

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS MEETING BACKGROUNDER

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

MEETING: Meeting with Mayor Mike Little (District of North Vancouver)

DATE: February 24, 2022

ISSUE: ESS for people displaced by disasters

BACKGROUND:

- North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) is an inter-municipal agency that coordinates emergency services for the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver.
- EMCR's Advance Recovery Team (ART) was deployed on January 16, 2023 to support NSEM through their recovery process after two major apartment fires.
- Over 152 occupants were initially displaced from two North Vancouver apartment buildings and two residential homes due to fire. The apartment were:
 - Lord Highlander Apartment Fire: 260 E 12th St; City of North Vancouver (Dec. 13, 2022); and the
 - International Plaza Apartment Fire: 1959 Marine Dr; City of North Vancouver (Dec. 27, 2022).
- ESS (Emergency Support Services) extensions were granted beyond 72 hours by EMCR based on outstanding need.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

ESS Supports

- NSEM continues to provide ESS services to 21 units (44 people) for the four separate residential/apartment fires.
 - ESS services have been extended to March 1, 2023.
 - NSEM had previously indicated they expect there will be no further need for ESS supports after the last extension.
 - Out of 21 units still receiving ESS, 6 have found housing for March 1, 2023.
 - 15 units and 26 people are still seeking housing.
- On January 11, 2023, EMCR approved the hiring of two Community Navigation positions by NSEM for a two-month term.

- The intent of these positions is to augment NSEM capacity, support case management activities, and provide direct assistance to evacuees in securing medium- to long-term housing.
- On February 8, 2023, the City of North Vancouver announced a one-time grant of up to \$360,000 to support residents who remain without housing.
 - More than half of the 152 displaced residents have found permanent housing, with the remaining still challenged by record-low vacancy rates and an increased cost of living.
 - Hollyburn Community Services Society, a North Shore non-profit organization, will steward the grant using industry standards for eligibility and support. Please refer to Attachment 1 – Hollyburn Fire Evacuee Rental Assistance Program for further information.

s.12; s.13

ADVICE:

- s.13; s.16
- s.12; s.13; s.16

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Squamish First Nation (FN) owns the land that the International Plaza is situated on. There is a 99-year lease agreement in place between Squamish FN and the City of North Vancouver. This agreement may have implications for long term recovery (i.e.: who is responsible for specific functions and funding).
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is responsible for providing funding and support for interim housing solutions. FNs frequently rely on ESS for as long as possible because ISC is not as involved as EMCR. The interim housing strategy will support FN evacuees while they await support from ISC.
- ISC reimburses EMCR for all supports provided to FNs, including ESS. However, EMCR typically handles all of the coordination and logistics necessary to ensure that displaced Indigenous peoples are adequately supported.

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	23/02/2023
ADM RO	MM	22/02/2023
ADM DRD	JLM	22/02/2023

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1 – Hollyburn Fire Evacuee Rental Assistance Program

Fire Evacuee Rental Assistance Program

Program Description

- Rental subsidies are provided to assist with monthly rent supplements to private market rental units for individuals/couples with a low gross household income.
- Subsidies are based on the difference between 30% of client income and the market rent plus an administrative fee.
- There is a maximum rent (ceiling) based on household size and municipal area.
- Each private market rental being considered by the program for accepted subsidized clients must be assessed prior to approval of supplemented payments.
- Rent supplements are paid by cheque directly to the landlord.

Eligibility Criteria

- More than 30 per cent of your net household income goes towards household rent.
- Those with an after-tax annual household income of \$40,000 or less will be prioritized.
- You must be a legal tenant who resided at the 2nd Street or 12th Street, Lord Highland residences and are registered with the North Shore Emergency Management, Emergency Support Services (ESS).
- Special circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

Supporting Documents

When applying for a deposit, the following supporting documents are required:

- Proof of income (tax return) – eg. pay statements, bank statements
- Proof of Rent – rental agreement, rent receipt

Referral Process

All referrals come from North Shore Emergency Management. NSEM will provide Hollyburn with an updated list of qualified fire victims, and Hollyburn will proceed with intake and income verification.

- Clients can make an appointment to “pre-qualify” for a rent subsidy, by providing income verification and Hollyburn staff can provide the qualifying rent subsidy amount.
- Once a rental property is secured, clients can make an appointment with Hollyburn staff to proceed with issuing rent subsidies to the landlord. Rent subsidies are paid by cheque directly to the landlord.
- North Shore Emergency Management will assist clients with locating housing, and can consult/collaborate with Hollyburn as appropriate.

Maximum Rent Ceilings (BC Housing)

Portable Rent Supplement Program (City of North Vancouver)

Mainland Bachelor 1 Bed 2 Bed 3 Bed

- Bachelor 1366 (one person)
- 1 bed 1588 (two people)
- 2 bed 1938 (2-3 people)
- 3 bed 3269 (4+)

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS DECISION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

ISSUE: Revision of previous decision note to amend provincial top-up amount for small communities and Indigenous recipients and re-approval of Green ARDM Intake Projects

BACKGROUND:

- The Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program was established through the Green Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- The ICIP represents over \$33 billion in Federal funding which is administered through Integrated Bilateral Agreements (IBAs) with Provinces and Territories covering four funding streams: Green Infrastructure; Community, Culture and Recreation; Rural and Northern Communities; and Public Transit. On March 22, 2018, the Government of Canada and British Columbia signed the ICIP IBA representing a \$3.917 billion Federal investment. Combined Federal-Provincial funding of up to \$81.865 million has been allocated to projects under the Green ARDM program under ICIP.
- Green ARDM supports projects that increase structural capacity and/or natural capacity with the intent of reducing, or even negating, the effects of flooding. Green ARDM will fund flood mitigation infrastructure projects for individual communities (up to \$10 million), and joint applications submitted by multiple communities (up to \$20 million).
- The ICIP IBA for Green ARDM requires the province to provide a minimum contribution of 33.33% towards local government projects with the Federal government providing up to 40%. For eligible Indigenous projects the contribution is a maximum of 75% Federal funding.
- Small communities (fewer than 5,000 people) and Indigenous recipients are also eligible for a top up to 90% of eligible costs by the Province. This cost will be managed through an up front contribution funded through EMCR base 2023/24 budget.

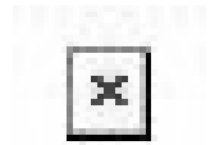
DISCUSSION:

- s.13; s.16; s.17

Page 06 of 24 to/à Page 18 of 24

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16 ; s.17



BRIEFING NOTE

B.C. investment in Skwah erosion control project Chilliwack

Briefing Note

What:

Provincial announcement of \$5M to fund necessary rip-rap installation to mitigate significant erosion of Skwah reserve land by the Fraser River.

Who:

Premier David Eby; Minister Bowinn Ma, MLA Dan Coulter

Chief Lara Mussell - TBD

Mayor Ken Popove -TBD

Executive Summary:

Provincial contribution of \$5M for rip-rap installation will reduce further erosion of Skwah reserve land. This contribution supports the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund project to proceed as planned.

Background:

- *Since 2015, Skwah First Nation, Shxwhá:y Village, and the City of Chilliwack have partnered on flood protection works. In 2019 Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) funded a project to construct a new dike to protect the two Indigenous communities and improve protection for the City of Chilliwack.*



BRIEFING NOTE

B.C. investment in Skwah erosion control project Chilliwack

- *The project budget is \$45M from DMAF, \$13M Indigenous Services Canada, and \$7M from the City of Chilliwack.*
- *In November of 2021, a study identified significant erosion of reserve land by the Fraser River. It was recommended that rip-rap erosion control measures be installed along the Fraser River in order for the proposed new DMAF dike to be constructed in the ideal location. The ideal location is 300m from the river which is the required setback distance. Without the erosion protection, the dike will need to be moved 100 metres further back onto reserve resulting in a considerable loss of land for the Nations.*
- *The proposed rip-rap erosion control project is estimated to cost \$5M. Project proponents have not been successful in securing funding to advance the project through funding programs such as DMAF.*
- *With the \$5M, the proponents will engineer designs for the rip-rap erosion project in 2023, and plan to begin construction in 2024 after receiving approvals from the Ministry of Forests.*

Recommendations:

Supporting communities to manage and prepare for flooding and erosion events is increasingly important as climate driven events continue to increase in severity and frequency.

This funding allows for immediate action to be taken to address erosion issues while allowing the communities to plan and construct a long-term flood protection dike.

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR:

- Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness,
- Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food,
- Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests, and
- Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

ISSUE: Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation Planning

Update on events related to Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation Planning

- Minister Ma and Minister Alexis' February 3rd tour of Sumas Prairie
- 4G MOU status
- Contact with the federal government
- Funding support

BACKGROUND:

- Following the November 2021 Nooksack River overflow and devastating flooding of the Sumas Prairie, the Province, First Nations (Semá:th, Leq'a:mel, and Matsqui), and the City of Abbotsford have been discussing flood mitigation approaches and options for the Sumas Prairie.
- A 4 Government Memorandum of Understanding (4G MOU) which includes the BC parties (listed above) and the federal government has been viewed as the governance approach to collaboratively develop and plan flood mitigation options for the Sumas Prairie. The 4G Forum was supported through a Decision Note signed by the Ministers of FOR and EMBC in August 2022.
- BC government ministries collaborating to inform the 4G MOU include Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, Forests, Agriculture and Food, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat.

DISCUSSION:

- Highlights of Minister Ma and Minister Alexis' February 3rd tour of Sumas Prairie:
 - Participation from all BC parties in the tour; open discussion from Semá:th, Leq'a:mel, and the cities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack. Matsqui leadership also attended the morning portion.
 - Differing views of the types of flood mitigation options which can contribute to flood mitigation; differing values and objectives were shared by the parties with some possible common ground emerging.

- While recognizing there is some urgency, taking the time to make better plans than in the past was highlighted as critical.
- The 4G MOU status:
 - This BC based forum has been holding meetings since September 2022, initially confirming interest and general intent of the forum. A draft MOU was developed based on a previous Bank Stabilization MOU between the City of Abbotsford, Semá:th and the Province that was signed in 2019. Version 2 of a draft MOU has been with the group for review since December 19, 2022.
s.16 and to date, the federal government has not been involved in the review of the MOU.
 - At a February 8th in-person meeting of BC parties, everyone in attendance agreed to a submission of comments on the draft MOU by February 28th, with a desire to achieve a final document in March or April.
 - Also at the February 8th meeting, the parties supported the idea of bringing on an independent facilitator to advance the direction of the MOU, including a Flood Mitigation Plan for the Sumas River Watershed. A key next step is aligning objectives, values and principles in a collaborative way.
 - Funding for advancing technical and other aspects of the MOU work is important and significant. This includes project funding for both the City of Abbotsford and First Nations, with some administrative oversight through the Province at the table. Since the 4G has already been supported by the Province, acquiring funding through normal grant programs is not deemed appropriate by the parties.
- Contact with the federal government regarding participation in the 4G MOU:
 - Chief Dalton Silver sent a letter to Minister Blair in April of 2022, and Minister Bowinn Ma sent a letter to Minister Blair on January 25, 2023 that requested federal representation and participation at the Nooksack Transboundary Flood Initiative and the Sumas River Flood Mitigation tables.
 - The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat has been advancing requests for federal participation in both the Nooksack and Sumas River Flood Mitigation tables through the Privy Council Office and Global Affairs Canada since summer 2022, and in January 2023 Privy Council Office staff attended a meeting of the Nooksack table.
 - Premier Eby raised the need for federal participation in these processes with multiple members of the federal Cabinet, including Prime Minister Trudeau.
 - On a February 9th call with Director Generals from Infrastructure Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and EMCR/FOR representatives, federal participation in the 4G MOU and Nooksack tables was discussed. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for February 16th to discuss federal representation and level of participation.

- Also on February 9th, staff from the Privy Council Office and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food discussed federal participation in the 4G MOU and Nooksack tables.
- Funding provided to support the 4G and Nooksack tables:
 - \$200K to Semath to support capacity needs from MOF
 - \$400K to Semath to support 4G capacity participation from EMCR
 - Year end contributions in progress by EMCR:
 - Up to \$2.88 M for Semath capacity funding over 5yrs
 - \$1M for Sumas River Flood Mitigation 4G table consultant supports for City of Abbotsford, Leqa'mel and Semath over 2 yrs
 - Contingency approvals from EMCR:
 - \$5.62M for City of Abbotsford Flood Recovery Projects (11 projects including engineering study for Clayburn creek, and other construction needs for 2023)
 - AF and MOTI have additional funding soon to be announced for supporting nations in flood mitigation and adaptation related work.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Semá:th have openly stated a desire for reconciling the loss of Sumas Lake and will be seeking some form of redress for this. While being mindful of the history and the opportunity to advance reconciliation with a new approach, the 4G table is forward looking and seeking to restore values lost in the draining of the lake, to the extent possible. s.13; s.16
s.13; s.16
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OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

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	Initials	Date
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DM Manwaring	RM	21/02/2023
ADM Austin	MA	10/02/2023
DM Krishna	KK	24/02/2023
ADM Volk	KV	10/02/2023
DM Pokorny	PP	17/02/2023
EL Squires	PS	13/02/2023
DM Brownsey	SB	17/02/2023
ADM Teramoto	LT	13/02/2023