional mitigative work in the Grand Forks downtown core area.
- The flood mitigation project funded through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund program, totals almost $50 million funded with contributions of:
    - $28.9 million from British Columbia;
    - $19.9 million from Canada, and
    - $1 million from Grand Forks.
- The Province provided additional funding of $2.6 million toward the $3.1 million downtown flood mitigation project. The City of Grand Forks funded the remainder of costs through direct contributions and in-kind supports.

Advice/Recommentations

- The Province has provided contributions of $23.194 million towards the projects to date to enable the City to expedite delivery recognizing the importance of these works in reducing future flood risk. Second and Third Quarter financial reporting is expected shortly.

Land Acquisition Program

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

Freshet 2020

- A property on North Fork Road has been under Evacuation Order since 2018 because an avulsion (land separation) resulted in the property becoming an unstable island in the Granby River.
- While no significant damage occurred as a result of Freshet 2020, the events that unfolded did allow the City to test their flood response plan in a real time environment.

Next Steps

- The Province has been very supportive of the City of Grand Forks, as they recover from catastrophic flooding that occurred on May 10, 2018.
    - In addition to providing initial recovery supports in the year following the event, the Province has been the major funder of significant mitigation and adaptation projects.
    - The projects involve mitigative works as well as allowing some areas to return to natural floodplain.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

- We continue to learn from this event and are actively applying the collective experience to inform the Province's approach to disaster recovery, mitigation and

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Province is supporting the City of Grand Forks in meeting with First Nation consultation and accommodation requirements of the project. First Nations are being invited to participate directly in the regulatory review process as detailed design is completed. First Nations as represented by the Okanagan Nations Alliance and the Osoyoos Indian Band, have expressed a long-term interest in the project.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconcilation

PREPARED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 3
ADM	DP	Oct 28
ED	RB	Oct 26

Cliff: 578004
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Exercise Coastal Response 2022**

BACKGROUND:

- Since the March 2014 Auditor General's report that determined the Province was not prepared for a catastrophic earthquake, efforts have been underway to strengthen the Province's operational readiness and resilience including the development of an "all-of-government" emergency management exercise program to effectively test/validate plans based on known hazards, risks and vulnerabilities.
- In 2016, the Province established a multi-year exercise program to improve preparedness for complex emergency events that require a multi-jurisdictional response.
- Three successful provincial exercises have been conducted since the incorporation of the exercise mandate for EMBC: Exercise Coastal Response 2016 tested elements of the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan to a catastrophic earthquake; Exercise Salish Sea 2017 exercised provincial-federal joint operational readiness to respond to a major maritime disaster; and, Exercise Oceanic Down 2018 focused on provincial inter-ministry cooperation and support to a major maritime disaster.
- Exercise Coastal Response 2016 was the first full-scale exercise led by EMBC that brought together a broad cross section of Provincial ministries, First Nations, Crown corporations, and non-government organizations to test key elements of the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan over four days of live play.
- In 2018, planning for Exercise Coastal Response 2022 began that will practice an integrated response to a catastrophic earthquake in BC and include participants from the lower mainland municipalities, First Nations, provincial ministries, non-government organizations, federal partners, private sector and industry.
- The progressive exercise program for Exercise Coastal Response 2022 initially included a tabletop exercise in 2020, an emergency operations centre exercise in 2021 and a full-scale exercise in 2022. Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The original objectives established at the initial planning meeting for Exercise Coast Response 2022 included:
    - Practice and validate provincial logistics concept of support with a focus on medical supply and fuel chain management,
    - Opportunity to develop/practice mass care response,
    - Identify, develop and test government/business continuity and succession planning at all levels,
    - Conduct damage assessment, including a review of critical infrastructure and,
    - Conduct joint communications and engagement with a focus on consistency of public information.
- Exercise Coastal Response 2022 aligns with exercise plans of partner agencies, including the City of Vancouver, the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP), and the Integrated Partnerships for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM).
- The exercise is intended to continue to build on the lessons learned from the previous Exercise Coastal Response 2016 and subsequent provincial exercises and response operations including the most recent COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a review of exercise objectives is underway and will be confirmed at the main planning meeting in Spring 2021 with exercise partners.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Province of British Columbia is committed to renewed relationships with First Nations based on respect and recognition of Aboriginal title and rights. Respecting these government-to-government relationships is critical before, during, and after emergency events as First Nations communities are often vulnerable to disasters because of their rural, remote and isolated locations. An integral part of the multi-year exercise program is focused on strengthening relationships and building emergency management capacity with First Nations.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Children & Family Development
- Ministry of Citizens' Services
- Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

- Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General – EMBC
- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Government Communication & Public Engagement
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
- Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training
- Public Service Agency

PREPARED BY:

Jeff Allen
Manager Training and Exercises
Disaster Risk Reduction
236 478-2415

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	29/10/20
ADM	DP	27/10/20
A/ED	KC	26/10/20

Attachment(s)
None

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management

BETWEEN:

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (herein referred to as "Metro Vancouver")

AND:

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (herein referred to as the "PSSG") as represented by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (herein referred to as the "Minister"

TOGETHER referred to as the "Partners."

WHEREAS

- emergencies can occur that cross municipal boundaries or have impacts or demand for response beyond a municipal capability to respond;
- events can occur that are cross-jurisdictional in nature or require a coordinated multi-jurisdictional response; and,
- it is far more effective to build the relationships, plan the responses and determine roles and responsibilities before the events take place.

AND WHEREAS, the Partners seek to achieve a vision of Metro Vancouver region as a Disaster Resilient Region;

THEREFORE the Partners hereto agree to form an Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management as follows:

Article I. INTERPRETATION

In this Memorandum of Understanding each of the following terms shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning set out beside it.

- MOU means this Memorandum of Understanding
- Metro Vancouver Board Chair and Vice Chair respectively mean the persons elected to those positions by the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors.
- IPREM means the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management established by this MOU
- RAAC means the Regional Administrative Advisory Committee
- REPC means the Regional Emergency Planning Committee
- IEPC means the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparendness Council
- JELC means the Joint Emergency Liaison Committee

Article II. APPLICATION OF GOVERNING AGREEMENTS AND LEGISLATION

- Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting in any way the jurisdiction, authority and fulfillment of responsibilities of:

    a. The Minister and PSSG in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations;

    b. Metro Vancouver in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act*, *Local Government Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations; or,

    c. Local authorities within the Metro Vancouver region in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act*, Community Charter, *Local Government Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations.

- Regulatory changes under the *Local Government Act* or any other Acts may be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor in Council in order enable the full scope of activities contemplated to take place under the Partnership.

- Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting in any way the authorities and obligations of any partner to this Memorandum who is a party to a master agreement or collective agreement entered into with a bargaining unit.

Article III. PURPOSE AND DELIVERABLES

3.1 PURPOSE

The Partners wish to enter this MOU to develop coordinated plans by:

- Improving regional emergency management in the Metro Vancouver region through continued and increased provincial and regional cooperation, and the creation of the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (the "Partnership") while recognizing the benefits of participation in planning by representatives from beyond the Metro Vancouver region.

- Providing sub-regional and regional emergency planning for major events which are, or have the potential to be, cross-jurisdictional in nature.

- Ensuring the effectiveness of the partnership by outlining:
  - roles and responsibilities;
  - structure and management; and,
  - financial commitments.

3.2 DELIVERABLES

In order to achieve the Vision – Metro Vancouver: A Disaster Resilient Region, the key objective is to develop a co-ordinated emergency management strategy. This will be accomplished through:

- Identification of multi-jurisdictional emergency management priorities and programs and recommended responsibilities for follow-up.

- Identification, coordination and development of approved:

  - Research on and guidelines for local/corporate emergency plans, education, training and exercises;

  - Sub-regional/regional/provincial concepts of operations, strategies and emergency plans; and,

  - Multi-jurisdictional training and exercises.

- Monitoring and reporting on the operation of approved sub-regional and regional emergency functions.
- Improved agency relationships and integration.
- Ongoing reporting to the Partners.

Article IV. SUBJECT MATTER

4.1 THE PARTNERSHIP IS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS MOU

- Metro Vancouver and the Province will contribute equal financial resources to create the Partnership. The initial amounts will be set out in *Appendix I*.
- From time to time, there may be requests to the Partners for approval of equally shared additional funding for specific projects.
- Either Partner may apply for grants from external entities to provide funding for additional projects and capacity.
- The Partners commit to ongoing:
    - Participation in the Steering Committee;
    - In-kind contribution for staff participation in Tasked Working Groups; and,
    - Encouragement of local governments and provincial ministries to participate in Tasked Working Groups.
- The Partners acknowledge additional contributions to the partnership, including, but not limited to:
    - The Project Manager and Support Unit will be hosted by one of the Partners and located in a facility either provided by them or in a mutually agreed alternative;
    - The host partner will be responsible for providing the necessary supports such as Information Technology, basic office supplies, contract management; and,
    - Metro Vancouver will hold the budget funds for the Partnership and disburse on invoice from the Province who shall be responsible for the accounting.

- For secondments to the Support Unit, the Partnership has the option of reimbursing the sponsoring agency depending on individual circumstances.

- The JELC initiative will continue under the IPREM through in-kind contributions.

4.2 Partnership Structure

- The Partnership will have a decision making structure as deemed appropriate by the Partners. This structure will provide for policy direction, project management and effective participation by stakeholders.

- The Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair and the Minister shall constitute the Policy Group and will jointly determine the work priorities of the Partnership following consultation with their constituents. However, the Metro Vancouver Board and the Minister shall approve the annual workplan and budget.

- Staff Representatives from provincial, regional and local governments shall constitute the Steering Committee and will provide collective decision making on priorities, resources and policy recommendations.

- Additional roles and responsibilities of these and other participants are defined in *Appendix II*.

- An organizational chart is shown for information purposes only in *Appendix III.*

Article V. COMMUNICATION

- External communication by the Partnership with other levels of government, the media, and other entities, corporations or individuals will be consistent with protocols established by the Partners or their agencies.

- External communication by the Partnership Manager will also be consistent with messages agreed to at the Steering Committee.

Article VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Any new issue, matter of general concern, or dispute arising from this MOU shall first be directed to the Steering Committee for resolution. If it is not then resolved, it shall be referred to Policy Group.

Article VII. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- This MOU will be effective on the date of signing by both Partners.
- This MOU may be amended by mutual written agreement duly executed by the Partners to this MOU.
- Partners wishing to withdraw from this MOU must inform the other partner, in writing, at least two years in advance.
- This MOU will remain in full force and effect until terminated or amended in accordance with this MOU.

Article VIII. ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

- Additional partners may be added to this agreement with the approval of, and under the conditions set by the Metro Vancouver Board and the Minister.

Article IX. AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES

- Appendices may be amended from time to time on approval of the Policy Group, except for their responsibilities and membership which shall require the approval of the Partners.

Article X. SIGNATORIES

This MOU reflects the good faith and spirit of cooperation of the parties.

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General: Date: April 4/09

John van Dongen

Chair, Metro Vancouver Board:

Date: April 4, 2009

LOIS E. JACKSON

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix I	Partners' Financial Contribution
Appendix II	Additional roles and responsibilities of the Partners and Participants
Appendix III	Organizational Chart

Appendix I

Partners' Financial Contribution

- For the 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 fiscal years for the Province and for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 fiscal years for Metro Vancouver, the contribution of each partner will be **$150,000**.

- Unless otherwise agreed by the Steering Committee timing for contributions identified by the Province as 2008/09 will be considered as the region contribution for 2008 and vice versa. This same principle will apply to subsequent years.

- Any additional contributions for specific projects will be as agreed upon by the Partners.

Appendix II

Additional Roles and Responsibilities of the Partners and Participants

The Policy Group:

- Responsibilities:
  - Set policy and direction;
  - Recommend regulatory or legislative changes;
  - Ratify the business plan and budget: and,
  - Liaise with other elected officials as appropriate.
- Consists of the Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair representing Metro Vancouver (as determined by the Metro Board), and the Minister representing the Province.
- Is Co-Chaired.
- Meets a minimum of twice annually.
- Shall otherwise determine its own operating procedures.

The Steering Committee:

- Responsibilities:
  - Collective decision making on priorities, resources and policy recommendations;
  - Develop and administer the business plan and budget; and,
  - Liaise with other senior appointed officials as required.
- Consists of staff representatives from:
  - PSSG (1 representative);
  - IEPC (3 representatives);
  - Metro (1 representative);
  - RAAC (2 representatives); and,
  - REPC (1 representative).
- Shall annually elect co-chairs, one from the provincial appointees, and one from the local/regional appointees.

- RAAC shall ratify the REPC nominee. The ratified REPC nominee, RAAC and Metro nominees shall be submitted to the Metro Board for their approval.

- Reports through the Policy Group to the Metro Vancouver Board and the Minister for approval of the annual business plan (including milestones) and the budget.

- Selects and supervises the partnership manager.

- Meets a minimum of four times annually.

- Shall otherwise determine its own operating procedures.

Partnership Manager, Support Unit and Tasked Working Groups:

- A partnership manager and support unit will provide:
  - Team coordination and support;
  - Research and analysis ;
  - Program development, direction and monitoring; and,
  - Identification of issues through stakeholders
- In addition the partnership manager will be expected to:
  - Administer budget;
  - Appoint and manage the support unit;
  - Fill by secondments, contractors, and/or consultants the support unit positions, and
  - Set up and manage Tasked Working Groups.
- The Tasked Working Groups:
  - Will be established as required to review terms of reference, analyze issues, develop options and make recommendations; and,
  - May have membership from local, regional, provincial and federal departments and agencies, NGO's and private sector within and/or beyond the GVRD

Attachment
Partnership Model - Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management
PARTNERSHIP MODEL

Vision - Metro Vancouver: A Disaster Resilient Region

Deliverables

Develop coordinated plans and a coordinated emergency management strategy.

This will be accomplished through:

- Identification of multi-jurisdictional emergency management priorities and programs and recommended responsibilities for follow-up.
- Identification, coordination and development of approved:
  - Research on and guidelines for local/corporate emergency plans, education, training and exercises;
  - Sub-regional/regional/provincial concepts of operations, strategies and emergency plans; and,
  - Multi-jurisdictional training and exercises.
- Monitoring and reporting on the operation of approved sub-regional and regional emergency functions.
- Improved agency relationships and integration.
- Ongoing reporting to partners.

Structure	Participants	Responsibilities	Resources

Policy Group	• Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair
	• Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,
		• Set policy and direction
		• Recommend regulatory or legislative changes
		• Ratify
		  ○ Business Plan
		  ○ Budget
		• Liaise with other elected officials
			In Kind

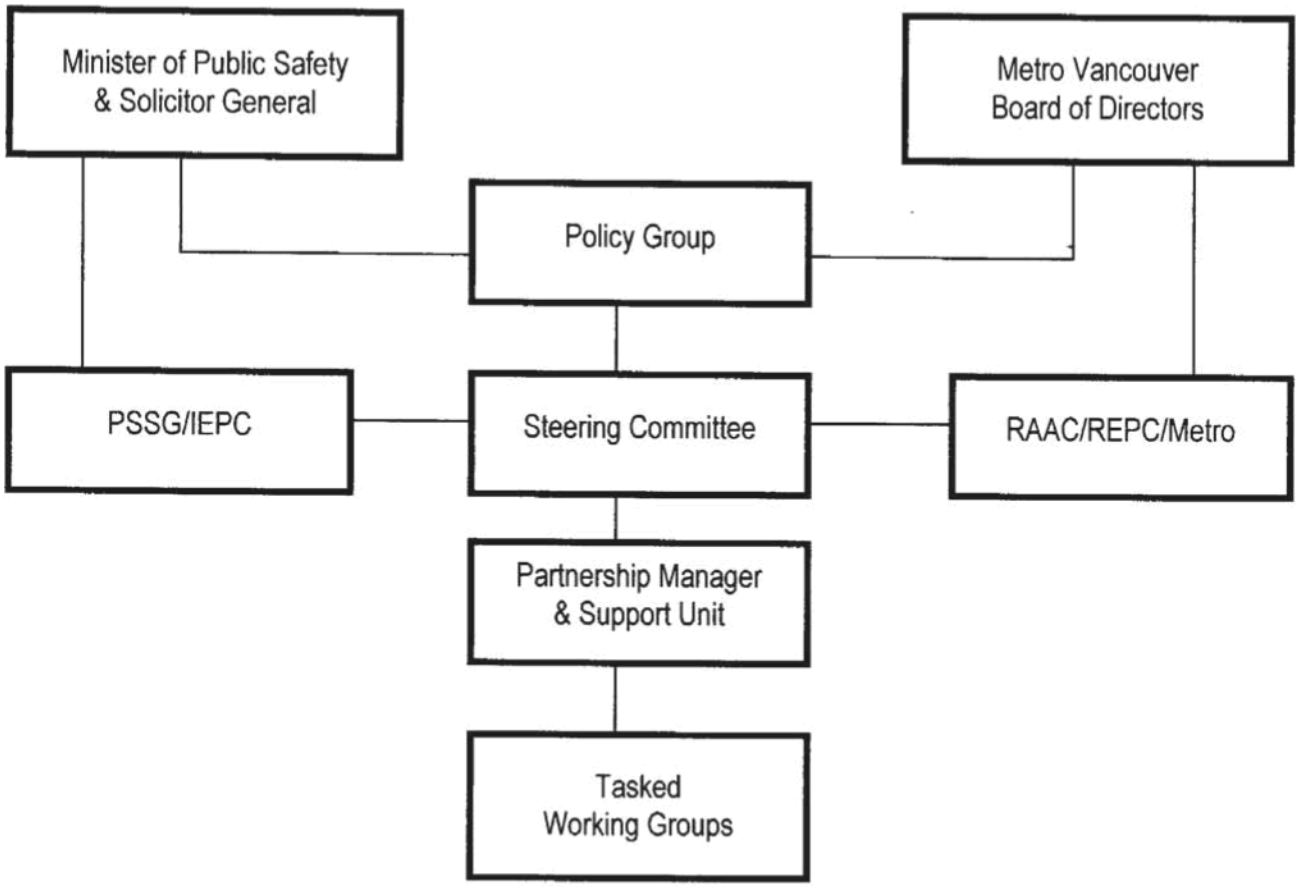
Steering Committee	• PSSG – 1
	• IEPC – 3
	• Metro – 1
	• RAAC – 2
	• REPC – 1
		• Collective decision-making on priorities, resources and policy recommendations
		• Develop and Administer
		  ○ Business Plan
		  ○ Budget
		• Liaise with other senior appointed officials
			In Kind

Partnership Manager and Support Unit	• Secondment • Contractor • Consultant	• Team coordination and support • Research and analysis • Program development, direction and monitoring • Identification of issues	• Direct Metro Vancouver/Province (equal) Other e.g., Grants from JEPP, UBCM • In Kind (e.g. staff, facility, accounting)
Tasked Working Groups from Stakeholders	• Local • Regional • Provincial • Federal • NGOs • Business and Industry	• Review Terms of Reference • Analyze issues • Develop options • Host Workshops • Make recommendations	In Kind

Appendix III

Organization Chart

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management



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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Regional Emergency Management Partnership

BETWEEN:

The Capital Regional District (herein referred to as CRD) on behalf of the Local Authorities, Electoral Areas and First Nation members of the capital region.

AND:

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of BC as represented by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (herein referred to as the Province).

TOGETHER referred to as the "Partners".

WHEREAS

1. emergencies can occur that cross municipal and electoral area boundaries or have impacts or demand for response beyond one local authority's capability to respond;

2. events can occur that are cross-jurisdictional in nature or require a coordinated multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency response; and,

3. it is far more effective to build relationships, plan the responses, coordinate emergency management activities, and determine roles and responsibilities before regional emergency events take place;

AND WHEREAS, the Partners seek to achieve a vision of the Capital Region as a disaster resilient region where all levels of government and stakeholders work collaboratively towards enhanced emergency management.

THEREFORE the Partners hereto agree to form a Regional Emergency Management Partnership (the Partnership) to address regional emergency management issues as follows:

Article I INTERPRETATION

In this Memorandum of Understanding each of the following terms shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning set out beside it:

a) CRD Board Chair: means the person elected to that position by the CRD Board of Directors.

b) IEPC: means Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council which will provide provincial executive representation to the Partnership Steering Committee as outlined in Appendix II to this MOU.

c) LGEPAC: means Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission which will provide local authority representation to the Partnership Steering Committee as outlined in Appendix II to this MOU.

d) MOU: means this Memorandum of Understanding.

e) NGOs: means Non-Government Organizations.

f) Partnership Management: means the person or persons responsible for the operational management and planning for the Partnership in accordance with direction from the Steering Committee and as outlined in Appendix II.

g) Partnership Support Staff: means the Regional Emergency Systems Coordinator and the Regional Emergency Planning Coordinator that will provide regional planning support for the Partnership.

h) Policy Group: means the Elected Officials representing the Partners and responsible for setting policy direction and liaising with other elected officials as outlined in Appendix II to this MOU.

i) Regional Emergency: is an emergency or disaster under the *Emergency Program Act* (RSBC 1996 Chapter 111, the "*Act*"), that has or has the potential to have an extraordinary level of risk to lives, property, environment, social and/or economic wellbeing across jurisdictional boundaries in the region, which could require one or more of the following:

   i) Non routine levels of coordination between the Partners and local authorities involved;
   ii) Sharing of situational awareness information between the Partners and local authorities involved;
   iii) Joint decision making between the Partners and local authorities involved;
   iv) Prioritizing resources within and between the Partners and local authorities involved;
   v) Allocating resources within and between the Partners and local authorities involved; and/or,
   vi) Response by multiple stakeholders including the Partners and one or more local authorities.

j) REMP: means Regional Emergency Management Partnership established by this MOU, and name given to the Partnership.

k) Steering Committee: means the committee responsible for the Partnership's strategic policy development, program direction, endorsement of working group output, liaising with other senior appointed officials and reporting out to member agencies as outlined in Appendix II to this MOU.

Article II APPLICATION OF GOVERNING AGREEMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting or altering in any way the jurisdiction, authority and fulfillment of responsibilities of:

a) The Minister and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations;

b) CRD in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act*, *Local Government Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations; or,

c) Local Authorities within the CRD region in respect to emergency management under the *Emergency Program Act*, Community Charter, *Local Government Act* and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations.

Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting in any way the authorities and obligations of any partner (to this Memorandum) who is a party to a master agreement or collective agreement entered into with a bargaining unit.

This MOU is not legally binding or enforceable.

Article III: PURPOSE AND DELIVERABLES

3.1 PURPOSE

The Partners wish to enter into this MOU to establish the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP), a local/regional/provincial partnership, that will enhance regional emergency management and disaster resilience across the CRD and to ensure collaboration between government, local authorities and stakeholders during a regional emergency.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

This MOU seeks to:

a) Confirm the emergency management roles and responsibilities of local authorities within the CRD, Provincial and Federal Governments and key Stakeholder

Agencies, so as to optimize opportunities for integration and coordination before, during and after a Regional Emergency.

b) Engage senior decision makers such as Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) within the CRD in emergency management, planning/preparedness; response; recovery and mitigation to ensure understanding and responsiveness in a Regional Emergency.

c) Promote increased coordination, cooperation, collaboration, capacity and integration between the Partners during all phases of emergency management planning, preparedness; response; recovery and mitigation.

d) Increase ability for Partners to provide oversight and accountability on regional issues, and for the Partners to develop common (emergency) plans, regional strategies, and operational redundancies, to enhance capabilities and capacity across the region that will support Regional Emergencies more effectively.

e) Increase effectiveness in responding to regional emergencies that cross jurisdictional boundaries or have impacts or demands for response and recovery that are beyond one local authority's capacity, or require a coordinated multi-jurisdictional plan of action.

f) Establish a regional concept of operations that can be applied to support enhanced regional situational awareness, regional priority setting, resource sharing, joint public messaging and decision making on regional issues, ensuring that local autonomy is respected and maintained.

g) Through collaboration, enhance the CRD's level of emergency preparedness, through coordinated public education campaigns and common public messaging for each of the key hazards likely to affect the region.

h) Strengthen regional information sharing and communications, and joint planning, training and exercising.

i) Foster CRD participation and engagement with EMBC in policy development and other collaborative emergency management activities.

Article IV: SUBJECT MATTER

4.1 The Partners intend to:

a) Contribute equal resources to facilitate achieving the objectives outlined in this MOU, as set out in Appendix I.

b) Consider for approval equally shared additional funding for specific regional emergency management projects.

c) Apply for grants together or separately, from external entities in order to provide funding for additional regional emergency management projects and capacity.

d) The Partners commit to (as outlined and defined in Appendix II):

   i) Participate in a Steering Committee (see Appendix II);

   ii) Provide in-kind contribution for staff participation in Tasked Working Groups (subgroups of the Steering Committee, as outlined in Appendix II to this MOU); and,

   iii) Encourage local authorities and provincial ministries to participate in Tasked Working Groups.

e) Consider and provide additional in-kind contributions under this MOU, including, but not limited to:

   Each partner, (Province of BC and Capital Regional District), will provide:

   i) One Partnership Support Staff each, with respective office space located in EMBC Headquarters at 2261 Keating Crossroad, Saanichton and in the CRD offices at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria. Partnership Support Staff have the flexibility to move between, and be hosted at, either of the offices as necessary to maintain effective collaboration;

   ii) The necessary logistics support such as telecommunications, information technology, basic office supplies, and contract management; and,

   iii) Consideration as to whether additional Partnership Support Staff is required, and if so, in consultation with the Steering Committee, consider options such as seconding from appropriate organizations.

4.2 DECISION MAKING BY PARTNERS

a) The Partners will determine an appropriate decision making structure that will provide for giving policy direction, project management structure and effective participation by local authorities within the CRD.

b) The CRD Board Chair and the Minister responsible for emergency management shall constitute the Policy Group and will jointly approve the work priorities of the Partners following consultation with the Steering Committee.

c) Equal executive representatives from provincial and local authorities shall constitute the Steering Committee and will decide on priorities, resources and policy recommendations.

d) Partnership objectives of the MOU will be managed by EMBC, in accordance with established and future regional emergency management partnerships. The Regional Emergency Planning Coordinator position will be supervised by EMBC and the Regional Emergency Systems Coordinator position will be supervised by the CRD.

Article V: COMMUNICATION

External communication pertaining to the MOU will be consistent with approved protocols established by the Partners.

Article VI: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any new issue, matter of general concern, or dispute arising from this MOU shall first be directed to the Steering Committee for resolution. If it is not resolved, it shall be referred to the Policy Group for final resolution.

Article VII: TERM OF AGREEMENT

a) This MOU will be effective on the date of signing by both Partners.

b) This MOU may be amended by mutual written agreement duly executed by the Partners to this MOU.

c) A Partner wishing to withdraw from this MOU must provide 24 months' notice of the Partner's intention to withdraw.

d) This MOU will remain in full force and effect until terminated or amended in accordance with the MOU.

Article IIX: AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES

Appendices may be amended from time to time in writing on approval of the Policy Group, except for their responsibilities and membership which shall require the approval of the Partners.

Article IX: SIGNATORIES

This MOU reflects the good faith and spirit of cooperation of the Partners.

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date: March 3, 2016

Honourable Todd G. Stone

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Capital Regional District

Date: MARCH 1, 2016

Robert Lapham

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1	Partners' Financial Contribution
Appendix 2	Additional roles and responsibilities of the Partners and Participants

Appendix I

PARTNERS' FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The partnership financial contributions will be equally shared between the CRD (on behalf of Local Authorities) and EMBC (on behalf of the Province of BC) with each party providing:

1) In-kind partnership management provided by EMBC;

2) In-kind supervision of REMP staff by EMBC and CRD;

3) Funding for Partnership staff (1 FTE provided each);

4) In-kind office space for designated Partnership Support Staff with necessary operating support; and,

5) In-kind administrative support, as needed.

Appendix II

ADDITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

THE POLICY GROUP:

a) Responsibilities:
   i. Set policy and direction;
   ii. Recommend regulatory or legislative changes;
   iii. Ratify the business plan and budget; and,
   iv. Liaise with other elected officials as appropriate.

b) Consists of the CRD Board Chair representing the CRD (as determined by the CRD Board), and the Minister representing the Province.

c) Is Co-Chaired.

d) Shall meet a minimum of twice annually.

e) Shall otherwise determine its own operating procedures.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE:

a) Responsibilities:
   i. Collective decision making on priorities, resources and policy recommendations;
   ii. Develop and administer the business plan and budget; and,
   iii. Liaise with other senior appointed officials as required.

b) Consists of executive representatives from:
   i. Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (1 representative chosen by EMBC);
   ii. Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council (3 representatives chosen by that body);
   iii. CRD CAO;
   iv. Local Authority Chief Administrative Officers (2 representatives chosen by the local authorities);
   v. LGEPAC (1 representative); and,
   vi. Ex-officio Members (non-voting Regional Stakeholders) as approved by Steering Committee.

c) Shall annually elect co-chairs, one from the provincial appointees, and one from the local/regional appointees.

d) Reports through the Policy Group to the CRD Board and the Minister for approval of the annual business plan (including milestones) and the budget.

e) Shall meet a minimum of four times annually.

f) Shall otherwise determine its own operating procedures.

PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT STAFF AND TASKED WORKING GROUPS:

a) The partnership management and partnership support staff will provide:
   i. Team coordination and support;
   ii. Research and analysis;
   iii. Program development, direction and monitoring; and,
   iv. Identification of issues through stakeholders.

b) In addition the partnership management will be responsible for:
   i. Managing partnership support staff activities, including any secondments, contractors and/or consultants hired by the partnership;
   ii. Setting up and managing Tasked Working Groups;
   iii. Receiving financial reports from both partners, reporting out on financial arrangements and partnership budget; and,
   iv. Developing and reporting out on partnership work plans.

c) The Tasked Working Groups:
   i. Will be established by the partnership support staff and Steering Committee as required to review terms of reference, analyze issues, develop options and make recommendations; and,
   ii. May have membership from local, regional, provincial and federal departments and agencies, NGOs and private sector within and/or beyond the CRD.

AGREEMENT AUTHORIZATION

Content		Initial	Date
	Procurement		
	Financial Plan		
	Content	[signature]	Feb 26/16
GM Approval		KL	Feb 26/16
Form			
Authority			

Memorandum of Understanding

Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership

BETWEEN:

Central Coast Regional District as represented by the Chair of the Board (herein referred to as the "CCRD")

AND:

Nuxalk Nation on behalf of Nuxalkmc people, as represented by Nuxalk Nation Chief Councillor (herein referred to as the "Nuxalk Nation")

AND:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, as represented by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (herein referred to as the "Province")

WHEREAS Emergencies can occur that cross electoral area or First Nations boundaries or have impacts or demand for response beyond the capacity of one electoral area or First Nation to respond;

WHEREAS Emergencies can occur that are cross-jurisdictional in nature or require a coordinated multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency response;

WHEREAS the Partners are committed to preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating Regional Emergencies;

WHEREAS the Partners wish to establish this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to establish collaborative relationships and to determine roles and responsibilities before Regional Emergencies take place;

AND WHEREAS the Partners seek to achieve a disaster resilient Region where all levels of government, First Nations and relevant stakeholders work collaboratively towards enhanced Emergency management;

THEREFORE the Partners hereto agree to form a Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership.

ARTICLE 1: INTERPRETATION

"**Financial Contribution**" is the Partner's financial contribution to the Partnership set out in Article 8.

"**Emergency**" is a present or imminent event or circumstance that

- is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature, and
- requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property.

"**In-kind**" means goods, commodities or services in lieu of money.

"**Partners**" means all partners to this MOU, and "Partner" means one of them as the context may require.

"**Partnership**" is the Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership.

"**Region**" or "**Regional**" is a broad geographical area within the CCRD or First Nations traditional territory that may be, but is not limited to, distinguished by physical characteristics, administrative boundaries, government, religion, language, or artificial features.

"**Regional Partnership Coordinator**" is the Regional Partnership Coordinator for the Central Coast Regional Management Partnership established pursuant to Article 3 of this MOU.

"**Steering Committee**" is the Central Coast Regional Management Partnership Steering Committee established pursuant to Article 6 of this MOU.

"**Sub Region**" is a subset of the Region that may be, but is not limited to, distinguished by physical characteristics, administrative boundaries, government, religion, language or artificial features.

ARTICLE 2: APPLICATION OF GOVERNING AGREEMENTS AND LEGISLATION

2.1 Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting in any way the jurisdiction, authority and fulfillment of responsibilities of:

a) The Minister and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in respect to Emergency management under the British Columbia *Emergency Program Act,* R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 111, and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations;
b) CCRD in respect to emergency management under British Columbia's *Emergency Program Act Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 2015, c. 1, and Regulations or any other Acts or Regulations; or,
c) Nuxalk Nation in respect to emergency management under the Federal *Emergency Management Act*, S.C. 2007, c. 15.

2.2 Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting in any way the authorities and obligations of any Partner to this MOU who is a party to a master agreement or collective agreement entered into with a bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

3.1 This MOU is not legally binding or enforceable.

3.2 This MOU is not a treaty within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and does not define or amend aboriginal rights, or limit any priorities afforded to aboriginal rights, including aboriginal title.

3.3 The Partners wish to enter into this MOU to establish the Partnership.

3.4 This MOU does not create a partnership under the BC *Partnership Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 348.

3.5 Nothing in this MOU will be construed so as to constitute any Partner as the agent, employee, partner, joint venturer, or representative of any of the other Partners.

3.6 The Partners share the common goals:

a) to enhance Regional Emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capability and capacity for First Nation communities and all levels of government through collaborative planning, information sharing and coordinated mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts from Emergencies;
b) improve Regional Emergency management through continued and increased cooperation between First Nations, all levels of government and stakeholders in the Region;
c) guided by Nuxalk Nation, expand the partnership to include other First Nations. The engagement of further partners will be led by the Nuxalk Nation, guided by Nuxalk values;
d) provide opportunities to lead and coordinate Regional Emergency planning initiatives that address major Emergency or disaster events, which are, or have the potential to be, Regional or cross-jurisdictional in nature;
e) to share information and collaborate on Regional Emergency management issues that impact the Region or Sub Region; and
f) work with First Nation communities, all levels of government and stakeholders to identify and coordinate the development of Regional Emergency management initiatives that encompass the four phases of Emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery).

3.7 In recognition and consideration of the Financial Contribution, the Partners agree that they will work together to:

a) Establish a Regional Partnership Coordinator position that will be hired by CCRD or Nuxalk Nation and be located at a facility either provided by that Partner or at a location agreed upon by all the Partners. The role of the Regional Partnership Coordinator includes:
    i. develops plans, procedures, standards and guidelines;
    ii. conducts research and analysis to support project scope;
    iii. prepare documents (e.g. agenda, project updates, etc.) for the Steering Committee;
    iv. acts as a subject matter expert in the field of emergency management;
    v. support the development of publication and communication materials (e.g. newsletter);

vi. liaises with emergency management practitioners from other levels of government, First Nations, and stakeholders to strengthen regional emergency management; and
vii. participate operationally as a staff member in the CCRD and emergency operations centres.

b) Lead and coordinate Partnership projects and activities:
   i. develop a leadership policy group and define its purpose, role and responsibilities;
   ii. complete a Regional hazard, risk, vulnerability assessment ("HRVA");
   iii. develop a Regional Emergency management plan based on the completed HRVA;
   iv. jointly plan and prioritize mitigation efforts and activities;
   v. coordinate Regional training and exercises;
   vi. develop Regional public education resources;
   vii. explore mutual aid agreements and shared Emergency resources;
   viii. explore options to establish and staff a joint and collaborative Emergency operations centre for events that cross jurisdictional boundaries; and
   ix. organize at least one meeting per year of all Partners.

c) The Partner who hires the Regional Partnership Coordinator is responsible for providing necessary supports for the position including, but not limited to, human resources, information technology, telecommunications and basic office supplies.

ARTICLE 4: INFORMATION SHARING

4.1 All information and documentation provided to, collected by, delivered to or compiled by or on behalf of the Partners to this MOU in the performance of their duties and responsibilities shall be dealt with subject to and in accordance with Provincial Statutes, particularly the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165.

4.2 The Partners agree that for the purposes of section 16(1) (b) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all information disclosed and received between the Partners under this MOU is disclosed and received in confidence.

4.3 Where a Partner receives a request under the Freedom of Information and *Protection of Privacy Act*, or a Court order, summons or subpoena for disclosure of records relating to this MOU, that Partner will immediately consult all other Partners to this MOU before disclosing the records to the applicant.

ARTICLE 5: RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Any Partner may:

a) from time to time, request from any other Partner additional financial contributions for specific Regional Emergency management projects;

b) apply for grants together or separately, from external entities to provide funding for additional Regional Emergency management projects and capacity; and
c) provide, together or separately, additional financial contributions or in-kind contributions if agreed upon by all the Partners.

5.2 The Partners intend to:

a) participate in the Steering Committee to guide implementation of the MOU;
b) provide In-kind contributions for staff participation in Partnership activities (e.g. workshops, exercises, working groups etc.); provide encouragement of electoral areas, First Nations, provincial ministries, federal departments and relevant stakeholders to participate in Partnership activities (e.g. workshops, exercises, working groups etc.);
c) provide direction and support for a Regional Partnership Coordinator; and
d) provide the Financial Contribution in support of the Partnership.

ARTICLE 6: STEERING COMMITTEE

6.1 The Partners will establish the Steering Committee, consisting of members representing each Partner equally in number with the purpose to work collaboratively to advance the MOU.

6.2 The Steering Committee is the decision making body of the Partnership that provides strategic direction and oversees delivery of project outputs.

6.3 The Steering Committee will:

a) develop a Terms of Reference for itself;
b) participate in collective decision making on Regional priorities, resources and policy recommendations;
c) develop and administer an annual work plan and budget;
d) liaise with other senior level decision makers as required;
e) issue an annual report or a series of reports; and
f) determine its own operating procedures.

6.4 The Province will provide support to the Steering Committee to:

a) develop a work plan and budget;
b) establish the inaugural Steering Committee meeting; and
c) draft Partnership operational policies.

ARTICLE 7: TERM OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

7.1 This MOU is effective on the date that it is fully executed by CCRD, Nuxalk Nation and the Province and remains in effect for three years from the date, unless extended by agreement of the Partners in writing.

7.2 This MOU may be amended by mutual written agreement by the Partners.

7.3 Partners wishing to withdraw from this MOU must provide the Steering Committee or each Partner with written notice at least six months in advance of the withdrawal date.

7.4 The MOU will remain active and in effect until terminated or amended in accordance with this MOU.

ARTICLE 8: FUNDING

8.1 The Partners recognize that adequate funding is essential to the success of the MOU.

8.2 Each Partner intends to contribute $33,000 annually in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

ARTICLE 9: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 Any issues, matter of general concerns, or dispute resolution arising from this MOU shall first be directed to the Steering Committee for resolution and will not be referred to a tribunal or any other third party for settlement, unless under further agreement of the Partners.

ARTICLE 11: NOTICES

11.1 All notices and communications provided for in this MOU must be in writing and must be delivered at the following addresses:

For Central Coast Regional District:

626 Cliff Street
Box 186
Bella Coola, BC, V0T 1C0

For Nuxalk Nation:

Nuxalk Nation Administration
PO Box 65
Bella Coola, BC, V0T 1C0

For the Province:

Emergency Management BC

Block A, Suite 200
2261 Keating Cross Road
P.O. Box 9201, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC, V8W 9J1

or at such address as a Partner has advised in writing.

11.2 Delivery of notices and communications will be deemed to have occurred for the various delivery methods as follows:

a) by mail – 7 days after mailing;

b) by personal delivery – when delivered; and

c) by courier – on the next business day following the date the courier indicates delivery;.

ARTICLE 12: SIGNATORIES

This MOU reflects the good faith and spirit of cooperation of the Partners.

Date: 2018/12/17

By: _____
Chief Wally Webber
Nuxalk Nation Chief Councillor

Date: 2018/12/17

By: _____
Samuel Schooner
Chair of the Board
Central Coast Regional District

Date: 2018/12/07

By: _____
Honourable Mike Farnworth
BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for British Columbia

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister responsible for Emergency Management BC (EMBC)

ISSUE: **Regional Emergency Management Partnerships: Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM), Regional Emergency Management Partnerships (REMP) and Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnerships (CCREMP)**

BACKGROUND:

- EMBC is responsible for leading the management of provincial-level emergencies and disasters and supporting local government and First Nation communities.
- Local government (including Treaty First Nations) are responsible for developing and implementing emergency management plans, including preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters as outlined in the BC *Emergency Program* Act or jointly through municipal bylaws and other agreements. Regional districts are responsible for the same level of emergency management support to their electoral areas, as well as for regional services such as wastewater treatment, solid waste management, and drinking water, etc.
- Regional partnerships of these various levels of government promote long-term organizational commitments to build, maintain and manage relationships to work together in addressing cross jurisdictional emergency management priorities.
- In order to support these collaborative efforts, the province and local communities have developed three regional emergency management partnerships formalized by Memorandum of Understandings (MOU), as noted:
    - IPREM was established in April 2009 with the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) on behalf of 21 municipalities, one Treaty First Nation, and one electoral area. A regional approach is vital to ensure coordination is seamless in all areas of emergency management between people, environment and infrastructure, particularly in the metro region which has the largest regional population consisting of over 2.6 million people across several jurisdictions.
    - REMP was established in March 2016 with the Capital Regional District (CRD), on behalf of 13 municipalities and three electoral areas, located on Southern Vancouver Island. There is strong recognition to seek input from the nine First Nation communities as part of regional emergency management planning, particularly due to the risk of earthquakes and tsunamis.
    - CCREMP was established in December 2018 with the Nuxalk Nation and the Central Coast Regional District, on behalf of the five electoral areas in the Bella Coola area. The region is remote, rural and is susceptible to isolation due to limited access networks, and significantly vulnerable to

impacts from wildfires, flooding, COVID-19 and potential earthquakes. The long term vision is to expand the partnership to include the outer communities of Heiltsuk Nation and Wuikinuxv Nation.

- As outlined in the IPREM (MVRD) and REMP (CRD) MOU, the Minister responsible for emergency management is a member of the Policy Group for each regional partnership along with the Regional District Board Chair from the respective regions. The role of the Policy Group is to ratify the partnership's multi-year Strategic Plan, which sets the regional emergency management direction and priorities and empowers the regions to work together with the Province. The Policy Group must convene annually and the meetings provide an opportunity for the Minister to share information and discuss regionally focused matters of priority.
- These partnerships help address regional emergency management planning needs (training, exercises, plan development, linking people and organizations) that are cross-jurisdictional in nature and beyond one jurisdiction's responsibility by integrating plans and processes for each region.
- The regional partnership models are based on:
    - A cost-shared model between First Nations, local and provincial governments to maintain full-time staffing capacity, and any remaining funds for regional projects;
    - Addressing common challenges outlined in the Abbott-Chapman report, Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia such as regional planning, formalizing relationships, and clarifying roles and responsibilities in advance of emergencies and disasters; and
    - Demonstrating progress towards implementation of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of BC's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- REMP and IPREM were pre-cursors to the revised regional partnerships model EMBC has adopted by establishing strategic relationships, which now include First Nations.

Advice/Recommentations

Highlights of collaboration:

- IPREM and REMP are leading a phased approach to identify learning from COVID-19 through a series of interim regional after-action reviews with local governments, First Nations and EMBC Regional offices in Surrey and Victoria. The intent of the series of reports with recommendations compiled by IPREM and REMP is to strengthen regional collaboration and to inform continuous improvement processes and practices over the longer term of the pandemic response and for other emergencies.
- IPREM coordinated the region's actions to develop the Regional Natural Gas Response Framework in response to the 2018 Enbridge pipeline explosion. Several communities were identified to be cut off from access to natural gas. IPREM's coordination role was beyond the scope as a planning entity; however,

IPREM was well positioned to bring the region together quickly due to its established relationships and understanding of the region.

- REMP developed a regional decision-making model in 2019 that provides a process for First Nations, local and provincial governments in the Capital Region to collaborate on joint decision-making when required for extraordinary regional emergency management issues. A memorandum of understanding was developed (Attachment 1) to formalize the application of the model during a response and all partners have agreed to a commitment to train and exercise annually during non-emergencies. The three Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) on the REMP Steering Committee will be seeking adoption of the model (early November) from other CAOs in the region for it to be used in real time during COVID-19.
- CCREMP is the inaugural First Nations, local and provincial government emergency management partnership in BC. Due to the unique legislative responsibilities that bring together different levels of government as well as the laws of Hereditary Chiefs, the partnership is working towards a common goal to outline a framework for a regional emergency management plan that respects autonomy in all phases of emergency management. This ambitious goal is being led by the partners to foster collaboration and agreement.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- IPREM has had limited engagement with First Nations in the Metro Vancouver region since 2011. In 2019, IPREM started to extend invitations to Indigenous communities to participate on IPREM initiatives. Intergovernmental Communications
  Intergovernmental Communications
- Five communities participated with the REMP Steering Committee in the development of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Indigenous participation and attendance on the Steering Committee meeting has declined to only a few meetings since 2016. Intergovernmental Communications
  The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has joined the REMP Steering Committee to guide how REMP can strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities.
- CCREMP was signed to initiate the partnership to start in the Bella Coola Valley that consists of Nuxalk Nation, CCRD (Electoral Area D and E) and EMBC. Advice/Recommentations
  Advice/Recommentati Advice/Recommentations
  ons CCREMP began to implement the partnership in the summer of 2019 with discussions focusing on projects to be undertaken in the preparedness phase. Roles in response were briefly touched upon and have not continued due to COVID-19.

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The IPREM Steering Committee includes the following ministries: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Coast Area),

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Environmental Protection Division), and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (Community Services).

- The REMP Steering Committee includes the following ministries: Ministries of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (BC Wildfire Service), Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (Strategic Liaison and Emergency Management), and Municipal Affairs and Housing (Land Use Planning).
- The CCREMP typically engages EMBC and Ministry of Transportation on preparedness and response to flooding and with funding Indigenous Services Canada for additional funding for Nuxalk Nation to address capacity issues.

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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	**Date**
DM		
ADM	DP	Oct 28
ED	CM	Oct 27
Pgm Dir/Mgr	CL	Oct 26

Attachment(s)
Attachment 1: Regional Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Flood and Wildfire Readiness

BACKGROUND:

- Flood and wildfire events are annual provincial hazards with the potential to impact large areas of British Columbia during the spring, summer and early fall seasons.

Readiness

- Annual seasonal readiness workshops for the freshet flood and wildfire seasons are held in all Emergency Management BC (EMBC) regions, except the Vancouver Island Region, which does not have a significant freshet flooding risk, and holds a wildfire-only readiness workshop. In 2020 most of these workshops were held by teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- EMBC leads the Provincial Seasonal Readiness Working Group, which meets weekly from early March until late September. Eleven provincial ministries participate along with federal representatives and other emergency management partners, including: Public Safety Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Joint Task Force Pacific, the First Nation Health Authority and the Canadian Red Cross.

- EMBC supports the provincial Common Operating Picture, a GeoBC web-based portal which provides access to real-time situational awareness, imagery and emergency planning data and provided training to ministries and local government and First Nation community emergency managers.

- EMBC holds an annual full-scale readiness exercise to prepare the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and all six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) for activation.

- EMBC recruits and trains members of its Temporary Emergency Assignment Management (TEAMS) program. This program manages staff from other provincial ministries who can be deployed to EMBC to provide surge capacity during emergency and disaster events.

- Under Ministerial Order 84 (March 2020) all local authorities were directed to review and update local emergency plans to ensure any impacts “resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are taken into account with respect to preparations and response measures for other emergencies or disasters, including flooding and wildfires.” The provisions under this order remain will remain in place until 90 days after the expiry

of the last extension of the Provincial State of Emergency.

Policy and Procedures

- Processes and procedures for implementing, maintaining and rescinding evacuation orders have been modified to align with guidance for COVID-19 infection prevention and spread.

- In 2019 EMBC developed and distributed guidelines for a Local Government or First Nation to authorize persons to re-enter an evacuation order area. Authorized purposes included tending to or evacuating livestock, maintaining critical infrastructure and other activities the jurisdiction of authority deems appropriate.

- EMBC is engaged with partners in the health emergency sector to provide information on managing the effect of wildfire smoke as well as public education communications regarding the risks of evacuating solely due to wildfire smoke. These issues had increased priority in 2020 to the increased effect of wildfire smoke on COVID-19 patients.

- Simplified procedural guidelines for accessing support have been developed for use by Local Government and First Nations.

- Guidelines for identifying and managing evacuees suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

Structural Protection Program

- Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is working in collaboration with the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) on an expanded Structural Protection Program response model, which will add resources to wildfire suppression efforts in rural and wildland urban interface areas.

- OFC continues to focus on improved integration of its wildfire response efforts and command staff with the BCWS Structural Protection Specialists in support of Local Government and First Nation Emergency Operations Centres.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- First Nations communities are often disproportionately impacted by flood, wildfire and wildfire smoke events. EMBC flood and wildfire readiness activities are intended to provide equitable emergency management support to all BC communities. EMBC ensure that all operations are carried out in a culturally sensitive manner and that policies and procedures are culturally sensitive.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Health

PREPARED BY:
Brendan Ralfs
A/ED, Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Oct 29, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 28, 2020
ED	BR	Oct. 27, 2020
Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Systemic Flooding

BACKGROUND:
The Province continues to work with a number of communities that face systemic flooding concerns:

- **Cache Creek/Bonaparte River – Thompson Nicola Regional District:**
  - The Village of Cache Creek and residents along the Bonaparte River, particularly the Bonaparte Indian Band, have experienced repeated flooding, erosion and landslide events since 2017.
  - It is believed that the 2017 Elephant Hill wildfire has significantly altered the landscape and increased the stresses on the drainage system leading to higher likelihood of flash flooding and landslide events.
  - The Province is working with local government and First Nations to examine options that may alleviate flooding, erosion and landslide risk in that area.
- **Newsome Creek** – Columbia Shuswap Regional District in Sorrento, BC:
  - Twelve residential properties and one motel back on to the Newsome Creek ravine along Caen Road, between Dieppe Road (adjacent to Shuswap Lake) and the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) in the town of Sorrento, BC located in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD).
  - Eight of the properties have structures at risk should the ravine slope fail.
  - On April 5, 2019, CSRD placed two of these properties on evacuation alert. EMBC funded monitoring by engineers of the ravine bank erosion on these properties ($15K) during April and May, 2020 (peak freshet flooding season), and no changes were observed.

Advice/Recommentations

  - EMBC funded three geotechnical studies in 2017 and 2018 and a danger tree assessment in 2018 to understand risks and identify mitigative works.

- EMBC funded another geotechnical assessment in Spring 2020 that produced no new significant findings and recommended ongoing monitoring. Since that time there has been no further evidence of flooding or slope instability.

Advice/Recommentations

- **Village of Lumby**:
  - 7.2 km of temporary berm was installed in 2017 to protect several areas from flood waters. In accordance with EMBC policy the berm was to be removed when the emergency ended.
  - EMBC has provided $1.4M in funding for berm removal and restoration work but a permanent dike will require a funding source to be identified. The village has indicated it does not have the staff to manage or the tax base finance this project.
  - Most of the berm has been removed and temporary flood control structures (sandbags) were installed to mitigate this year's flooding.
  - A longer-term solution to flooding in this area continues to be examined and the village of Lumby continues to be interested and engaged in finding solutions.
- **Park Rill/Sportsmen Bowl** - Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen:
  - The Regional District of Okanagan–Similkameen (RDOS) experienced extensive flooding in 2018 due to record snow-pack levels, combined with rain-on-snow events.
  - Properties along Park Rill Creek, north of Oliver, from the headwaters of Twin Lakes all the way down through Willowbrook, Secrest Hill, Sportsmans Bowl, and Lower Park Rill were among the areas heavily impacted.
  - Flooding continues to be an issue in this area. Limited creek channel capacity, light rainfall, and freezing weather have caused Park Rill Creek to overflow several times since freshet 2018.
  - The RDOS estimates response costs since 2018 for the Park Rill system exceed $2.5M and commissioned an engineering report (funded by EMBC) to determine mitigation options. The report, received in April 2019, identifies recommendations for improvements that are in excess of $11M.

Cabinet Confidences

- **Stump Lake** - Thompson-Nicola Regional District between Merritt and Kamloops along Highway 5A (See Information note 578026 / Tab 42 for details)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Where First Nation communities are directly impacted by systemic flooding, Stump Lake and Cache Creek/Boneparte River, the communities are engaged in seeking resolution. First Nations are consulted in all areas where water is being diverted or managed to ensure that there are no unintended consequences on their lands or interests.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Water Management Branch of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Environment

PREPARED BY:

Brendan Ralfs, A/ED Regional Operations
Government
Financial Information

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct 29, 2020
A/ED	BR	Oct. 28, 2020
Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A

Cliff: 578017
Date Prepared: Oct 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Support Services is a provincial program led by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) funded through the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) providing emergency supports including food, lodging, clothing, transportation, and incidentals to those impacted by emergency events.

- ESS events can range from a house fire impacting a single household to major flooding and wildfires resulting in hundreds or even thousands of evacuees.

- ESS managed by EMBC staff and delivered regionally by Local Authorities and First Nations Governments as a Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer program. There are approximately 5,000 volunteers belonging to the eighty ESS teams across the province.

- ESS is delivered in three stages to evacuees: registration; needs assessment; and referral. Referrals enable evauees to receive the supports required from local suppliers (such as food, lodging, clothing, transporation and incidentals).

- Until 2018, this process was completely paper based. In response to lessons learned from the 2017 wildfires EMBC has been modernizing the ESS program. The centrepiece of the modernization is the shift to digital delivery of the ESS program.

- The online ESS system was successfully piloted in four communities; Prince George, Kamloops, Tk'Kemlups te Secwepemc, and the Regional District of Central Okanagan from April 2019 to September 2019. The pilot included evacuee self-serve, digital registration, and print-fillable referrals to reduce wait times for evacuees and create administrative efficiencies at all levels while enhancing reporting and financial accountabilities.

- The feedback received from communities during the pilot phase contributed to the requirements in the development of the digital ESS system – which has been named the Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA) tool.

- ERA tool was scheduled for a phased release over 15 months, however, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EMBC accelerated the provincial roll-out by providing province wide access to the tool on April 1st, 2020. The first release supported online evacuee self-registration, digital referrals and basic reporting

ensuring this could be delivered across the province, while protecting the health and safety of evacuees and ESS service providers.

- To support the accelerated roll-out, up to eight training sessions a day were offered over a four-week period to all communities. This training continues to be offered on a biweekly basis to ensure all communities have the capability to implement ERA. Just-in-time training is also available for communities who are wanting to use ERA during an active ESS event.

- A second release of the ERA tool went live on June 2, 2020, launching a Supplier Portal which improves the supplier experience and enables digital submission of referrals and invoices to EMBC.

- Examples of the successful use of the ERA tool have been with Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay and Cariboo Regional Districts in support of Freshet Flooding evacuations. It has also been used for apartment fires in the City of Victoria and City of Nanaimo and for the Christie Mountain Wildfire evacuation near the City of Penticton.

Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The ESS program may be used to support all British Columbians, including First Nations individuals both on and off reserve.

- Historically, ESS has not been delivered by First Nations communities in BC. With the signing of the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC, formerly INAC) agreement in 2016, First Nations communities began to develop their own ESS capabilities.

- ESS is engaged on several initiatives to ensure equitable delivery of the program. This includes regular work with EMBC Strategic Partnerships, ISC and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to include cultural safety and sensitivity in the program.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

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	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Oct 29, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 27, 2020
A/ED	BR	Oct. 26. 2020
Pgm Dir/Mgr	JW	Oct 26 2020

Cliff: 578092
Date Prepared: Oct 27, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Overview of Emergency Management BC's social media program.

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has an active social media program for the purposes of education, engagement and emergency notification.
- The program is overseen by the Public Education & Online Communications unit under the auspices of:
    - PreparedBC: British Columbia's official emergency preparedness program serving the general public, local authorities, Indigenous communities and schools.
    - EmergencyInfoBC: British Columbia's official online information hub during provincial-scale emergencies.

Education & engagement:

- PreparedBC has two social media channels on Twitter and Facebook for the purposes of educating British Columbians about the hazards they face and how to prepare for them. They're also used to engage and support key partners, such as local authorities and related agencies/programs like the Canadian Red Cross, BCFireSmart and the BC Wildfire Service.
- The channels are fed by an annual content and campaign calendar. Events include Tsunami Preparedness Week (April), Emergency Preparedness Week (May) and Fire Prevention Week (October). Seasonal readiness campaigns include FloodReady, StormReady and Wildfire Ready (Attachment 1).

Emergency notification:

- EmergencyInfoBC has two online channels – EmergencyInfoBC (web) and @EmergencyInfoBC (Twitter). @EmergencyInfoBC is government's second biggest social media account with 162.4K followers.
- EmergencyInfoBC (web) aggregates all pertinent event information from response to recovery. @EmergencyInfoBC alerts the public to safety notifications, including evacuation alerts and orders due to floods and wildfires, and watches or warnings due to a tsunami threat. It also amplifies information from trusted sources such as the National Tsunami Warning Center based in Palmer Alaska.
- EmergencyInfoBC is supported by a standby roster to ensure real-time public communication during emergencies, 24/7. The roster supports the role of EMBC's Provincial Duty Managers, which guide overall operational response outside activations of the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Social media content and campaigns are considered through an Indigenous lens wherever possible to ensure relevancy and inclusivity.
- All social media channels serve Indigenous communities as an extension of EMBC's commitment to deliver equitable emergency management.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- GCPE, and other ministries when there's content crossover: Examples include:
    - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure: Being prepared for emergencies while on the road.
    - DriveBC: Road closures due to damage or emergency response.

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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	**Date**
DM	LH	Oct 28, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 28, 2020
ED	N/A	N/A
Pgm Dir/Mgr	JM	Oct. 28, 2020

Attachment(s)

Attachment 1 - Annual social media content calendar

Appendix i
Briefing Note for Information: Overview of EMBC's Social Media Program
Content Calendar: @PreparedBC / PreparedBC (Facebook)

Annual themes/social media campaigns			
Theme	**Summary**	**Deliverables**	**Date Range**
Flood Ready	• Annual push to prepare British Columbians for freshet.	• Info & tips via Twitter & Facebook. • Posts, graphics, videos driving people back to PreparedBC flood pages. • Customized social media package for local authorities • Hashtags: #BCFlood	Spring/Summer
Spring Forward (Daylight Savings Time)	• Twice-annual reminder to refresh household emergency kits, grab-and-go bags and review plans.	• Reminder via Twitter & Facebook. • Posts and graphics driving people back to the PreparedBC emergency kit and planning pages.	Spring (March 8, 2020)
Wildfire Ready	• FireSmart: Encourages people living in interface zones to safeguard their properties from wildfire. • Wildfire Community Preparedness Days.	• Series of "dos & don'ts" for FireSmarting your property via Twitter & Facebook. • Amplification/promotion of communities participating in Wildfire Community Preparedness Days. • Amplification of content from FireSmartBC, @BCGovFireInfo and BCWS (Facebook). • Hashtags: #FireSmart #BCWildfire	Spring/Summer/Fall (Wildfire Community Preparedness Days May 2 to Oct. 31, 2020)
	• Wildfire Personal Preparedness: How-tos for building grab-and-go bags, completing a household emergency plan, understanding evacuation stages, etc.	• Posts, graphics and videos driving people back to the PreparedBC website (wildfire page) and PreparedBC Wildfire Guide. • Customized social media package for local authorities • Hashtags: #BCWildfire	Spring/Summer
Tsunami Preparedness Week	• Annual campaign educating British Columbians about the province's tsunami risk and proper response. • Promotion of High Ground Hike in participating communities.	• Tips and info (zones, notifications, high ground protocols) via Twitter and Facebook. • Posts, graphics, videos driving people back to the PreparedBC tsunami pages. • High Ground Hike pics and promotion via Facebook and Twitter • Hashtags: #TsunamiPrep, #HighGroundHike	Spring (2nd Full Week of April)
National Volunteer Week	• Annual celebration of volunteers and their contributions; opportunity to	• Social media push • Amplification of local authority and partner recognition programs	Spring

	recognize PSLV and their role in emergency response.		
Emergency Preparedness Week	• A nationally recognized week to raise awareness about the importance of disaster readiness (all hazards).	• Focus varies year to year. • Hashtags: #EPWeek20XX • Customized general preparedness social media package for local authorities.	Spring (1st Full Week of May)
Indigenous Peoples Day	• A day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Indigenous peoples of Canada	• Highlights Indigenous knowledge shared with PreparedBC to better understand emergencies and emergency response in British Columbia	Spring (June)
TravelSafe	• Annual campaign educating foreign and domestic tourists about the hazards in BC, how to prepare for them when visiting and where to find timely emergency info.	• Preparedness posts and partner links shared via Twitter and Facebook. • Posts, graphics, videos driving people back to relevant PreparedBC webpages based on regional risks. • Amplification of content from @DriveBC, @TranBC, @DestinationBC • Hashtags: #TravelSafe, #BCWildfire, #BCFlood	Summer
Master of Disaster	• Back to school preparedness.	• Promotion of the Master of Disaster program via Facebook and Twitter.	Summer/Fall (September to October)
Fire Prevention Week	• Annual campaign by the National Fire Prevention Association.	• Preparedness posts and partner links shared via Twitter and Facebook as coordinated with the OFC.	Fall (First full week of October)
ShakeOutBC	• Annual, provincewide, “drop, cover, hold on drill.” • PreparedBC is a member of the organizing committee to ensure alignment of content.	• Promotion & participation in the drill via Twitter and Facebook. • Amplification of content from ShakeOutBC’s social media channels. • Posts, graphics, videos driving people to PreparedBC’s EQ resources. • Hashtags: #ShakeOutBC #DCHO	Fall (Third Thursday of every October)
Halloween	• Fire safety tips. • Be Prepared, Not scared.	• Safety advice for trick or treating, specific to candles, flammable costumes, etc. • Annual e-card preparedness campaign that puts a spooky twist on getting ready for emergencies	Fall (Last week October)

Fall Back (Clocks return to standard time)	• Twice-annual reminder to refresh household emergency kits, grab-and-go bags and review plans.	• Reminder via Twitter & Facebook. Posts and graphics driving people back to the PreparedBC emergency kit and planning pages.	Fall (November)
Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week	• Awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, the source/symptoms and how to avoid becoming ill.	• Share and amplify partner posts on Facebook and Twitter, as coordinated with the OFC.	Fall (November)
World Tsunami Day	• International awareness day hosted by the UN.	• Awareness of BC's risk, preparedness and proper response. • Drive people back to the PreparedBC tsunami webpage.	Fall (November)
Storm Ready	• Preparedness tips for surviving severe weather (home & vehicle).	• Tips, on how to prepare for power outages; how to prepare your home for winter/flooding, etc. via Twitter and Facebook. • Amplification of content from trusted partners: FortisBC and BC Hydro • Posts, graphics, videos driving people to PreparedBC's website (severe weather) • Customized social media package for local authorities. • Hashtags: #BCStorm	Fall/Winter (October to early March)
International Day of People with Disabilities (UN)	• Annual day recognizing the contributions of those living with a disability, and the need for consistent accessibility.	• Opportunity to promote PreparedBC's Disability Guide. • Hashtag: #idpwd	Winter (December 3)
Christmas Holidays	• Encourages people to think about preparedness during the holiday season with gift guides and general preparedness messaging.	• Share preparedness gift ideas and general preparedness tips on Facebook and Twitter. • Hashtags: Dependent on campaign focus/trending topics	Winter (December)

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Programs

BACKGROUND:

- The Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer (PSLV) programs are at the heart of emergency response in British Columbia. They do everything from leading air and ground searches and helping the victims of serious car accidents to setting up networks of volunteer teams and coordinating services for victims of natural disasters. There are more than 13,000 PSLV volunteers in communities across B.C.

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) provides program overview, funding and liability protection for five PSLV groups: Emergency Emergency Support Services (ESS); Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR); Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) Air; Road Rescue; and Provincial Emergency Radio Communications Service (PERCS)

- Emergency Support Services:
    - ESS is a provincial program delivered by Local Authorities and First Nations' Governments that meets the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support in a compassionate and culturally sensitive manner.
    - British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies may receive ESS support for up to 72 hours.
    - There are approximately 80 ESS teams with 5000 volunteers in B.C.
    - Annual ESS costs are approximately $800K for routine small-scale events (i.e. individual home, multi-residence building or building complex level).
    - Costs for large scale evacuations are significantly higher with the 2017 wildfire evacuations at $19M and $5M for the 2018 flood and wildfire evacuations.
    - In response to lessons learned from the 2017 wildfires EMBC has undertaken a modernization of the ESS program. The centrepiece of which is the shift to digital delivery of the ESS program.
- Ground Search and Rescue
    - GSAR volunteers
    - GSAR volunteers may be requested to search for lost recreationalists or to rescue injured people if specialized skills/equipment are needed.

  - GSAR may also provide support to local communities during emergencies by assisting with evacuations and other critical response activities.
  - There are 79 GSAR groups with 2500 volunteers in B.C. who collectively receive over 1700 callouts annually.
  - EMBC provides approximately $12.7M in annual funding for GSAR
  - In the first 10 months of 2020, there have been 1132 ground, 287 marine and 26 air search and rescue calls in the province, a 28% increase over 2019, likely attributed the increase in local outdoor recreational activity in place of other recreational travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provincial Emergency Program Air
  - PEP Air is dedicated to the provision of air search support services to the National Search and Rescue Program, is a member of the Civil Air Search and Rescue and works closely with the Canadian Armed Forces.
  - PEP Air also assists the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, GSAR groups and local municipalities in searching for aircraft, boaters, hikers and others who may be lost or injured.
  - Membership is open to aircraft owners and pilots, as well as to those who wish to receive training as spotters and navigators.
  - PEP Air has over 100 aircraft crewed by more than 900 pilots, spotters and navigators.
  - Annually, PEP Air conducts approximately 30 air search tasks on behalf of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for missing aircraft, and aproximately 40 EMBC SAR tasks for the movement of personnel and for air search.
  - EMBC provides approximately $16K in annual funding to PEP Air.
- Road Rescue
  - When highway accidents occur outside local government response boundaries, Road Rescue volunteers provide critical extrication and embankment rescue.
  - Approximately 2,500 EMBC-supported road rescue event occur annually.
  - There are 147 Road Rescue service organizations in B.C.
  - EMBC has provided funding to the Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia to review the Road Rescue program, including the current funding model.
  - EMBC provides approximately $1M in annual funding for Road Rescue.
- Provincial Emergency Radio Communications Service
  - During disasters and emergencies, a proven, reliable means of communication remains emergency radio communications
  - Through PERCS, EMBC is linked with the hundreds of volunteer amateur radio operators who are available to assist with emergency communications.
  - PERCS has two distinct groups, those that support local government and those that support the Province (members can belong to both groups).

- EMBC offers volunteer reimbursement (meals, mileage, etc.) to PERCS volunteers when they activate for an emergency, as well as a $250 daily rate for communications vehicles.

- All PSLV volunteers receive both liability and WorkSafe coverage when engaged in EMBC approved volunteer activities (including training).

Cabinet Confidences

- Annual PSLV awards are held each spring, coinciding with National Volunteer Appreciation Week, with an award given out for each PSLV discipline and one for lifetime achievement.

- Volunteers and their role and usage during emergency events is being considered as part of the modernization of the *Emergency Program Act*.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are few PSLV streams that concentrate on First Nations directly but there is significant interest among several First Nations to establish GSAR or Marine rescue groups. The capacity for First Nations communities to provide ESS to their members is expanding as communities enlist and train volunteer and form ESS teams.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:
Brendan Ralfs, A/ED Regional Operations

Government Financial Information

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 3, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 29, 2020
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Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Encampments

BACKGROUND:

Encampments or tent cities are becoming more prevalent across BC and may be located on municipal property, such as city parks or vacant lots, or crown land.

These encampments may endanger the health and safety of occupants due to inappropriate use of open flame devices, lack of security or other concerns.

In the circumstances of an identified or suspected fire risk, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is generally consulted regarding applicability of fire regulation and general safety at all sites to advise local governments or provincial ministry with assigned ownership and support a coordinated approach to eliminating the risk

The Fire Commissioner also has the power under the *Fire Safety Act* to order evacuation of an area is there is an imminent and danger to life or property. Any orders of this nature are carried out in consultation with the local government and local fire department. In these circumstances, the OFC will work with local governments to ensure supports are in place if an evacuation is ordered.

During the 2020 global pandemic, encampments were identified as locations of increased risk of COVID-19 by the Public Health Officer and that increased support to prevent the spread of the virus within that population was necessary. In addition, public health officials identified risk to their safety when entering encampments.

In April 2020, the Province determined a direct risk to the health, safety and welfare of the people living in in the encampments at Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver, and Topaz Park and the Pandora Avenue corridor in Victoria and their supporting health care workers due to the COVIV-19 pandemic.

A Ministerial Order 128 was issued on April 25, 2020, ordering an evacuation of all three encampments, with the condition that all persons residing on those sites be offered suitable accommodation and the supports required to meet their needs. The sites were evacuated, and the campers moved and housed.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) and BC Housing were identified as the designated lead during the COVID-19 pandemic for identifying appropriate shelter options for unsheltered vulnerable populations.

A Vulnerable Persons Working Group co-led by MAH and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, with participation from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Emergency Management BC, First Nations Health Authority and the Ministry of Health was established in mid-March, 2020, to collaborate on support to vulnerable populations around the province. This working group meets bi-weekly to track development of new encampments and collaboately solves issues.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- This issue impacts indigenous peoples living off reserve. Care has been taken to liaise with indigenous organizations regarding wrap around care and supports necessary to ensure that operations are carried out in a culturally sensitive manner.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

PREPARED BY:

Brendan Ralfs, A/ED Regional Operations
Government Financial Information

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
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Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A

Cliff: 578005
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Evacuation Reluctance

BACKGROUND:
When a community is facing imminent danger from a hazard such as wildfire or flooding, Local Authorities and Band Councils are responsible for declaring an Evacuation Order, upon the recommendation of technical specialists representing the Province.

Since the 2017 wildfire season, the prevalence of communities and individuals choosing not to evacuate with the intent to undertake preventative or response measures has increased. This is referred to as evacuation reluctance or "stay and defend."

It is expected that evacuation reluctance may become increasingly common and may come with expectations of ongoing provincial support (e.g. delivery of food, water, fuel, medical supplies and services) and reimbursement for prevention and response activities.

Section 27 of the *Emergency Program Act* establishes that it is an offence to contravene the Act or regulations or to interfere with / obstruct the use of a power under the Act. Offences are subject to up to a year in jail and/or a $10,000 fine, however, this section has not been applied to compel people to adhere to an evacuation order. The Province does not have an official stated position on the definition or validity of "stay and defend" activities; however, it does not encourage or support these activities as they can hamper public safety (public and first responders) and response operations.

Local Authorities and Indigenous Communities have been seeking additional clarification on this topic, including definition of what supports would be available from the Province. This topic has been the subject of UBCM resolutions and identified in several after action reviews.

The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is leading an initiative, supported by Emergency Management BC (EMBC), to provide clarity and direction on this topic for the public, government entities and Provincial staff.

The outcomes will:
- Deter evacuation reluctance by enhancing awareness, communication, trust and confidence;
- Increase community and individual capabilities respecting preparedness and align policy and funding programs; and

- Provide first responder staff with direction and guidance to safely and consistently manage instances of evacuation reluctance.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- This work is of significant interest to Indigenous Peoples in BC as identified in various reports and meetings with Indigenous communities and leaders. Engagement with Indigenous communities is being undertaken through existing EMBC tables.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:
BCWS, Integrated Resource Operations Division

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	DM	Oct 30, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 26, 20
ED		
Pgm Dir/Mgr		

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Increase of government funding to Avalanche Canada to $1M to expand services in underserved areas of BC.

BACKGROUND:

Avalanche Canada is the national (non-profit, non-government) organization that provides public avalanche bulletins and avalanche skills training within BC and other provinces and territories with areas of avalanche risk.

Avalanche Canada currently produces daily forecasts for 12 BC regions. However, several popular backcountry regions in, or impacting BC do not receive a daily avalanche forecast, including the Northern Rockies, Vancouver Island and the Yukon (where avalanches may impact recreational areas near Atlin, BC).

Avalanche Canada relies on funding that comes from a variety of sources including corporate and personal donations, sponsorships (i.e. from Mountain Equipment Co-op and Teck), the federal government (Parks Canada) and grants from the provinces of BC and Alberta. This funding is uncertain from year-to-year and has been made more difficult to secure in light of the economic impact of COVID-19. This makes it challenging for Avalanche Canada to sustain existing service levels or to expand services to meet the identified need.

The Province currently provides Avalanche Canada with approximately $410,000 annually as follows:

- $150,000 in annual grant funding to support public avalanche forecasting and public education through Emergency Management BC (EMBC);
- $250,000 gaming grant through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for operational costs; and
- Average reimbursement of $10,000 annually through EMBC for the issuance of Special Public Avalanche Warnings.

Business Information

determined based on the level of programming required in each jurisdiction based on avalanche risk.

In 2019, the federal government announced a one-time endowment of $25M to the Avalanche Canada Foundation (Foundation) representing its contribution towards the delivery of the National Avalanche Strategy. Federal funding was provided with the expectation provinces and territories would commit to funding their respective share of the strategy. Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

In the *Budget 2020* Estimates Debate, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General committed continuing to pursue additional funding from Treasury Board to support the expansion of avalanche forecasting services in underserved regions of the province. Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences

Business Information

Avalanche Programming

The number of backcountry users accessing avalanche-susceptible terrain is growing each year. Backcountry activities, including backcountry skiing, heli-skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling, are significant generators of provincial tourism revenues. Recent estimates by industry associations suggest heliskiing contributes over $164M and snowmobiling $102.8M annually to the BC economy.

Industry and government sources (Heli Ski, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN), BC Hydro, Mines, Rail, etc.) provide weather and snowpack data to the INFOEX system that supports Avalanche Canada forecasting. The estimated value of this system is over $5M annually.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted funding and data for Avalanche Canada due to staffing issues.
- In 2020, avalanche forecasting ended on March 23rd, approximately 1 month earlier than normal due to the lack of field data from industry partners.
- The absence of such forecasts increases the risk to recreationalists and the burden on industry (including Public Service staff) and emergency response organizations who rely on the data to support their operations.
- Changes to the landscape associated with climate change, wildfires, natural resource extraction and development have decreased the ability to rely on historical environmental knowledge and increased the need for more accurate forecasting and well-trained practitioners in the field.

- With the COVID-19 related reduction in foreign travel more British Columbians will be recreating in the backcountry this winter and spring which will increase avalanche risk.

Avalanche Canada develops the curriculum and program of the Avalanche Skills Training (AST) program and licenses it to private training providers, who then provide the public and workers, including BC Government staff, with avoidance, preparedness and companion rescue instruction. The delivery of this program has grown significantly in the past number of years and is believed to have contributed to a reduction in the number and severity of avalanche incidents.

TRAN provides a province-wide program to ensure avalanche safety for highway motorists. This program manages more than 60 avalanche areas and includes almost 1,400 individual paths.

TRAN Avalanche Program staff and Avalanche Canada forecasters share remote weather station information data and forecasting knowledge in remote areas of adjoining coverage.

The BC Coroners Service and Avalanche Canada collaborate under an interagency Memorandum of Understanding to support the investigation of fatal avalanche incidents and the timely release of appropriate information about these incidents. The two organizations also partner in public education programs that stress the need for proper training, equipment and knowledge of terrain when venturing into the backcountry.

There were 123 avalanche fatalities in Canada from 2010 to 2019. Of these, 85 occurred in B.C., 19 in Alberta, 3 in Quebec, one in the Yukon and one in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Avalanche fatalities occur in a wide variety of outdoor activities. From 2010 to 2019 there were 45 avalanche fatalities linked to snowmobiling, 26 to backcountry skiing, 12 to snowshoeing and hiking, 10 to guided skiing, 5 to mountaineering, 3 to skiing out of bounds, and 8 to other activities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- No implications (acknowledged or claimed) for Indigenous Peoples in BC.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- BC Coroners Service
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

PREPARED BY:
Madeline Maley
ADM, Regional Operations
Emergency Management BC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	**Date**
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 28, 2020
ED	BR	Oct 27, 2020
Pgm Dir/Mgr		

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Public Alerting

BACKGROUND:

- An emergency public alert is an alert message issued by an authorized government agency or an authorized user in the event of an imminent or unexpected threat to life caused by severe weather disturbances, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

- Under the *Emergency Program Act,* Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation, local governments have the responsibility to "establish procedures by which those persons who may be harmed or who may suffer loss are notified of an emergency".

- The Province and local governments use a variety of systems to alert the greatest number of people as no single alerting system or group of systems will reach everyone in an emergency.

- Local government alerting systems include sirens; subscription-based systems that will phone, email or text alerts; and local government officials, first responders, or volunteers who go door-to-door.

- Currently, people in BC receive tsunami alerts from Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and AMBER and police incident alerts from the RCMP.

- For tsunamis, the Province has two alerting systems:

    - The **Provincial Emergency Notification System** (PENS), which is currently used to alert local government emergency contacts, key partner agency stakeholders and 24/7 media outlets by phone, email, and fax; and,

    - **Alert Ready**, which is the national system run by Pelmorex (the Weather Network), which provides EMBC with the capability to send emergency Broadcast Intrusive alerts that interrupt radio, TV, and LTE smartphones in a specific geographic area. The Canadian Radio-TV and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandates that all radio, TV, and cellular providers transmit alerts that are urgent, severe, and certain as a condition of their broadcast license.

- When provincial level notifications are sent for tsunamis, local governments in impacted areas will also activate their alerting system as the effect of tsunamis can

differ greatly based on geography and specific instructions may be required.

- In 2011, the Province, the Auditor General, and the Union of BC Municipalities identified and prioritized emergency public alerting.

Advice/Recommentations

- The Province regularly participates in national tests of Alert Ready which are scheduled in the fall and spring of each year. The last scheduled test, May 6, 2020, was cancelled due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic emergency. BC will be participating in the next national alerting test scheduled for November 25, 2020 at 1:55 pm Pacific Standard Time.

- The *Emergency Program Act* is currently under review. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- First Nation communities have a significant interest in ensuring that their community members receive alerts in the event of an emergency. Any system developed for British Columbia will take into consideration the needs of First Nation communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:
Brendan Ralfs, A/ED Regional Operations

Government Financial Information

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
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Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Public Safety Broadband Network

BACKGROUND:
A Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) is a secure high-speed wireless data communications network. It can be used by emergency responders and public safety personnel to communicate with each other in emergency situations and during day-to-day operations and holds the potential to improve the effectiveness and safety of first responders and the public safety community.

A PSBN would also enable a range of wireless data communications capabilities to enhance coordination and response for example by sending patient data from an ambulance enroute to the hospital; securely and rapidly sharing information on suspects at large (e.g. photos and location); and sharing real-time maps to responders to track evacuations during an emergency.

Exercises and after-action reports from major incidents (e.g. 2017 BC Wildfires, 2016 Fort McMurray fire, and the 2014 Parliament Hill incident) point to significant issues with non-interoperable communications systems used by the public safety community such as: communications between first responders, and all levels of government are impeded by incompatible systems and cellular congestion, especially during an emergency; and an increasing need for secure and uninterrupted wireless data capabilities and applications

A national PSBN would help address these challenges by allowing:
- Prioritized access to communications networks;
- A high degree of interoperability with other jurisdictions; and
- Secure use of wireless data and applications.

Progress to Date
In May 2016, Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers (FPT) responsible for emergency management committed to accelerated stakeholder engagement on options for the potential deployment of a national PSBN.

In May 2017, FPT ministers instructed Senior Official Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM) to continue work towards a PSBN strategy. Further, the federal government announced funding to engage diverse stakeholders and provide evidence-based analysis on implementation models for a potential PSBN.

Since 2017 FPT officials have engaged municipal governments, first responders, industry, critical infrastructure operators, representatives from small and remote communities, Indigenous community representatives, and academia.

Key issues raised by stakeholders across Canada include:

- Need for national governance and leadership to ensure coordination;
- Coverage challenges, particularly in rural, remote, and Northern communities;
- Limited awareness of current pilots and trials, and their findings/lessons learned;
- Enhanced Canada-U.S. interoperability is a priority for border communities;
- Timelines and costs associated with a transition from Land Mobile Radio systems to a PSBN; and
- Adoption of new technologies and capacity in small communities and volunteer organizations.

In May 2018, FPT Ministers endorsed guiding considerations for the potential development of a PSBN across the country and supported the establishment of a Temporary National Coordination Office (TNCO) to develop recommendations to operationalize PSBN. BC has been a participant on the TNCO mandate for almost three years and has also engaged provincial stakeholders.

The endorsed guiding considerations for a national PSBN were:

- Best practices and lessons learned from pilots and trials would be leveraged to inform PSBN deployment;
- Deployment timelines would differ across Canada according to each jurisdiction's priorities and capabilities;
- Land Mobile Radio networks would likely co-exist with a PSBN over the medium-term (10-15 years);
- The short-term focus of the PSBN would be to provide secure, interoperable wireless data communication services;
- Existing wireless infrastructure would be leveraged as much as possible to reduce costs;
- Linkages should be built with other public safety communications initiatives (e.g., public alerting and Next Generation 9-1-1) and governance mechanisms; and
- Funding programs at all levels of government should be leveraged to address coverage and capacity challenges.

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

An update on PSBN will be represented at the next F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee will provide an opportunity for Ministers to provide jurisdictional perspective.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The availability and use of PSBN to support emergency personnel will be of interest to indigenous communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

PREPARED BY: **REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	DM	30/1020
ADM	MM	26/10/20
ED		
Pgm Dir/Mgr		

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Flooding at Stump Lake near Merrit, BC

BACKGROUND

- Stump Lake (Attachment 1), located in the Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD), 40km south of Kamloops has no natural outflow. A control structure (barrier) was installed approximately 100 years ago but current lake levels have not reached this structure and it is not impacting lake levels.

- The lake level rises when inflows increase and evaporation is suppressed, which can result in flooding.

- This lake is a prized Provincial Kokanee Fishery but has a high pH which is corrected by rising water levels.

- Stump Lake water levels have been rising since 2017, impacting 10 permanent homes and over 11 ancillary buildings. Some of these structures are in contravention of the TNRD Flood Construction Levels (although the earliest development around the lake was in 1974, before the provincial floodplain management program came into effect, and before TNRD adopted its initial flood construction level bylaw in 1985).

- From 2017 to 2019, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) spent approximately $1.2M armouring the shoulder and raising the elevation of Highway 5A (5A), which runs alongside Stump Lake and is susceptible to flooding impacts.

- In spring 2020, the 5A was closed due to flooding impacts and an estimated $2.2M was invested in further repairs to the highway.

- Since April 2020, EMBC has supported the TNRD with over $27,000 in sandbags and approvals for sand to respond to the flooding of the private residences.

- The water level rise at Stump Lake has been thoroughly examined by Regional Water Management, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and the TNRD. Pumping or diversion of the lake water into Stump Creek, where it would flow unabated to the downstream dams and communities, is not a viable option due to the inability of the structures to cope with those flows; which would negatively impact property owners downstream (Ducks Unlimited, Guichon Ranch, Upper Nicola Indian Band and other residents around

Nicola Lake, as well as the City of Merritt). In addition, there would be potential negative impacts on ecosystems and fish that support angling activity on the lake.

- Three options were identified at a July 18, 2018, meeting with Stump Lake residents, the TNRD, and provincial representatives:
  - Status Quo: do nothing;
  - Excavate a historic control structure to allow flow into Stump Creek after upgrading downstream dams and culverts; and
  - Pursue a water storage license for a new control structure.

- The costs of the latter two options were identified as the responsibility of the local landowners, but they did not support the creation of a Service Area to collect fees from residents and fund the initiation of a project that could require over a million dollars to implement as well as ongoing operational and maintenance costs.

- The results of a water balance and feasibility study co-funded by FLNRORD ($20,000) and TNDR ($28,000) to identify risks to downstream impacts were presented to the residents, the TNRD, provincial representatives on September 25, 2020 with the final report submitted on TNRD on October 5, 2020.

- The study concludes that a technically feasible long-term solution would be provided by the installation an outlet pipe with a manual gate (estimated cost $2,500,000) and construction of a channel through Guichon pasture (estimated cost $2,800,00) to mitigate downstream impacts. Environmental implications will be addressed in a separate Technical Memo expected to be delivered to TNRD shortly after submission of the water balance and feasibility study.

- The proposed long-term option would require an entity to manage the operations and maintenance of the structure. However, the residents do not support the creation of a Service Area to fund operations and maintenance, as well as assert that this is the purview of the TNRD or the Province. The current *Emergency Program Act* does not provide for operational and maintenance funding.

- The TNRD has expressed concerns over the liability of undertaking the responsibility of such a structure and is seeking legal advice.

- Residents are requesting that prior to installation of a long-term solution, the lake level be lowered to prevent further flooding in the interim. The TNRD has advised residents that they need to apply to FLNRORD to move water/lower the lake level.

Advice/Recommentations

- There were no applications received from the TNRD for flood mitigation projects or to the Community Emergency Program Fund (CEPF) regarding Stump Lake during the 2018 or 2019 intakes of the CEPF.

- EMBC and FLNRORD are working collaboratively to explore options for Stump Lake.

- Lakes levels have been lowered by pumping, under order issued by FLNRORD to the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen, during freshet at Twin Lakes (2018) and Conifryd Lakes (2019). In both cases there was an imminent threat to structures or ecological/archeological values, which is not present at Stump Lake.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Upper Nicola Indian Band are impacted annually by increased water levels on Nicola Lake. Representatives of the Upper Nicola Indian Band have attended meetings and have been included in email correspondence from TNRD as a downstream stakeholder of Stump Lake.
- Downstream of Nicola Lake stakeholders include the Lower Nicola Indian Band and the Nooitach Indian Band.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Regional Water

PREPARED BY:
Andrew Morrison
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Emergency Management BC

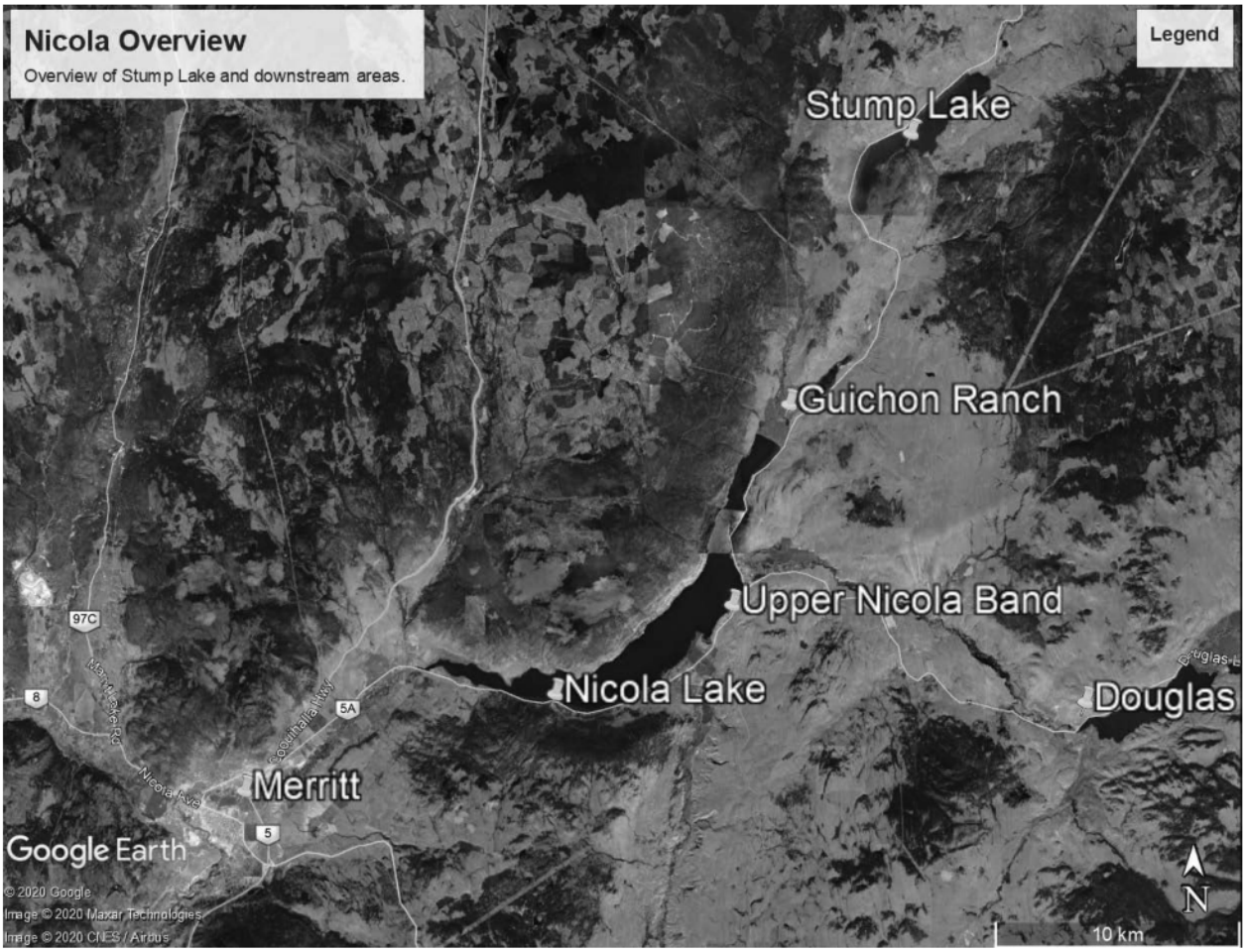
Government Financial Information

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DM	LH	Nov 2, 20
ADM	MM	Oct. 28, 20
ED	BR	Oct. 28, 20
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Attachment(s)
Attachment 1 - Stump Lake Overview (Map)

Attachment 1 – Stump Lake Overview (Map)



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Pemberton Valley Hazards

BACKGROUND:

- The Pemberton Valley has multiple hazards, which may result in landslides and flooding. Due to these hazards, local populations of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Lil'wat First Nation, and the Village of Pemberton have been identified as residing in a high-risk hazard area.

- The Province is engaged in ongoing research, technical studies and academic studies highlighting current and forecasted hazards and risks for the Pemberton Valley.

- Since 2016, the Province has contributed approximately $3.8M to Pemberton Valley communities for several projects involving flood risk assessments, flood hazard mapping, capacity building for emergency operations centres, evacuation route planning, fire equipment/training, and Indigenous cultural safety/humility training. Approximately $2.7M of this funding was provided in 2019-2020.

- Cross-ministry engagement regarding the hazards, risks and available mitigation options is ongoing with Emergency Management BC (EMBC), Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH), and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN).

- The Province is also engaged with academia and the federal government regarding the analysis of hazards and risks in the Pemberton Valley, and to determine available options for seismic and landslide monitoring.

- FLNRORD has granted approval to the Pemberton Valley Diking District (PVDD) to increase sediment removal in the Lillooet River for 2019 to mitigate flood risk. Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) received a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Structural Flood Mitigation grant of $750,000 to perform sediment removal from the Lillooet River near Pemberton in 2020.

- The Province is participating in a steering committee for a joint SLRD/Simon Fraser University (SFU) landslide hazard study program, funded through the CEPF. The Steering Committee is to review and provide feedback at key points in the two-year project lifecycle, on the data, draft reports, and conclusions and recommendations for further actions arising from this study.

Context by Hazard:

Mount Meager Volcano and Slope Instability

- In 2010, the Mount Meager landslide generated a significant debris flow of 53 million cubic metres of debris, the largest debris flow in recorded Canadian history. The flow destroyed roads, bridges, and a dam, causing the evacuation of 1,500 residents; there were no fatalities. During the last 8,000 years, Mount Meager has created at least six landslides or debris flows, of a comparable or greater magnitude to the 2010 event, that have inundated areas that are now populated.

- Most slopes at Mount Meager show signs of instability. An inventory shows 27 large potential landslide sites with cracks, bulges, collapses and other signs of instability. Significant and continuing loss of ice from Mount Meager is increasing the risk of large landslides and debris flows from slopes previously stabilized by glaciers.

- Debris flow speeds vary considerably and have not been specifically modelled for Mount Meager drainages. However, identified potential speeds of 10-15 metres per second (35-55 km/hr) above Pemberton Meadows and 3-6 metres per second (10-22 km/hr) at Pemberton would result in travel times to populated areas ranging from less than an hour to several hours.

- Fifteen slopes that have been mapped could generate debris flows of 10-100 million cubic metres. Events of this size would reach some less-densely populated areas of the Lillooet Valley upstream of Pemberton. The 2010 debris flow was within this range. The estimated probability of an event of this size is 1 in 1100.

- An additional twelve slopes have been mapped that could generate debris flows between 100 million and 1 billion cubic metres. Events of this size would reach up to the shore of Lillooet Lake, which would affect the entire populated reach of the valley. The estimated probability of an event of this size is 1 in 2000. For comparison, the generally accepted minimum threshold of a 1 in 10,000 probability is similar to the risk of death from operating or riding in a motor vehicle.

- The risk to residents of the Lillooet Valley could potentially be reduced through installation of a real-time debris flow detection system with a simultaneous capacity to alert residents that a threatening debris flow is occurring.

- Numerous systems for real-time debris flow detection and alerting are in use worldwide in both volcanic and non-volcanic settings, including Mount Rainier, Washington, and Nevado del Huila, Colombia where up to 12,000 people were successfully evacuated from 2007 and 2008 volcanic debris flows.

Mount Currie/Ts'zil Slope Instability

- A 2018 risk assessment report completed by BGC Engineering found several areas of instability on Mount Currie/Ts'zil and concluded that alongside smaller rockfall

events, that there was risk of a low frequency, high consequence landslide event that would be large enough to impact the Green River and possibly the Lillooet River as well.

- The landslide hazard cannot be structurally mitigated due to the potential magnitude of future events and the extended hazard area, so hazard monitoring to understand the frequency and nature of events will provide important information for emergency planning for the values and population at risk.

- This type of hazard monitoring will also help inform next steps for the consideration and possible installation of an early warning system.

Flooding

- The historic focus of disaster risk reduction by local governments within the Pemberton Valley has been on flood risk and prevention.

- Floodplain mapping has demonstrated the Pemberton Valley is at increased risk of catastrophic flooding as a secondary hazard from the sedimentation moving through the Lillooet River system after the 2010 landslide.

- The PVDD has traditionally removed sediment from the Lillooet River and has applied and received approval from FLNRORD to increase sediment removal in 2019. PVDD's sediment management plan includes the removal of 200,000 cubic metres annually for 20 years, dike improvements, a sediment trap and mitigation planning. The SLRD received Community Emergency Preparedness Funds (CEPF) in 2020 to perform the sediment removal.

Emergency Preparedness

- The SLRD, Village of Pemberton (Village) and Lil'wat First Nation have jointly prepared an Interim Integrated Flood Response Plan for a coordinated response to all flood events in the Pemberton Valley.

- The SLRD and the Village contracted an engineering report assessing the ability to evacuate the valley by road in case of major flooding. The report found that the valley could be evacuated in 3 hours, taking into account highway routes and a multitude of weather conditions.

- The Village is currently working on a CEPF funded multi-hazard evacuation plan focussed on Hwy 99 between Pemberton and Whistler. This plan was anticipated to be completed in spring 2020 but has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Village and the SLRD have implemented emergency notification systems, SLRDAlert and PembertonAlert, that will allow for quicker emergency messaging during events.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Several First Nations reside in the Pemberton Valley and are equal partners in the dialogue.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Natural Resources Canada

PREPARED BY:

Brendan Ralfs, A/ED Regional Operations

Government Financial Information

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Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A





Building Resiliency Together

Last Updated on: January 18, 2018

Legend:

- Formal Reporting Mechanism
- Ad Hoc Reporting Mechanism
- Horizontal Collaborative Relationship
- Standing Committee
- National Platform

Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) EM Committees

- FPT Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee
- FPT Deputy Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee
- National Search and Rescue Advisory Council
- Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management Committee (SOREM)
- Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
  - Steering Committee for Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Indigenous Emergency Management Working Group
- Communications Working Group
- Critical Infrastructure Working Group
- EM Strategy Development Working Group
- Disaster Mitigation Adapation Fund Working Group
- Interoperability Working Group
  - Public Safety Broadband Network Deployment Options Sub-Working Group
  - Public Safety Broadband Network Use Case and User Requirements Sub-Working Group
- Recovery Working Group
- Public Alerting Working Group
  - Public Alerting Common Look and Feel (CFL) Sub-Working Group
  - Public Alerting Canadian Profile of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Sub-Working Group
- Ground Search and Rescue Council
- Urban Search and Rescue Working Group

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Emergency Management Partners

RDIMS # 2463420

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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Building Resiliency Together

FPT Emergency Management Committees / National Platform

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DRAFT





Building Resiliency Together

FPT Working Groups / Sub-Working Groups

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To be updated on December 18, 2017.			
To be updated on December 18, 2017.			
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Building Resiliency Together

FPT Working Groups / Sub-Working Groups

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Public Safety Broadband Network Deployment Options – Sub-Working Group			
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Public Alerting Common Look and Feel (CFL) – Sub-Working Group			
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Public Alerting Canada Profile of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) – Sub-Working Group			
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Cliff: 577975
Date Prepared: October 26, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Forum Meeting – Spring 2021

BACKGROUND:
In January 2005, Federal, Provincial and Territorial (F/P/T) Ministers responsible for Emergency Management (EM) established a permanent high-level F/P/T Forum on EM (the Forum). The purpose of the Forum is to provide Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management the opportunity to share information and experiences, provide advice and guidance on EM issues of national concern and better coordinate their respective actions.

The Forum consists of three committees (Attachment 1):

- F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee;
- F/P/T Deputy Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee; and
- Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management Committee (SOREM).

The objectives of the F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee are to exchange information; foster co-operation; show leadership, provide guidance to the F/P/T Deputy Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Committee. This committee is co-chaired by the Federal Minister of Public Safety and Provincial or Territorial Minister responsible for EM. The current chairs are Minister of Public Safety Canada, Bill Blair and Tracy Allard, Minister of Municipal Affairs Alberta. The committee generally meets annually; with the next meeting scheduled for spring 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 meeting was cancelled in favour of conference calls to address F/P/T pandemic issues.

Residential Flood Insurance and Strategic Relocation

Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations

The update will provide an opportunity for Ministers to provide jurisdictional perspective.

Emergency Management Strategy for Canada (EMS) Action Plan

Intergovernmental Communications

The update will present work to date as well as seek ministrial endorsement of priority actions.

Public Safety Broadband Network

In Canada, first responders and other stakeholders have been working towards the goal of a reliable, modern, nationwide and interoperable public safety broadband network (PSBN). A PSBN is a network that can be used by emergency responders and public safety personnel to communicate with each other, share and access information during day-to-day operations, weather-related incidents and natural disasters, emergencies and major events.

In May 2018, Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management collectively acknowledged the benefits of a PSBN in Canada and endorsed the establishment of a Temporary National Coordination Office (TNCO). Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations

The update will provide an opportunity for Ministers to provide jurisdictional perspective.

National Public Alerting System

The National Public Alerting System (NPAS) is currently provided by Pelmorex (operating as the Weather Network/Meteo Media therough the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination (NAAD) System. The NAAD System accepts emergency alerts from Authorized Government Agencies which are then made available to broadcasters and other media distributors who voluntarily distribute them to the Canadian public. Pelmorex is licensed under the Broadcast Act by the Canadian Radio and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC) and funded by a mandatory cable subscription.

In 2018, the CRTC renewed the Pelmorex broadcasting license until August 31, 2023. However, in a CRTC decision it was the commission's view that licensing under the Broadcast Act may not by the most approportionate vehicle and that the operation of the NPAS would be more appropriately situated with and supported by organizations more directly responsible for public safety.

Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations

Intergovernmental Communications; Advice/Recommentations

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements
In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), administered by Public Safety Canada. Through the DFAA, assistance is paid to the province or territory – not directly to affected individuals, small businesses or communities.

The current DFAA terms and conditions came into effect in January 1 ,2008 and expired January 1, 2020. However, considering the increasing impact of disasters on Canadian communities, the current DFAA terms and conditions have been extended until March 2022 in order to engage on needed improvements to the program.

Intergovernmental Communications

The update will provide an opportunity for Ministers to provide jurisdictional perspective.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- All emergency management topics presented at F/P/T meetings have an impact on indigenous peoples. F/P/T Ministers meet with indigenous leaders to discuss emergency management topics of mutual interest as part of the F/P/T meetings.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Citizens' Services

PREPARED BY:
Madeline L. Maley
Assistance Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	DM	30/10/20
ADM	MM	26/10/20
ED		
Pgm Dir/Mgr		

Attachment(s)
Attachment 1: F/P/T Governance structure

Cliff: 578436
Date Prepared: November 2, 2020

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: 2019 Annual Report for the Office of the Fire Commissioner

BACKGROUND:

- The Fire Commissioner is required under the *Fire Services Act* to submit an annual report to the Minister responsible. The last report was submitted in 2013.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Advice/Recommentations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

Advice/Recommentations

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Citizen Services
- BC Coroners Service

PREPARED BY:
Gord Sharpe
Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner
Office of the Fire Commissioner

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	2 Nov 20
ADM	MM	2 Nov 20
ED	BG	2 Nov 20
Pgm Dir/Mgr	GS	2 Nov 20

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This Act is current to October 28, 2020

See the Tables of Legislative Changes for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 111

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Part 1 — Definitions and Application

Definitions

1 (1) In this Act:

"declaration of a state of emergency" means a declaration of the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 9 (1);

"declaration of a state of local emergency" means a declaration of a local authority or the head of a local authority under section 12 (1);

"director" means the person appointed under section 2 (3) as the director of the Provincial Emergency Program;

"disaster" means a calamity that

(a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or by the forces of nature, and

(b) has resulted in serious harm to the health, safety or welfare of people, or in widespread damage to property;

"electoral area" means an electoral area as defined in the *Local Government Act*;

"emergency" means a present or imminent event or circumstance that

(a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature, and

(b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property;

"government corporation" has the same meaning as in the *Financial Administration Act*, and includes the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority continued under the *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act* and any of its subsidiaries;

"head of a local authority" means

(a) for a municipality, the mayor or a person designated by the municipal council to act in the capacity of mayor in the mayor's absence, and

(b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the chair of the board of the regional district, or, in the chair's absence, a vice chair;

"jurisdictional area" means any of the following for which there is a local authority:

(a) a municipality;

(b) an electoral area;

(c) a national park;

"local authority" means

(a) for a municipality, the municipal council,

(b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district, or

(c) for a national park, the park superintendent or the park superintendent's delegate if an agreement has been entered into with the government of Canada under section 4 (2) (e) in which it is agreed that the park superintendent is a local authority for the purposes of this Act;

"local emergency plan" means an emergency plan prepared under section 6 (2);

"Provincial Emergency Program" means the Provincial Emergency Program continued under section 2 (1);

"Provincial emergency plans" means the emergency plans prepared under section 4 (1);

"volunteer" means a volunteer registered by a local authority or the Provincial Emergency Program for the purpose of responding to a disaster or an emergency.

(2) A local authority has responsibility under this Act for the jurisdictional area for which it is the local authority.

Part 2 — Administration

Provincial Emergency Program

2 (1) The Provincial Emergency Program is continued.

(2) The Provincial Emergency Program is responsible for carrying out the powers and duties vested in it under this Act or by the minister.

(3) A director and any officers and employees required to enable the Provincial Emergency Program to perform its duties and exercise its powers may be appointed in accordance with the *Public Service Act*.

Committees

3 (1) The minister may appoint the committees the minister considers necessary or desirable to advise or assist the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the minister or the director.

(2) The members of committees appointed under subsection (1) who are not officers or employees of the government, or officers or employees of an agency of the government,

(a) are to be reimbursed for reasonable travelling and out of pocket expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties under this Act, and

(b) may be paid remuneration for their services as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may order.

Powers and duties of minister

4 (1) The minister must prepare emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

(2) The minister may do one or more of the following:

(a) conduct public information programs relating to emergency preparedness and recommend preventive measures to alleviate the effects of emergencies or disasters;

(b) make surveys and studies to identify and record actual and potential hazards that may cause emergencies or disasters;

(c) make payments and grants, subject to any terms or conditions that the minister may impose, to local authorities or other persons or organizations for the purposes of assisting in emergency prevention, preparedness and response;

(d) enter into agreements with and make payments or grants, or both, to persons or organizations for the provision of services in the development or implementation of emergency plans or programs;

(e) enter into agreements with the government of Canada or of any other province, or with any agency of such a government, dealing with emergency plans and programs;

(f) review and recommend modification of local emergency plans of local authorities;

(g) establish training and training exercise programs;

(h) provide support to volunteers as prescribed in the regulations;

(i) delegate in writing to the director any of the powers or duties vested in the minister by this Act, except a power

(i) to make a declaration of a state of emergency,

(ii) to cancel a declaration of a state of emergency,

(iii) to cancel a declaration of a state of local emergency, or

(iv) to make an order under section 13 (2).

Ministerial orders

5 The minister may, by order, do one or more of the following:

(a) divide British Columbia into various subdivisions for the purpose of organizing integrated plans and programs in relation to emergency preparedness, response and recovery;

(b) require local authorities of the municipalities or electoral areas located within a subdivision referred to in paragraph (a) to prepare, in cooperation

with designated ministries, integrated plans and programs, satisfactory to the minister, to deal with emergencies;

(c) establish procedures required for the prompt and efficient implementation of plans and programs to meet emergencies and disasters;

(d) require a person to develop plans and programs in cooperation with one or more local authorities, designated ministries and government corporations and agencies to remedy, alleviate or meet any emergency that might arise from any hazard to persons or property and that is or may be created by

(i) the person engaging in any operation,

(ii) the person utilizing any process,

(iii) the person using property in any manner, or

(iv) any condition that exists or may exist on the person's land.

Local authority emergency organization

6 (1) Subject to sections 8 (2), 13 (2) and 14 (3), a local authority is at all times responsible for the direction and control of the local authority's emergency response.

(2) Subject to subsection (2.1), a local authority must prepare or cause to be prepared local emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

(2.1) For the purposes of subsection (2), a local authority that is the board of a regional district must ensure that it has one local emergency plan that applies, or 2 or more local emergency plans that in the aggregate apply, to all of the electoral areas within the regional district.

(3) A local authority that is a municipal council or the board of a regional district must establish and maintain an emergency management organization to develop and implement emergency plans and other preparedness, response and recovery measures for emergencies and disasters and, for that purpose,

(a) if the local authority is a municipal council, the municipal council must establish and maintain an emergency management organization with responsibility for the whole of the municipality, and

(b) if the local authority is the board of a regional district, the board of the regional district must establish and maintain

(i) one emergency management organization with responsibility for all of the electoral areas within the regional district, or

(ii) 2 or more emergency management organizations that in the aggregate have responsibility for all of the electoral areas within the regional district.

(3.1) Without limiting subsection (3), a local authority that is a municipal council or the board of a regional district may

(a) appoint committees the local authority considers necessary or desirable to advise and assist the local authority, and

(b) appoint a coordinator for each emergency management organization established by it under subsection (3).

(3.2) The minister may, by order, establish one or both of the following:

(a) if a local authority has not complied with subsections (2) and (2.1), the date by which the local emergency plan or plans required under those subsections must be prepared, with power to establish, for the board of a regional district, different dates for the preparation of local emergency plans for different electoral areas within the regional district;

(b) if a local authority has not complied with subsection (3), the date by which the emergency management organization or organizations required under that subsection must be established, with power to establish, for the board of a regional district, different dates for the establishment of emergency management organizations for different electoral areas within the regional district.

(4) A local authority may, in writing, delegate any of its powers and duties under this Act to the committee, emergency management organization or coordinator referred to in subsection (3), except the power to make a declaration of a state of local emergency.

Part 3 — Emergencies, Disasters and Declared Emergencies

Division 1 — Emergencies and Disasters

Implementation of Provincial emergency plans

7 The minister or a person designated in a Provincial emergency plan may, whether or not a state of emergency has been declared under section 9 (1), cause a Provincial emergency plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the minister or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens.

Implementation of local emergency plans

8 (1) A local authority or a person designated in the local authority's local emergency plan may, whether or not a state of local emergency has been declared under section 12 (1), cause the plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the local authority or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens in

(a) the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility, or

(b) any other municipality or electoral area if the local authority having responsibility for that other jurisdictional area has requested assistance.

(2) If a Provincial emergency plan has been implemented under section 7, a local emergency plan may be implemented or its implementation may be continued under subsection (1) of this section if and to the extent that the local emergency plan is not in conflict with the Provincial emergency plan.

Division 2 — Declaration of State of Emergency

Declaration of state of emergency

9 (1) If satisfied that an emergency exists or is imminent, the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by order, declare a state of emergency relating to all or any part of British Columbia.

(2) A declaration of a state of emergency under subsection (1) must identify the nature of the emergency and the area of British Columbia in which the emergency exists or is imminent.

(3) Immediately after a declaration of a state of emergency is made, the minister must cause the details of the declaration to be published by a means of communication that the minister considers most likely to make the contents of the declaration known to the majority of the population of the affected area.

(4) A declaration under subsection (1) expires 14 days from the date it is made, but the Lieutenant Governor in Council may extend the duration of the declaration for further periods of not more than 14 days each.

(5) Subsections (2) and (3) apply to each extension under subsection (4) of the duration of a declaration of a state of emergency.

Powers of minister in declared state of emergency

10 (1) After a declaration of a state of emergency is made under section 9 (1) and for the duration of the state of emergency, the minister may do all acts and implement all procedures that the minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including, without limitation, any or all of the following:

(a) implement a Provincial emergency plan or any Provincial emergency measures;

(b) authorize a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility;

(c) require a local authority for a municipality or an electoral area to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the municipality or electoral area for which the local authority has responsibility;

(d) acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(e) authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide or that otherwise is or may be required to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(f) control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia;

(g) provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency

medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of British Columbia;

(h) cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area of British Columbia that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property;

(i) authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the minister to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(j) cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(k) construct works considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(l) procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any part of British Columbia for the duration of the state of emergency.

(2) After a declaration of a state of emergency is made under section 9 (1),

(a) the director or such other person as the minister may appoint is responsible for the coordination and implementation of necessary plans or programs prepared under this Act, and

(b) all persons and agencies involved in the coordination and implementation are subject to the control and direction of the director or the other person appointed by the minister.

Powers of Lieutenant Governor in Council in declared state of emergency

10.1 (1) After a declaration of a state of emergency is made under section 9 (1), and for the duration of the state of emergency, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, subject to this section, make regulations as follows to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster:

(a) making an exception to an enactment;

(b) establishing limits on the application of an enactment;

(c) establishing powers, duties, functions or obligations that apply in place of or in addition to an enactment;

(d) establishing conditions in relation to anything done or established under paragraphs (a) to (c).

(2) Without limiting subsection (1) and subject to this section, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster:

(a) suspending the application of a provision that establishes a limitation period or a period of time within which a proceeding or process must be commenced or a step must be taken in a proceeding or process;

(b) setting out a replacement limitation period or period of time for one suspended under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(c) authorizing an issuer of a permit, licence or other authorization to modify the conditions of a permit, licence or other authorization or to add or remove conditions of a permit, licence or other authorization;

(d) authorizing a person, tribunal or other body that has a statutory power of decision to waive, suspend or extend a mandatory time period relating to the exercise of that power.

(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make a regulation under subsection (1) or (2) only if satisfied that the benefit of making the regulation is proportionate to the benefit of the continued application of the enactment as it is before the making of the regulation.

(4) A limitation period or period of time established under subsection (2) (b) or extended by authorization under subsection (2) (d) may extend beyond the date when the relevant declaration of a state of emergency expires or is cancelled.

(5) If a provision establishing a limitation period or a period of time within which a proceeding or process must be commenced or a step must be taken in a proceeding or process is temporarily suspended by regulation under subsection (2) (a) and the regulation does not provide for a replacement limitation period or period of time, the limitation period or period of time resumes running on the date on which the relevant declaration of a state of emergency expires or is cancelled, and the temporary suspension period is not to be counted.

(6) If a provision requiring the payment of a fee is temporarily suspended by a regulation under subsection (1) or (2) and the regulation does not provide for a replacement fee, no fee is payable at any time with respect to things done during the temporary suspension period.

(7) This section does not authorize regulations

(a) shortening a limitation period or a period of time within which a proceeding or process must be commenced or a step must be taken in a proceeding or process, or

(b) increasing the amount of a fee.

(8) A regulation under subsection (1) or (2) may be made retroactive to a specified date that is not earlier than the date of the relevant declaration of a state of emergency and, if made retroactive, is deemed to have come into force on the specified date.

Enforcement

10.2 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, specify that a failure to comply with a provision of a regulation made under section 10.1 (1) or (2) is to be treated as though it were a failure to comply with the Act to which that provision relates.

Cancellation of declaration of state of emergency

11 (1) When, in the opinion of the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council, an emergency no longer exists in an area in relation to which a declaration of a state of emergency was made under section 9 (1), the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council must make an order cancelling the declaration of a state of emergency in respect of that area.

(2) Immediately after an order is made under subsection (1) or a declaration of a state of emergency expires under section 9 (4), the minister must cause the details of the cancellation or expiry of the declaration of a state of emergency to be published by a means of communication that the minister considers most likely to make the contents of the cancellation order or the fact of the cancellation or expiry known to the majority of the population of the affected area.

Division 3 — Declaration of Local Emergency

Declaration of state of local emergency

12 (1) A local authority or, if a local authority consists of more than one person, the head of the local authority, may, at any time that the local authority or the head of the local authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that an emergency exists or is imminent in the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility, declare a state of local emergency relating to all or any part of the jurisdictional area.

(2) A declaration of a state of local emergency under subsection (1) must identify the nature of the emergency and the part of the jurisdictional area in which it exists or is imminent, and the declaration must be made

(a) by bylaw or resolution if made by a local authority, or

(b) by order, if made by the head of a local authority.

(3) The head of a local authority must, before making a declaration under subsection (1), use best efforts to obtain the consent of the other members of the local authority to the declaration and must, as soon as practicable after making a declaration under subsection (1), convene a meeting of the local authority to assist in directing the response to the emergency.

(4) Immediately after making a declaration of a state of local emergency, the local authority or the head of the local authority, as the case may be, must

(a) forward a copy of the declaration to the minister, and

(b) cause the details of the declaration to be published by a means of communication that the local authority or the head of the local authority, as the case may be, considers most likely to make the contents of the declaration known to the population of the affected area.

(5) Subject to section 14 (3), a declaration of a state of local emergency expires 7 days from the date it is made unless it is earlier cancelled by the minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the local authority or the head of the local authority.

(6) Despite subsection (5), the local authority may, with the approval of the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council, extend the duration of a declaration of a state of local emergency for periods of not more than 7 days each.

(7) Subsections (2) and (4) apply to each extension under subsection (6) of the duration of a declaration of a state of local emergency.

Powers of local authority in declared state of local emergency

13 (1) After a declaration of a state of local emergency is made under section 12 (1) in respect of all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which a local authority has responsibility and for the duration of the state of local emergency, the local authority may do all acts and implement all procedures that it considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including any or all of the following:

(a) implement its local emergency plan or any local emergency measures;

(b) subject to this section, exercise, in relation to the part of the jurisdictional area affected by the declaration, any power available to the minister under section 10 (1) (d) to (l);

(c) subject to this section, authorize, in writing, any persons involved in the operation of a local emergency plan or program to exercise, in relation to any part of the jurisdictional area affected by a declaration, any power available to the minister under section 10 (1) (d) to (l).

(2) If a state of local emergency has been declared under section 12 (1), the minister may order a local authority to refrain or desist, either generally or in respect of any matter, from exercising any one or more of the powers referred to in subsection (1) (b) or (c).

(3) Immediately after making an order under subsection (2), the minister must cause the details of the order to be communicated to the local authority affected by the order and to any other persons the minister considers appropriate.

(4) Immediately after the details of an order are communicated to a local authority under subsection (3), the local authority referred to in the order must comply with the order and must direct every person under its direction or control to refrain or desist from doing any act that the local authority is ordered to refrain or desist from doing.

(5) For the purposes of subsections (3) and (4), the details of an order are communicated to a local authority when those details are communicated to any one of the members of the local authority.

(6) The local authority of a municipality or electoral area may, during or within 60 days after declaring a state of local emergency, by bylaw ratified by the minister responsible for the administration of the *Community Charter*, but without obtaining

the approval of the electors or the assent of the electors, borrow any money necessary to pay expenses caused by the emergency.

Cancellation of declaration of state of local emergency

14 (1) The minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may cancel a declaration of a state of local emergency at any time the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) The local authority or the head of the local authority must, when of the opinion that an emergency no longer exists in the part of the jurisdictional area in relation to which a declaration of a state of local emergency was made,

(a) cancel the declaration of a state of local emergency in relation to that part

(i) by bylaw or resolution, if the cancellation is effected by the local authority, or

(ii) by order, if the cancellation is effected by the head of the local authority, and

(b) promptly notify the minister of the cancellation of the declaration of a state of local emergency.

(3) A declaration of a state of local emergency made in respect of a part of a jurisdictional area ceases have of any force or effect on the making of a declaration of a state of emergency by the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council relating to that part of the jurisdictional area.

Notification of termination of declaration of state of local emergency

15 (1) Immediately after the termination of a declaration of state of local emergency, the local authority having responsibility for the area in respect of which the declaration was made must cause the details of the termination to be published by a means of a communication that the local authority considers most likely to make the contents of the termination or the fact of the termination known to the majority of the population of the affected area.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a declaration of a state of local emergency is terminated when

(a) it expires under section 12 (5) or (6),

(b) it is cancelled by the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 14 (1),

(c) it is cancelled by bylaw, resolution or order under section 14 (2), or

(d) it ceases to have any force or effect under section 14 (3) as a result of the making of a declaration of a state of emergency under section 9 (1).

Part 4 — General

Expenditures

16 (1) Any expenditures under this Act considered necessary or advisable by the minister to make payments or grants under section 4 (2) (c) or (d) or to implement a Provincial emergency plan or Provincial emergency measures under section 7 or 10 (1) (a) may be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund without an appropriation other than this section.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) authorizes the minister to make a payment for disaster financial assistance out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Recovery of costs

17 (1) If an emergency or a disaster is threatened or caused in whole or in part by the acts or omissions of a person and expenditures are made by the government or a local authority to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of the emergency or disaster, the person must, on the request of the minister or head of a local authority, pay to the Minister of Finance or the local authority the lesser of

(a) the portion of the expenditures that is equal to the portion of the liability for the occurrence of the emergency or disaster that is attributable to the person, and

(b) the amount demanded by the minister or head of a local authority.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) relieves a person from any other liability.

Exemption from civil liability

18 No person, including, without limitation, the minister, the other members of the Executive Council, the director, a local authority, the head of a local authority, a member of a local authority, a volunteer and any other person appointed, authorized or required to carry out measures relating to emergencies or disasters, is liable for any loss, cost, expense, damage or injury to person or property that results from

(a) the person in good faith doing or omitting to do any act that the person is appointed, authorized or required to do under this Act, unless, in doing or omitting to do the act, the person was grossly negligent, or

(b) any acts done or omitted to be done by one or more of the persons who were, under this Act, appointed, authorized or required by the person to do the acts, unless in appointing, authorizing or requiring those persons to do the acts, the person was not acting in good faith.

Compensation for loss

19 (1) Despite section 18, if as a result of the acquisition or use of a person's land or personal property under section 10 (1) (d) or 13 (1) (b) or (c), the person suffers a loss of or to that property, the government or the local authority that acquired or used or directed or authorized the acquisition or use of the property must compensate the person for the loss in accordance with the regulations.

(2) Despite section 18, if a person suffers any loss of or to any land or personal property as a result of any other action taken under section 7, 8 (1), 10 (1) or 13 (1), the government or the local authority, as the case may be, that took or authorized or

directed the taking of the action may compensate the person for the loss in accordance with the regulations.

(3) If any dispute arises concerning the amount of compensation payable under this section, the matter must be submitted for determination by one arbitrator or 3 arbitrators appointed under the *Arbitration Act* and

(a) the person who is to be compensated must, in a notice served on the minister, elect whether one or 3 arbitrators are to be appointed, and

(b) the *Arbitration Act* applies to the dispute.

Disaster financial assistance

20 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, establish criteria by which the eligibility of a person to receive disaster financial assistance is to be determined.

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council or the minister may provide disaster financial assistance in accordance with the regulations to persons who suffer loss as a result of a disaster.

Appeals to director on eligibility for disaster financial assistance

21 (1) A person may, by delivering to the director a written notice of appeal within 60 days after receipt of notice that the person was determined not to meet the eligibility criteria set under section 20 (1), appeal that determination.

(2) If a written notice of appeal is not received by the director within the time limited for an appeal under subsection (1), the person in respect of whom the determination was made may not appeal the determination.

(3) If a written notice of appeal is received by the director within the time limited for an appeal under subsection (1), the director must review the appellant's eligibility for disaster financial assistance in accordance with the information contained in the notice of appeal and may, but need not, do one or both of the following in conducting that review:

(a) request additional information from the appellant;

(b) convene a hearing.

(4) After conducting a review under subsection (3), the director may

(a) confirm the determination, or

(b) overturn the determination and direct that the person be considered to be eligible to receive disaster financial assistance.

(5) The director must inform the appellant of the decision reached under subsection (4).

(6) A decision under subsection (4) is final and conclusive and is not open to question or review in a court on any grounds.

Appeals to director on amounts of disaster financial assistance

22 (1) A person may, by delivering to the director a written notice of appeal within 60 days after receipt of disaster financial assistance provided under section 20, appeal the

amount of that disaster financial assistance.

(2) If a written notice of appeal is not received by the director within the time limited for an appeal under subsection (1), the person is deemed to have accepted the sum paid by way of disaster financial assistance in full settlement of the person's loss, and no proceedings to determine or seek an increase in the amount of the disaster financial assistance provided for that loss may be brought by that person.

(3) If a written notice of appeal is received by the director within the time limited for an appeal under subsection (1), the director must review the amount of disaster financial assistance in accordance with the information contained in the notice of appeal and may, but need not, do one or both of the following in conducting that review:

(a) request additional information from the appellant;

(b) convene a hearing.

(4) After conducting a review under subsection (3), the director may confirm, increase or decrease the amount of the disaster financial assistance and must inform the appellant of the decision.

(5) A decision under subsection (4) is final and conclusive and is not open to question or review in a court on any grounds.

Repealed

23 [Repealed 2003-7-14.]

Variation of disaster financial assistance

24 (1) If a person is, under section 22, determined to be entitled to disaster financial assistance in an amount that is greater than the disaster financial assistance, if any, provided to the person under section 20, the government must promptly provide to the person the additional amount of disaster financial assistance decided by the director.

(2) If the director determines, under section 22, that a person is entitled to an amount of disaster financial assistance that is less than the amount of disaster financial assistance provided to the person under section 20, the person must repay to the government the amount of the disaster financial assistance that was an overpayment within 60 days after being informed of the director's decision under section 22.

Mandatory assistance

25 (1) If a person who is authorized to do so under section 10 (1) (e) or 13 (1) makes an order requiring a person to provide assistance, the person named in the order must provide the assistance required by the order.

(2) A person's employment must not be terminated by reason only that the person is required to provide assistance under this section.

Conflict

26 Unless otherwise provided for in a declaration of a state of emergency made under section 9 (1) or in an extension of the duration of a declaration under section 9 (4), if there is a conflict between this Act or the regulations made under this Act and any other Act or regulations, this Act and the regulations made under this Act prevail during the time that the declaration of a state of emergency made under section 9 (1) and any extension of the duration of that declaration is in effect.

Offence

27 (1) A person commits an offence who

(a) contravenes this Act or the regulations, or

(b) interferes with or obstructs any person in the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty conferred or imposed under this Act.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year or to a fine of not more than $10 000 or to both imprisonment and fine.

Power to make regulations

28 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the *Interpretation Act*.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:

(a) assigning responsibility to ministries, boards, commissions or government corporations or agencies for the preparation or implementation of all or any part of plans or arrangements to deal with emergencies or disasters;

(b) delegating to any person or committee appointed under this Act or to any one or more members of the Executive Council any of the powers vested by this Act in the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council, except the power to make an order for a declaration of a state of emergency or to make regulations;

(c) respecting the assessment of damage or loss caused by an emergency or disaster, the processing of claims for compensation for the damage or loss and the payment of compensation for the damage or loss;

(d) respecting eligibility for, the processing of claims for and the payment of disaster financial assistance;

(e) governing the sharing of costs incurred by the government or by a local authority in conducting emergency operations;

(f) respecting the registration, responsibilities and training of and training exercises for volunteers and volunteer agencies;

(g) requiring persons to develop plans and programs in cooperation with one or more local authorities, designated ministries and government corporations and agencies to remedy, alleviate or meet any emergency that

might arise from any hazard to persons or property and that is or may be created by

(i) the person engaging in any operation,

(ii) the person utilizing any process,

(iii) the person using property in any manner, or

(iv) any condition that exists or may exist on the person's land;

(h) respecting the form and content of emergency plans;

(i) in respect of any power available to a local authority under section 13 (1);

(j) respecting the form and content of any notice of appeal delivered to the director under section 21 (1) or 22 (1).

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CanLII

British Columbia Fire Code Regulation, BC Reg 263/2012

This regulation replaces BC Reg 175/2006.

Current version: as posted on Sep 11, 2018

Link to the latest version :	http://canlii.ca/t/8rs5
Stable link to this version :	http://canlii.ca/t/53dzx
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"POINT IN TIME" REGULATION CONTENT
Fire Services Act
British Columbia Fire Code Regulation
B.C. Reg. 263/2012

NOTE: *Links below go to reg content as it was prior to the changes made on the effective date. (PIT covers changes made from September 19, 2009 to present)*

SECTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Regulation	July 18, 2018
Section 2 to 6	July 18, 2018

Note: changes after July 18, 2018 are not reflected in this regulation. See section 47 (2) and (4) of the *Fire Services Act*.

B.C. Reg. 263/2012
M189/2012

Deposited September 7, 2012
effective December 20, 2012

Fire Services Act

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRE CODE REGULATION

[includes amendments up to B.C. Reg. 161/2018, July 18, 2018]

National Fire Code of Canada adopted and amended

1 Divisions A to C, except their appendices, of the National Fire Code of Canada 2010, as it existed on June 1, 2012, with the amendments set out in the attached Schedule, are adopted as the British Columbia Fire Code.

Repealed

2-6 Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 161/2018, s. (a).]

Schedule

[am. B.C. Reg. 166/2013.]

The Schedule is exempt from publication. The Schedule sets out the amendments to the National Fire Code of Canada 2010 as that Code is adopted as the British Columbia Fire Code.

Note: The National Fire Code of Canada and the amendments set out in the Schedule can be inspected between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on regular business days at the following location:

Building and Safety Standards Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
614 Humboldt Street
Victoria BC V8W 1A4

Phone: 250 387 3133
Email: building.safety@gov.bc.ca
Website: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards

The 2012 edition of the British Columbia Fire Code will be available for purchase from

Queen's Printer
563 Superior Street
Victoria BC V8W 9V7

Phone: 1 800 663 6105
Email: bccodes@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.bccodes.ca

[Provisions relevant to the enactment of this regulation: *Fire Services Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 144, section 47]

Sections 2 to 6 BEFORE repealed by BC Reg 161/2018, effective July 18, 2018.

Persons responsible for administration and enforcement

2 (1) The fire commissioner is designated as the person responsible for the administration of the British Columbia Fire Code.

(2) The fire commissioner and local assistants are designated as the persons responsible for the enforcement of the British Columbia Fire Code.

Inspections

3 (1) For the purposes of inspecting a building or facility for compliance with the British Columbia Fire Code, the fire commissioner or a local assistant may

(a) enter on or into property

(i) at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner, and

(ii) after having taken reasonable steps to advise the owner or occupier of the property,

(b) be accompanied and assisted by a person possessing special or expert knowledge relevant to the building or facility,

(c) make examinations and conduct tests,

(d) require information relevant to the building or facility,

(e) require, for inspection or for the purposes of making copies or extracts, production of documents relevant to the building or facility, and

(f) make a record of a matter relevant to the inspection.

(2) Despite subsection (1) (a), the fire commissioner or a local assistant may only enter a place that is occupied as a private dwelling if the occupier consents.

Compliance orders

4 (1) After inspecting a building or facility under section 3, the fire commissioner or a local assistant may issue a written order directing the owner or occupier of the building or facility to bring it, within a reasonable time to be specified in the order, into compliance with the British Columbia Fire Code.

(2) An owner or occupier to whom an order is issued must comply with the order and, subject to any agreement to the contrary,

(a) the owner must bear the cost of complying, and

(b) if the occupier pays the cost, the occupier has a right of action or set off against the owner for the cost actually and necessarily paid in complying with the order.

Appeal to Fire Commissioner

5 (1) If a local assistant issues an order to an owner or occupier under section 4, the owner or occupier may appeal to the fire commissioner by registered letter mailed within 10 days after receipt of the order.

(2) The fire commissioner must promptly

(a) investigate each appeal,

(b) affirm, modify or revoke the order appealed from, and

(c) in writing, communicate his or her decision and the reasons for the decision to the owner or occupier and to the local assistant who issued the order.

Appeal to Supreme Court

6 (1) If an order issued to an owner or occupier under section 4 involves the loss or expenditure of more than $500, the owner or occupier may apply for review by petition to the Supreme Court filed within 5 days after receipt of the order.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must be commenced at a registry of the Supreme Court located in the judicial district where the property lies.

(3) The owner or occupier must file the petition with the registrar of the court and give notice of it in writing to the fire commissioner.

(4) The court must hear and determine the appeal and make the order it believes proper.

(5) The decision under subsection (4) is final, except that on a point of law an appeal lies to the Court of Appeal.

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This Act is current to October 28, 2020

See the Tables of Legislative Changes for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

FIRE SERVICES ACT

[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 144

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Definitions

1 In this Act:

"advisory board" means the Fire Services Advisory Board continued under section 4;

"district" means a fire district constituted under this Act;

"factory" means a building, premises, workshop, structure, room or place

(a) where any manufacturing process or assembling in connection with the manufacturing of products is carried on,

(b) where thermal, hydraulic, electrical or other form of energy or power is used to move or work any machinery or device in the preparing, inspecting, manufacturing or finishing, or in a process incidental to the preparing, inspecting, manufacturing or finishing, of a product or is used to aid the manufacturing carried on there,

(c) where manual labour is performed by way of trade or for purposes of gain in or incidental to the making of a product, or the altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing, storing, cleaning, washing or adapting for sale of a product, or

(d) used for the maintenance of aircraft, locomotives and motor vehicles;

"fire department" includes fire brigade;

"fire services personnel" means persons regularly employed by a municipal fire department, appointed as auxiliary members of a fire department, or acting voluntarily as fire fighters;

"hotel" includes

(a) an apartment house,

(b) a residential building that has

(i) 2 or more levels of strata lots as defined in the *Strata Property Act*, and

(ii) one or more corridors that are common property as defined in the *Strata Property Act*, and

(c) a boarding house, lodging house, club or any other building, except a private dwelling, where lodging is provided;

"local assistant" means a local assistant to the fire commissioner as described in section 6;

"means of exit" means a continuous path of travel provided by a doorway, hallway, corridor, exterior passageway, balcony, lobby, stair, ramp or other exit facility, or a combination of them, for the escape of persons from any point in a building, floor area, room or contained open space to a public thoroughfare or other unobstructed open space and includes exits and access to exits;

"occupier" includes

(a) a tenant, lessee, agent and any other person who has the right of access to and control of a building or premises to which this Act applies, and

(b) in relation to common property and common facilities in a strata plan, the strata corporation;

"Provincial building regulations" means the Provincial building regulations as defined in the *Community Charter*;

"public building" includes a factory, a warehouse, store, mill, school, hospital, theatre, public hall, office building and any building other than a private dwelling house;

"storey" means a division of a building between a floor, not below the grade level of the surrounding ground, and the floor or roof next above;

"superintendent" means the Superintendent of Financial Institutions under the *Financial Institutions Act*;

"taxable insurer" has the same meaning as in the *Insurance Premium Tax Act*.

Part 1 — Investigation, Prevention and Suppression of Fires

Fire commissioner and staff

2 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may

(a) appoint a fire commissioner after a merit-based process,

(b) define the duties of the fire commissioner, and

(c) determine the remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment of the fire commissioner.

(2) The *Public Service Act* and the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* do not apply to the fire commissioner.

(3) The *Public Service Benefit Plan Act* and the Public Service Pension Plan, continued under the *Public Sector Pension Plans Act*, apply to the fire commissioner.

(4) Staff required for the work of the fire commissioner must be appointed under the *Public Service Act*.

Duties of fire commissioner

3 (1) The fire commissioner must, for fire prevention and inspection, do the following:

(a) collect and disseminate information about fires in British Columbia;

(b) investigate and inquire into a fire as the fire commissioner believes advisable;

(c) investigate conditions under which fires are likely to occur;

(d) study methods of fire prevention;

(e) give the advice and recommendations the fire commissioner considers necessary on matters in subsection (2).

(2) Matters for advice and recommendation of the fire commissioner are the following:

(a) provision of an adequate water supply;

(b) installation and maintenance of a fire alarm system and fire extinguishing equipment;

(c) enactment and enforcement of municipal bylaws for fire prevention or to protect life and property from fire;

(d) planning of a municipal area to protect against fire;

(e) lightning rods;

(f) any other fire prevention and inspection matter.

(3) The fire commissioner must, for fire suppression, do the following:

(a) consult with and give information and advice to fire chiefs and fire departments;

(b) establish, in consultation with the advisory board and subject to the minister's approval, minimum standards for selection and training of fire services personnel;

(c) give the advice and recommendations the fire commissioner considers necessary on the establishment of fire departments.

(4) The fire commissioner must help to enforce all enactments on combustibles, explosives and other flammable matter.

(5) The fire commissioner must perform other duties required by the minister.

Fire Services Advisory Board

4 (1) The Fire Services Advisory Board is continued consisting of the fire commissioner as chair and other members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(2) The members of the advisory board hold office for the term determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(3) Each member of the advisory board must be reimbursed for reasonable travelling and out of pocket expenses necessarily incurred by the member in the discharge of duties and, in addition, must be paid the remuneration for services set by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Duties of advisory board

5 The advisory board

(a) may advise the fire commissioner on all aspects of operational fire services,

(b) must, on request of the minister, investigate and prepare a report on fire suppression, and

(c) must perform other duties required by the minister.

Long service and bravery medals

5.1 (1) In recognition of the significant contribution to the protection of persons and property that is made by fire fighters and others involved in the provision of fire services, the fire commissioner may issue medals for long service.

(2) In recognition of bravery beyond that expected of fire fighters and others involved in the provision of fire services in the normal course of their duties, the fire commissioner may issue medals for bravery.

(3) Long service and bravery medals issued by the fire commissioner before this section comes into force are deemed to be medals issued under this section.

Local assistants

6 (1) The local assistants to the fire commissioner are as follows:

(a) in a municipality that maintains a fire department, the fire chief and persons authorized in writing by the fire chief to exercise the powers of a local assistant;

(b) in a municipality that does not maintain a fire department, the mayor of the municipality or another person appointed as a local assistant by the fire commissioner;

(c) in any other part of British Columbia, a person appointed as a local assistant by the fire commissioner.

(2) The fire commissioner may appoint local assistants for the purposes of this Act.

(3) If no local assistant has been appointed in an area of British Columbia not in a municipality or the appointed local assistant has ceased to act, the members of the police force or police department stationed in the area are local assistants until another local assistant is appointed by the fire commissioner.

Peace officer

7 The fire commissioner and the commissioner's inspectors, and local assistants have the powers of a peace officer for the purposes of this Act.

Fire districts

8 The fire commissioner may by notice in the Gazette constitute a part of British Columbia not included in a municipality into a fire district, and extend, reduce or annul the fire district.

Investigation of fires

9 (1) To ascertain whether a fire was due to accident, negligence or design, a local assistant must, within 3 days after the fire, excluding holidays, investigate or have investigated in a general way the cause, origin and circumstances of each fire

(a) occurring in the municipality, district or part of British Columbia for which he or she is a local assistant, and

(b) destroying or damaging property or as a result of which death has occurred.

(2) Immediately after an investigation under subsection (1), the local assistant must submit to the fire commissioner a report containing

(a) all facts ascertained about the cause, origin and circumstances of the fire, and

(b) any further information required by the fire commissioner.

(3) The report required under subsection (2) must be submitted in a format and by the means approved by the fire commissioner.

Authority to enter

10 (1) The local assistant, the fire commissioner and the commissioner's inspectors have authority at all times, by day or night, to enter and to examine a building, premises, motor vehicle, vessel or railway rolling stock where a fire has occurred, and, if necessary, those adjoining or near the fire.

(2) An investigator may exclude a person from the building, premises, motor vehicle, vessel or railway rolling stock where the fire has occurred.

Duty of persons to furnish information

11 (1) It is the duty of the occupier or, if none, of the owner of a building, premises, motor vehicle, vessel or railway rolling stock where a fire occurs to report the fire immediately to the local assistant, or to a Provincial or municipal police officer or constable in whose district the fire occurs.

(2) It is the duty of every owner and occupier of, and every person residing or employed at, a building, premises, motor vehicle, vessel or railway rolling stock where a fire occurs to furnish, at the request of the local assistant, fire commissioner or the

commissioner's inspectors, information he or she has relating to a fire or the property it destroyed or damaged.

Remuneration of local assistant

12 For each fire investigated and reported by a local assistant to the satisfaction of the fire commissioner, the local assistant must be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund the sum prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and his or her necessary expenses in obtaining required information.

Preliminary report of suspicious fire

13 (1) If a fire appears to be of suspicious origin, the local assistant and each insurer interested in the property destroyed or damaged by it must immediately make a preliminary report to the fire commissioner, stating

(a) the name of the owner and occupier of the property,

(b) the location, use and occupancy of the property,

(c) the date of the fire, and

(d) the facts that tend to establish the cause or origin of the fire.

(2) A preliminary report must be in addition to the report under section 9 or 19.

Inquiry by fire commissioner or other person

14 (1) On receipt of a preliminary report, or in a case where he or she thinks it advisable, the fire commissioner may

(a) hold an inquiry into the cause, origin, and circumstances of the fire, or

(b) direct a judge of the Provincial Court, Justice of the Peace or a competent person to hold the inquiry.

(2) A person directed by the fire commissioner to hold an inquiry must without delay, on completion of the inquiry, send a report of the inquiry to the fire commissioner.

(3) The report under subsection (2) must give the person's opinion on the cause and origin of the fire and whether it appears to be of incendiary origin.

(4) The evidence taken at the inquiry must also be sent to the fire commissioner.

Retention of insurance money

15 (1) Pending an inquiry under section 14, the fire commissioner may permit the withholding of payment under a policy of insurance on property destroyed or damaged by the fire for a period of not longer than 90 days after completion of the proof of loss, despite a statutory provision or a condition in the policy to the contrary.

(2) The insurer and the insured must be notified by registered letter of action under this section.

Powers and procedure at inquiry

16 (1) If the fire commissioner or a person holds an inquiry under this Part, sections 43 to 53, 55, 65 (2) and (3) and 67 (1) of the *Offence Act* apply, with the necessary changes except that in applying section 67 (1), the limitation on adjournment is 30 days.

(2) The fire commissioner or a person holding an inquiry has the following powers:

(a) to enter, as set out in section 10;

(b) to hold the inquiry in private, to exclude persons not required or permitted by this Act to be present, and to keep witnesses apart from each other so that they may not communicate with each other until they have been examined;

(c) to employ the technical, scientific, clerical or other assistance he or she considers necessary;

(d) to require the assistance of peace officers.

(3) For an inquiry in a municipality, other than the Cities of Vancouver and Victoria, the municipality must, if no suitable place in a Provincial building is available, at the request of the fire commissioner provide a suitable place to hold the inquiry.

(4) If no suitable place is provided, one may be procured at the expense of the municipality.

(5) The fees payable to justices and to witnesses under the *Offence Act* are payable, with the necessary changes, for an inquiry under this Part, but no fees are payable to a judge of the Provincial Court.

(6) Fees and necessary expenses for an inquiry under this Part must be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Right of interested person to be present

17 A person interested may appear at an inquiry and be heard in person or by counsel.

Report to Attorney General of evidence of arson

18 If there is evidence sufficient to charge a person with the crime of arson or an attempt to commit arson, the fire commissioner must at once report to the Attorney General, and provide the Attorney General with the evidence the fire commissioner possesses and the names of witnesses.

Report by insurer

19 (1) A taxable insurer must furnish to the fire commissioner at the end of each calendar month a report, in the form provided, of every fire in which it is interested as insurer occurring in British Columbia during the month.

(2) In the case of any insurance claim made against any insurer other than a taxable insurer, in respect of a fire occurring in British Columbia, the person making or adjusting the claim must furnish to the fire commissioner a report in the form provided.

Record of reported fires

20 (1) The fire commissioner must keep a statistical record of all fires reported to the fire commissioner.

(2) The record referred to in subsection (1) must be available at the office of the fire commissioner for inspection by the public.

(3) The fire commissioner may allow a person to inspect a document in the office of the fire commissioner relating to a reported fire and may supply a person with a copy of a document on payment of the prescribed fee.

(4) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may prescribe fees for the purposes of subsection (3).

Inspection of fire hazards

21 On complaint of a person interested or, if believed advisable, without complaint, the fire commissioner and the commissioner's inspectors may at all reasonable hours enter any premises anywhere in British Columbia to inspect them and ascertain whether or not any of the following conditions exist:

(a) the premises are in a state of disrepair that a fire starting in them might spread rapidly to endanger life or other property;

(b) the premises are so used or occupied that fire would endanger life or property;

(c) combustible or explosive material is kept or other flammable conditions exist on the premises so as to endanger life or property;

(d) a fire hazard exists on the premises.

Order to remedy conditions

22 (1) After an inspection the fire commissioner, or an inspector with the fire commissioner's authority, may in writing order that within a reasonable time, to be set by the order,

(a) if section 21 (a) applies, the owner remove or destroy the premises, or the owner or occupier repair the premises,

(b) if section 21 (b) applies, the owner or occupier alter the use or occupancy of the premises,

(c) if section 21 (c) applies, the occupier remove or keep securely the combustible or explosive material or remedy the flammable conditions, and

(d) if section 21 (d) applies, the owner or occupier remove or take proper precautions against the fire hazard.

(2) After the receipt of an order, the owner, occupier or person in charge must comply with it.

(3) Subject to an agreement to the contrary,

(a) the cost of complying with an order must be borne by the owner, and

(b) if the occupier pays the cost, the occupier has a right of action or set off against the owner for the cost actually and necessarily paid in complying with the order.

(4) [Repealed 1997-25-6.]

Order where owner absent

23 (1) If there is no occupier of premises about which an order is made, and the owner is absent from British Columbia or the owner's whereabouts are unknown, the fire commissioner may carry out an order involving an expenditure of not more than $100 and, with the approval of the Attorney General, any other order.

(2) If the land on which the premises are located is in a municipality, the fire commissioner must certify to the municipal financial officer the costs actually and necessarily incurred in carrying out the order.

(3) The municipal officer referred to in subsection (2) must pay the amount to the fire commissioner from the ordinary revenue of the municipality.

(4) The amount paid under subsection (3) forms a special charge, within the meaning of section 250 *[taxes are a special charge on the land]* of the *Community Charter*, on the land and the improvements in favour of the municipality, and is for all purposes deemed to be delinquent taxes on the land under that Act from the date of the payment.

(5) The *Community Charter* applies to the collection and recovery of amounts deemed to be delinquent taxes under subsection (4).

(6) If the land on which the premises are located is a rural area, the fire commissioner must certify the cost to the surveyor of taxes.

(7) Costs certified under subsection (6) form a lien and charge on the land in favour of the government and are for all purposes delinquent taxes from the date of the certificate.

(8) The *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* applies to the collection and recovery of delinquent taxes under subsection (7).

(9) Money recovered under a certificate under subsection (6) must be accounted for as part of the consolidated revenue fund.

Power of local assistants

24 A local assistant may, in the municipality or part of British Columbia for which he or she is a local assistant, exercise the powers conferred by sections 21 and 22 and, with the written approval of the fire commissioner, the powers conferred by section 23.

Emergencies

25 (1) If an emergency arising from a fire hazard or from a risk of explosion causes the fire commissioner to be apprehensive of imminent and serious danger to life or property, or of a panic, the fire commissioner may immediately take the steps he or she thinks advisable to remove the hazard or risk.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the fire commissioner may evacuate a building or area, and may call on the police and fire prevention authorities who have jurisdiction to provide assistance.

(3) If the fire commissioner believes that conditions exist in or near a hotel or public building, that, in the event of a fire, might seriously endanger life or property, the fire commissioner may immediately take the action he or she believes advisable to remedy the conditions to eliminate the danger and may evacuate and close the hotel or public building.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the fire commissioner may call on the assistance of peace officers and fire prevention authorities.

(5) An appeal by petition to the Supreme Court may be taken by a person injuriously affected by the closure of a hotel or public building under subsection (3).

(6) The petition must be filed in the court registry within 5 days after the order of closure and the fire commissioner must be given notice in writing of the petition.

(7) The court may make any order it considers just.

(8) An appeal from an order under subsection (7) lies to the Court of Appeal with leave of a justice of the Court of Appeal.

Municipal duty to inspect hotels and public buildings

26 (1) A municipal council must provide for a regular system of inspection of hotels and public buildings in the municipality.

(2) A municipal council may authorize persons, in addition to the local assistant, to exercise within the municipality some or all of the powers under sections 21 to 23.

Appeal to fire commissioner

27 (1) If a local assistant makes an order under sections 21 to 24 to remove or to keep secure combustible or explosive material or to remedy a flammable condition, the occupier may appeal to the fire commissioner by registered letter mailed within 48 hours after receipt of the order.

(2) If a local assistant makes an order under sections 21 to 24 to repair, remove or destroy premises, or to alter the use or occupancy of premises, or to remove or to take proper precautions against a fire hazard, the owner or occupier may appeal to the fire commissioner by registered letter mailed within 10 days after receipt of the order.

(3) The fire commissioner must promptly investigate each appeal, affirm, modify or revoke the order appealed from, and in writing communicate the decision and the reasons to the owner or occupier and to the maker of the order.

Other appeals

28 (1) If an order under section 21, 22, 23, 24, 27 or 30 involves the loss or expenditure of more than $500, the owner or occupier, if dissatisfied with the order or decision, may, within 5 days of its receipt apply for review of it by petition to the Supreme Court.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must be commenced at a registry of the Supreme Court located in the judicial district where the property lies.

(3) The owner or occupier must file the petition with the registrar of the court and give notice of it in writing to the fire commissioner.

(4) The court must hear and determine the appeal and make the order it believes proper.

(5) The decision under subsection (4) is final, except that on a point of law an appeal lies to the Court of Appeal.

Delegation of appeal powers

29 (1) The fire commissioner may delegate in writing any of the fire commissioner's powers, duties or functions respecting an appeal under this Act.

(2) The decision of a delegate is a decision of the fire commissioner for the purposes of section 28.

Part 2 — Escape From Fire

Escape from fire

30 (1) An owner or occupier of a hotel or public building must provide means of exit from the hotel or public building in accordance with the Provincial building regulations.

(2) The owner or occupier must keep the means of exit unobstructed and in good repair.

(3) The fire commissioner may order an owner or occupier of a hotel or public building to provide or make alterations to

(a) fire and smoke detection, fire alarm, fire extinguishing and emergency lighting systems, and

(b) means of exit, regardless of subsection (1).

(4) A local assistant may order an owner or occupier of a hotel or public building to provide or make alterations to systems of fire and smoke detection, fire alarm, fire extinguishing and emergency lighting and means of exit, to the extent that the order does not set requirements which exceed those established by the Provincial building regulations.

Means of exit, etc.

31 (1) In this section, **"approved"** means approved by the fire commissioner.

(2) An owner or occupier of a hotel or public building which is required under this Part to have a means of exit must do the following:

(a) keep posted in all main halls and at the intersections of all cross halls of the hotel or public building conspicuous signs indicating the means of exit;

(b) keep posted in each apartment or room a conspicuous notice describing the means of exit, with instructions to be followed in the event of fire;

(c) if the building is occupied, ensure that the means of exit has approved illumination, and if the illumination is artificial, has an approved emergency lighting system;

(d) provide an alarm gong or similar equipment required by regulation;

(e) if the fire commissioner orders, provide and keep in good repair a sprinkler system of an approved type;

(f) ensure that smoke and fire doors or closures are kept closed when not in use for access, unless they are automatically controlled by an approved fire or smoke detection system;

(g) for a hotel, hospital, community care facility or other building with sleeping accommodation and used for the care of persons, adopt, and have the employees in the building practise, an approved fire drill system;

(h) for a school, child care facility, children's home or other institution for children's education or care, adopt, and have all persons in the premises practise, an approved fire drill system.

Doors to open outward

32 (1) The outside doors and the main inside doors of a building used as a church, school, theatre, hall or place of public resort

(a) must open freely outward, and

(b) while the building is so used, must not be bolted, locked or otherwise secured shut or obstructed in a manner that, in the opinion of the fire commissioner, prevents the rapid exit of persons inside the building.

(2) The gates in a fence enclosing a building used as a church, school, theatre, hall or place of public resort must, if not hung to open outward, be kept open by proper fastenings when the building is so used.

Orders to comply with this Part

33 (1) If the owner or occupier of a hotel or public building fails to provide, keep in good repair, alter or improve a means of exit, alarm gong or other equipment required by this Part, the local assistant authorized by this Part to inspect the hotel or public building may in writing order the owner or occupier to comply with the requirement within a reasonable time stated in the order.

(2) The local assistant must deliver the order to the owner or occupier, who must comply with it.

Appeal

34 (1) The owner or occupier may, within 10 days after the receipt of the order, appeal to the fire commissioner.

(2) Section 27 applies to an appeal and, if the order involves the expenditure of a sum exceeding $500, section 28 also applies.

Cost of complying with this Part

35 The cost of providing, keeping in good repair, altering and improving a means of exit, alarm gong or other similar equipment under this Part is governed by the rules in section 22 (3).

Inspection of buildings

36 (1) In this section:

"building" includes a hotel, public building, church, theatre, hall or other building used as a place of public resort;

"officer" means a local assistant and, in a municipality, the chief police officer and any other person authorized by the municipal council to exercise some or all of a local assistant's powers under this Part.

(2) An officer has power at any time to enter a building to inspect it and ascertain whether this Part is being complied with.

(3) A municipal council must provide for a regular system of inspection by an officer of buildings in the municipality.

(4) The fire commissioner and the commissioner's inspectors may exercise the powers of an officer anywhere in British Columbia.

(5) An officer under Part 2 of the *Workers Compensation Act* or the regulations made under it has the powers of an officer for a factory in the area for which the officer under the *Workers Compensation Act* is appointed.

Part 3 — General Provisions

Repealed

37-39 [Repealed 1998-5-11.]

Accounting for money received

40 All licence and other fees, money and fines collected or recovered under this Act must be accounted for as part of the consolidated revenue fund.

Badges for local assistants

41 (1) The fire commissioner must issue a metal badge, with a serial number, to each local assistant and to each person authorized by a municipal council under section 26.

(2) The person to whom a badge is issued must wear and on request exhibit the badge when engaged in the performance of duties under this Act.

(3) The badge must be returned when the authority of the holder under this Act ceases.

Orders affecting strata lots

41.1 (1) An order under section 22, 30 or 33 that applies to a strata lot may be delivered to the strata corporation by service in accordance with section 63 of the *Strata Property*

Act if any of the following circumstances apply:

(a) the order cannot be delivered to the owner or occupier of the strata lot after reasonable efforts at delivery;

(b) the order has been delivered to the owner or occupier, but the owner or occupier does not appeal the order and does not comply with the order;

(c) the order has been upheld on appeal under section 27, 28 or 34, but the owner or occupier does not comply with the order.

(2) An order under section 22, 30 or 33 that applies to 6 or more strata lots

(a) is not required to be delivered to the owners or occupiers of the strata lots, and

(b) may instead be delivered to the strata corporation by service in accordance with section 63 of the *Strata Property Act*.

(3) If an order is delivered to a strata corporation under subsection (1) or (2), the strata corporation is deemed to be an occupier of the strata lots to which the order applies and must comply with the order.

Annual report

42 By April 1 in each year, the fire commissioner must submit to the minister a detailed report of the commissioner's administration made up to the preceding December 31.

Actions against officers

43 Without the leave of the Attorney General, an action or proceeding must not be brought or taken against the fire commissioner or a local assistant to the fire commissioner or an officer on the fire commissioner's staff for anything done or omitted in the performance or intended performance of duties under this Act.

Offences

44 A person who does any of the following commits an offence:

(a) obstructs the fire commissioner or a local assistant or other person in the execution of his or her duties under this Act;

(b) refuses or neglects to admit to any building or premises for any purpose of this Act the fire commissioner or a local assistant or other person who under this Act is entitled to enter;

(c) contravenes a provision of this Act or regulations where no separate offence is provided.

Offence by owner or occupier

45 (1) An owner or occupier of a building or premises who fails to comply with an order made under this Act commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable on conviction to the penalties provided in the *Offence Act*.

(3) In the case of a continuing offence, a person who commits the offence is liable to a further penalty of not more than $50 for each day during which the offence continues.

Offence by local assistant

46 (1) A local assistant who refuses or neglects to comply with a requirement of this Act or the regulations commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable, on conviction, to a fine of not more than $100.

Power to make regulations

47 (1) The minister may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the *Interpretation Act*.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the minister may make regulations as follows:

(a) regulating manufacturing or trades dangerous in causing or promoting fire;

(b) regulating the manufacture, storage, carriage, sale and disposal of a combustible, explosive or flammable matter;

(c) regulating or prohibiting the dealing in, keeping for sale or disposing of a fireball, firecracker, squib, cannon cracker, basket bomb, giant cracker, sky rocket, Roman candle, mine, torpedo or other firework;

(d) governing the location, construction, occupancy, ventilation and safety of community halls, hospitals, nurses' residences, nursing homes, children's homes, apartment houses, public garages, churches, theatres, office buildings, public halls and other public buildings and places of a public or semi-public nature designated for this paragraph by regulation;

(e) regulating or prohibiting the sale, maintenance, installation or use in any building or premises, of an appliance, fixture or thing likely to cause or promote fire;

(f) standardizing hose couplings and connections;

(g) adopting all or part of the National Fire Code of Canada and any other code or standard on fire standards and fire safety, and amending a code or standard adopted under this paragraph;

(h) for the purpose of adopting a code or standard under paragraph (g)

(i) designating one or more persons to be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the code or standard, and prescribing the powers and duties of that person, and

(ii) establishing a system of appeal from a decision made by a person under the codes or standards adopted.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) (d), the regulations may be similar or different for different classes of buildings or different conditions.

(4) The *Regulations Act* does not apply to a regulation under subsection (2) (g).

(5) Notice of the enactment, amendment, repeal or replacement of a regulation under subsection (2) (g) must be published in the Gazette.

Municipal bylaws

48 (1) Nothing in this Act prevents a municipality from making bylaws relating to a matter within the scope of this Act, but only so far as they are not repugnant to this Act or the regulations.

(2) Nothing in this Act absolves a municipality from its duty to enforce a law or regulation relating to a matter under this Act.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE:

Modernization of BC's emergency management legislation requires decisions on the priority and timing for the proposed legislation and direction from the Minister on various policy elements. The initiative entails significant implementation planning and engagement with emergency management partners and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

Legislative Development

- The EPA was passed in 1993. It focuses primarily on emergency preparedness and response and the roles of the Province and Local Authorities.
- The EPA does not adequately reflect modern best practices, including an emphasis on up-front disaster risk reduction, an all-of-society approach and the increasing frequency and severity of emergency events. It is a necessary precursor to modernizing the emergency management system more broadly.
- In October 2019, Cabinet approved a series of policy shifts that would underpin the modernized legislation.
- On October 28, 2019, EMBC released a Discussion Paper on Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation. The Discussion Paper proposed a number of changes that were based on the approved policy shifts.
- During the three-month (November 2019 – January 2020) Discussion Paper engagement period, EMBC conducted 172 engagement sessions (teleconferences, video meetings and in-person meetings) and received 239 written submissions. Overall, there was a high level of support for modernizing the legislation. The feedback received was summarized in a What We Heard Report that was issued on August 31, 2020. To ensure the lessons learned from COVID-19 were reflected in the proposed legislation, an opportunity was provided for further feedback and to September 30, 2020, which prompted another 39 written responses.
-
- Cabinet Confidences

- While policy work and legislative drafting have continued during the interregnum, all external engagement ceased.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Implementation Planning and Engagement

- In anticipation Government will proceed with modernization of BC's emergency management legislation, EMBC will be leading cross-government efforts to engage with numerous emergency management partners and stakeholders.
- Engagement and implementation planning efforts aim to:
    - Maintain and build support for this legislative initiative;
    - Ensure that ministries, partners, and all stakeholders understand the anticipated legislative changes;
    - Ensure that implementation considerations (e.g. resource impacts) are mutually understood by government as well as partners and stakeholders;
    - Prepare ministries, partners and stakeholders for consultation regarding the development of modernized regulations under the new legislation; and,
    - Complete implementation planning and products before the new legislation's effective date (e.g. updated policies, guidelines, templates, processes, etc.).
- Key partner and stakeholder groups that have been engaged during 2019 and 2020, and which will continue to be engaged through 2021 include:
    - First Nations leadership and communities;
    - Local authorities;
    - Critical infrastructure owners;
    - Crown corporations;
    - Provincial ministries;
    - Federal departments;
    - Non-Governmental organizations and volunteers; and,
    - General public.
- External-to-government engagement efforts regarding emergency management legislative modernization have been on hold during the interregnum period.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In accordance with our obligations under the DRIPA legislation, Emergency Management BC has been working closely with First Nations leadership and

communities during the development of BC's modernized emergency management legislation.
- As well as direct engagement with communities through regional sessions held across the province, EMBC has been working with the First Nations Leadership Council and the Tripartite Emergency Management Working Group (TEMWG).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:
- All ministries have responsibilities (e.g. business continuity planning) under BC's emergency management legislation.
- EMBC has been communicating frequently with other ministries through mechanisms such as the Deputy Minister's Committee on Disaster Risk and Emergency Management (DMCDREM) and the Assistant Deputy Minister's Committee on Emergency Management (ADMCEM).
- EMBC has been working especially closely with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Cabinet Confidences

Cabinet Confidences

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

MODERNIZING BC'S

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION



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Minister's Message

When our government came into office, the province was in a provincial state of emergency. That time is still very vivid for me because of how widespread the impacts were. 2017 and 2018 were two of the worst flood and wildfire seasons this province has ever seen. Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from their homes. Cities, towns and villages were affected in every corner of the province. Transportation routes were shut down, and some communities were cut off completely, with remote and First Nations communities disproportionally affected by these events.

Business as usual just isn't enough anymore. We need to do more than just learn from these experiences – we must use them to drive real change in the way we manage emergencies. We're taking the lessons learned from the Abbott-Chapman Report, the report by the Tsilhqot'in National Government on the 2017 wildfires, and numerous after-action reports and bringing them into the way we do business.

The Government of Canada has embraced the United Nations' Sendai framework, which is an internationally-acknowledged approach to emergency management disaster risk reduction. British Columbia is the first province to officially adopt the Framework, and our way forward will reflect these international best practices. We're developing new relationships with indigenous communities as emergency management partners, and we're finding ways to better support and provide protections to the thousands of volunteers BC's emergency system relies on every year for things like ground search and rescue, emergency support services, and evacuation centres. Many community partners – such as Prince George, Kamloops and Tk'emlúps First Nation – have worked hard to support evacuees from around the province during times of crisis.

All these critical shifts are reflected as we work to bring the Emergency Program Act in line with today's changing needs and realities. As BC's primary piece of legislation for emergency management, this act is the backbone of what we do, and it needs to be updated to reflect what we know, what we've learned, and how we must work together going forward.

Through this discussion paper, we hope to hear diverse views and get insights from all levels of government, Indigenous communities, partners and stakeholders. We want to know your views on how to modernize our emergency management approach to help mitigate risk, ensure we are better prepared, and strengthen our response efforts to more effectively recover from the psycho-social, financial and economic impacts of disasters.

The feedback will help government move forward with a clear legislative direction – one that reflects the challenges, needs and thoughts of communities, partners and stakeholders – when a modernized act is introduced in the fall 2020 legislative session.

Our government recognizes that the environment is changing in ways that will challenge all of us, and we're working towards a goal of a more resilient province. While many changes have already been made we also need the best legislative foundation to build on. I hope you take the time to provide your thoughts, input and suggestions into this legislative change, so we can move forward together to protect our communities.



Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General



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At a Glance: What will Change with Emergency Management Modernization?

What Will Change with Emergency Management Modernization? A1

Introduction

British Columbia's ***Emergency Program Act (EPA)***, which was passed in 1993, has its roots in Canada's ***War Measures Act***, particularly the declaration of states of emergency and the powers available to the provincial government and Local Authorities through those declarations. The EPA has guided the province through events such as the Kelowna interface fires in 2003, the Johnson's Landing landslide in 2012, and the Grand Forks flooding in 2018.

However, several factors are driving the need to modernize our approach to emergency management:

- BC's geography, geology and climate present diverse and complex hazards such as earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, and severe weather events (e.g., ice, snow and windstorms);
- Driven by climate change, natural disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, making it imperative for governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, citizens and visitors to be prepared and ready;
- Emergencies have devastating impacts – often long-lasting – on citizens, visitors, communities, businesses, and critical infrastructure. During the 2017 wildfires, over 65,000 people were evacuated and over 200 homes were lost;
- Responding to and recovering from these events takes a financial toll on governments, businesses, and individuals. From 2009 to 2018, the BC provincial government spent over $3.3 billion under the EPA and the ***Wildfire Act***. $1.6 billion of this was spent on flood and wildfire response and recovery in 2017 and 2018 alone;
- Indigenous communities are often disproportionately impacted by emergencies, due to their relatively remote locations, lack of access to services, and reliance on natural ecosystems;
- The needs of our most vulnerable citizens are not always sufficiently considered; and
- The recent unprecedented flood and wildfire seasons surfaced a number of gaps in the current legislation; applying the lessons learned from those events will ensure that BC continues to be resilient in the face of disasters and remains a recognized leader in emergency management.



2003: The Okanagan Mountain Park wildfire in Kelowna burned over 25,900 hectares and over 33,000 people were forced to evacuate.



2012: A landslide severely impacted the community of Johnsons Landing, causing four deaths and completely destroying four homes.



2018: Severe flooding occured in and around the city of Grand Forks, damaging more than 400 homes and 100 businesses.



Adopting the Sendai Framework

While the EPA itself hasn't changed significantly since 1993, BC's approach to emergency management has evolved. Practices, policies and processes have been strengthened in response to after-action reviews and more substantial reviews such as the 2014 Renteria Report on Earthquake Preparedness, the Auditor General's 2018 report on Managing Climate Change Risks, the Abbott-Chapman report on the 2017 wildfire and flood season, the Tsilhqot'in National Government report The Fires Awakened Us, and the Nadleh Whut'en report Trial by Fire. Local Authorities and First Nations have entered into a number of innovative and collaborative arrangements to plan, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Provincial agencies such as Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the BC Wildfire Service have improved their communications protocols and adopted a more inclusive approach, including respect for Indigenous knowledge and culture.

In Canada, provincial and territorial governments have primary responsibility for emergency management. In an emergency, the first response is almost always by the Local Authority or at the provincial or territorial level because most emergencies occur at a local or regional scale. If a provincial or territorial government requires resources beyond its capacity, the federal government will provide assistance. Canada is responsible for reserve lands, and this responsibility is delegated to the Minister of Indigenous Services. Indigenous Services Canada supports emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery on-reserve, and has a service agreement with Emergency Management BC to ensure that First Nations have access to the provincial emergency management system.

But with increasing pressure on emergency management organizations, businesses and individual citizens, it is time to take a serious look at our approach. In 2015, in response to the challenges faced by jurisdictions around the world, the United Nations developed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework). The Sendai Framework has been adopted by 187 countries, including Canada. In October 2018, BC became the first province to adopt it. The Sendai Framework marks a shift from focusing on emergency preparedness and response to recognizing that risk identification and mitigation are key to managing hazards and reducing the impact of events. It aims for substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries and calls for ***all of society*** to share responsibility for reducing disaster risk. Modernizing our legislation is one of the first key steps to implement the Sendai Framework.

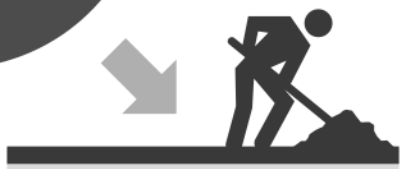








3 Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.



4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework's All-of-Society Approach

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is a voluntary agreement that recognizes the responsibility for reducing disaster risk is shared between the State and other emergency management partners.
- The 'All of Society' approach is a key element of the United Nations' Sendai Framework that acknowledges the contribution of and important role played by all relevant partners in the four pillars of emergency management: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.
- Relevant emergency management partners include individuals, families, communities, private businesses, Local Authorities, First Nations, and the federal and provincial governments.
- Emergency management partners are encouraged to communicate, collaborate and coordinate in the design and implementation of emergency management legislation, regulations and policies.
- Strengthening overall society disaster resilience includes leveraging existing knowledge, experience and capabilities through accessible, inclusive and empowering engagement processes.

The Four Recovery Sectors:



People & Communities

- Physical, mental, and social wellbeing
- Health and safety
- Mental health
- Communitiy psycho-social, emotional, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing
- Interim housing



Infrastructure

- Private and public physical infrastructure
- Critical infrastructure such as utilities, communication networks, roads and bridges, and transportation
- Residential and commercial buildings
- Infrastructure planning



Environment

- Land degradation and contamination
- Biodiversity and ecosystem impacts
- Natural resource damage and loss



Economy

- Small, medium, and large enterprise
- Tourism
- Cultural livelihood
- Agriculture
- Broader economy

Interim Disaster Recovery Framework

Given the recovery challenges in 2017 and 2018, it was recognized that a new approach was needed in advance of developing new emergency management legislation. In May 2019, BC developed an Interim Disaster Recovery Framework for the 2019 and 2020 flood and wildfire seasons, establishing a strategic approach and clear roles and responsibilities, ensuring accountability, and providing overall guidance to recovery operations.

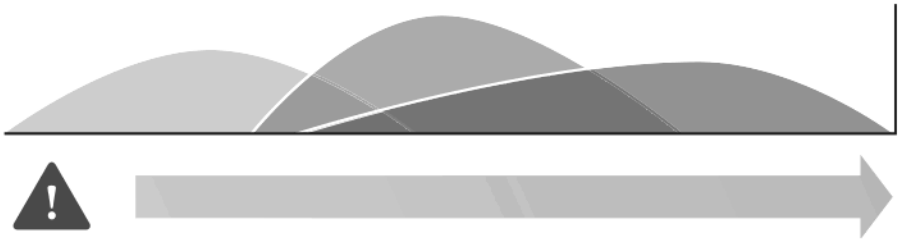
The interim framework organizes recovery by four sectors: People and Communities, Environment, Economy, and Infrastructure, each of which has an Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for overseeing the sector's recovery strategies and ensuring inclusivity and coordination with partners. It leverages existing operational and governance structures at the local, regional, and provincial levels. Similar to response operations, the Ministers' and Deputies' Emergency Council can be convened to ensure a coordinated provincial approach for significant recovery events such as the Telegraph Creek wildfires and Grand Forks flooding. The interim framework will need to be reassessed and finalized once the emergency management legislation is revised.

The Three Stages of Recovery:

Recovery consists of three stages – short-medium- and long-term – and works towards minimizing future damage to communities and the environment.

The interim framework recognizes that there isn't a clear dividing line between response and recovery and that the earlier recovery efforts are initiated during response, the more effective those efforts will be. Recovery can take months or even years, particularly if additional events produce cumulative impacts.

BC's emergency management system is a true partnership, including federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments; critical infrastructure operators; thousands of volunteers; businesses; and people. This discussion paper outlines the key proposed attributes of a new emergency management Act, focusing on what would be new or different. Some of the proposed provisions will be supported by regulations to spell out requirements in more detail. We invite all British Columbians, stakeholders and emergency management partners, to tell us what they think about the proposals outlined in this paper to help us shape the new legislation and supporting regulations.



Short-Term (DAYS - WEEKS)	**Medium-Term** (WEEKS - MONTHS)	**Long-Term** (MONTHS - YEARS)
■ Recovery Unit, Emergency Operations Centre(s) ■ Reception Centre(s) ■ Emergency Shelter ■ Rapid Damage Assessment ■ Public Information/Information posts ■ Initial Debris Clearance ■ Critical Infrastructure Restoration ■ Business Continuity ■ Disaster Psycho-social Support ■ Initial Post-Disaster Needs Assessment	■ Recovery Operations Centre(s) ■ Resilience Centre(s) ■ Temporary Lodging ■ Inspection/Damage Assessments ■ Demolition/Disaster Debris Management ■ Critical Infrastructure Repair ■ Business Resumption ■ Emotional/Psycho-social Support ■ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment	■ Recovery Steering Committee ■ Long-Term Recovery Structure ■ Permanent Housing ■ Engineering Assessment/Land Use Planning ■ Media and Community Services ■ Final Debris Disposal/Recycling ■ Critical Infrastructure Rebuild ■ Business Recovery ■ Counseling and Support Programs ■ Demobilization





A Four Pillars Approach to Emergency Management

Emergency management is a universal term for the systems and processes used for preventing or reducing the impacts of emergencies on communities. Emergency management is conceptualized in four phases:

- mitigation;
- preparedness;
- response; and
- recovery.

This approach is an internationally recognized system for defining and understanding different aspects of emergency management and is integral to the systems and processes used in BC to minimize exposure and vulnerability to hazards, prepare for and manage emergencies, and rebuild afterwards.

While the EPA is strong on the preparedness and response pillars, there are significant gaps when it comes to mitigation (pre-emergency activities) and recovery (post-event activities). The new Act will encompass all four pillars of emergency management, specifying the obligations of emergency management partners in each area.

Reconciliation

The Province of British Columbia has committed to full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the principles articulated in the Supreme Court of Canada's Tsilhqot'in decision, and to reviewing its policies, programs and laws to bring these commitments into action.

Modernizing BC's emergency management legislation presents an opportunity to re-examine how the provincial government, Canada, Local Authorities and critical infrastructure operators work with First Nations on wildfire, flooding and other emergencies, and improve recognition of First Nations as partners in emergency management.

Long-standing, traditional knowledge about the land and natural forces has been handed down through generations since time immemorial—these stories and oral traditions are a rich and valuable source of knowledge that can complement scientific data and modern approaches to emergency management. For example, Indigenous prescribed burning practices were done in the past to reduce fuel loads, remove disease, and cleanse the land. Reduction in these practices over time has increased fire risk, but acknowledgement of the value of these traditions, and a renewed focus on practice, is being revitalized in BC.

Indigenous Nations and peoples have their own laws, governments, political structures, social orders, territories and rights inherited from their ancestors. Recognition of Indigenous peoples as emergency management decision-makers based on their inherent rights of self-government and self-determination will advance government's reconciliation efforts, facilitate a coordinated response to emergencies, and help create more predictability for other users of the land.

On October 24, 2019, BC introduced legislation that creates a framework for reconciliation in BC. The legislation will mandate government to bring provincial laws into alignment with the Declaration over time. This reconciliation legislation will also seek to create more flexibility for the legal status of Indigenous governments in BC, and to create opportunities for decision-making for Indigenous governments.



What Have We Done? What's Next?

In January 2016, EMBC issued a discussion paper outlining potential changes to the EPA. EMBC hosted a 15-week online consultation forum to allow an opportunity for the public, partners and stakeholders to submit input. EMBC received over 70 submissions from stakeholders, as well as comments from forum participants. With the 2017 provincial election and the scale of emergency events in both 2017 and 2018, work on the EPA was paused. The Province is now proceeding with a more comprehensive approach to prepare an entirely new Act that will replace the EPA. The feedback that was provided in 2016 has been considered in developing the proposals outlined in this discussion paper.

Keeping in mind that emergency management is a shared responsibility, EMBC had extensive discussions to inform the development of the proposals in this discussion paper. EMBC staff met with every provincial ministry, consulted with staff from Public Safety Canada and Indigenous Services Canada, briefed numerous groups, engaged with key partners such as the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), and the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), and conducted an all-day session with Indigenous emergency management champions.

The proposals in this discussion paper have been informed by experience, research into other leading jurisdictions, and the voices of emergency management partners. Over the next three months, engagement will broaden, welcoming input and dialogue from partners, stakeholders, and the public.

The Path to Modernization:





DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR MODERNIZATION

Seven design principles are guiding development of BC's modernized emergency management legislation. The design principles reflect the key strategic shifts that underpin a more modern approach to emergency management in BC.

A Four-Pillar Approach
The Act will encompass all stages of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Shifting How We Think
The Act will reflect a shift from disaster response to managing and reducing disaster risk.

An All-of-Society Approach
Emergency management is a shared responsibility: individuals, governments, communities, private and non-profit sectors.

Putting Safety First
Protection of life, health, and safety is paramount.

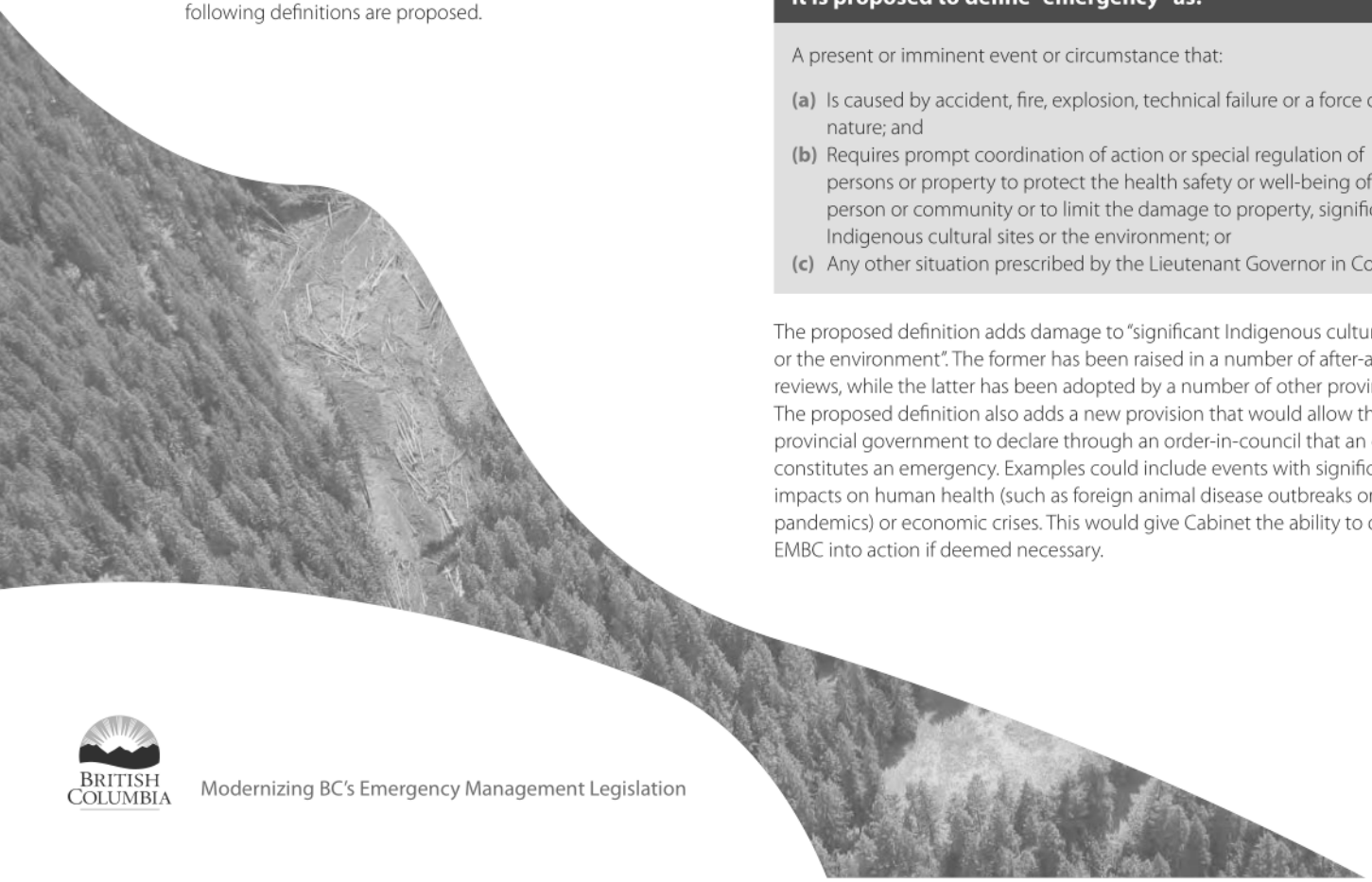
Transparent Decisions
Decisions made under the Act and regulations will be transparent.

A Funding Mechanism that Works
Responsive, flexible and disciplined funding mechanisms.

Focus on Inclusion
The Act will be inclusive and will consider the needs of vulnerable citizens.

KEY DEFINITIONS

The starting point for discussion about modernizing BC's emergency management legislation is the key definitions that will underpin the new Act. The following definitions are proposed.



Emergency

The definition of emergency is essential to emergency management legislation. In the current EPA, the term gives meaning to other important concepts such as emergency plans and measures, and states of emergency.

It is proposed to define "emergency" as:

A present or imminent event or circumstance that:

(a) Is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or a force of nature; and
(b) Requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health safety or well-being of a person or community or to limit the damage to property, significant Indigenous cultural sites or the environment; or
(c) Any other situation prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The proposed definition adds damage to "significant Indigenous cultural sites or the environment". The former has been raised in a number of after-action reviews, while the latter has been adopted by a number of other provinces. The proposed definition also adds a new provision that would allow the provincial government to declare through an order-in-council that an event constitutes an emergency. Examples could include events with significant impacts on human health (such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or pandemics) or economic crises. This would give Cabinet the ability to direct EMBC into action if deemed necessary.

Local Authority

Local Authorities are defined in the EPA as:

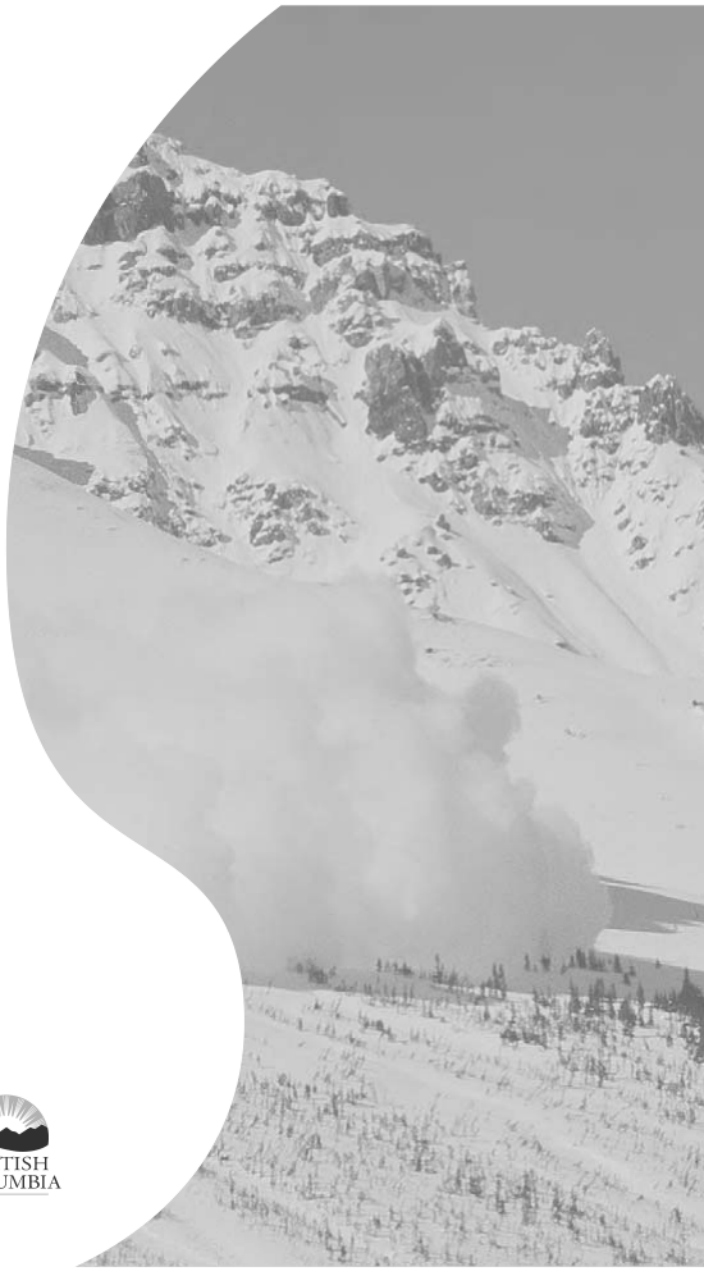
(a) For a municipality, the municipal council;
(b) For an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district; or
(c) For a national park, the park superintendent.

There are additional circumstances under which it may be appropriate to designate an entity as a Local Authority:

- Under the terms of modern treaties, Treaty First Nations are considered Local Authorities under the EPA; however, there is no reference in the legislation itself to Treaty First Nations;
- The Stikine region is the only area of BC where there is no Local Authority; and,
- Many regions of the province have initiated collaborative emergency management partnerships across multiple municipalities or within an entire regional district (for example, through the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver and the Regional Emergency Management Partnership in the Capital Regional District).

It is therefore proposed to:

Add the ability for the Minister to prescribe by regulation a new "Local Authority". This could include a Treaty First Nation whose Final Agreement defines it as a Local Authority, an appropriate body within the Stikine, or a group of willing First Nations, municipalities and/or electoral areas that wish to form a unified Local Authority for the purposes of undertaking some or all emergency management functions.



KEY DEFINITIONS: *The Four Pillars of Emergency Management*

1. Mitigation

In keeping with the Sendai Framework, and with a view to future risk associated with climate change, mitigation will be built into the new Act in order to:

- Enhance information about hazards, risks and vulnerabilities;
- Improve integration and hazard and risk information flow between communities, ministries, Crown corporations, and critical infrastructure operators;
- Mandate greater consideration of current and future risk when considering development in hazardous areas; and,
- Build resiliency and social cohesion of communities.

It is proposed to define "mitigation" as:

The phase of emergency management in which proactive steps are taken to prevent a hazardous event from occurring by eliminating the hazard, or to reduce the severity or potential impact of such an event before it occurs. Mitigation protects lives, property, cultural sites, and the environment, and reduces vulnerabilities to emergencies and economic and social disruption.

2. Preparedness

Building on the strong preparedness and planning requirements in the EPA, modernized emergency management legislation will:

- Establish clear and expanded emergency management responsibilities for key partners;
- Improve integration and information flow between ministries, Crown corporations, Local Authorities, First Nations, and critical infrastructure operators; and,
- Enhance emergency plan quality including more rigour on risk assessment, mitigation and recovery.

It is proposed to define "preparedness" as:

The phase of emergency management during which action is taken to ensure readiness to undertake emergency response and recovery. It includes, but it not limited to, hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessment, planning, resource planning, volunteer management, training, exercises, public/stakeholder education, and continuous improvement.

3. Response

Building on the response provisions in the EPA, modernized emergency management legislation will:

- Allow for setting standards for emergency public notifications and warnings to ensure clear responsibilities, timeliness, and accuracy;
- Enable the Province to enter into aid agreements with other jurisdictions (for example, to provide emergency management and other accredited professionals to assist during a catastrophic event); and,
- Clarify distinct powers for both the Province and Local Authorities during states of emergency, and the duration of states of emergency.

It is proposed to define "response" as:

The phase of emergency management during which actions are taken in direct response to an imminent or occurring emergency in order to prevent, limit and manage impacts. Response includes the initiation of plans and actions to support recovery and may include deployment of registered volunteer resources.

4. Recovery

The Sendai Framework includes the concept of "building back better" during recovery from events to reduce future risk and enhance resilience. A 2018 report prepared under the auspices of the World Bank expands this concept:

- Building back **stronger** refers to reconstructing buildings and infrastructure to ensure the built environment is better able to withstand future emergencies;
- Building back **faster** reduces disaster impacts by accelerating reconstruction through measures such as contingent reconstruction plans, pre-approved contracts, and financial arrangements; and,
- Building back **more inclusively** ensures that the most disproportionately impacted can access the support they need to rebuild. In the absence of such support, they are the most likely to experience the long-term consequences caused by health issues and disability, loss of schooling and education, or simply the inability to save or borrow to rebuild or replace lost assets.

With this in mind, modernized emergency management legislation will:

- Ensure Local Authorities, ministries, Crown corporations, First Nations, and critical infrastructure operators are prepared to recover from emergency events; and,
- Give Local Authorities and ministries the tools and powers required to build back stronger, faster, and inclusively.

It is proposed to define "recovery" as:

The phase of emergency management during which action is taken to re-establish social, cultural, physical, economic, personal and community well-being through inclusive measures that reduce vulnerability to emergencies, while enhancing sustainability and resilience. It includes taking steps to repair a community impacted by an emergency and restore conditions to a level that could withstand a potential future event or, when feasible, improve them to increase resilience in individuals, families, organizations, and communities.





Stepping Up & Sharing Responsibility

A Blueprint for 21st Century Emergency Management

While the provincial government has a leadership role in emergency management, fully committing to the Sendai Framework means that responsibility is shared with other partners including Local Authorities, First Nations, critical infrastructure operators, the private sector, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), citizens and volunteers. We recognize that many of these proposals would impose additional obligations on emergency management partners, which will raise issues of capacity and resources and will require time to develop and implement new approaches. The Province is committed to work with emergency management partners to ensure the necessary supports are in place so that the proposed new framework can be delivered.

This section outlines the key proposed changes for BC's emergency management partners that would be incorporated in a modernized Act.

Minister Responsible for Emergency Management

Under the EPA, the Minister has a number of duties and powers, including preparing emergency plans, entering into agreements, conducting public information, training and exercising programs, and reviewing and recommending modifications to Local Authorities' plans. The Minister may declare a provincial state of emergency (PSOE) and must approve extensions to states of local emergency (SOLEs).

States of Emergency

The provisions in the EPA dealing with states of emergency have their roots in Canada's War Measures Act. A **state of emergency** is an extraordinary measure that provides powerful tools to provincial and/or local governments that curtail rights and freedoms.

SOLE Durations

Currently, SOLEs are initially established at seven days and may be extended for further seven-day periods; the Minister's approval is required for extensions. Experience has shown that SOLEs are frequently renewed, often repeatedly, to deal with high-impact events.

It is proposed that:

- The duration of a SOLE be set at 14 days, with extensions of 14 days at a time approved by the Minister or designate. Extensions may include changes to the geographical scope of the SOLE.

PSOE Durations

Currently, PSOEs are initially established at 14 days and may be extended for further 14-day periods, with approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC).

It is proposed that:

- The duration of a PSOE be set at a maximum of 28 days, with extensions of 28 days at a time approved by the LGIC. Extensions may include changes to the geographical scope of the PSOE.



Powers Availible During PSOEs & SOLEs

The EPA sets out the powers available to the Minister during a provincial state of emergency (s. 10(1)) and to a Local Authority for a local state of emergency (s. 13(1)). ***In order to ensure an appropriate suite of powers is in place during states of emergency, the following is proposed.***

It is proposed to:

- Clearly set out the powers available to the Minister and to Local Authorities, respectively, by listing these powers;
- Clarify that the Minister and Local Authorities may do all acts and implement all procedures necessary to mitigate, prepare for, respond to or recover from the effects of an emergency.

Continued use of a SOLE

Experience in 2017 and 2018 showed that continued use of a SOLE is not an appropriate tool as communities transition from response to recovery. ***To support Local Authorities to transition from reliance on SOLEs to their regular decision-making processes, the following is proposed.***

It is proposed to:

- Introduce a new provision to allow the Minister to grant a Local Authority the use of specific powers for a "transition period" between response and recovery of up to 90 days. A Local Authority would make an application to the Minister, citing what powers are required and demonstrating that they are in the public interest; necessary or desirable to ensure a timely and effective recovery; and proportionate in the circumstances. The Minister could approve multiple extensions, for up to 90 days each. Local Authorities would be required to report publicly on their use of the transition powers.

Powers During Catastrophic Events

Careful consideration was given to whether an additional suite of powers should be available to the Minister for a catastrophic event such as a subduction earthquake. The existing powers under the EPA, specifically section 10(1) and section 26, are extremely powerful. ***Minor amendments are proposed to clarify how these powers apply during a catastrophic event.***

It is proposed that:

- **S. 10(1)** would clarify that for the duration of a provincial state of emergency, the Minister may do all acts and implement all procedures considered necessary to mitigate, prepare for, respond to or recover from the effects of an emergency; and,
- **S. 26** would clarify that unless otherwise provided for in a declaration of a state of emergency, if there is a conflict between the emergency management Act, the regulations, orders, or authorized actions made under the Act, and the regulations, orders, or authorized actions under other Acts, the emergency management Act and its regulations, orders, or authorized actions prevail.

Entering Into Agreements

Accessing Support

The Minister currently has the authority to "enter into agreements with the government of Canada or any other province, or with any agency of such a government, dealing with emergency plans and programs." ***In order to ensure that BC can quickly and effectively access support from other jurisdictions as and when needed, the following is proposed.***

It is proposed to:

- Clarify that the Minister can enter into agreements with international jurisdictions. Agreements could include arrangements with one or more other jurisdictions to share resources in relation to emergency management.

Partnerships with First Nations

A number of First Nations have entered into emergency management agreements with the Province and/or local governments. For example, in 2018 the Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Nuxalk Nation, Central Coast Regional District, and EMBC. In April 2019, a tripartite agreement was signed by Canada, BC and the First Nations Leadership Council to establish a formal relationship to hold collaborative, constructive and regular dialogue on emergency management issues. ***In order to facilitate partnerships with First Nations, the following is proposed.***

It is proposed to:

- Provide clear authority for the Minister and for Local Authorities to enter into emergency management agreements with First Nations. Agreements could address issues such as collaborative hazard and risk assessment and/or planning; delivery of emergency management services or programs; and/or joint recovery activities.

Enhancing Confidence in the Emergency Management System

BC is already a recognized leader in emergency management. Modernizing our legislative framework underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and will enshrine in legislation many of the best practices that are already commonplace in our province. That said, it is also important for the public to have confidence in our emergency management regime. To that end, we are proposing measures to enhance transparency and quality assurance.

Emergency Management System



Transparency

To increase transparency around risk, and coordination and consolidation of risk assessments and hazards across the province, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Establish a legislative requirement for the Province to centrally house and provide transparent data on hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments, or mitigation planning documents which are conducted or prepared by other bodies (provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies; Local Authorities; and critical infrastructure operators).

Quality Assurance

To provide quality assurance of emergency management plans prepared by other bodies, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, Local Authorities, and critical infrastructure owners/operators to register their emergency management plans with EMBC; and
- Enable EMBC to audit emergency management plans. In the spirit of continuous improvement, audit results would be shared with the planning body and made public.

Provincial Ministries, Crown Corporations & Agencies

Provincial government bodies must lead by example to adopt a four-pillar approach to emergency management and increase confidence in the quality of emergency plans. This includes expanding the public sector entities required by law to do emergency planning. Under the EPA, all ministries and certain Crown corporations are required to prepare emergency plans to be followed in the event of an emergency or disaster. These plans can be divided into two categories: business continuity plans, which focus on the continuity of services, and emergency management plans. Content requirements for business continuity plans are identified in policy, not in regulation. The Emergency Management Program Regulation delegates responsibilities for some hazard-specific planning to some ministries but there is otherwise little direction on what content should be included in ministry emergency management plans. Currently, ministries are not obligated to include risk mitigation or recovery within their plans. The following table shows key hazards and the primary provincial ministries responsible for provincial level activities to provide expertise and direct support to Local Authorities in managing an incident.

Ministry Hazard Responsibilities (1/3)

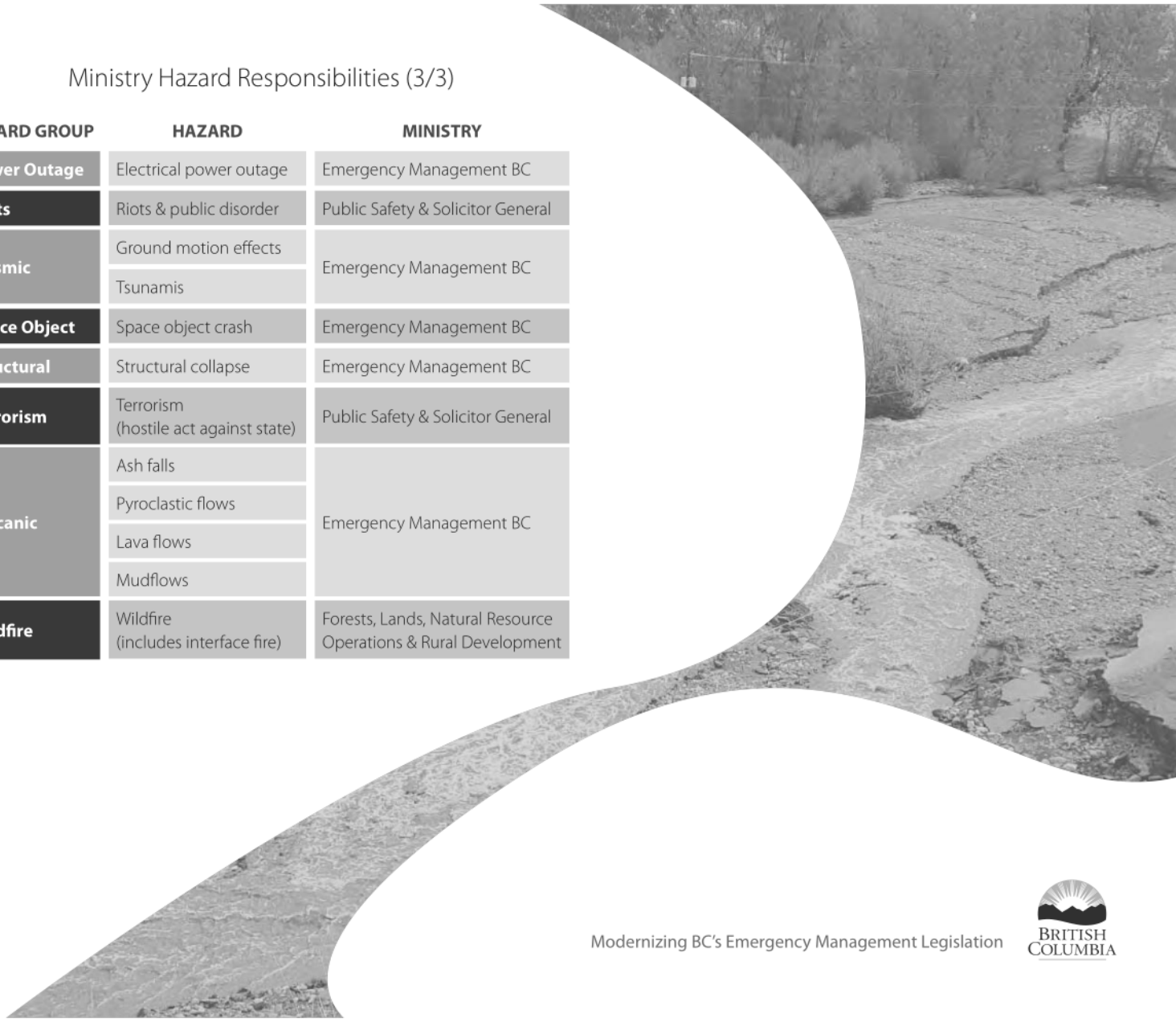
HAZARD GROUP	HAZARD	MINISTRY
Accidents	Air crashes	Public Safety & Solicitor General
	Marine accidents	
	Motor vehicle crashes	
Atmosphere	Snowstorms	Emergency Management BC
	Blizzards	
	Ice storms	
	Fog	
	Hailstorms	
	Lightning	
	Hurricanes	
	Tornadoes	
	Heat waves	
Dam Failure	Dam failure (includes foundations and abutments)	Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
Disease & Epidemics	Human diseases	Health
	Animal diseases	Agriculture
	Plant diseases	
	Pest infestations	

Ministry Hazard Responsibilities (2/3)

HAZARD GROUP	HAZARD	MINISTRY
Explosions & Emissions	Gas and gas leaks (pipeline)	Environment
	Gas and gas leaks (gas wells)	Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
	Mine	
	Other explosions	Municipal Affairs & Housing
Fire (Urban & Rural)	Fire (urban and rural — excludes interface fire)	Emergency Management BC; Forests, Lands, Natural Resources & Rural Development
Geological	Avalanches: highways/other	Transportation & Infrastructure; Emergency Management BC
	Debris avalanches and debris flows	Forests, Lands, Natural Resources & Rural Development
	Submarine slides	
	Landslides: highways/other	Transportation & Infrastructure; Emergency Management BC
	Land subsidence	Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
Hazardous Materials	Hazardous spills (on site or transport routes)	Environment
	Radiation	Health
	Infectious materials	
Hydrologic	Drought	Forests, Lands, Natural Resources & Rural Development
	Flooding	
	Erosion and accretion	Environment
	Ice jams	Transportation & Infrastructure

Ministry Hazard Responsibilities (3/3)

HAZARD GROUP	HAZARD	MINISTRY
Power Outage	Electrical power outage	Emergency Management BC
Riots	Riots & public disorder	Public Safety & Solicitor General
Seismic	Ground motion effects	Emergency Management BC
	Tsunamis	
Space Object	Space object crash	Emergency Management BC
Structural	Structural collapse	Emergency Management BC
Terrorism	Terrorism (hostile act against state)	Public Safety & Solicitor General
Volcanic	Ash falls	Emergency Management BC
	Pyroclastic flows	
	Lava flows	
	Mudflows	
Wildfire	Wildfire (includes interface fire)	Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development



Preparedness for Provincial Ministries, Crown Corporations & Agencies

Business Continuity Plans

To ensure transparency, consistency, quality, and oversight and to enhance information sharing of business continuity plans, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require all ministries, Crown corporations, and agencies to have programs and plans to deal with the continuity of services. This could include school districts, universities, colleges, health authorities, and others;
- Enable the prescription (in regulation) of standards for plan content, process, training, exercising and review; and
- Establish a mechanism to enable EMBC to collect, review, and audit business continuity plans.

Emergency Management Plans

To ensure transparency, consistency, quality, and oversight and enhance information sharing of emergency management plans, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require ministries, Crown Corporations, agencies and other public sector entities to develop emergency plans, participate in the development of integrated plans for which they are not the lead, and perform hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery duties as assigned by the Minister. This could include school districts, universities, colleges, health authorities, and others;
- Enable the prescription (in regulation) of specific roles and responsibilities for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, plan content, process, training, exercising and review; and
- Establish a provincial obligation to provide hazard data and coordinate with Local Authorities and First Nations as available and requested.

Continuity After Catastrophe

To ensure continuity of government operations following a catastrophic event such as a damaging earthquake, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require the Province to develop continuity of government plans that ensure the continued operation of the executive, judicial, and legislative arms of government.

Local Authorities

Under the EPA, Local Authorities include municipal councils and regional district boards. Successful emergency management must be driven by, and responsive to, local communities. Local Authorities therefore have a vital role in emergency management at the community and regional level, as they are responsible for preparing and implementing emergency plans. However, events in 2017 and 2018 highlighted the importance of strengthening both up-front risk mitigation and post-event recovery. A modernized approach to emergency management can increase community resiliency by:

- Increasing the specificity of emergency planning requirements, including obligations to identify hazards, vulnerabilities, and risk and implement risk reduction measures;
- Enhancing community consultation and coordination;
- Empowering new and existing partnerships; and
- Providing a new "transition period" to enable a more seamless transition from response to recovery by allowing specific powers to continue for a longer period of time while providing public accountability on the use of the powers.

Mitigation for Local Authorities

Building & Development

Risk reduction starts with making sound decisions about where and how to build. To facilitate risk-based decision-making about building and development in hazardous areas, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require Local Authorities, and the Province (through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's subdivision approval authority in unincorporated areas) to give greater consideration of current and future risk for new development approvals in hazardous areas; and,
- Require sustainable long-term mitigation measures when building and development is approved in hazardous areas.

Hazard & Risk Identification

To enhance the capacity to prevent and mitigate emergencies, and close gaps that exist in hazard and risk identification, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Include legislative and regulatory requirements for Local Authorities to identify, understand and assess hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, and establish associated mitigation plans for risks and consequences.

Collaboration & Coordination

To increase transparency around risk, and enhance coordination and consolidation of risk assessments and hazards across the province, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Enable the Minister or designate to direct Local Authorities to collaborate and coordinate at a regional scale for risk assessment, mitigation planning and mitigative works; and
- Enable the establishment of non-regulatory or regulatory incentives to enhance regional collaboration and coordination for risk assessment, mitigation planning and mitigative works.

Preparedness for Local Authorities

Standardized Programs & Plans

To increase standardization and alignment of Local Authority emergency management programs and plans, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Establish a comprehensive list of requirements including: hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessment; mitigation plans; response; recovery; business continuity plans; training; exercising; and a review cycle; and
- Through regulation, provide detailed program and plan content requirements.

Collaborative Planning & Partnerships

To increase collaboration, enable community-driven planning and partnerships, provide transparency and accountability among partners and stakeholders, and enable the Province to understand local capacities and needs, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require Local Authorities to provide plans to neighbouring jurisdictions (Local Authorities and First Nations), to the Province, and stakeholders such as critical infrastructure operators, school districts, and health authorities and consider any feedback;
- Enable Local Authorities and First Nations to enter into agreements with one another for the purposes of integrated or multi-jurisdictional plans; and
- Introduce a requirement for Local Authorities preparing emergency management plans to consult with First Nations. Consultation standards for Local Authorities could be specified in regulation or guidelines.

Response for Local Authorities

Response Provisions

Proposed changes to response provisions for Local Authorities are outlined in the section on the Minister's powers.

See Page 19



Recovery for Local Authorities

Recovery Plan Incentives

To provide incentives to develop strong recovery plans, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Enable regulations that would require post-disaster needs assessments and post-disaster recovery plans as a condition of receiving provincial recovery funds and the renewal of recovery powers.

Transitioning out of a SOLE

As described in the section on the Minister's powers, to create a mechanism for the use of emergency powers over an extended period of time and recognize the transition between response and recovery, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Introduce a 90-day "transition period" where Local Authorities can request the use of specific SOLE powers for up to 90 days at a time. Powers would be selected and justified for the circumstance, based on the whether the transition powers are in the public interest, necessary and desirable, and proportionate to the circumstances.

Tools to Support Recovery

To provide Local Authorities with additional tools to support recovery, particularly during the transition from response to recovery, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Enable Local Authorities, in consultation with the Minister responsible for the Community Charter, Vancouver Charter and Local Government Act and the Minister responsible for emergency management, to make emergency amendments to an Official Community Plan, Regional Growth Strategy, zoning, or bylaws.

Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

First Nations representatives have demonstrated a strong interest in all aspects of BC's emergency management regime. First Nations know their communities best, including making decisions on how and when to respond to events that impact their values and people.

Modernizing the legislation provides an opportunity to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and address many of the challenges that were identified in 2017 and 2018, including investing in community planning, preparedness and mitigation, and respecting Indigenous knowledge and practices. Taking steps to recognize First Nations as partners in emergency management will demonstrate progress towards implementing the recommendations in First Nations community reports, the Abbott-Chapman Report, the Tsilhqot'in National Government report The Fires Awakened Us, and the Nadleh Whut'en report Trial by Fire.

Canada is responsible for reserve lands, and this responsibility is delegated to the Minister of Indigenous Services. Under the Emergency Management Act (2007), each federal minister is required to identify risks within their areas of responsibility and maintain emergency management plans to mitigate those risks. Indigenous Services Canada supports the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery) on-reserve and has a service agreement with EMBC to ensure that First Nations have access to the provincial emergency management platform.

BC will continue to work with First Nations and Canada to provide clarity on jurisdictional roles and responsibilities for reserve lands and community members who live off-reserve.

First Nations, along with the federal, provincial and local governments, have already embarked on the path to partnerships. In addition to the tripartite agreement between Canada, BC and the First Nations Leadership Council that was mentioned earlier in this discussion paper, a number of First Nations have entered into collaborative arrangements, including:

- The ***Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement*** between the Tsilhqot'in National Government, Canada and BC;
- The ***Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Plan***, which supports local governments, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, and the Westbank First Nation; and,
- The ***Tofino-Ahousaht Protocol Agreement*** on areas of mutual interest, including infrastructure, health and emergency planning.

Under the Final Agreements of modern treaties, Treaty First Nations have the same powers, duties and responsibilities under the EPA as Local Authorities. Westbank First Nation and shíshálh Nation are self-governing, with the power to regulate public order, safety and emergency preparedness. Shíshálh Nation is a member of the Sunshine Coast Regional District Emergency Program and Westbank First Nation is a member of the Regional District of Central Okanagan Emergency Program.

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) coordinates activities in response to emergencies that may impact the health of BC First Nations community members. Since 2017, FNHA has strengthened its capacity to support First Nations communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies by establishing emergency management policies and procedures, developing an Emergency Operations Centre response mechanism, and creating additional staff positions focused on leading and supporting emergency management within its organization.

The First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) works closely with First Nations communities, EMBC, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other partners to support emergency management for First Nations communities in BC.



First Nations as Partners

It is recognized that First Nations will have interests in all the legislative changes under consideration. In order to further strengthen First Nations as partners in the governance and operations of emergency management and improve communications before, during and after an emergency, the following changes are proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Expand the definition of "emergency" to include actions to protect community well-being, significant Indigenous cultural sites and the environment;
- Provide clear authority for the Minister responsible for emergency management and for Local Authorities to enter into emergency management agreements with First Nations or First Nations groups, including Treaty First Nations. Agreements could address issues such as collaborative hazard and risk assessment and/or planning; delivery of emergency management services or programs; mutual aid; and/or joint recovery activities;
- Introduce a requirement for Local Authorities preparing emergency management plans to consult with First Nations;
- Introduce a requirement for critical infrastructure owners/operators to provide non-sensitive information to First Nations upon request. (Note: information would also be provided to Local Authorities and/or the public upon request.);
- Require consideration of Indigenous and traditional knowledge in the development of hazard risk and vulnerability assessments by provincial entities and Local Authorities. The entity conducting the assessments could be encouraged to communicate the results to affected First Nations; and,
- Establish that provincial entities and Local Authorities must consider cultural safety and inclusiveness when developing and implementing emergency management plans. Specific requirements could be established in regulation and supported by policies and guidance material.

Critical Infrastructure Operators

Federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada define critical infrastructure as the processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets and services essential to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of people and the effective functioning of government. There are ten recognized critical infrastructure sectors:

Critical Infrastructure Sectors

SECTOR	SUB-SECTOR
Energy & Utilities	Electricity; Petroleum and Crude Oil; Natural Gas; Other
Communications	Telecommunications; Radio; Broadcasting; Satellite
Transportation	Rail; Road; Marine; Air
Water	Potable Water; Wastewater; Dams
Health	Critical Care; Extended Care; Blood/Organ Facilities; Pharmaceutical Facilities
Safety	Police/Law Enforcement; Fire; Ambulance; Emergency Management
Government	Federal; Provincial; First Nations; Local Authority
Food	Farming/Production; Processing/Packaging; Storage/Distribution
Finance	Banking/Financial Institutions; Securities/Investments; Point of Sale/ATM Machines
Manufacturing	Defense Industrial Base Manufacturing*; Critical Manufacturing**

* Defense industrial base manufacturing consists of businesses and government organizations involved in research, development, production and service of military equipment and facilities.
** Critical manufacturing varies across five key areas: primary metals, machinery, electrical equipment, transportation and heavy equipment, and chemical manufacturing.

The EPA does not reference critical infrastructure; it is regulated at both the provincial and federal levels within legislation that is typically specific to a single sector or sub-sector. This means that the requirements for emergency management activities are not consistent across sectors and may not be integrated with provincial or Local Authorities' emergency management plans.



In BC, many critical infrastructure operators already demonstrate exceptional emergency management practices, often going beyond existing regulatory requirements, as observed during the 2017 and 2018 flood and wildfire events as well as in many other instances. The proposals outlined below would serve to strengthen certain practices and close any gaps. It is recognized that the Province must respect federal jurisdiction over certain critical infrastructure sectors.

These recommendations are centered on adopting a cross-sector approach that defines expectations with respect to the development of four-pillar emergency management planning documentation that is registered provincially, exercised, subject to audit, and integrated with government emergency plans. The intention of these activities is to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure in British Columbia, as well as those that rely on its services. The resilience of critical infrastructure assets and systems is essential to the functionality of critical supply chains such as food, water, fuel, shelter, and medical supplies, and is also a vital component of efficient and effective response and recovery efforts. Furthermore, awareness of downstream risks (i.e., scenarios that may result in critical service losses) and interdependencies (where one critical infrastructure asset relies on another, or there is a mutual dependency) may also help the Province, Local Authorities, First Nations, and other critical infrastructure operators develop and update their emergency management planning documentation appropriately.

In addition, consistent emergency management planning documentation can help ensure effective and efficient resource-sharing, as critical infrastructure operators are often the source of specialized resources and personnel. Understanding the needs of critical infrastructure operators in greater depth may also allow the Province to explore additional opportunities to provide support in return before, during, and after emergency events.

A modernized approach to emergency management would:

- Improve information sharing and coordination between critical infrastructure operators, the Province, Local Authorities, and First Nations; and,
- Establish minimum standards for emergency management and business continuity plans for critical infrastructure operators.

Preparedness for Critical Infrastructure

A Cross-Sector Approach

To build a foundation for a cross-sector approach that outlines expectations around emergency management planning, business continuity planning, information sharing, and exercising, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Establish a power to allow for creation of a registry that captures specific critical infrastructure assets and their respective emergency management planning documentation, which may include information on risks, contacts, operating procedures, resource requirements, and resource availability. This registry would also serve to clarify which critical infrastructure operators and respective assets are subject to the regulatory requirements, as it may include "tiers" to ensure appropriate attention is paid to the assets and systems with greater risk and/or consequence; and
- Establish cross-sector regulation for critical infrastructure emergency management activities to ensure consistency. This would include activities required for critical infrastructure sectors as defined by EMBC and include supplementary aspects to existing statutes and regulations with respect to their requirements related to emergency management activities. Attention will be paid to ensuring that existing requirements and efforts are not duplicated.

Risk and Resource Needs

To increase understanding of risk and resource needs of critical infrastructure operators, and increase coordination with other emergency partners, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require critical infrastructure operators to develop specific emergency management planning documentation, which would be inclusive of planning for hazards created by the critical infrastructure, business continuity planning for service disruptions, and considerations for downstream impacts of service disruptions.

Information Sharing and Security

To improve coordination and information sharing while respecting critical infrastructure operators' proprietary information and minimize information security issues, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

Require that emergency management planning documentation be developed into two parts:

1. Information such as risks to critical infrastructure, risks caused by the critical infrastructure, general operating procedures, consequence of loss, estimated restoration timelines, anticipated resource requirements, and primary contact information; and,
2. Sensitive information that exposes vulnerabilities and any additional details within the plan such as additional staff contact information, internal procedures, etc.

Require that Part 1 be provided to the Province, and/or made available upon request to Local Authorities, First Nations, and/or the public.

Quality Assurance

To increase quality assurance of emergency management planning documentation, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require certain critical infrastructure operators to provide a "Statement of Assurance" that would advise of measures they have taken to ensure that their emergency management documentation is of adequate quality. The Province would have authority to engage an accredited subject matter expert to validate the "Statement of Assurance"; and,
- Conduct prioritized audits of emergency management planning documentation. These audits would be done by either EMBC alone, or with the assistance of ministries with leadership/ regulatory roles for a particular sector.

Testing and Integration of Plans

To ensure that critical infrastructure emergency management and business continuity plans are tested consistently and to provide opportunities to integrate plans with other emergency plans, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require critical infrastructure operators to conduct mandatory exercises for specific assets as designated by the Province through regulation or policy at a defined frequency and level (tabletop, full-scale, etc.); and,
- Require critical infrastructure operators to invite provincial regulators and emergency management authorities, as well as local participants such as Local Authorities, First Nations, and local organizations, to the mandatory exercises.

Improving Information Sharing

To increase information sharing both during and outside of emergency events, and to enhance planning related to catastrophic events, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require critical infrastructure operators to provide emergency management information beyond that identified in Part 1 (see above) as requested by EMBC (or another provincial agency at the request of EMBC) including sensitive event-specific information, additional contact information, or internal procedures.



Supporting Volunteers & Non-Governmental Organizations

People who offer their services without expectation of compensation are a critical component of the emergency management process and contribute to an all-of-society approach, along with the many non-profit organizations involved in all four pillars of emergency management.

Currently, Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers provide services in five distinct functions:

- Search and Rescue services to locate and retrieve injured, lost, or missing individuals;
- Road Rescue services to extricate motorists trapped by an accident;
- Emergency Support Services to meet the temporary accommodation, meals and incidental needs of individuals and families evacuated during an emergency;
- Provincial Emergency Radio Communications services to provide additional or alternate radio connections in support of managing an emergency; and,
- Provincial Emergency Program Air to enable searches from the air, conduct reconnaissance (i.e., damage assessment), communications relay or transport personnel and supplies.

The Province also provides a means for a Local Authority or First Nation to organize convergent volunteers for general service tasks such as filling sandbags.

The skills and experiences of volunteers often go beyond their core functions, such as ensuring that in an emergency, residents are notified and advised of actions to take, or as a member of an Emergency Operations Centre. The Province supports these volunteers by providing training, reimbursing operational costs and providing WorkSafe and liability coverage.

Beyond formal provincially organized lines, volunteers make invaluable contributions to emergency management through non-government organizations (NGOs), community service organizations and other mechanisms.



Strengthening Supports for Volunteers & NGOs

Helping Volunteers Help BC

To strengthen support for the thousands of volunteers essential to emergency management, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Increase support and formal oversight of volunteers;
- Increase access to broader resources, including volunteers affiliated with third parties such as NGOs, and continue the ability of NGOs, philanthropic organizations, societies, and other organizations to enter into agreements with BC;
- Create more equitable treatment between a person ordered to provide support in an emergency and one who willingly provides support; and,
- Recognize that service provider organizations can be impacted by emergencies and may need support during response and recovery.

Preparedness for Volunteers & NGOs

New Definitions

To ensure consistent interpretation of new and existing laws and regulations related to volunteers and enable the Province to enter into agreements with third-party service providers, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

Have new definitions that would clearly distinguish the difference between a registered volunteer, convergent volunteer, and service provider:

Registered volunteers would be specialized disciplines prescribed by regulation and:

- Receive no remuneration for their service;
- Be provided with civil liability protection under the Act, workers' compensation and liability insurance;
- Obtain and retain registered status with the Province or other entities according to the regulation;
- Operate under Local Authority or direction of the requesting agency;
- May provide direction to convergent volunteers;
- Operate in all phases of emergency management; and,
- May receive time limited employment protection according to the Act.

Convergent volunteers would not be registered and would:

- Receive no remuneration for their service;
- Arrive on scene offering support and assistance;
- Be supervised by the Local Authority, the Province, or a registered volunteer to be able to receive workers' compensation and other benefits; and,
- Receive civil liability protection under the Act.

Service Providers may be a registered charity, philanthropic organization, society or other organization. The new legislation will include an explicit authority for the Minister (or designate) and Local Authorities to enter into agreements with Service Providers. Such agreements could:

- Authorize the Service Provider to deliver emergency response or recovery services or arrange for the deployment of staff or affiliated volunteer personnel. For clarity, personnel deployed on behalf of a Service Provider will be protected under workers' compensation and insurance policies secured by the Service Provider.

Legal Certainty

To provide greater legal certainty around the process to access workers compensation for injured volunteers and clarify provincial support and governance related to volunteers, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Ensure that the new legislation contains an authority to prescribe classes of registered volunteers, rules around supports for volunteers, and develop and implement a supporting regulation. Having the ability to prescribe classes of registered volunteers in a regulation allows for flexibility over time to accommodate new areas of specialized volunteer disciplines. Policy instruments would continue to be used for discipline-specific program rules and guidelines such as reimbursement rates and safety conditions.

Job-Protected Leaves

To provide job-protected leaves for persons ordered to provide assistance and for those registered volunteers specifically requested to provide support, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

Carry forward the existing section 25 of the EPA that provides that persons ordered to assist during a declared Provincial State of Emergency or a State of Local Emergency cannot have their employment terminated for complying with that order.

- Establish job-protected leave without pay for "registered volunteers." This provision would be restricted to those registered volunteers specifically requested by a Local Authority or a BC agency to support emergency response. Job-protected leaves would not be conditional on a State of Local Emergency or Provincial State of Emergency being declared.

Ensuring Fairness to Employers

To ensure fairness to affected employers, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Require Local Authorities or a BC agency requesting the registered volunteer to:
  - Document their initial request for the volunteer;
  - Confirm the duration of the deployment;
  - Confirm that the volunteer was in fact present for the emergency response; and,
  - Make this documentation available on request of the employer.
- Provide a process by which an employer could dispute the ongoing deployment of the employee in a volunteer capacity with the responsible Local Authority or BC agency because the employee is critical to business continuity or other hardship.

Protection from Civil Liability

To protect volunteers and others from civil liability, the following is proposed.

It is proposed to:

- Include a civil liability protection provision for registered and convergent volunteers, boards of search and rescue societies, authorized persons offering support from another jurisdiction, persons authorized or ordered to provide assistance under a State of Local Emergency or Provincial State of Emergency, provincial government employees and officials, Local Authority employees and officials, the Minister and the Provincial government as a whole, similar to what is set out in the Wildfire Act;
- A new civil liability clause will clarify that no legal proceedings can be commenced or maintained against a protected person or entity because of anything done or omitted in the course of undertaking a power, duty or obligation resulting from the legislation or associated regulations. Including the BC government and Local Authorities as protected entities is intended to acknowledge that unavoidable property damage or losses can result from governments' response to a given hazard, and that climate change is increasing the overall frequency of events; and,
- Bad faith or grossly negligent actions or omissions will be exempt from civil liability protection, as is the case under the current EPA.

Supporting & Empowering Citizens, Visitors & Businesses

Citizens can be encouraged to participate in an all-of-society approach to emergency management through information, education, building codes, access to information about hazards, risk, preparedness and response (e.g., evacuation routes), purchasing adequate personal insurance, and taking active roles during recovery. It's also important to provide citizens and visitors with accurate and timely information before, during and after emergencies, and to ensure that public notifications and warnings are widespread and well-understood.

The Province is not contemplating legislative changes that would specifically address the role of citizens and businesses in emergency management. We will build on existing programs and actions by enhancing the promotion of citizen and business involvement across all four emergency management pillars — mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This would build on current education and promotional initiatives at the provincial and local levels, such as:

- Strengthening provincial education and preparedness and mitigation initiatives such as Partners in Preparedness, Master of Disaster, High Ground Hikes, and FireSmart;
- Making materials available in additional languages;
- Developing initiatives to better reach vulnerable people;
- Strengthening and expanding the role of business partnerships (e.g., with the real estate community and tourism sector);
- Expanding social media such as Twitter, Facebook and webpages;
- Encouraging local governments to undertake more education and promotion and to encourage citizen participation in emergency management planning; and,
- Increasing citizens' awareness and participation in emergency planning, at an individual and community level, through transparent access to hazard information.

Citizen Preparedness

There are no identified jurisdictions that legislate citizens to be prepared or to undertake mitigation measures. Even Japan — often characterized as the "most prepared country in the world" for disasters — does not appear to mandate citizen preparedness, favouring instead robust public awareness programs, including regular drills (some of which involve hundreds of thousands of citizens), guides and brochures, and access to hazard and response planning information.



Financial Considerations

The Province recognizes that not all of the financial elements required to support the modernization of the emergency management system will be enabled through changes to legislation.

Signalling a commitment to a modernized emergency management system will require new investment with the objective of ensuring all four pillars are supported by stable, responsive and transparent funding mechanisms while meeting the Province's fiscal mandate and maintaining the flexibility to invest year-end funds when available.

The resourcing implications for provincial government bodies, local governments, First Nations, other emergency management partners and stakeholders required to deliver on any new emergency management obligations will be considered as legislation is developed, recognizing the importance of supporting their capacity to deliver. The capacity of partners to deliver will also inform the phasing-in of any new obligations.

The Province will continue to work to maximize opportunities to partner with the federal government to fund or co-fund emergency management activities as their support is essential in modernizing the emergency management system. The Province will also continue to advocate at the federal level for increased funding supports to meet the needs of British Columbians.

The Province continues work to improve its policies, procedures and administrative processes to ensure Local Authorities, First Nations, and service providers are transparently and efficiently reimbursed for response and recovery costs.

The Province recognizes that investments in mitigation and preparedness can reduce risk and reduce or avoid expenditures associated with emergency events.

In addition to traditional financial approaches currently being utilized, the Province will be guided in this consultation process with input on any new or emerging funding approaches, such as incentives to shift behaviour, as well as public and private partnerships that encourage disaster mitigation efforts.

Compliance & Enforcement

Many of the proposed changes to BC's emergency management legislation involve obligations for emergency management partners to reduce risk and enhance resilience. The Province will work with partners on voluntary measures to enhance compliance with these requirements (e.g. training, guidance documents, phased implementation, planning assistance, etc.). Voluntary compliance is the preferred mechanism for reducing risk and improving resilience. At the same time, mechanisms are required to ensure that obligations under the Act are met where voluntary compliance is not achieved.

The current EPA does not have an extensive compliance and enforcement regime. It includes a provision that creates an offence for any contravention of the Act or its regulations or for interference with the exercise of powers or performance of duties under the Act. The penalty for committing an offence is imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than $10,000, or both. As part of modernizing the Act, consideration will be given to what additional compliance and enforcement provisions (e.g., fines or other penalties) may be appropriate.

Tell us more:

- What tools should be available (in legislation or otherwise) to ensure compliance with the new Act?
- What incentives may be useful or appropriate?
- What penalties or enforcement mechanisms may be appropriate for non-compliance with the new Act?



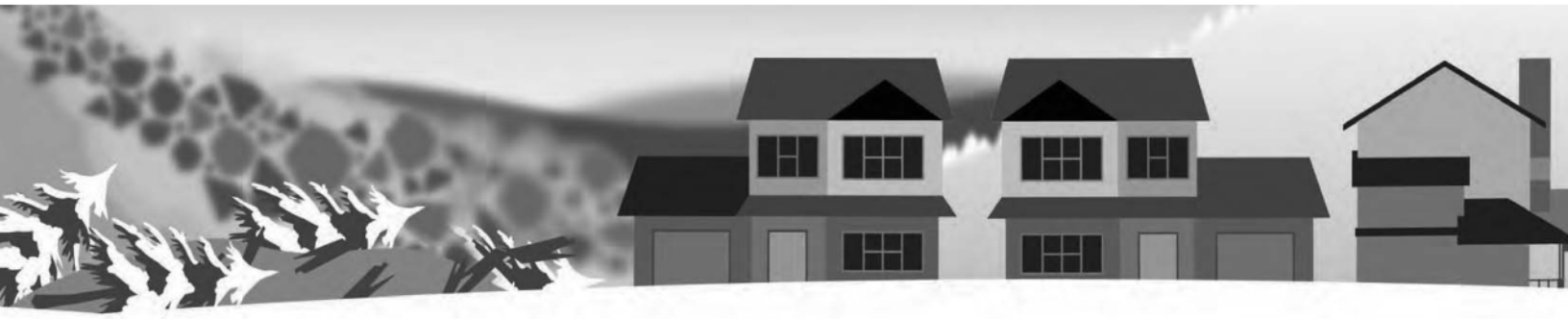
Next Steps & How to Participate

Comments on the proposals outlined in this discussion paper can be submitted online at **engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/emergency-program-act-modernization**, or by email at **EmergencyProgramAct@gov.bc.ca**, until January 31, 2020.

Questions to consider include:

- Will the proposed legislative changes promote a shift to a focus on disaster risk reduction?
- Will the proposals encourage an all-of-society approach to emergency management?
- Are there other measures that could be considered to improve our approach to emergency response?
- Are the proposed new recovery tools useful and appropriate?
- Are there other ways to advance reconciliation and recognize First Nations as emergency management partners?
- What issues are important to consider with regard to critical infrastructure?
- What support would be needed to implement these proposals? Examples include training on the new requirements, templates for emergency management plans, and additional expertise and capacity.

Feedback will inform next steps regarding the proposed changes to ensure they successfully deliver a modernized emergency management framework. In the spring of 2020, we will release a What We Heard report that summarizes the feedback received. The feedback will be used to inform and shape the final legislative changes, culminating in a new emergency management Act planned to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly in the fall of 2020.



What Will Change with Emergency Management Modernization? A Hypothetical Scenario

Scenario:

In December, a massive landslide occurs in BC's interior. Road access is cut off to a small municipality and a First Nations reserve. Several homes in a new subdivision within the municipality suffer major damage. A natural gas pipeline is damaged. Supply is interrupted, and service may need to be shut off to communities in the Lower Mainland. With a forecasted long-term cold spell, there are significant concerns about homes, businesses and critical infrastructure, such as schools and health care facilities, having heat during the winter.

The reason for the landslide is still being investigated, but slope instability due to a wildfire five years ago and associated deforestation are main contributors.

See the next page for an illustration of how this event could unfold under the current EPA, compared to under a modernized emergency management act.

How this hypothetical event could unfold under the current Emergency Program Act (EPA):

- As is the case with many emergencies, the landslide catches the impacted municipality and First Nation by surprise.
  - The risk of such a landslide was not assessed by the municipality, in part because its plan was not updated for post-wildfire risks.
  - Provincially-held post-wildfire risk data for previous years was not readily available to the municipality through a central location.
  - As a result, planning for alternate supply and egress routes for the municipality and the First Nation did not occur, resulting in significant challenges (e.g. transport of acute care patients to hospital, and delivery of food and fuel to the community).
- Landslide risk was not accounted for when the new subdivision was approved. Without a full risk assessment or mitigation strategies, some houses were constructed in a landslide hazard area.
- The municipality's emergency plan was not exercised, leading to confusion and delays in the early stages of response for both the municipality and the neighbouring First Nation.
- Response efforts by the Province are hampered by a lack of information regarding the gas line operator's emergency plan. While the gas line owner has plans in place, these plans have not been shared with EMBC, the municipality, or the First Nation.
- The Lower Mainland municipalities that may have their gas supply cut off are unaware that a shutoff strategy is included in the gas line operator's plan regarding pipeline breaches and are unaware that service may take up to three months to restore if it is shut off.
- The municipality's emergency plan does not address the recovery phase, hampering community recovery efforts in the coming weeks and months.

How this hypothetical event could unfold under a modernized emergency management act:

- The event creates challenges, but the impacted partners are not caught by surprise and are able to mount a quick and cohesive response effort.
- The risk of a landslide is identified in the municipality's mandated emergency plan. Risk identification and assessment are aided by simplified access to provincially-held risk data.
- The placement of several lots in the new subdivision was altered to account for the landslide risk, and no homes are significantly damaged in the landslide.
- Based on the identified landslide risk, the community has established access to an adjacent Forest Service Road to act as an alternate supply and egress route.
- The municipality and the First Nation recently held a small joint exercise of their mutually-shared emergency plans, which greatly improves response operations following the landslide.
- The Province, impacted municipality and First Nation, and Lower Mainland municipalities have access to key information about the gas line operator's emergency plan, allowing them to plan for gas line risks and interruptions. Lower Mainland municipalities work with the gas line operator to suggest customer prioritization (e.g. critical facilities and vulnerable populations) and shutdown procedures that will safeguard public safety. Emergency Management BC and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources have already worked with the gas line operator to complete provincial energy disruption planning.
- The municipality has a basic plan in place for the recovery phase, which speeds recovery in the weeks and months ahead.
- Overall, the partners can respond to and recover from this event, having previously identified the risks, engaged in mitigation where practical and cost effective, and shared and exercised plans together.

Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation: Key Policy Shifts at a Glance

All four emergency management pillars (mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery) are recognized in legislation:

- Require provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies to:
  - Have programs and plans to deal with continuity of services;
  - Develop emergency management plans;
  - Exercise and review their plans; and
  - Carry out duties related to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery as assigned by the Minister responsible for emergency management.
- Require Local Authorities to:
  - Meet clear requirements for the content and exercising of plans, and their review cycle;
  - Identify, understand and assess hazards, risks and vulnerabilities, and establish associated mitigation plans for high-risk hazards; and,
  - Develop post-disaster needs assessments and post-disaster recovery plans.
- Require Local Authorities and provincial subdivision approving officers to give greater consideration to current and future risk for development and building approvals, and require mitigation measures when development and building are approved in hazardous areas.

First Nations are recognized as emergency management partners:

- Expand the definition of "emergency" to include actions to protect community well-being, significant Indigenous cultural sites, and the environment;
- Provide clear authority for the Minister and Local Authorities to enter agreements with individual First Nations or First Nations groups;
- Require Local Authorities preparing emergency management plans to consult with First Nations;
- Require critical infrastructure operators to provide emergency management information to First Nations upon request;
- Require consideration of Indigenous and traditional knowledge in the development of hazard risk and vulnerability assessments by provincial entities and Local Authorities; and,
- Establish that provincial entities and Local Authorities must consider cultural safety and inclusiveness when developing and implementing emergency management plans.

Greater recognition of critical infrastructure as an integral part of emergency management:

- Enable creation of a registry of critical infrastructure to better understand both risk and the assets available during response and recovery and inform development of supply chain management strategies;
- Require critical infrastructure emergency plans to address all four pillars; and,
- Require specific emergency management planning documentation, which could include a "statement of assurance" for certain operators, to ensure information is readily available before, during and after events.

Better tools for response and recovery:

- Set the initial duration and renewal period for a provincial state of emergency at a maximum of 28 days (currently 14) and for a local state of emergency at 14 days (currently 7);
- Create a new provision to allow the Minister to grant a Local Authority the use of specific powers for a "transition period" between response and the end of the recovery phase of up to 90 days;
- Enable Local Authorities to make emergency amendments to Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies, zoning, or bylaws;
- Enable, by regulation, standards for emergency public notifications and warnings; and,
- Clarify how existing provincial powers would apply during a catastrophic event.

Greater recognition and protection for volunteers:

- Define service providers and provide clear authority for the Minister to enter into agreements with them;
- Clearly define different types of volunteers;
- Modernize civil liability protection to better deter nuisance lawsuits; and,
- Establish job-protected leaves for volunteers with specialized skill sets.

Stronger coordination, collaboration and provision of information between emergency management partners:

- Require ministries, Crown corporations, agencies and other public sector entities (such as school districts, universities, colleges, and health authorities) to participate in the development of integrated plans for which they are not the lead;
- Enable Local Authorities and First Nations to enter into agreements to do integrated or joint planning and to voluntarily form unified Local Authorities to do some or all emergency management functions;
- Enable the Minister to direct Local Authorities to collaborate and coordinate at a regional scale for risk assessment, mitigation planning and mitigative works, and enable establishment of regulatory or non-regulatory incentives for collaboration and coordination;
- Require Local Authorities to provide plans to neighbouring jurisdictions (including First Nations), to the Province, and stakeholders such as critical infrastructure operators and consider any feedback; and,
- Require Local Authorities preparing emergency plans to consult with First Nations.

Greater confidence in the emergency management system:

- Establish a requirement for the Province to centrally house and provide transparent data on hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments or mitigation planning documents conducted or prepared by provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, Local Authorities, and critical infrastructure operators;
- Require provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies and Local Authorities to register their emergency management plans with EMBC; and,
- Enable EMBC to audit emergency management plans and make the results public.

Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation

Summary of What We Heard in Response to the Discussion Paper Issued on October 28, 2019

August 31, 2020

The Discussion Paper and Engagement Process

On October 28, 2019, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) released a Discussion Paper on Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation, which outlined a series of policy proposals for consideration in new emergency management legislation, replacing the existing Emergency Program Act (EPA).

During the engagement period, which ran until January 31, 2020, EMBC conducted some 172 meetings, webinars and teleconferences with partners and stakeholders, and received 239 written submissions.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Discussion Paper and the responses pre-dated the pandemic and were informed more by other types of events such as floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. However, the lessons learned from managing the COVID-19 emergency will be considered and incorporated in the new legislative framework.

The pandemic delayed the release of the What We Heard Report, which was originally intended to published in Spring 2020. More fundamentally, delivery of a complete, brand-new emergency management Act has been pushed from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

Overarching Themes

The engagement sessions and written responses to the Discussion Paper showed broad consensus on the need to modernize BC's emergency management legislation and widespread support for almost all of the specific proposals in the Discussion Paper. Key themes were:

- The need to demonstrate stronger connections to climate change, the Sendai Framework, disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction, including the issues and challenges faced by vulnerable populations.
- The need for additional resources and capacity to deliver on the new requirements.
- First Nations' expectation that the proposed legislation will adhere to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) and reflect First Nations' right to self-determination.
- The need for more detail and clarity on specific proposals and how the new legislation will be implemented.
- Critical infrastructure operators, provincial ministries, Crown corporations and public sector agencies called for avoiding regulatory duplication and requested a system of equivalencies recognizing that legislative requirements may also be met through existing regulatory frameworks and requirements.
- A number of animal welfare organizations and members of the public stated that the legislation should specifically address animals, including domestic pets, animals in captivity, livestock and wildlife.

These themes will be reflected in the new emergency management legislation, which will position BC as a leader in disaster risk reduction. More detail is available in the full What We Heard Report:
www2.gov.bc.ca/ChangesToEmergencyProgramAct

Staying the Course, for the Most Part

Based on the generally positive feedback, most of the proposals in the Discussion Paper will proceed. However, a small number of proposals were not supported and will not proceed or will be modified:

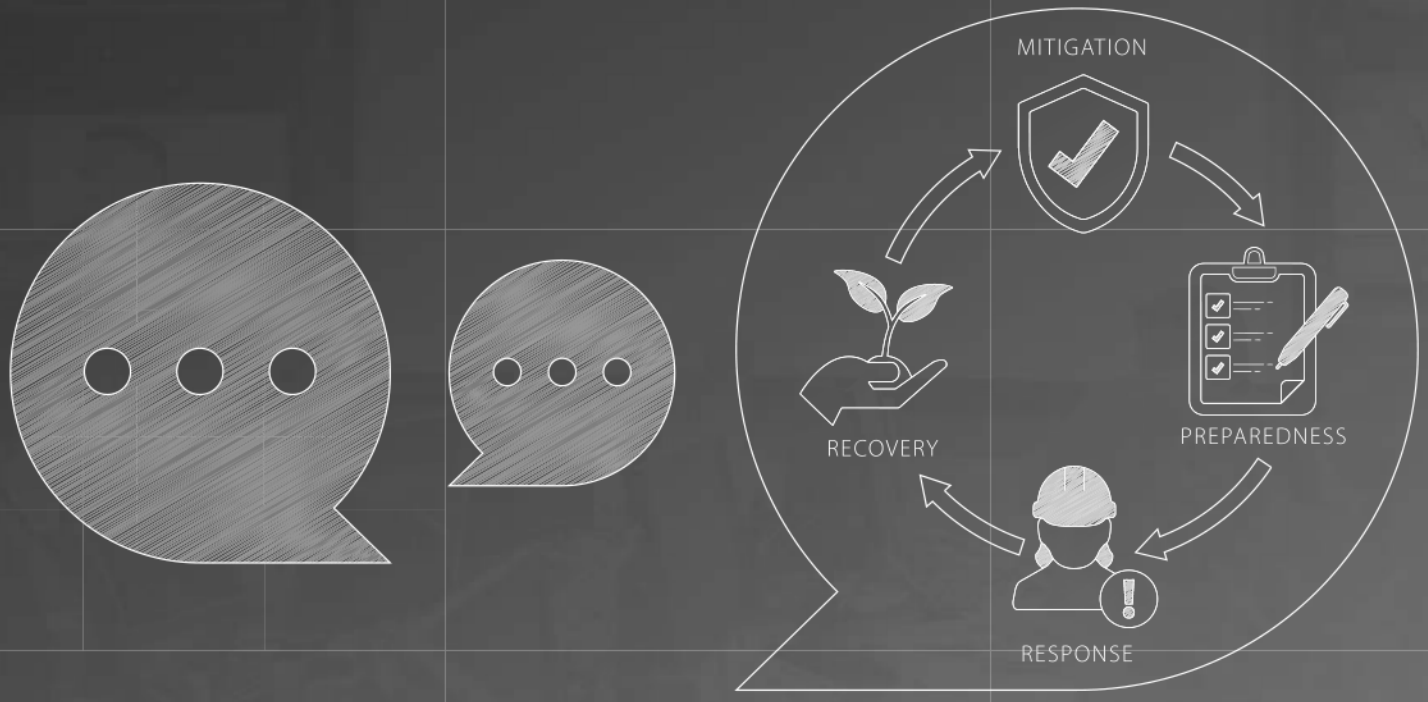
- The proposal to require greater consideration of current and future risk when making building and development decisions is being fleshed out and will likely be implemented through planning and building legislation rather than emergency management legislation.
- Rather than creating a new mechanism to enable Local Authorities and First Nations to form collaborative emergency management organizations, existing mechanisms will be continued and strengthened.
- Urgent recovery funding will be available prior to preparation of a post-disaster needs assessment and post-disaster recovery plan, as is the case now. Needs assessments and recovery plans based on the nature of the disaster will be required to inform longer-term funding decisions.
- While the concept of a transition period to bridge from response to recovery received strong support, the term "transition period" did not resonate with respondents. More work is being done to build out the concept, including incorporating learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic and considering whether the concept should apply on a provincial scale as well as on a local scale.
- The proposal for EMBC to audit emergency management plans will not proceed; this aspect of quality assurance will focus instead on a review function that relies more on support and collaboration.
- Proposals related to First Nations emergency management are being revisited through collaboration and engagement with Indigenous organizations and communities.
- Proposals related to critical infrastructure will be built out through consultation with critical infrastructure operators. This includes recognition of existing equivalences, so as not to create duplicative requirements.
- A comprehensive compliance and enforcement scheme is being developed which reflects learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next Steps

The feedback received in response to the Discussion Paper will inform BC's modernized emergency management legislation, which is now targeted for the Spring 2021 legislative session. EMBC will continue to engage with local authorities, First Nations, Indigenous organizations and other partners and stakeholders as legislation is drafted, and during subsequent development of regulations, policies and processes.

The new legislation will be implemented in a phased fashion, recognizing that emergency management partners will need time and support to build capacity to meet the new requirements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA



BRITISH COLUMBIA

WHAT WE HEARD:

MODERNIZING BC'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

August 31, 2020



Minister's Message

On October 28, 2019, I released a public discussion paper on "Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation", as a means of gathering valuable input to help shape new, modernized legislation to guide emergency management in BC. At that time, no one anticipated the unprecedented public health emergency on the horizon. The global COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the need to update our emergency management legislation.

In reading this report, it may seem odd that none of the content relates to the COVID-19 pandemic or to health emergencies in general. That's because the Discussion Paper and the responses pre-dated the pandemic, and it's fair to say they were informed more by other types of events such as floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. Our government will, however, ensure that the lessons learned from our experience managing the COVID-19 emergency are considered in the new legislative framework.

The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched the resources and capacity of our emergency management partners at all levels of government and in the private and non-profit sectors, requiring collaboration and coordination on a province-wide scale. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from this challenge, but foremost is the importance of coordinating our response and recovery efforts.

One immediate consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic is that we will not be able to deliver a complete, brand-new emergency management Act by Fall 2020. We are now targeting Spring 2021 to deliver the new legislation. While it has changed our timelines, the pandemic has also shown how important it is to update our legislation and shift to a disaster risk management approach.

Through the Discussion Paper engagement process, the public, our partners and stakeholders were invited to submit comments until January 31, 2020 on the proposed legislative changes. We committed to reporting back on what we heard with a summary report. While the COVID-19 pandemic thwarted the goal of publishing a What We Heard Report earlier this spring, we are now able to fulfill our commitment.

We received 239 distinct submissions from members of the public, other ministries and levels of government, communities, First Nations, business and industry as well as from our vital non-profit and volunteer organizations and emergency management practitioners.

The response was substantial, thoughtful and largely positive. I am encouraged by the depth of engagement and shared concern for public safety

expressed by all who responded. My sincere thanks for the time and energy you invested in helping us move this new legislation forward.

When British Columbia became the first province to adopt the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) it was an acknowledgement of the need to embrace a broader vision of disaster risk management and emergency management, one that emphasizes the importance of identifying and mitigating risk before events occur and recognizes the complexities of recovery and the wisdom in building back better after events.

We are reminded daily of the increased risks we face from climate change and, through the COVID-19 pandemic, risks associated with our global inter-connectedness in trade and travel. Anticipating and mitigating these risks will inform the provincial government's actions regarding community and public safety and disaster risk and emergency management.

Our government has also taken important steps to develop a new relationship with First Nations and Indigenous peoples, as reflected in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act). Indigenous communities often bear the greatest impact from events such as wildfires and flooding. Indigenous leaders and emergency management practitioners have told us that Nations must have a strong, self-determined role in emergency management. We must forge new and stronger relationships that are collaborative and that better respect the unique perspectives and needs of Indigenous peoples.

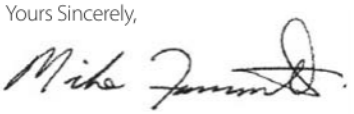
The thoughtful comments and suggestions we received represent a valuable resource, not just for shaping the new legislation but also for the development of regulations, policy and practices. I want to assure all those who responded that while they may not see their comments and suggestions reflected directly in the new legislation, their input is important when we move forward to develop new regulations and adapt our policies and practices to better meet society's changing needs.

One of the significant underpinnings of the Sendai Framework and our new legislation is the understanding that addressing disaster risk management and our emergency management needs is an all of society challenge. The current pandemic and the response from all levels of government and all segments of society demonstrate the far-reaching ramifications a major event can have for people and communities.

Our partners, our communities and our people have all stepped up to do their part. The efforts to keep our essential services going and provide the vital services we rely on for our health and safety need to be acknowledged.

The risks to people and society from a major emergency event are very real and we need to be prepared to mobilize all our resources to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from such events. The significant and substantive response to our call for input on modernizing our emergency management legislation reflects that this is a message we all embrace, and that we are all in this together as we work to continuously improve the emergency management system for our people and communities.

Yours Sincerely,



The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC



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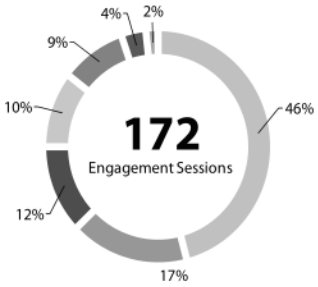
Introduction

On October 28, 2019, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) released a Discussion Paper on Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation, which outlined a series of policy proposals for consideration in new emergency management legislation, replacing the existing Emergency Program Act (EPA).

This report summarizes the feedback received in response to the Discussion Paper up to the January 31, 2020 close of the engagement period. During this time, EMBC conducted some 172 meetings, webinars and teleconferences with partners and stakeholders, and received 239 written submissions. This included five regional Indigenous engagement sessions reflecting the perspectives of approximately 80 Indigenous participants from 61 First Nations communities. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee was a key contact point with local government elected officials and senior staff.

This Report summarizes the feedback received and how it will be reflected as legislative development moves forward.

# of Engagement Sessions by Sector

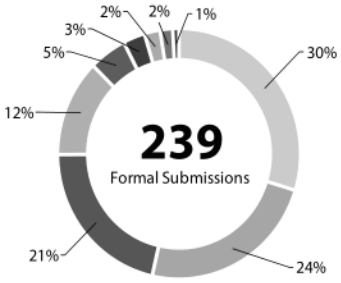


Provincial Ministries	**79**	(46%)
Local Authorities	**29**	(17%)
Critical Infrastructure*	**21**	(12%)
First Nations**	**18**	(10%)
Crown Corporations / NGO	**16**	(9%)
Federal Ministries	**6**	(4%)
Miscellaneous	**3**	(2%)

* Critical infrastructure engagement sessions were sectoral and included over 30 participants.

** Indigenous engagement sessions include 5 regional sessions with 80 participants from 61 Nations.

Formal Submissions Received



NGO / Volunteer	**71**	(30%)
Local Authorities	**57**	(24%)
General Public*	**51**	(21%)
Provincial Ministries	**30**	(13%)
Critical Infrastructure**	**12**	(5%)
First Nations	**7**	(3%)
Crown Corporation	**5**	(2%)
Federal Ministries	**4**	(2%)
MLA	**2**	(1%)

* A majority of the public submissions were focused on animal well-being issues.

** Critical infrastructure submissions were largely sector-based with multiple signatories.



Overarching Themes

There was broad consensus on the need to modernize BC's emergency management legislation and widespread support for almost all of the specific proposals in the Discussion Paper. The engagement process surfaced several key themes which are identified below.

Theme #1

Climate change must be reflected in the legislation.

Moving forward:

In keeping with international best practices, the Act will include recognition of climate change as a key driver and consideration. New regulations regarding the content of emergency management plans and requirements for hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments will include requirements to consider the impacts of climate change. The Discussion Paper proposal to require greater consideration of current and future risk when making building and development decisions includes risk associated with climate change.

Theme #2

The Act should have a stronger connection to the Sendai Framework, disaster risk management, and disaster risk reduction, including the issues and challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

Moving forward:

The modernized legislation will incorporate key elements of the Sendai Framework. For example:

- the Act will include principles from the Sendai Framework;
- the Sendai Framework definitions of certain key concepts will be adopted, with some modifications to reflect the BC context;
- disaster risk governance will be addressed by extending disaster risk management responsibility across government and through periodic disaster risk management reporting; and,
- there will be a clear emphasis on disaster risk management in emergency management plans.

In addition, new regulations regarding the content of emergency management plans will include requirements to consider the needs of vulnerable populations.

Theme #3

Additional resources and capacity will be needed to deliver on the new requirements.

Moving forward:

The Province acknowledges that strengthening disaster risk and emergency management will require additional investment by both the Province and its emergency management partners. Local Authorities and First Nations will require support and time to develop the capacity needed to implement new requirements.

Theme #4

First Nations, including the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), stated their expectation that the proposed legislation will adhere to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) and reflect First Nations' right to self-determination.

Moving forward:

The Province is committed to operating within the context of the Declaration Act and will engage with the First Nations Leadership Council and key Indigenous organizations as the new legislation is developed.

Theme #5

Calls for more detail and clarity on specific proposals and how the new legislation will be implemented. Requests for ongoing involvement as the legislation is developed, including an opportunity to review and comment on draft legislation.

Moving forward:

EMBC will continue to engage with partners, Treaty First Nations, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders as legislation is drafted and in the subsequent development of regulations, policies and processes.

Theme #6

Critical infrastructure operators, provincial ministries, Crown corporations and public sector agencies called for avoiding regulatory duplication and requested a system of equivalencies recognizing that legislative requirements may also be met through existing regulatory frameworks and requirements.

Moving forward:

Participating entities will be prescribed by regulation, with clarity about the requirements they must meet, and equivalencies will be established.

Theme #7

A number of animal welfare organizations and members of the public stated that the legislation should specifically address animals, including domestic pets, animals in captivity, livestock and wildlife.

Moving forward:

The new legislation will clarify the powers available to protect animals and livestock during a state of emergency. In addition, new regulations regarding the content of emergency management plans will specify that consideration must be given to domestic animals, animals in captivity, and livestock. EMBC will work closely with stakeholders such as the BC Cattlemen's Association to further strengthen policies and practices regarding livestock, and with the BCSPCA regarding domestic animals and animals in captivity. It should be noted that the proposed legislation will not address wildlife.

Quotes

"The BC Chamber of Commerce fully supports the BC Government's Emergency Program Act Modernization efforts, and are especially happy to see the Discussion Paper… highlights many of the concerns and solutions we brought forward to government."

- BC Chamber of Commerce

"In our view, the proposed direction set out is well crafted and would clearly establish British Columbia as the leader in Canada in emergency management."

- Institute for Catastrophic Loss

"UBCM wishes to express its support for the Province's commitment towards the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, including the 'all of society' approach… UBCM recommends … that EMBC develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities."

- Union of BC Municipalities

"The proposed changes to [the] EPA provide enhancement to emergency response and recovery processes in BC. But I believe the [discussion paper] comes short of proposing what is needed for building a strong disaster risk reduction approach and capacity in BC… The language and content of this document is not comprehensive nor strong enough for bringing the shift in focus and approaches that is required for [avoiding new and reducing existing risk]."

- Sage on Earth Consulting

"The BC Emergency Program Act Modernization Discussion Paper… and intentions for the modernization of emergency management need to be approached through the lens of [the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act]."

- First Nations Leadership Council

"Every program and plan should be inclusive of people with disabilities and other high-risk populations."

- Disability Alliance of BC

"BCSPCA recommends that… the province mandate the inclusion of animals in emergency planning and response. Specifically, the legislation and accompanying policy should incorporate domestic animals and cover animals held in captivity."

- BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

"Ranchers and farmers are pivotal in keeping their animals safe and managed during natural disasters, as not all livestock are able to be transported out of an emergency zone and instead need to be managed within that emergency zone."

- BC Cattlemen's Association

"The Advisory Group calls on BC to provide more consideration to First Nations funding needs and the funding and capacity implications of modernized EPA legislation. The discussion paper is inadequate in its attention to the financial implications for First Nations and the need for sufficient resources."

- Indigenous Advisory Group on the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on Emergency Management

"We realize that there is a need for change... however the extent of the changes we are seeing could be and will be extensive and expensive.... Small communities such as Chetwynd do not have the staff, tax base, budget and expertise to complete the requirements of the new Emergency Program…"

- District of Chetwynd

Definitions

A wide range of respondents provided specific feedback on the proposed definitions, including suggestions for changes to proposed definitions and proposals for additional definitions.

There were many suggestions to adopt the Sendai Framework definition for "disaster" (rather than "emergency") and support for the Sendai Framework definitions of prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The majority of respondents who commented on the definition of "emergency" supported the proposed addition of damage to the environment and significant Indigenous sites. Many respondents suggested including "Indigenous cultural values" as well as Indigenous cultural sites; others suggested including other sites with cultural or heritage value more broadly.

In response to the proposal to enable groups of willing First Nations, municipalities, and/or electoral areas to be prescribed as a unified Local Authority, several submissions noted that mechanisms already exist to allow such collaborative arrangements.

Quotes

> "The framing of causation as the central aspect of an emergency (e.g., "accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or a force of nature") is limiting. This only accomplish[es] limiting… communities' ability to determine for themselves what is and is not an emergency. The important and defining aspect of an emergency is not what caused it, but rather what the consequences are to the community experiencing it."
>
> ***- First Nations Health Authority***

> "FVRD recommends the Province of BC adopt a set of terms already defined by either the UN Office for [Disaster Risk Reduction] or Public Safety Canada. Using common language that has consistent meaning across Canada will lead to greater interoperability…"
>
> ***- Fraser Valley Regional District***

Moving Forward

While some respondents recommended eliminating the definition of "emergency", it will be retained as emergency management is still an important component of the new legislation, along with disaster risk management. The definition proposed in the Discussion Paper will be modified to include damage to cultural sites or cultural values, including those that are significant to an Indigenous Nation.

In keeping with the calls to better align with definitions in the Sendai Framework, EMBC will adopt those definitions for many key concepts (e.g., disaster, prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), with minor modifications to recognize our specific operational context in BC.

The proposed definition of Local Authorities will proceed, including the ability to designate new Local Authorities will proceed, as it could support inclusion of Treaty First Nations, depending on the terms and implementation stage of their Final Agreements, and an appropriate body in the Stikine region.



States of Emergency

Local Authorities provided most of the feedback on states of emergency; the majority supported the proposals for 14-day durations for states of local emergency and extensions, and 28-day durations for states of provincial emergency and extensions. There were a few cautions about the use of extraordinary powers for longer periods.

Quotes

> "This change [extending the SOLE duration from 7 to 14 days] will provide much needed stability during incidents and events when public communications are critical to ensure the safety of responders and the public."
>
> ***- Regional District Fraser-Fort George***

> "The extended duration to State-of-Local-Emergency and Provincial-State-of-Emergency are more reflective of what we have learned through previous declarations of states of emergency."
>
> ***- Resource Municipalities Coalition***

Moving Forward

Following release of the Discussion Paper, EMBC reviewed the suite of powers available to the Minister and Local Authorities during a state of provincial emergency and a state of local emergency, respectively. Based on recent experience in other jurisdictions and the current experience with COVID-19, additional powers may be added, such as the ability to order businesses to close for reasons of public safety and/or the ability to ration key items. In addition, it is proposed to enable the Province to assume direction and control from a Local Authority (at the Province's discretion) and to require a Local Authority to support emergencies outside their jurisdictions (e.g., to receive evacuees).

In response to concerns about animals (see page 9), the existing power related to "evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property" will be split into two separate provisions to enhance clarity.



Enhancing Confidence in the Emergency Management System

There is general support for increasing transparency within the emergency management system, provided it is done in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act and other relevant information management standards with appropriate protection of sensitive information. Concerns were expressed about how data would be stored, accessed and used, and potential risks if confidential or proprietary information is publicly accessible. Caution was also expressed about making the location of hazards publicly available, including the potential impact on property values. This was countered by a call to make more risk information — such as disclosure of risk upon property purchase — available to the public.

Several respondents suggested including hazard, risk and vulnerability data from reputable agencies and organizations outside the provincial government, such as hazard modelling and mapping and risk assessments.

While there was no objection to registering emergency management plans with EMBC, the proposed audit function provoked significant comment. Concerns included the protection of confidential information and privacy, EMBC's capacity to audit, and the need for best practices and standards. Several respondents noted the perception that audits are punitive, and called for a more collaborative, incentives-based approach. Alternatives to auditing were proposed, including exercising to test plans. Some respondents felt the proposal duplicates accreditation and review requirements already in place for organizations such as Health Authorities.

Quotes

> "BCREA strongly supports a legislative requirement to centralize and make available data on hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments or mitigation planning documents conducted or prepared by provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, Local Authorities and critical infrastructure operators. This is an area where more detail is required, including who will have access to the data and where will it be centralized."
>
> ***- BC Real Estate Association***

> "The sharing of emergency plans with EMBC is fully supported by the CSRD and auditing the plan with a collaborative approach focused on continuous improvement is welcomed. There are concerns with having the audited results made public. Audited results, positive or negative, can be misconstrued. It is important that the Province and the local authority collaborate prior to any information being made public to ensure confidential or sensitive information is not released."
>
> ***- Columbia Shuswap Regional District***

Moving Forward

Concerns about centrally housing hazard, risk and vulnerability data will be addressed during implementation. The proposal for EMBC to audit emergency management plans will not proceed; this aspect of quality assurance will focus instead on a review function that relies more on support and collaboration. A system of equivalencies will be developed, so that a review function is not unnecessarily layered onto existing requirements for certain emergency management partners.

Provincial Ministries, Crown Corporations, and Public Sector Agencies

The proposals for provincial ministries, Crown corporations and public sector agencies to have business continuity plans and emergency management plans were supported, with some requests for more clarity about roles, responsibilities, and plan requirements. For example, Crown corporations that operate critical infrastructure want clarity about which requirements they will have to meet, and that there should be no "doubling up". Some respondents noted that there are opportunities for climate change considerations to be included in both business continuity plans and emergency management plans.

Quotes

> "A requirement is needed for school districts, independent schools, universities and colleges… to have a continuity plan and to share their continuity plans with each respective Local Authority in which they operate."
>
> ***- Fraser Valley Regional District***

> "The Province must address the urgent need for up-to-date flood mapping that incorporates climate change adjusted assumptions concerning future flood levels and return periods."
>
> ***- Canadian Home Builders Association***

Moving Forward

In keeping with calls for greater clarity, participating Crown corporations and public sector agencies will be prescribed by regulation, with a single set of clear requirements, including consideration of climate change impacts. For Crown corporations, the focus will be on large organizations with significant service delivery responsibilities and those that serve vulnerable populations. Public sector agencies will focus on boards of education, public post-secondary institutions, and health authorities.

A system of equivalencies will be established to ensure that prescribed entities do not have to meet multiple requirements.

Local Authorities

There was significant support for the proposal to require Local Authorities and the Province, through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MOTI) subdivision approval authority in unincorporated areas, to give greater consideration to current and future risk when making building and development decisions in hazardous areas. That said, there were also many requests for more clarity about the proposal and how it would work in practice. Significant concern was raised about whether this would expose local governments to increased liability, whether from not approving or from allowing development to proceed in hazardous areas.

While a legislated requirement to identify, understand, and assess hazards, risks and vulnerabilities was generally supported in principle, there was also a desire for more clarity. Several Local Authorities suggested that the Province should be responsible for hazards that originate on Crown land and/or affect provincially-owned infrastructure that may have downstream impacts on Local Authorities' jurisdictions. Some respondents suggested a role for traditional knowledge and rural landowner knowledge in understanding risks and hazards.

There was general support for proposals around collaboration, coordination, and partnerships, and for standardized programs and plans. That said, there were several questions about how these proposals would be implemented, including: requests for guidance on engagement with First Nations; how to deal with sensitive information in emergency plans; what is appropriate to share with other jurisdictions and partners; and a desire to maintain some flexibility rather than having "cookie cutter" plans.

Several Local Authorities raised concerns about the proposal that recovery funding would be conditional on a post-disaster needs assessment and post-disaster recovery plan, which may generate delays, additional costs and uncertainty as communities transition from response to recovery. Commenters advocated for a flexible model with provisions for timely support in the short term, while still requiring needs assessments and recovery plans based on the nature of the disaster.

The proposal to enable Local Authorities to make emergency amendments to an Official Community Plan, Regional Growth Strategy, zoning or bylaws was not widely supported. Local Authorities stated that tools already exist to enable these actions. A new idea expressed by some respondents is that emergency management should be built into Official Community Plans.

The proposal to allow the Minister to grant a Local Authority the use of specific powers for a "transition period" of up to 90 days was widely supported. Local Authorities saw this as a useful tool to bridge between response and recovery and lessen the reliance on extensions of SOLEs. However, the term "transition period" did not resonate with respondents.

Quotes

"Moving forward, mandating greater consideration of current and future risk when considering development in hazardous areas does not pose a significant issue. Stronger legislation to enable local authorities to say "no" would be helpful in this regard, as there is a real cost to mitigating against potential risks."

- City of Vernon

"[Local governments] have little to no authority over what occurs on Crown land, yet are often left to lead the response and recovery when hazards occur on Crown land but impact private property."

- Regional District of Central Kootenay

"BCCA would urge government to connect and utilize rural landowners' knowledge of the landscape to assist with better understanding the current risks at large. Local knowledge is one of the most efficient ways to survey and categorize areas of high or low risk."

- BC Cattlemen's Association

"Delays in the delivery of recovery support may be worse than the initial emergency event. The RDKB is concerned that the need for recovery plans – prior to any recovery funding being released by the Province – would cause serious delays in securing recovery support for those affected."

- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Moving Forward

The proposals identified in the Discussion Paper will proceed. EMBC will work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) and UBCM to further explore the proposal to enable local governments to make emergency or temporary amendments to an Official Community Plan, Regional Growth Strategy, zoning or bylaws and to consider whether Official Community Plans should include an emergency management lens. In addition, it will be made clear that funding for initial, urgent recovery action will not be delayed; post-disaster needs assessments and post-disaster recovery plans will be required in order to receive longer term recovery funding.

Further work will be done, in conjunction with MAH, to address the

many calls for more clarity about the proposal to require that local governments give greater consideration to current and future risk when making building and development decisions. This includes aligning the proposal with the complex development approvals process.

In response to comments about the term "transition period", the concept will now be referred to as "recovery powers".

EMBC will work with MAH and the Ministry of Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation to develop guidance for Local Authorities regarding the requirement to collaborate and engage with First Nations.

Additional work will be done to explore the following issues that arose through the engagement period:

- The potential to reflect emergency management and disaster risk reduction considerations in Official Community Plans and/or Regional Growth Strategies;
- Hazards that originate on Crown land but may have downstream impacts on Local Authorities;
- The need to expedite provincial permitting processes during response and recovery; and,
- The concept of a provincial equivalent to the recovery powers proposed for Local Authorities.



First Nations as Emergency Management Partners

While there was a general sense that the proposals related to First Nations were appropriate, individual representatives and Indigenous organizations were clear that some refinements were needed to better incorporate an Indigenous world view. Respondents stated that Indigenous Nations must be able to decide for themselves what constitutes an emergency and to take actions to prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, with or without other government partners. At the same time, there is strong interest in partnerships and collaboration. Some participants questioned whether provincial legislation can apply on federal reserve lands. A key message was that First Nations often lack capacity and capability when it comes to emergency management.

The First Nations Leadership Council clearly stated its expectation that it will be involved in developing the new legislation, in keeping with the Declaration Act.

Quotes

"As the Province moves forward with the modernization of the EPA, the FNLC highlights the importance and necessity of honouring the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and supporting the core principles of self-determination, self-government, participation in decision-making, and free, prior and informed consent."

- First Nations Leadership Council

"Under the present emergency management structures, it is difficult for First Nation communities… to participate in the decisions leading to the declaration of an emergency. This is a challenge as even though the new legislation acknowledges damages to Indigenous cultural sites and the environment, only EMBC can declare an emergency."

- Indigenous Advisory Group on the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on Emergency Management

"The term "cultural safety" is an extremely important added element to this document. There must be a clear definition of what this term is designed to achieve and how it will be received. Furthermore, it must be defined by Indigenous Peoples."

- Simpcw First Nation

"The focus on proactive disaster risk reduction, and strengthened reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous emergency management partners are important values that should be at the heart of any contemporary emergency management legislation."

- City of Enderby

Moving Forward

While the specific proposals in the Discussion Paper were supported, the overall approach to First Nations emergency management will shift to be more inclusive and holistic. EMBC will work with the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding Technical Working Group on First Nations Emergency Management on policy discussions in support of the legislative drafting process and subsequent development of regulations, policies, and processes.

- The new legislation will recognize First Nations as self-determining emergency management partners.
- First Nations will be able to declare their intent to assume some or all of the responsibilities under the new Act and to establish a local emergency management organization on treaty, title or federal reserve lands, and enter into agreements to describe roles for the Province and other parties.
- First Nations will explicitly be able to declare a state of emergency and access the extraordinary powers to manage an emergency.
- It will be made clear that jurisdictional areas for Local Authorities do not extend to treaty settlement lands, title lands, or reserve lands. Existing and new partnerships will be encouraged as a matter of policy so that plans can be developed jointly, and resources can be shared between authorities.
- Local Authorities and First Nations will be required to collaborate and engage with each other on evacuation alerts, orders, and re-entry.
- Bodies preparing emergency management plans or delivering services will be required to consider cultural safety and the needs of First Nations members living both in and away from First Nations communities.



Critical Infrastructure Operators

There was general support for the proposed approach for critical infrastructure, as well as general support from the critical infrastructure operator community with respect to the overall intent of the proposals. However, there were also strong concerns — even opposition — around proposals to audit plans and numerous cautions to avoid regulatory duplication. Another strongly heard theme was management of sensitive information. There were also several recommendations to alter the scope of critical infrastructure, including adding or removing specific sectors and sub-sectors. Finally, there was strong interest to be provided additional information on the details of the proposals and how they would work.

Quotes

"We recognize that many changes have occurred in emergency management practices in BC over the years and we are supportive of the government's intent to modernize its approach to emergency management throughout the province."

- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

"We strongly support BC's focus on further improving the four above pillars of emergency management with the objective of implementing the Sendai Framework's All-of-Society approach."

- Telecommunication Service Provider Joint Submission (Telus, Shaw, Rogers, and Bell/MTS)

"CEPA and its members are concerned that some aspects of the discussion paper may either duplicate or be inconsistent with current provincial and federal legislation, regulation and policy. Consistency with current provincial and federal requirements is critical for effective and efficient response in the pipeline industry."

- Canadian Energy Pipeline Association

"Establishing requirements and expectations for sharing plans and hazard information between critical infrastructure and government is important and will support and enhance emergency management planning in the region."

- Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management

Moving Forward

To address concerns about the potential for duplicative requirements, the new emergency management legislation and subsequent regulations will recognize equivalencies with existing federal and provincial statutes and regulations. To address concerns about sensitive information, the Province will continue working with emergency management partners to further refine the balance between information provision and information security and will ensure appropriate security protections are in place. The proposal for EMBC to audit emergency management documentation will not proceed.

With respect to the many recommendations provided on defining critical infrastructure and the scope of potential requirements across and within sectors, the Province will use this feedback in combination with risk-based criteria to clearly articulate, in legislation and regulation, what entities will be considered critical infrastructure operators and what requirements they will have. EMBC will continue working closely with other provincial agencies and the federal government to ensure alignment wherever possible.



Supporting Volunteers and Non-Governmental Organizations

There was extensive support for the proposals to enhance support for volunteers. Responses reflected recognition and appreciation for the value that volunteers contribute and their passion.

The proposed new definitions were supported, although there were some suggestions for fine-tuning the definitions. A small number of respondents suggested different terminology, such as "affiliated and non-affiliated volunteers" or "spontaneous volunteers". The proposal to include a definition of service provider is supported, with some respondents noting that their organizations provide comprehensive services in partnership with the Province, rather than episodic services.

Several respondents suggested certain categories of volunteers (generally referred to as Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers) should be specifically identified in the definition of registered volunteer or in the new legislation, although there was little consistency about which categories to include.

There was significant support for strengthening legal protection for volunteers and others, and to provide employment protection for registered volunteers. Some submissions suggested extending employment protection to volunteers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other recognized service providers (such as the Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team, Salvation Army and others) when deployed during an emergency or disaster. There was some concern about the potential administrative burden of the proposed process for employers to dispute ongoing deployment as a volunteer where an employee is critical to business continuity or other hardship. There were also some requests to clarify whether and how WorkSafe BC provisions apply to volunteers.

There were also many issues raised about implementation and/or operational policy, such as the process to register, certify and train volunteers.

Quotes

> "The CRC respectfully suggests that, in order to truly adopt a whole of society approach, the revised Act should offer further details on the role of "Service Providers" and include additional processes for partnering agencies that have existing knowledge, experience and capabilities within Emergency Management, like the Canadian Red Cross, to reflect the reality that full-service humanitarian organizations have an essential role in the delivery of services."
>
> ***- Canadian Red Cross***

> "The BCSARA board is delighted to see increased support for volunteers highlighted in the Discussion Paper… Job protection is very important to [Ground Search and Rescue] and other Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers; there have been instances during large scale emergencies where SAR volunteers were informed they had lost their jobs due to being away assisting in evacuations or other tasks when requested by the Province and/or Local Authorities."
>
> ***- BC Search and Rescue Association***

> "…IBC recommends that government ensure that all volunteers, including professionals, are protected from general liability and professional liability when working on behalf of the Province, either through a private liability insurance policy or civil liability coverage provided by the government."
>
> ***- Insurance Bureau of Canada***

Moving Forward

The proposals identified in the Discussion Paper will proceed, with some clarification of the definitions for types of volunteers. Classes or groups of volunteers, such as Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers, may be prescribed by regulation, which allows for more flexibility than embedding them in the legislation. Additional work is being done on the issue of WorkSafe BC coverage for volunteers. Many of the comments related to volunteers will be addressed through regulation, policy and guidance documents.

Supporting and Empowering Residents, Visitors and Businesses

The Province was encouraged to take a stronger role in public education and awareness. Specific suggestions included: mandating personal preparedness curriculum in elementary schools; increasing the use of public media channels; creating reward and incentive campaigns; increasing communications about emergency programs and protocols prior to an emergency and during response and recovery; and making preparedness literature and campaigns available in multiple languages, including sign language.

Some respondents noted there was little reference to business and the economy in the Discussion Paper. Some respondents called for requirements that businesses (and organizations that care for others, including animals) have business continuity and/or emergency management plans, have emergency supplies on hand, and conduct annual training and exercises.

While insurance was not covered in the Discussion Paper, it was raised by some respondents, although there was little consistency in the comments. There were some suggestions that residential property owners and renters be required to have insurance on property and contents. Other commentators supported a stronger role for the Province; ideas ranged from directly offering pooled insurance for property owners and/or renters, to increasing awareness about the benefits of obtaining insurance privately, to addressing the gap between insurance and government funding mechanisms.

Quotes

> "As part of the modernization project, intense public education and awareness campaigns will be critical to support shifting expectations from an outwards emphasis to an inwards focus when it comes to disaster mitigation."
>
> ***- Northern Rockies Regional Municipality***

> "We recommend… creat[ing] procedures for distributing emergency information to visitors via tourism operators and the visitor centre network through the use of regional tourism emergency programs as strategic partners."
>
> ***- Tourism Industry Association of BC***

Moving Forward

The Act will note the need to work with individuals and businesses to strengthen resilience through an all-of-society approach to disaster risk management and emergency management. Through regulation, Local Authorities could be required to engage with individuals and businesses in the development of their emergency management plans. The small business sector will also be considered when the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation is revised.

EMBC will explore with the insurance industry how businesses and homeowners can be better supported by insurers through education programs about the types of insurance coverages available, as well as potential expansion of the types of perils insured and how to assist owners of high-risk properties. EMBC is also working with the federal government on a national program for homeowners through its Flood Working Group, co-chaired by Public Safety Canada and the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Compliance and Enforcement

The Discussion Paper invited readers to provide ideas about tools, incentives, penalties and enforcement mechanisms. While there were not many comments on this topic, there was a clear interest in emphasizing incentives around compliance, with a few respondents supporting financial penalties for non-compliance.

A small number of submissions focused on evacuation orders, with opinion divided between allowing people to defend their properties if they choose and more stringent enforcement to ensure everyone leaves an evacuation area.

Quotes

> "Incentives to ensure compliance should be tied to UBCM activities and awards for local governments. Stiff financial penalties must be incorporated to ensure participations. This must be balanced with the ability to carry out the work and the financial implications to smaller and rural communities."
>
> ***- City of Port Coquitlam***

> "Regulated entities should be given time and clear direction on how to comply before any punitive measures are implemented."
>
> ***- City of Vancouver***

Moving Forward

A suite of tools, both legislative and non-legislative, will be developed to build the capacity and capability of local authorities and promote compliance with the new Act. These tools will focus on providing incentives that empower local authorities to embrace a disaster risk reduction mindset and take action to become resilient in the face of emergencies and disasters. For example, new tools coupled with better information and expert support could help planning efforts. New funding mechanisms may also be developed to support planning and training, and foster increased collaboration.

A compliance and enforcement regime will also be developed that emphasizes informal approaches such as partner-to-partner dialogue and continuous improvement, coupled with progressive formal compliance tools ranging from notifications of non-compliance to administrative penalties. Offences would apply only where individuals or corporations do not comply with the conditions set under a state of provincial or local emergency.

Conclusion

The feedback received will inform BC's modernized emergency management legislation, which is now targeted for the Spring 2021 legislative session. EMBC will continue to engage with local authorities, First Nations, Indigenous organizations and other partners and stakeholders as legislation is drafted, and during subsequent development of regulations, policies and processes.



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

TO: Minister Responsible for Emergency Management BC

ISSUE: Fire Services Act/Fire Safety Act

BACKGROUND:

- The *Fire Services Act* is the current legislation and is the foundation that provides power to the Fire Commissioner to conduct inspections, investigations, and to ensure compliance with the Act and the B.C. Fire Code.

- The *Fire Services Act* was last substantially updated in 1979; the passing of legislation such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Community Charter enacted since that revision, created the need to update aspects of the legislation to reflect their impacts.

- The new *Fire Safety Act* received Royal Assent in May 2016 but has not yet been brought into force. The successful implementation of the legislation will require the development of supporting regulations and policy as well as additional resources for the province and partners.

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is mandated under the *Fire Services Act* to consult with and give advice to fire chiefs and fire departments with respect to fire safety, prevention and suppression as well as the collection and dissemination of fire loss data.

- The goal of the new *Fire Safety Act* is to modernize the legislation and to make improvements to help ensure the safety of British Columbians and includes the following elements:
    - A manageable and streamlined out-of-court enforcement system with administrative penalties that will improve compliance;
    - Providing local authorities with the power to evacuate or close a building where there is immediate danger to life and/or property;
    - Improving the fire inspection and investigation process;
    - Eliminating Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner (LAFCs) appointed by the OFC and replacing them with inspectors and investigators appointed directly by local authorities where appropriate, and
    - Providing inspection and investigation consistency in B.C. with the OFC setting the qualification standards.

- After the *Fire Safety Act* received Royal Assent, Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Legal Information; Intergovernmental Communications

upon further consultation with UBCM and regional districts it was determined that further amendments to assist with implementation would be required.

- In September 2016, former Minister of State advised UBCM in writing that an amendment would be made to the legislation prior to it being brought into force.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

- In 2018 a UBCM Fire Safety Working Group (FSWG) was formed with representatives from regional districts, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to help inform appropriate amendments to address the issue of compliance monitoring in regional districts

- The OFC and the UBCM FSWG met several times during 2018 and 2019. Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications; Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommentations; Intergovernmental Communications

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:
First Nations band councils manage fire protection services on reserves supported by funding from Indigenous Service Canada. The Office of the Fire Commissioner is working with the Aboriginal Fire Fighting Association of Canada to support first nations community reporting of fires and with public education.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

PREPARED BY:

Brian Godlonton
Fire Commissioner

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Nov 2, 2020
ADM	MM	Oct. 29, 2020
ED	BG	Oct. 29, 2020
Pgm Dir/Mgr	N/A	N/A

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
Local Government Organizations				
EMBC	**Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)**	Brian Frenkel, President Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director 604-270-8226 ext 105 250-356-2956 (Victoria) gmacisaac@ubcm.ca	The UBCM was formed to provide a common voice for all local governments in BC.	Key stakeholder in initiative to modernize emergency management legislation and on policy issues related to flood and wildfire in communities.
EMBC	**Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM)**	Sav Dhaliwal, Chair Metro Vancouver chair@metrovancouver.org Jerry Dobrovolny, CAO Metro Vancouver 604-436-6919 Jerry.Dobrovolny@metrovancouver.org	IPREM is an intergovernmental partnership between the Province and Metro Vancouver (on behalf of 21 member municipalities, one Treaty First Nation, and one electoral area) to coordinate regional emergency management planning activities.	Key stakeholder in regional emergency planning in the lower mainland. Interest in expanding current role of the partnership to potentially include response and recovery.
EMBC	**Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP)**	Colin Plant, Chair Capital Regional District 250-475-1775 crdchair@crd.bc.ca Robert Lapham, CAO, Capital Regional District 250-360-3125 rlapham@crd.bc.ca	REMP was established in March 2016 through a MOU between the Province and the Capital Regional District (CRD) on behalf of its member municipalities and three electoral areas. The purpose is to enhance regional emergency management planning activities within the geographical area of the CRD.	Key stakeholder in regional emergency planning in the capital region. Further development and validation of a collaborative joint decision-making and information sharing model. Interest in inclusion of area First Nations.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Central Coast Regional District & Nuxalk Nation (also listed under Indigenous Organizations)**	Samuel Schooner, Chair Central Coast Regional District 250-799-5291 sschooner@ccrd-bc.ca	Partnership established in December 2018 through an MOU between the Nuxalk Nation, Central Coast Regional District and the Province. The partnership is to coordinate efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from emergencies in the region, starting in the Bella Coola Valley. By acting as a vehicle to bring the partners together, it will strengthen the region to be come further resilient. The region is a rural and remote area of the province.	COVID-19 has recently highlighted that further dialogue is required to implement the partnership.
EMBC	**Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC)**	Tom Barnes, CEO 604-683-6266 tbarnes@miabc.org	The Municipal Insurance Association is member-owned and operated and provides insurance and other financial products and expertise for their local government members.	Stakeholder in modernizing emergency management legislation initiative.
EMBC	**Municipal Finance Authority of BC (MFABC)**	Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Chair Peter Urbanc, CEO 250-419-4760 peter@mfa.bc.ca	The MFA provides long-term, short-term, and equipment financing, investment management, and other financial services to communities and public institutions in BC.	Expertise in local government financial management related to emergency services/events.
EMBC	**BC Association of Emergency Managers (BCAEM)**	Jon Wilson, Chair Executive.Director@bcaem.ca	The Society advocates for common local, regional, provincial or national emergency management issues and encourages cooperation and knowledge sharing between all parties and stakeholders involved in emergency management activities in BC.	Expertise in the practical application of emergency management measures.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Local Government Management Association (LGMA)**	Ron Bowles, President Nancy Taylor Executive Director 250-383-7032 ext 223 ntaylor@lgma.ca	LGMA provides high quality, practical training and resources to BC's local governments; encourages the development of professional networking and connections; and facilitates the exchange of ideas and best practices among members.	Expertise in training resources for local governments.
EMBC	**Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA)**	President: Mayor Jack Crompton, Whistler	The Lower Mainland Local Government Association is one of the 5 area associations of UBCM. It includes 33 local governments (from Pemberton to Hope) and 3 regional districts: Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regional District.	Engagement on emergency management issues and policy.
EMBC	**Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)**	President: Alderman C. Day, Kamloops	The Southern Interior Local Government Association is one of the 5 area associations of UBCM. It is comprised of elected officials from 37 cities, towns, villages, districts and regional districts in South Central British Columbia.	Engagement on emergency management issues and policy.
EMBC	**North Coast Local Government Association (NCLGA)**	President: Mayor Sarrah Storey, Fraser Lake	The North Coast Local Government Association (NCLGA) is one of the 5 area associations of UBCM. It is comprised of all elected officials in North Central British Columbia. The association covers 70% of BC's landmass and includes nearly 60% of the province's Indigenous population.	Engagement on emergency management issues and policy.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)**	President: Director Roly Russell, Area D RDEK Personal Information	The Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) is one of the 5 area associations of UBCM. It represents the municipalities and electoral areas of the south-eastern portion of the province of British Columbia. The area includes the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB), Central Kootenay (RDCK), East Kootenay (RDEK) as well as the Town of Golden and the Village of Valemount.	Engagement on emergency management issues and policy.
EMBC	**Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (ACICC)**	President: Councillor Carl Jensen, Central Saanich	The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is the largest of the 5 area associations under the umbrella of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) with 346 elected officials. It now has a membership of 53 municipalities and regional districts.	Engagement on emergency management issues and policy.
Indigenous Organizations				
EMBC	**First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)**	Terry Teegee, Regional Chief, BCAFN Cheryl Casimer; Robert Phillips; Lydia Hwitsum, political executive, FNS Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President, UBCIC Colin Braker, Communications Director, FNS cbraker@fns.bc.ca	An organization comprised of political executives from the **BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)**, the **First Nations Summit (FNS)**, and the **Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)**. Was formed to represent BC First Nations at a provincial level. The province works closely with the council on various initiatives such as First Nations engagement events and provincial policy development.	Key stakeholder on modernization of emergency management legislation representing indigenous perspectives and insight.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)**	Marion Colleen Erickson, Chair Richard Jock, Interim Chief Executive Officer	Is responsible for planning, management, service delivery and funding of health programs for First Nations communities in B.C. Services are largely focused on health promotion and disease prevention.	Key stakeholder on pandemic planning with the Province.
EMBC	**First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)**	Sonny Hunt, President Jeff Eustache, A/Executive Director 604-669-7305 info@fness.bc.ca	A not-for-profit society that provides First Nations communities with training and support in the structural fire protection, forest fuel management and emergency management.	Key stakeholder on modernizing emergency management legislation providing expertise on First Nations issues.
EMBC	**Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA)**	Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman, TNG 250-392-3918	The Tŝilhqot'in National Government (TNG) entered into a Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the BC government in April 2018 that focuses on improving emergency management within the Tŝilhqot'in communities.	Key partnership on advancing emergency management issues in the TNG.
EMBC	**Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia**	Brenda Baptiste, Chair Frank Antoine, Co-Chair Paula Amos, Chief Marketing and Development Office 604-921-1070	Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC) is a non-profit, Stakeholder-based organization that is committed to growing and promoting a sustainable, culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry.	Addressing impacts of emergency events on aboriginal tourism.
EMBC	**Metis Nation of BC**	Clara Morin Dal Col, President 604-557-5851 cmorin-dalcol@mnbc.ca Daniel Fontaine, CEO 604-557-5851 ext. 8239 dfontaine@mnbc.ca	MNBC represents thirty-eight Métis Chartered Communities in British Columbia. Their mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant, social, and economic programs, and services.	Advancing the interests of Métis peoples in emergency management matters.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers**	Dr. Sharon McIvor, President Leslie Varley, Executive Director 250-388-5522 ext 202 LVarley@bcaafc.com	The BCAAFC works with Friendship Centres, partner organizations, and government institutions to develop and improve resources that support the health, wellness, and prosperity of urban Indigenous people and communities.	Addressing issues impacting FN peoples from emergency events.
Non-Governmental Organizations				
EMBC	**BC Professional Firefighters' Association**	Gord Ditchburn, President 604-916-7110 gord@bcpffa.org	BCPFFA is comprised of 52 locals that represents over 4100 professional men and women fire fighters in BC, including the Yukon. BCPFFA offers training and education in areas of provincial legislation, occupational health and safety, WorkSafe advocacy, financial assistance, bargaining, labour law, and advocacy for best practices in both public safety and fire fighter safety.	Key government partner on fire related issues. Advocates to recognize and improve fire fighters' health and safety for all professional fire fighters.
EMBC	**BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA)**	Chris Kelly President Personal Information (mobile) president@bcsara.com	Represents 80 Search and Rescue Groups in B.C. Like all search and rescue groups, they are completely volunteer driven.	Key government partner delivering direct search and rescue support services in communities throughout BC.
EMBC	**Canadian Red Cross (CRC)**	Pat Quealey Vice President Personal Information BCYVP@Redcross.ca	Canadian humanitarian charitable organization, and one of 190 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. The organization receives funding from both private donations and from Canadian government departments.	Key government partner in emergency event response. Regional emergency planning initiatives in the Metro Vancouver and Capital regions.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Fire Chiefs' Association of BC (FCABC)**	Dan Derby President 604-492-3080 admin@fcabc.ca	Represents the BC Fire Chiefs Association for B.C.	Key government partner on fire prevention, code standards and labour relations issues.
EMBC	**Ocean Networks Canada (ONC)**	Kate Moran President and Chief Executive Officer 250-472-5350 info@oceannetworks.ca	An initiative of the University of Victoria. They monitor the west and east coasts of Canada and the Arctic to continuously deliver data in real-time for scientific research that helps communities, governments and industry make informed decisions about the future.	Seismic monitoring and tsunami modeling. Leading eh development of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone in partnership with EMBC.
EMBC	**Avalanche Canada**	Kevin Seel, President Gilles Valade, Executive Director 250-837-2141 ext 105 gvalade@avalance.ca	Provides public avalanche forecasts for a variety of regions in BC.	Funding for public avalanche forecasts and special public avalanche warnings.
EMBC	**BC Business Council**	Jeff Zweig, Chair Greg D'Avignon, President and CEO 604-684-3384 greg.davignon@bcbc.com	Non-partisan organization that seeks public policy and economic outcomes for its members that helps to realize the full potential of the province, the country and its citizens. Their mission is to produce timely and public policy research and advice on issues relevant to B.C.'s and Canada's competitiveness and prosperity.	Preparedness and economic recovery of BC's business sector in emergency events.
EMBC	**BC Chamber of Commerce**	Aleece Laird, Chair Dan Baxter (interim) 604-638-8116 dbaxter@bcchamber.org	The BC Chamber of Commerce represents more than 125 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, and 36,000 businesses in BC. The organization advocates to help shape government public policy and decision-making to empower BC businesses.	Preparedness and economic recovery of BC's business sector in emergency events.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**BC Cattlemen's Association**	Kevin Boon, General Manager 250-573-3611 bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca	Advocacy organization for BC ranching industry.	Impacts of emergency events on industry.
EMBC	**BC Construction Association (BCCA)**	Mike Fawcett, Chair Chris Atchison, President 250-475-1077 chris.atchison@bccassn.com	Works to ensure BC's skilled workforce, resources, and regulatory environments exceed the needs and expectations of industrial, commercial, and institutional construction employers.	Built environment and contribution to emergency management resilience. Potential for membership to contribute to emergency preparedness.
EMBC	**BC Real Estate Association (BCREA)**	Anthony Bastiaanssen Chair abastiaanssen@bcrea.bc.ca Darlene Hyde Chief Executive Officer 604-742-2787 dhyde@bcrea.bc.ca	Is a Canadian Provincial member-based organization which represents 11-member real estate boards and their approximately 18,500 real estate agents on provincial issues.	Provides advice and consultations on property evaluations and assessments relating to disaster financial assistance.
EMBC	**BC Society for the Protection and Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA)**	Melissa Barcellos, President Craig Daniell, CEO 604-681-7271	BCSPCA mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in BC.	Addressing impacts of emergency events on animals.
EMBC	**Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC**	Joe Hart, President Neil Moody, CEO neilmoody@chbabc.org 604-432-7112 ext 304	Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia is the leading advocate of the residential construction industry across the province. They work to the benefit of their members and the public through excellence in government and public relations, education, and building innovation.	Built environment and contribution to resilience.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Community Futures BC**	Troy Dungate, Chair Wendy McCulloch, Executive Director 604-289-4222	Community Futures is mandated to support small business development and rural economic diversification in BC. They work with community and business leaders to foster rural economic growth and are partners in building vibrant and sustainable communities. They use alternate lending criteria, focusing on rural development and providing business financing to small local businesses.	Small business and entrepreneurial perspective on emergency management issues.
EMBC	**Disability Alliance of BC**	Karen Martin Emergency Preparedness Program 604-875-0188 karen@disabilityalliancebc.org	Supports people with all disabilities to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full participants in the community. Champion issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities through direct services, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publication.	Provides important input from disability perspective.
EMBC	**E-Comm 9-1-1**	Oliver Gruter-Andrew President and Chief Executive Officer 604-215-5000	Provides emergency communication services in Metro Vancouver and 25 other regional districts across B.C. They are the largest 9-1-1 centre in B.C. and is responsible for 92% of the province's 9-1-1 call volume.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC)**	Ann English, P.Eng. CEO and Registrar 604-430-8035 info@egbc.ca	A not-for profit organization that regulates and governs engineering and geoscience professions in B.B. under the Engineers and Geoscientists Act.	Partnering with EMBC on a Metro Vancouver seismic microzonation project (PMP).

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Food Banks Canada**	Debbie O'Bray, Chair David Long, CEO Greater Vancouver Food Bank 604-498-1798 info@foodbanksbc.com	Food Banks Canada is a national charitable organization dedicated to helping Canadians living with food insecurity and support a network of Provincial Associations, affiliate food banks, and food agencies that work at the community level to relieve hunger.	Engage on emergency management issues that affect food security in BC communities.
EMBC	**Fraser Basin Council (FBC)**	David Marshall Executive Director 604-488-5350 dmarshall@fraserbasin.bc.ca	Charitable not-for-profit society that brings people together to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin and across B.C. A collaboration of federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments, the private sector and civil society. Has helped over 100 initiatives in the Fraser Basin an across BC.	Important stakeholder and government partner in identifying flood and related emergency management issues with the Fraser River.
EMBC	**Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction**	Paul Kovacs Executive Director 416-364-8677 pkovacs@iclr.org	A world-class centre for multi-disciplinary disaster prevention research and communication.	Member of EMBC's Metro Vancouver seismic microzonation project.
EMBC	**Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)**	Aaron Sutherland Vice President Pacific 604-684-3635 ext 223 asutherland@ibc.ca	Is the national industry association representing Canada's private home, auto and business insurers. Their member companies make up 90% of the property and casualty insurance market in Canada.	Key stakeholder in work on Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program and other issues related to emergency management matters.
EMBC	**Justice Institute of BC (JIBC)**	Colleen Vaughn Vice President Academic 604-528-5635 cvaughan@ibc.ca	Accredited post secondary training institution for police, fire, paramedic, corrections and sheriff services. Provides training in emergency management.	Key stakeholder in emergency training and education planning and delivery in BC.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC)**	Lesley Cabott, President Dave Crossley, Executive Director 604-696-5031 ext 102 dave.crossley@pibc.bc.ca	PIBC is an organization supporting and regulating respected professional planners, inspiring excellence, advocacy and community well-being.	Expertise on land use planning issues impacting emergency management planning.
EMBC	**Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR)**	Chris Gouglas, Chair Bill Riggs, CEO 778-352-1781 ceo@rcmsar.com	RCMSAR is a volunteer marine rescue service that saves lives and promotes public recreational boating safety throughout the coastal and some inland waters of the province of BC and is associated with the national organization of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.	Direct operational support on activations and search and rescue activities.
EMBC	**Salvation Army**	John McEwan Director Divisional Emergency Disaster Services 604-852-9305 ext 2316 John_McEwan@can.salvationarmy.org	Provides numerous disaster relief services and has ability to provide both immediate and long-term recovery emergency assistance.	Direct support for emergency response.
EMBC	**Samaritan's Purse**	William Franklin Graham, President and CEO info@samaritan.ca 800-663-6500	Provides immediate disaster relief services during emergency events.	Direct support for emergency response.
EMBC	**Urban Development Institute (UDI)**	Beau Jarvis, Chair Anne McMullin, President & CEO 604-661-3030 AMcMullin@udi.org	UDI is a non-profit association of the development industry and its related professions that is non-partisan in its activities. With over 850 corporate members, UDI Pacific represents thousands of individuals involved in all facets of land development and planning, including: developers, property managers, financial lenders, lawyers, engineers, planners,	Built environment and development industry contribution to resilience to emergency events.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
			architects, appraisers, real estate professionals, local governments and government agencies.	
Crown Corporations and Agencies and Critical Infrastructure Providers				
EMBC	**BC Ferry Services Inc.**	Mark Collins President and Chief Executive Officer Government Financial Mark.Collins@bcferries.com	One of the largest ferry operators in the world, providing year-round vehicle and passenger service on 25 routes to 47 terminals, with a fleet of 35 vessels. They are an essential transportation link that connects coastal communities and facilitates the movement of people, goods and services.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee
EMBC	**BC Hydro**	Chris O'Riley President and Chief Executive Officer 800-224-9376 Chris.Oriley@bchydro.com	A Crown corporation owned by the government and people of BC. Responsible for the generation and purchase of reliable, affordable electricity for its customers.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**Canadian Coast Guard Western Region**	Roger Girouard Assistant Commissioner, Western Region, Canadian Coast Guard 250-480-2765 Roger.Girouard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	The Canadian Coast Guard is the coast guard of Canada and are tasked with marine search and rescue, communication, navigation and transportation issues in Canadian waters, such as navigation aids and icebreaking, marine pollution response and providing support for other Canadian government initiatives.	Tsunami preparedness and marine disasters.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**Community Living BC (CLBC)**	Ross Chilton, CEO 604-664-0101 CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca	CLBC is a crown corporation that works with individuals, families, service providers, community and government partners.	Support for vulnerable persons in preparation for and during emergency events.
EMBC	**Consumer Protection BC (CPBC)**	Rob Gialloreto, President & CEO 888-564-9963	Consumer Protection BC is the regulator of a variety of sectors and specific types of consumer transactions in BC.	Provided services to the Province during COVID-19 to address price gouging complaints.
EMBC	**Technical Safety BC (TSBC)**	Catherine Roome President and Chief Executive Officer 866-566-7233 Catherine.Roome@technicalsafetybc.ca	An independent, self-funded organization mandated to oversee the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment.	Stakeholder and partner to address emergency management issues.
EMBC	**BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC)**	Paul Jeakins Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer 250-419-4411 Paul.Jeakins@bcogc.ca	Is a single-window regulatory agency with responsibility for overseeing oil and gas operations in B.C., including exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**BC Transit**	Erinn Pinkerton President and Chief Executive Officer 250-995-5680 erinn_pinkerton@bcransit.com	Provides transit services for customers across BC and connects over 52 million customers in communities across the province every year.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**BC Water and Waste Association (BCWWA)**	Stephen Horsman, President Personal Information stephen.horsman@wsp.com Leadership Council Co-Chairs: Steve Conrad 604-649-6746 steve.conrad@ires.ubc.ca Mike Homenuke Infrastructure Management Committee Chair mhomenuke@kwl.ca	The BCWWA represents the people who work to ensure safe, sustainable and secure water and wastewater systems that protect public health and the environment in British Columbia and the Yukon.	Critical service provider.
EMBC	**Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)**	Tim McMillan President and CEO Geoffrey Morrison, Manager British Columbia Operations 403-267-1100 Geoff.morrison@capp.ca	Advocates on behalf of the Canadian upstream oil and natural gas industry for economic competitiveness and safe, environmentally and socially responsible performance.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA)**	Chris Bloomer, President & CEO 403-221-8777	CEPA consists of transmission pipeline companies responsible for transporting the majority of Canada's natural gas and crude oil to markets across North America.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**CN Rail**	Robert Pace, Chair Jean-Jacques Ruest, President & CEO 833-946-3342	Private North American rail company with active lines in BC.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Issues
EMBC	**CP Rail**	Isabelle Courville, Chair Keith Creel, President & CEO 888-333-6370	A Canadian Class I railway incorporated in 1881. Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, it owns approximately 20,100 kilometres of track with active lines in BC.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**Fortis BC**	Tracy Medve, Chair Roger Dall'Antonia President and CEO 604-576-7000	Provides natural gas and electricity utilities to 1.1 million customers across 135 communities in BC.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**Shaw Communications**	JR Shaw, Founder	Shaw is a Canadian telecommunications company that provides telephone, Internet, television, and mobile services. Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Shaw provides home telecommunications services primarily in Alberta and British Columbia and satellite television nationally.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**TELUS Communications**	R.H. (Dick) Auchinleck, Chair Darren Entwistle, President & CEO	TELUS is a Canadian telecommunications company that provides a wide range of telecommunications products and services including internet access, voice, entertainment, healthcare, video, and IPTV television.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.
EMBC	**TransLink**	Lorraine Cunningham, Chair 778-375-7500 board@translink.bc.ca	Delivers services and programs to provide for the transportation needs of Metro Vancouver resident and businesses; including an extensive bus system throughout the region, SkyTrain, SeaBus, West Coast Express, and HandyDART for passengers who are unable to use conventional transit.	Member of the BC Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee.