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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16 ; s.17

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

TO: Mike Farnworth, Minister, Public Safety and Solicitor General

ISSUES:

- Provincial support for Lytton wildfire recovery:
 - Debris removal on uninsured property,
 - Emergency supports for displaced individuals post-October 1, and
 - Capacity support to the Village of Lytton.

BACKGROUND

On June 30th, the Village of Lytton (the "Village") and Lytton First Nation (LFN) were impacted by a significant wildfire event. The village site of Lytton consists of both Village and LFN lands, and some LFN public utilities are supplied through the Village infrastructure. Many of the Village residents are off-reserve members of the LFN and other N'lakapamx First Nations. It is estimated that the fire damaged an estimated 90% of the structures in the village site and most of the commercial and public services.

- In the Village, 124 residences, 28 commercial properties and 45 outbuildings are estimated as destroyed. The Village of Lytton lost its administrative office which included all its physical and digital records.
- LFN lost an estimated 45 residences, 5 commercial properties, and 2 outbuildings. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will fund the rebuild of all the damaged structures on the IR land.

While detailed property-by-property assessments are still being finalized, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) estimates approximately 41% of residential property owners in Lytton held fire insurance.

Any additional provincial support to the community of Lytton must be considered as potential precedent for other communities impacted by the wildfires of 2021 (recognizing an estimated 183 residences were lost in communities outside Lytton during the 2021 wildfire season) and for future events. Similarly, any direct capacity support to the Village of Lytton needs to be considered in light of the other local governments supporting their own residents recovery.

On July 1st the Province authorized Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) in response to Wildfire interface fire impacts across the province on Indigenous Communities and Local Governments. The DFA program exists to provide financial support to the communities and residents for essential, uninsurable infrastructure damage. DFA does not extend to private residents for the wildfires, as fire insurance was readily available. In turn, the Province has applied to Canada for reimbursement of eligible wildfire response and recovery expenditures through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program.

The *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) requires municipalities, regional districts, and Treaty First Nations to be responsible for responding to emergencies in their jurisdiction. The EPA is silent on the responsibilities for other First Nations; ISC is responsible for ensuring adequate emergency management on federally regulated lands, including Indian Reserves.

While the Province has made several public statements of support to the Village of Lytton in their recovery efforts, no specific commitments have been articulated. This note is the first in a series of notes designed to get clarity around the level of provincial support for Lytton wildfire recovery over a number of specific issues, including:

- A. Debris removal on uninsured property,
 - B. Emergency supports for displaced individuals post-October 1,
 - C. Capacity support to the Village of Lytton
- s.13

s.12; s.13

There are a number of general considerations for government surrounding all of these specific decisions:

- LFN members who lived on reserve will get housing replaced by Canada, but not members living off-reserve, therefore, there could be significant disparities in funding for the rebuild between:
 - LFN members living on-reserve,
 - s.12; s.13
 - Insured Village residents, and
 - Uninsured or underinsured Village residents.
- DFA typically does not apply to individuals impacted by wildfire, as insurance is typically available; the DFA program is focussed on supporting essential uninsurable losses. This policy meets the general intents to ensure that government is not held responsible for individual losses during natural disasters and to minimize interference with the commercial insurance market.
- s.13

- The Canadian Red Cross (CRC), through its BC Wildfire 2021 Appeal, has collected over \$12M to date to support individuals and communities impacted by 2021 wildfires. This includes an assumed \$3.15M provincial donation matching contribution which can be directed toward provincial priorities through the related contribution agreement.
- Significant other donations of goods and funds have already been received or committed from public and corporate donors, and many NGOs are prepared to support the needs of those recovering from 2021 wildfires; these funds and efforts could be targeted towards the uninsured residents.
- The investigation into the cause of the Lytton fire has not yet concluded s.13
s.13
- The extent of reimbursement to the province through the DFAA has still to be determined.

A. Debris Removal from uninsured property

DISCUSSION:

Both the Village and LFN sites will require significant cleaning and debris removal to meet the following two objectives:

- To allow safe re-occupation of wildfire damaged buildings, and/or prepare the site for a rebuild.
- To ensure appropriate environmental remediation measures are taken to ensure public safety and protect long term health over the village site.

Generally, private landowners are responsible for cleaning up debris on their land and moving it to “curbside” and local governments are responsible for disposing of it from there. The province has funded debris removal on public land and where public infrastructure has been impacted in the past, as well as debris removal from private land impacted by the 2018 Grand Forks flood event. Where local governments have funded debris removal in the past (such as the 2013 Alberta floods or 2016 Fort MacMurray wildfire), the use of landfills, the removal of fridges and freezers and other materials from the general clean-up, and the clearance of debris and wreckage directly caused by the disaster were eligible for federal reimbursement.

The NGO sector has provided significant leadership and assistance for debris removal in previous events in Alberta, supported by provincial and federal funding supplemented by contributions from the public; through organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Samaritan’s Purse, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in collaboration with the Mennonite Disaster Service, all of whom are present in BC. For Lytton, the NGO sector has communicated the desire to support debris removal, but the magnitude of debris removal required exceeds the scope of service that these NGOs can provide without additional funding.

Estimating the cost of debris removal is complicated, as the specific nature of the hazards present, and landfill space must be considered.^{s.13; s.17}

s.13; s.17

OPTIONS

OPTION A-1: (RECOMMENDED): Province provides funding and capacity for the Village to coordinate debris removal with support of NGOs.^{s.13}

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

s.13

OPTION A-1 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

B. Emergency supports for displaced individuals post-October 1

DISCUSSION:

Evacuees from Lytton who do not have insurance coverage have been receiving support from the Province through the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program; ESS coverage has been extended a number of times and will expire October 1, 2021 (approximately 90 days from initial Lytton evacuation orders being implemented). No decision has been made regarding supports beyond October 1. Evacuees from uninsured primary residences that were impacted by the other 2021 wildfires have also been eligible for ESS support.

British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes, or other emergencies typically receive Emergency Support Services (ESS) for up to 72 hours. In limited circumstances may provide extensions for extenuating circumstances such as during extended evacuation periods.

ESS is a provisional tool enabled by the EPA to provide short-term, temporary relief to evacuees until more suitable arrangements can be made, therefore EMBC current policy provides ESS "for an initial 72 hours or for the duration of the evacuation order as issued by the legislated authority ordering the evacuation¹."

s.13

¹ EMBC policy 5.03 Evacuee Living Assistance, 5.03.04 1e.

s.13

s.12; s.13

In the case of the other 2021 wildfires, EMBC has limited information about the uninsured demographic such as whether some are receiving other provincial supports such as income assistance, hardship assistance or other housing supports.

The CRC, with matching provincial funding, has disbursed \$2,000 per household for those having lost their primary homes in the Lytton area.

s.12; s.13

OPTIONS:

s.13

OPTION B-2: RECOMMENDED Continue ESS coverage availability for all eligible 2021 wildfire evacuees until s.13 and work with provincial ministries and NGOs to ensure appropriate supports are available s.13 to those who require them.

s.13

OPTION B-2 APPROVED

Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

C. Capacity Support to the Village of Lytton**DISCUSSION:**

While the EPA requires municipalities, regional districts, and Treaty First Nations to be responsible for responding to emergencies in their jurisdiction, the Village is a very small rural community with very limited capacity both in elected officials and in permanent staff.

In addition, given the very small tax base of the Village, it is foreseen that the Village will have significant difficulty raising funds to cover any direct response or recovery costs.

The Province, through EMBC, currently provides capacity support to the Village to assist them in the performance of their response and recovery activities in a number of ways:

- Direct funding of 9 specific individuals, including an experienced former local-government CAO to advise the mayor and council, a re-entry coordinator, and a communications specialist,
- Direct funding to the Fraser Basin Council to provide 4 specific support functions to the Village, including citizen engagement and partnership with the LFN and other

N'lakapamx Nations, and through MUNI to provide governance support, a SME to conduct re-entry coordination,

- A dedicated cross-government staff team assigned to Lytton to provide day to day guidance, coordination, analytical support, and access to all of government through operationalization of the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework.

Under the existing Regulation for DFA, provincial funding for local government recovery costs are available for essential public infrastructure, such as drinking water, wastewater, transportation, municipal buildings and utilities.

By regulation, 20% of eligible public infrastructure recovery costs are to be borne by the local authority. It is anticipated that the Village will have extreme difficulty covering this 20%; communities across the province have acknowledged the difficulty in funding 20% of infrastructure recovery since the regulation came into effect.

OPTIONS:

s.13

OPTION C-2: RECOMMENDED Province continues to provide capacity support to the Village by:

- funding specific individuals and functions within the Village recovery organization,
- work within existing recovery structures to assess the ability to meet residents' unmet needs either through existing government programs to through NGO support, and
- work, through Municipal Affairs, with the Municipal Insurance Association and Municipal Funding Authority to assess financial options for the Village.

OPTION C-2 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources Opportunities and Rural Development, Environment, Health, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations, Finance and Municipal Affairs.
- Indigenous Services Canada.

PREPARED BY:

Julia Iwama
Michael McStravick
Executive Directors
Emergency Management BC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Sept 21, 2021
ADM	DP	Sept. 20

Attachment(s)

Appendix A: Briefing note background.

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

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, Cabinet approved the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework (IDRF) to guide the Provincial approach to recovery. This living document provides the framework for recovery operations throughout the province in alignment with its guiding principles. As an interim policy document, it outlines the province's role as the lead coordinating agency for recovery and builds upon a central principal of effective recovery being community-led. Under this framework, EMBC is designated as the lead coordinating agency for community recovery. This mandate is operationalized through the ADM and Executive Committee on wildfire recovery, which facilitate access to resources and expertise from across government.

The extent of the recovery process, and the type and level of provincial activation, is based on the complexity and scope of the event. When resources are exceeded at the community and regional levels, or the emergency event is such that it 1) spans multiple regions, 2) requires cross-ministry coordination and, 3) it is determined that additional support is required by the province. Under the IDRF, EMBC has assigned dedicated teams to the Village of Lytton and Lytton first Nation to ensure sustained commitments to recovery supports are met. Additional teams may be assigned in response to emergent needs.

EMBC coordinates equitable recovery supports through a number of Provincial committees including the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) and the Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC). The IAWG identifies and provides a coordinated response to emerging issues, needs and trends among Indigenous communities impacted by wildfires. The IDCBC is a forum for dialogue and coordination between the NGOs, ministries, and emergency management agencies across BC. Each NGO retains the responsibility to deliver services according to their roles and mandates and to raise and/or acquire funds for their own purposes.

On July 1st the province authorized Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) in response to Wildfire impacts across BC for Indigenous Communities and Local Governments. The DFA program exists to provide financial support to the communities and residents for essential, uninsurable infrastructure damage. DFA was not authorized for private residents. The province engaged with the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) to review the current landscape of various insurance

products across BC. Consideration was given to the reasonableness and availability of these products and was used to inform event specific policy decisions. It was confirmed with the IBC that fire insurance is covered under standard policies for all homes and business across BC and the cost of these policies is reasonable when considering the risk.

Section 8 of the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (the "Regulation") is clear that eligible costs cannot include those that were recoverable at law, or for which insurance was reasonably and readily available. This does not apply to communities; the regulation allows communities to self-insure, and for compensation of insurance deductibles as an eligible expense.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The wildfires of 2021 have impacted the land, practices, community and families, culture, physical, and spiritual implications to First Nations.
- Provincial response to these issues should be guided by commitments to UNDRIP and principles of Reconciliation.
- There are reconciliation considerations and complex agreements already established between the Village and Lytton First Nation.
- The 10 Year Bi-lateral agreement between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and EMBC states that the province will provide equivalent emergency management services on reserve, including recovery, on behalf of the Government of Canada, with reimbursement of costs available through ISC.
- EMBC coordinates supports to Indigenous communities through sharing and participating in the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IWAG).
- Under the current funding agreement between ISC and the Province only those community members living on reserve are eligible for funding from ISC, s.13; s.16
-
-
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction outlines recommendations to build a culture of safety and resilience across all levels of government and society. This report outlines how First Nations Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) is positioned to bridge First Nations with other governments and partners to enhance emergency response and preparedness and meet the recommendations in the Abbott-Chapman Report.
- The Federal Government, through the EMAP program, supports build back better (BBB) for First Nations communities.

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

TO: Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

ISSUE: Provincial support for interim housing for uninsured displaced residents of the Village of Lytton and other areas impacted by the 2021 wildfires.

BACKGROUND:

This decision forms part of a series of decisions around British Columbia's level of support for the Lytton wildfire recovery. The background to this issue can be found in Appendices A and B.

On June 30, 2021 a fire destroyed approximately 90% of the structures in the townsite of Lytton, consisting of both Village of Lytton (the Village) and Lytton First Nations (LFN) lands; 124 primary residences were lost in the Village and 42 on the LFN lands. By the end of the 2021 wildfire season, a total of 177 additional primary residences were lost from the other wildfire areas (Monte Lake, Okanagan westside, etc).

Households who have lost their primary residence are currently being provided accommodation through EMBC's Emergency Support Services (ESS), with the target to evolve into a modified support structure by November 30, 2021. Residents are still not allowed back into the townsite of Lytton due to environmental and safety concerns,^{s.13}

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s.13

- While BC has declared the 2021 wildfires as an eligible event for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA), this assistance is not available for private residences due to the availability of insurance.
- s.13; s.17
- There have been substantial commitments of donations to support the Lytton rebuild; including \$12M to the Canadian Red Cross, of which the province has committed \$3.15M.
- s.13; s.17
- While the opportunity for the Province to recoup costs for housing from Canada through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) has not been fully determined, DFAA generally does not cover costs not covered under DFA.

DISCUSSION:

- BC has committed to continuing housing supports through to November 30, 2021 through the ESS program, with displaced residents being provided emergency accommodation in hotels and group lodging. s.13
s.13
s.13 LFN has completed an interim housing plan for their lands, and the Village is in the process of drafting one.
- s.13
s.13 Canada has already committed to funding LFN's proposed interim housing plan. In addition, many of the Village residents are Indigenous people from LFN and other Nlaka'pamux First Nations. In a July 11, 2021 letter to the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC), Canada also committed to "funding for interim housing for all affected individuals and families"; the exact number of displaced residents who would be covered by this, and the extent of that coverage have still to be determined.
- s.13
- BC Housing has been working with EMBC and the Village to review the feasibility of the Village's interim housing options. Existing provincial programs offered through BC Housing may be suited to supporting these unmet interim housing needs, s.13
s.13
- BC Housing currently offers rent supplement programs in addition to providing affordable housing. While the increased need for affordable housing is not limited to those impacted by the 2021 wildfire event as noted in current provincial waitlists, BC Housing

can connect eligible individuals with affordable housing options, such as the Rental Assistance Program, and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Program.

- EMBC supported the Village with an interim housing analysis in August 2021.^{s.13}
s.13; s.17

OPTIONS:

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s.13; s.17

OPTION 3: (RECOMMENDED): Request treasury board approval for the province to provide incremental funding to impacted individuals to support interim housing up to the completion of the rebuild for the Village of Lytton only

s.13; s.17

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.17

s.13; s.17

OPTION 3 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: October 06, 2021

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- A significant portion of the residents impacted by the 2021 wildfires are Indigenous people
- Indigenous Services Canada impacted as a funding provider for Indigenous Nations

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources Opportunities and Rural Development, Environment, Health, Municipal Affairs. Impacted as sector coordinators of the Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework (IDRF)

PREPARED BY:

Alanna Clarkson
Recovery Operations Specialist
Disaster Mitigation and Community Recovery
Branch - EMBC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4, 2021
ADM	DP	Oct 4, 2021
ED	JI	Sep. 27, 2021

Attachment(s)

Appendix A: IBN background
Appendix B: DBN 623626

APPENDIX A

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

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 2021 the Village of Lytton (the "Village") and Lytton First Nation (LFN) were impacted by a significant wildfire event. The village site of Lytton consists of both Village and LFN lands, and some LFN public utilities are supplied through the Village infrastructure. Many of the Village residents are off-reserve members of the LFN and other Nlaka'pamx First Nations. It is estimated that the fire damaged an estimated 90% of the structures in the village site and most of the commercial and public services.

- In the Village, 124 residences, 28 commercial properties and 45 outbuildings are estimated as destroyed. The Village of Lytton lost its administrative office which included all its physical and digital records.
- LFN lost an estimated 45 residences, 5 commercial properties, and 2 outbuildings. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will fund the rebuild of all the damaged structures on the IR land.

While detailed property-by-property assessments are still being finalized, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) estimates approximately 41% of residential property owners in Lytton held fire insurance.

Any additional provincial support to the community of Lytton must be considered as potential precedent for other communities impacted by the wildfires of 2021 (recognizing an estimated 183 residences were lost in communities outside Lytton during the 2021 wildfire season) and for future events. Similarly, any direct capacity support to the Village of Lytton needs to be considered in light of the other local governments supporting their own residents' recovery.

On July 1st, the province authorized Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) in response to wildfire impacts across BC for Indigenous Communities and Local Governments. As noted in 2.5.2(a) of the Disaster Financial Assistance Guidelines for the Private Sector, the DFA program provides financial support to the communities and residents for essential, uninsurable damage and as a result, DFA was not authorized for private residents. The insurability of this catastrophic event has left uninsured and underinsured residents without the financial support for interim and long-term housing.

In 2019, Cabinet approved the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework (IDRF) to guide the provincial approach to recovery. This living document provides the framework for recovery operations throughout the province in alignment with its guiding principles. As an interim policy document, it outlines the province's role as the lead coordinating agency for recovery and builds upon a central principal of effective recovery being community-led. Under this framework, EMBC is designated as the lead coordinating agency for community recovery. This mandate is operationalized through the ADM and Executive Committee on wildfire recovery, which facilitate access to resources and expertise from across government.

The extent of the recovery process, and the type and level of provincial activation, is based on the complexity and scope of the event. When resources are exceeded at the community and regional levels, or the emergency event is such that it 1) spans multiple regions, 2) requires cross-ministry coordination and, 3) it is determined that additional support is required by the

province. Under the IDRF, EMBC has assigned dedicated teams to the Village of Lytton and Lytton first Nation to ensure sustained commitments to recovery supports are met. Additional teams may be assigned in response to emergent needs.

EMBC coordinates equitable recovery supports through several provincial committees including the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) and the Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC). The IAWG identifies and provides a coordinated response to emerging issues, needs and trends among Indigenous communities impacted by wildfires. The IDCBC is a forum for dialogue and coordination between the NGOs, ministries, and emergency management agencies across BC. Each NGO retains the responsibility to deliver services according to their roles and mandates and to raise and/or acquire funds for their own purposes.

On July 1, 2021 the province authorized Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) in response to Wildfire impacts across BC for Indigenous Communities and Local Governments. The DFA program exists to provide financial support to the communities and residents for essential, uninsurable infrastructure damage. DFA was not authorized for private residents. The province engaged with the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) to review the current landscape of various insurance products across BC. Consideration was given to the reasonableness and availability of these products and was used to inform event specific policy decisions. It was confirmed with the IBC that fire insurance is covered under standard policies for all homes and business across BC and the cost of these policies is reasonable when considering the risk.

Section 8 of the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (the "Regulation") is clear that eligible costs cannot include those that were recoverable at law, or for which insurance was reasonably and readily available. This does not apply to communities; the regulation allows communities to self-insure, and for compensation of insurance deductibles as an eligible expense.

There are a number of general considerations for government surrounding all recovery funding decisions:

s.13

s.13; s.17

equipment costs are often negatively affected. A crude estimate, using a similar uptake of insurance products as the Village of Lytton (50%), the average square footage of a home in BC (~2000 sq ft) and an estimated residential construction rate (~\$200 sq ft) the cost to repair/rebuild uninsured lost homes outside of Lytton would be estimated at \$36,600,000.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The wildfires of 2021 have impacted the land, practices, community and families, culture, physical, and spiritual implications to First Nations
 - Provincial response to these issues should be guided by commitments to UNDRIP and principles of Reconciliation
 - There are reconciliation considerations and complex agreements already established between the Village and Lytton First Nation
 - The 10 Year Bi-lateral agreement between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and EMBC states that the province will provide equivalent emergency management services on reserve, including recovery, on behalf of the Government of Canada, with reimbursement of costs available through ISC
 - EMBC coordinates supports to Indigenous communities through sharing and participating in the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IWAG)
 - Under the current funding agreement between ISC and the Province only those community members living on reserve are eligible for funding from ISC. Community members living off reserve will need to be considered in the funding for uninsured residents living in other municipalities. This represents a significant disparity in support between indigenous people living on/off reserve
 - s.13; s.16
-
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction outlines recommendations to build a culture of safety and resilience across all levels of government and society. This report outlines how First Nations Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) is positioned to bridge First Nations with other governments and partners to enhance emergency response and preparedness and meet the recommendations in the Abbott-Chapman Report
 - The Federal Government, through the EMAP program, supports build back better (BBB) for First Nations communities

Appendix B

Cliff: 623626
Date Prepared: Sept 20, 2021

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

TO: Mike Farnworth, Minister, Public Safety and Solicitor General

ISSUES:

- Provincial support for Lytton wildfire recovery:
 - Debris removal on uninsured property,
 - Emergency supports for displaced individuals post-October 1, and
 - Capacity support to the Village of Lytton.

BACKGROUND

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There are a number of general considerations for government surrounding all of these specific decisions:

- LFN members who lived on reserve will get housing replaced by Canada, but not members living off-reserve, therefore, there could be significant disparities in funding for the rebuild between:
 - LFN members living on-reserve,
 - Insured Village residents, and
 - Uninsured or underinsured Village residents.
- DFA typically does not apply to individuals impacted by wildfire, as insurance is typically available; the DFA program is focussed on supporting essential uninsurable losses. This policy meets the general intents to ensure that government is not held responsible for individual losses during natural disasters and to minimize interference with the commercial insurance market.

• s.13

- The Canadian Red Cross (CRC), through its BC Wildfire 2021 Appeal, has collected over \$12M to date to support individuals and communities impacted by 2021 wildfires. This includes an assumed \$3.15M provincial donation matching contribution which can be directed toward provincial priorities through the related contribution agreement.
- Significant other donations of goods and funds have already been received or committed from public and corporate donors, and many NGOs are prepared to support the needs of those recovering from 2021 wildfires; these funds and efforts could be targeted towards the uninsured residents.
- The investigation into the cause of the Lytton fire has not yet concluded s.13
- s.13
- The extent of reimbursement to the province through the DFAA has still to be determined.

A. Debris Removal from uninsured property

DISCUSSION:

Both the Village and LFN sites will require significant cleaning and debris removal to meet the following two objectives:

- To allow safe re-occupation of wildfire damaged buildings, and/or prepare the site for a rebuild.
- To ensure appropriate environmental remediation measures are taken to ensure public safety and protect long term health over the village site.

Generally, private landowners are responsible for cleaning up debris on their land and moving it to "curbside" and local governments are responsible for disposing of it from there. The province has funded debris removal on public land and where public infrastructure has been impacted in the past, as well as debris removal from private land impacted by the 2018 Grand Forks flood event. Where local governments have funded debris removal in the past (such as the 2013 Alberta floods or 2016 Fort MacMurray wildfire), the use of landfills, the removal of fridges and freezers and other materials from the general clean-up, and the clearance of debris and wreckage directly caused by the disaster were eligible for federal reimbursement.

The NGO sector has provided significant leadership and assistance for debris removal in previous events in Alberta, supported by provincial and federal funding supplemented by contributions from the public; through organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in collaboration with the Mennonite Disaster Service, all of whom are present in BC. For Lytton, the NGO sector has communicated the desire to support debris removal, but the magnitude of debris removal required exceeds the scope of service that these NGOs can provide without additional funding.

Estimating the cost of debris removal is complicated, as the specific nature of the hazards present, and landfill space must be considered^{s.13}

s.13

OPTIONS

OPTION A-1: (RECOMMENDED): Province provides funding and capacity for the Village to coordinate debris removal with support of NGOs.^{s.13}

s.13

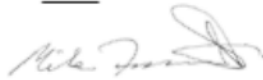
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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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OPTION A-1 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

B. Emergency supports for displaced individuals post-October 1

DISCUSSION:

Evacuees from Lytton who do not have insurance coverage have been receiving support from the Province through the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program; ESS coverage has been extended a number of times and will expire October 1, 2021 (approximately 90 days from initial Lytton evacuation orders being implemented). No decision has been made regarding supports beyond October 1. Evacuees from uninsured primary residences that were impacted by the other 2021 wildfires have also been eligible for ESS support.

British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes, or other emergencies typically receive Emergency Support Services (ESS) for up to 72 hours. In limited circumstances may provide extensions for extenuating circumstances such as during extended evacuation periods.

ESS is a provisional tool enabled by the EPA to provide short-term, temporary relief to evacuees until more suitable arrangements can be made, therefore EMBC current policy provides ESS "for an initial 72 hours or for the duration of the evacuation order as issued by the legislated authority ordering the evacuation¹."

s.13

¹ EMBC policy 5.03 Evacuee Living Assistance, 5.03.04 1e.

s.12; s.13

In the case of the other 2021 wildfires, EMBC has limited information about the uninsured demographic such as whether some are receiving other provincial supports such as income assistance, hardship assistance or other housing supports.

The CRC, with matching provincial funding, has disbursed \$2,000 per household for those having lost their primary homes in the Lytton area.

s.12; s.13

OPTIONS:

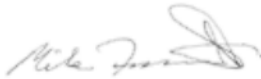
s.13

OPTION B-2: RECOMMENDED Continue ESS coverage availability for all eligible 2021 wildfire evacuees until s.13 and work with provincial ministries and NGOs to ensure appropriate supports are available s.13 to those who require them.

s.13

s.13

OPTION B-2 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

C. Capacity Support to the Village of Lytton

DISCUSSION:

While the EPA requires municipalities, regional districts, and Treaty First Nations to be responsible for responding to emergencies in their jurisdiction, the Village is a very small rural community with very limited capacity both in elected officials and in permanent staff.

In addition, given the very small tax base of the Village, it is foreseen that the Village will have significant difficulty raising funds to cover any direct response or recovery costs.

The Province, through EMBC, currently provides capacity support to the Village to assist them in the performance of their response and recovery activities in a number of ways:

- Direct funding of 9 specific individuals, including an experienced former local-government CAO to advise the mayor and council, a re-entry coordinator, and a communications specialist,
- Direct funding to the Fraser Basin Council to provide 4 specific support functions to the Village, including citizen engagement and partnership with the LFN and other

N'lakapamx Nations, and through MUNI to provide governance support, a SME to conduct re-entry coordination,

- A dedicated cross-government staff team assigned to Lytton to provide day to day guidance, coordination, analytical support, and access to all of government through operationalization of the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework.

Under the existing Regulation for DFA, provincial funding for local government recovery costs are available for essential public infrastructure, such as drinking water, wastewater, transportation, municipal buildings and utilities.

By regulation, 20% of eligible public infrastructure recovery costs are to be borne by the local authority. It is anticipated that the Village will have extreme difficulty covering this 20%; communities across the province have acknowledged the difficulty in funding 20% of infrastructure recovery since the regulation came into effect.

OPTIONS:

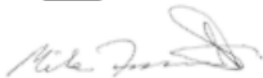
s.13

OPTION C-2: RECOMMENDED Province continues to provide capacity support to the Village by:

- funding specific individuals and functions within the Village recovery organization,
- work within existing recovery structures to assess the ability to meet residents' unmet needs either through existing government programs to through NGO support, and
- work, through Municipal Affairs, with the Municipal Insurance Association and Municipal Funding Authority to assess financial options for the Village.

s.13

OPTION C-2 APPROVED



Mike Farnworth
Minister
Public Safety and Solicitor General

DATE: September 21, 2021

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources Opportunities and Rural Development, Environment, Health, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations, Finance and Municipal Affairs.
- Indigenous Services Canada.

PREPARED BY:

Julia Iwama
Michael McStravick
Executive Directors
Emergency Management BC

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Sept 21, 2021
ADM	DP	Sept. 20

Attachment(s)

Appendix A: Briefing note background.

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

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, Cabinet approved the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework (IDRF) to guide the Provincial approach to recovery. This living document provides the framework for recovery operations throughout the province in alignment with its guiding principles. As an interim policy document, it outlines the province's role as the lead coordinating agency for recovery and builds upon a central principal of effective recovery being community-led. Under this framework, EMBC is designated as the lead coordinating agency for community recovery. This mandate is operationalized through the ADM and Executive Committee on wildfire recovery, which facilitate access to resources and expertise from across government.

The extent of the recovery process, and the type and level of provincial activation, is based on the complexity and scope of the event. When resources are exceeded at the community and regional levels, or the emergency event is such that it 1) spans multiple regions, 2) requires cross-ministry coordination and, 3) it is determined that additional support is required by the province. Under the IDRF, EMBC has assigned dedicated teams to the Village of Lytton and Lytton first Nation to ensure sustained commitments to recovery supports are met. Additional teams may be assigned in response to emergent needs.

EMBC coordinates equitable recovery supports through a number of Provincial committees including the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) and the Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC). The IAWG identifies and provides a coordinated response to emerging issues, needs and trends among Indigenous communities impacted by wildfires. The IDCBC is a forum for dialogue and coordination between the NGOs, ministries, and emergency management agencies across BC. Each NGO retains the responsibility to deliver services according to their roles and mandates and to raise and/or acquire funds for their own purposes.

On July 1st the province authorized Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) in response to Wildfire impacts across BC for Indigenous Communities and Local Governments. The DFA program exists to provide financial support to the communities and residents for essential, uninsurable infrastructure damage. DFA was not authorized for private residents. The province engaged with the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) to review the current landscape of various insurance

products across BC. Consideration was given to the reasonableness and availability of these products and was used to inform event specific policy decisions. It was confirmed with the IBC that fire insurance is covered under standard policies for all homes and business across BC and the cost of these policies is reasonable when considering the risk.

Section 8 of the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (the "Regulation") is clear that eligible costs cannot include those that were recoverable at law, or for which insurance was reasonably and readily available. This does not apply to communities; the regulation allows communities to self-insure, and for compensation of insurance deductibles as an eligible expense.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The wildfires of 2021 have impacted the land, practices, community and families, culture, physical, and spiritual implications to First Nations.
- Provincial response to these issues should be guided by commitments to UNDRIP and principles of Reconciliation.
- There are reconciliation considerations and complex agreements already established between the Village and Lytton First Nation.
- The 10 Year Bi-lateral agreement between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and EMBC states that the province will provide equivalent emergency management services on reserve, including recovery, on behalf of the Government of Canada, with reimbursement of costs available through ISC.
- EMBC coordinates supports to Indigenous communities through sharing and participating in the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IWAG).
- Under the current funding agreement between ISC and the Province only those community members living on reserve are eligible for funding from ISC.^{s.13}
s.13
- s.13; s.16
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction outlines recommendations to build a culture of safety and resilience across all levels of government and society. This report outlines how First Nations Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS) is positioned to bridge First Nations with other governments and partners to enhance emergency response and preparedness and meet the recommendations in the Abbott-Chapman Report.
- The Federal Government, through the EMAP program, supports build back better (BBB) for First Nations communities.