

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Tara Richards, Deputy Minister, EMCR
Mary Sue Maloughney, Associate Deputy Minister, EMCR

ISSUE: Strategic Partnerships Division's role in supporting regional operations for the upcoming 2023 flood/wildfire season

BACKGROUND:

- During activation the Strategic Partnerships (SP) Division works closely with the following Indigenous partners: the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Indigenous Services Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC).
- Regional partnerships, such as the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management Partnership (IPREM) and the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) are also leveraged to strengthen regional collaboration during emergencies within the Capital and Metro Vancouver regions.

Indigenous Support

EMCR Operations Centres

- SP staff fulfill several key roles in support of response operations such as regional First Nations Branch Leads in the Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCS) and the Strategic Advisor role in the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC).
- The regional First Nations Branch Leads provide guidance to the PECC and PREOCs to address the unique and specialized needs of First Nations communities through a culturally safe approach. Activities include conducting daily outreach to Indigenous communities, setting up coordination calls, compiling regular Indigenous impacts reports to maintain critical situation awareness and timely response actions, addressing gaps in staffing/community capacity and following up on resource requests and expense claims.
- During activation SP staff support the PECC by leading the coordination of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This role in the operations branch within the PECC is specifically designed for SP staff to leverage the support of NGOs during emergencies.

MAST

- s.13; s.16

- This collaborative model helps partners gain an enhanced understanding of the most urgent needs (i.e., power, food, water, medical, fuel, housing and infrastructure, roads, access, and mental health). It also provides the ability to fast track immediate supports where possible.

- s.13; s.16

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Indigenous Agency Working Group

- During emergencies, SP leads the activation of the Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) so coordinate with Indigenous led organizations to support Indigenous community needs and requests.

- s.13; s.16

FNESS

- During response SP works closely with FNESS. Examples include:
 - during the 2022 spring flooding, EMCR and FNESS worked together with the Ministry of Forests Flood Assessment Unit to determine areas at risk in the Fraser Valley and FNESS provided 'on the ground' assistance for First Nation communities to determine where flood mitigation assets would be most effective, and
 - in the fall of 2022, FNESS worked with EMCR to assist Vancouver Island Nations in positioning flood mitigation assets during the fall storm season.

Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding

- As a companion document to the bilateral service agreement, the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EMCR, ISC, FNESS and the FNLC was established to advance meaningful recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and to enhance the capacity of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management.
- The MoU has three levels of governance including technical, senior official, and political. The technical level is supported through a Technical Emergency Management Working Group (TEMWG) that meets monthly non-activation times.
- During activation the TEMWG elevates issues and concerns to the senior officials and political levels for resolution. SP staff to play a key role in planning, coordination, and support to all governance levels.
- The SP division also plays a key role in organizing, coordinating, and chairing key government-to-government meetings at the political level to have dialogue and seek solutions to resolve priority First Nations issues and concerns. During the Covid 19 pandemic, this included over 50 calls with the FNLC political leadership.

Regional Support

- The SP team also coordinates activation support through regional partnerships such as the IPREM and REMP.
 - This is achieved by implementing the Staff Deployment Policy, which outlines how staff may support Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs), PREOCs and the PECC, and how to manage approval and reimbursement processes and workload management during deployment.
 - Under this policy, IPREM and REMP staff from the SP division may provide operational support for various roles in EOCs when requested by Indigenous, local, or provincial governments, or other partner agencies.
- IPREM and REMP also support filling gaps in regional collaboration during emergency events within the Capital Region and Metro Vancouver areas when one is identified and not already being addressed by the PREOC.
 - For example, during the Atmospheric River Event in 2021, IPREM staff facilitated Metro Vancouver-specific planning calls to discuss any issues or gaps related to the needs of the Metro Vancouver communities. While the immediate impacts were more focused in the Fraser Valley area of the Southwest region, emergency program staff within Metro Vancouver identified a need to come together as a community to discuss impacts of the event and how to coordinate together.

Non-Government Organizations

- During activation, SP staff lead the activation and coordination of Integrated Disaster Council of BC to share information, identify gaps, promote collaboration, and coordinate an integrated approach to program and service delivery during emergencies by:
 - providing meals, snacks, and hydration to evacuees, emergency managers, and first responders;
 - addressing food security;
 - coordinating and managing donations;
 - coordinating and managing group lodging;
 - supporting with mental, emotional, and spiritual care;
 - providing fostering, care, and supplies for pets;
 - raising and distributing funds for individuals and communities impacted by disaster, and
 - conducting rapid damage assessments, removing debris, and rebuilding uninsured and underinsured homes.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

EMCR supports a community centric approach to First Nations emergency management and is achieved by leveraging trusted relationships with First Nations communities and partnerships with Indigenous organizations to support culturally relevant and safe approaches. This aligns with the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) and related Action Plan, *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action (TRC).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

Consultation with ministries is undertaken as required and depending on the type of hazard event.

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
EL	MC	30/03/2023
ED	CM	27/03/2023

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS DECISION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Tara Richards, Deputy Minister

ISSUE: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Program 2022-23 base budget spending plan

BACKGROUND:

- The Disaster Risk Management Division's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Program (DMAP) has a base budget of \$6.94M for the 2022/23 fiscal year.
- The Minister's December 2022 mandate letter identified new priorities for the Division including delivery of a Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and the ClimateReadyBC Platform.
- STOB 80 shared cost arrangements over \$500K in value must be approved by the Secretary to the Chair of Treasury Board.

DISCUSSION:

- DMAP has developed a prioritized list of projects and initiatives to support with base budget (listed in the attachment). Initiatives were prioritized based on operational need, mandate priority, and feasibility.
- Projects listed total \$6.94M across 17 organizations supporting a range of disaster risk reduction priorities including:
 - Research and analysis to support risk assessments at provincial, regional, and local scales (e.g., climate change scenarios, academic research and expertise);
 - Engagement and co-development to further mandate letter commitments, including risk assessments and components of the BC Flood Strategy. This includes the Build Back Better Together project proposal, capacity funding to Indigenous organizations and convening of industry, critical infrastructure operators and the insurance sector; and
 - Development and acquisition of data, analysis, guidance, and mapping to inform future investments in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, phase 2 of the ClimateReadyBC Platform, and risk assessments at various scales (e.g., extreme heat and water scarcity mapping, earthquake microzonation mapping, landslide hazard mapping standards and guidelines, living dike pilot project).
- Outcomes expected through the funding of these initiatives are listed in the attachment and include:
 - Provincial, regional, and local risk assessments and plans are informed by BC academic, industry, insurance and critical infrastructure expertise and best available science as well as GBA+ and intersectional research to understand how diverse populations are impacted by disaster risk;

- Indigenous leadership organizations participate in the development of the DCRRA co-development process that is aligned with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and emerging practices for co-development. DCRRA outputs are aligned with the modernized Emergency Management legislation and are of value to Indigenous partners. s.13; s.16 EMCR actions on understanding risk are aligned and mutually reinforcing;
- s.13; s.16
- New hazard mapping, risk assessment tools, and disaster risk reduction guidance are available through ClimateReadyBC to First Nations, local authorities, critical infrastructure owners, and others to support improved planning and decision making that reduce disaster risks;
- Key partners are aware of ClimateReadyBC and use it to access information, tools and guidance to support improved disaster risk planning and decision making; and
- Innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction are tested and learnings inform policy and practice.
- s.13; s.17

- If additional funding becomes available due to challenges with agreements being signed by fiscal year end, it is proposed these funds are allocated to the Fraser

Basin Council's work with key regional and provincial parties to better understand risk and resilience needs, interdependencies and the disclosure of risk.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- As per Articles 18, 19, 27, 31, and 32 of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, it is critically important that Indigenous partners are either engaged or are full partners in the development of risk reduction measures, including provincial and regional risk assessments or the development of tools and resources for risk reduction including the ClimateReadyBC Platform.
- Disaster and climate risks, including seismic risk, disproportionately affect Indigenous peoples and communities in BC due to many socio-economic and political factors associated with the histories of colonization, forced displacement, and marginalization that underscore existing inequities. Intersectional populations (e.g., seniors, people with disabilities, unhoused, etc.) are especially at risk with reduced capability to respond to or recover from disasters. This was recently highlighted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the 2021 heat dome and atmospheric river flooding. Climate and disaster risks impact the ecosystems that underpin Indigenous identities, cultures, languages, economies, health, and wellbeing. Indigenous peoples have shared through engagements that due to the trauma associated with climate and disaster risks, the Province must approach conversations relating to risk using Indigenous-led trauma-informed approaches.
- \$1.115M of the proposed spending would provide capacity funding to First Nations and Indigenous organizations to participate in flood recovery projects, co-develop the provincial and regional risk assessments and co-develop the guidance materials on risk assessments for use by regulated entities under the modernized emergency management legislation. It would also support Indigenous-led projects, such as establishing a culturally safe evacuation centre in the Nicola Valley, ^{s.13} and engagement on online platforms such as ClimateReadyBC. In addition, there is an opportunity to include Indigenous-led public education on Earthquake Early Warning (and broadcast intrusive alerting) to Indigenous populations in seismically high-risk areas.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended): Proceed with funding the projects and initiatives listed in the attachment according to their priority ranking to a maximum of \$6.94M.

PROS

- High priority projects can proceed, including key projects with Indigenous organizations.
- Costs paid this year for DCRRA research, engagement and co-development will not need to be paid from FY 23/24 budget.

CONS

- In some cases, partner capacity may be limited and projects may be unable to proceed.
- Funding cannot be used to meet other ministry or government priorities.

Option 2: Do not proceed with funding the projects and initiatives listed in the attachment according to their priority ranking to a maximum of \$6.94M.

PROS

- Funding may be used to meet other ministry or government priorities.

CONS

- High priority projects cannot proceed, including key projects with Indigenous organizations.
- Costs for DCRRA research, engagement and co-development will need to be paid from FY 23/24 budget.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (risk research, engagement and co-development)
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (re. risk research, engagement, and co-development).
- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (re. SPARC BC).
- Ministry of Finance (Office of the Comptroller General).

OPTION 1 APPROVED

DATE



Tara Richards, Deputy Minister

March 28, 2023

PREPARED BY:

Tina Neale
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Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
ADM	KF	27/03/2023
ED	TN	27/03/2023

ATTACHMENT:

- Disaster Mitigation Program 2022/23 Base Budget Spending Plan

Appendix: Disaster Mitigation Program 2022/23 Base Budget Spending Plan¹

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
1	Co-Development and Engagement	BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	Capacity support for the co-development of provincial risk assessment and the framework to be used to support regional risk assessments, and risk assessment requirements under EDMA. Funding would also support engagement with urban Indigenous populations on initiatives such as ClimateReadyBC to understand what would be of value to them, and education on Earthquake Early Warning/Broadcast Intrusive as urban Indigenous populations are at higher risk.	Risk assessment process aligned with DRIPA; improved services and information resources available to Indigenous Nations and communities resulting in reduced disaster risk; strengthened relationships with Indigenous partners.	\$20,000
1	Co-Development and Engagement	Metis Nation of BC	Capacity support for the co-development of provincial risk assessment and the framework to be used to support regional risk assessments, and risk assessment requirements under EDMA. Funding would also support engagement with Metis populations on initiatives such as ClimateReadyBC to understand what would be of value to them, and education on Earthquake Early Warning/Broadcast Intrusive as Metis populations are at higher risk.	Risk assessment process aligned with DRIPA; improved services and information resources available to Indigenous Nations and communities resulting in reduced disaster risk; strengthened relationships with Indigenous partners.	\$20,000

¹ The Office of the Comptroller General has confirmed that all entities to receive funding are outside of the Government Reporting Entity

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
1	s.13; s.16; s.17				
1	Research and Analysis to support risk assessments	Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction	Benefit-cost analysis for past and future losses to inform risk assessments at various scales in B.C.	Risk assessment practitioners, including regulated entities, have access to cost-benefit analysis information. High quality risk assessments are available to inform disaster risk reduction planning and investment decisions.	\$95,000
1	Research and Analysis to support risk assessments	Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium	Development of guidance on how to conduct consistent and scientifically robust analysis of climate change in risk assessments. Guidance would support provincial and regional risk assessments, as well as compliance with regulations under EDMA.	Risk assessment practitioners, including regulated entities, have access to and understand how to use climate change information in the risk assessment process. Resulting risk assessments include climate change impacts on hazard frequency and severity over time. High quality risk assessments are available to inform disaster risk reduction planning and investment decisions.	\$450,000

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
1	Research and Analysis to support risk assessments	Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS)	Supports PICS to engage research partners at UNBC, UBC and SFU to provide advice and conduct targeted research to inform analysis of climate change in provincial, regional, and local risk assessments and climate adaptation plans.	The Province, regulated entities and others have access to the best available climate change expertise and ongoing research from BC's major universities to inform provincial, regional and local risk assessments, including those required under EDMA. High quality risk assessments are available to inform climate adaptation planning and investment decisions.	\$495,000
1	Research and Analysis to support risk assessments	University of British Columbia	Establishment of an academic disaster resilience network between universities to provide expert advice and leverage ongoing research to inform the provincial, regional and local risk assessments, and disaster risk reduction plans.	The Province, regulated entities and others have access to the best available disaster risk expertise and ongoing research from BC's universities to inform provincial, regional and local risk assessments, including those required under EDMA. High quality risk assessments are available to inform disaster risk reduction planning and investment decisions.	\$450,000
1	Co-Development and Engagement	Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance Society	Supports the Emergency Planning Secretariat in aligning their risk assessment process with the provincial risk assessment framework, and will support co-development conversations with the Sto:lo Nations. May also include engagement on ClimateReadyBC and Earthquake Early Warning.	Risk assessment process aligned with DRIPA; Indigenous self-determination supported; improved services and information resources available to Indigenous Nations and communities resulting in reduced disaster risk; strengthened relationships with Indigenous partners.	\$50,000

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
1	Co-Development and Engagement	Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance Society	Supports the Emergency Planning Secretariat's (EPS) Build Back Better Together (BBBT) proposal including funding for the annual BBBT forum, hazard mapping, policy development and EPS operations.	Emergency Planning Secretariat is viewed as a strong leader in climate and disaster risk reduction in the Fraser Valley contributing to a shared understanding of flood hazards and risks and convening partners to develop solutions in collaboration. EMCR partnership with EPS is strengthened and relationship contributes to alignment with DRIPA.	\$150,000
1	s.13; s.17				

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
1	Data, Mapping and Guidance	Engineers and Geoscientists BC	Development of landslide Hazard Mapping Professional Practice Guidance for engineers and geoscientists. Guidelines will be hosted on ClimateReadyBC and any landslide hazard maps funded through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund will be shared through ClimateReadyBC and FNESS's Lightship	Engineers and geoscientists provide consistent landslide hazard mapping products to the province, First Nations and local authorities to support risk assessment, planning and development decisions. Landslide hazard maps can be consolidated into provincial data layers.	\$80,000
1	Data, Mapping and Guidance	First Nations Emergency Services' Society	Supports FNESS to engage First Nations on their disaster and climate risk reduction data needs, bring identified needs into a short- and long-term strategy to be addressed, and expand the Lightship platform to meet First Nations' needs for disaster risk reduction planning, including creating links and data flows between ClimateReadyBC and the Lightship platform. May also support FNESS to engage First Nations on earthquake early warning, and additional \$50K may be added from Natural Resources Canada to support advice on Earthquake Early Warning materials.	First Nations disaster and climate risk reduction data needs are met and First Nation's data sovereignty is protected. Results in high quality risk assessments and informed disaster risk reduction decisions.	\$400,000
2	Research and Analysis to support risk assessments	Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.	Equity needs analysis, research, and engagement to support integration of GBA+ and intersectional considerations in provincial, regional, and local risk assessments processes. This work will align disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts with the Poverty Reduction Strategy.	Risk assessments include analysis of the impacts of hazards and risk mitigation actions to diverse populations. Regulated entities under EDMA have information needed to comply with requirements to consider equity in risk assessments.	\$1,500,000

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
3	Data, Mapping and Guidance	Union of BC Municipalities	Development of guidelines for local governments on disaster and climate risk assessment and disaster mitigation and climate adaptation planning. Products will be made available through ClimateReadyBC	Local governments have access to guidance and use consistent approaches to analyze disaster risks and develop risk mitigation and climate adaptation responses.	\$300,000
4	Data, Mapping and Guidance	City of Surrey	Supports the Living Dike Pilot Project, a nature-based solution to mitigate flood risk that is being undertaken through a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional partnership between a First Nation, local governments and academic partners. Funding will be used to test the flood mitigation effectiveness of different treatments on the dike, and the combination of nature-based and conventional flood mitigation approaches.	New and innovative approaches to flood mitigation (including technical solutions and governance approaches) in BC are tested and learnings inform local and provincial flood risk reduction policies and approaches. A broader toolkit of flood mitigation solutions that support a range of values is available to BC communities.	\$300,000
5	Enhanced emergency response	United Way	Support Extreme Cold Response (complements funding approved for similar purpose to Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres).	Reduced impacts of extreme cold events	\$200,000
5	Enhanced emergency response	United Way	Support development of support programs for vulnerable evacuees.	Reduced trauma associated with evacuations and improved services for vulnerable evacuees	\$200,000
5	Recovery	Semá:th First Nation	Allow for participation in process guiding flood recovery related projects impacting the Semá:th First Nation's traditional territory. Will support timely delivery of watershed recovery programs that protect provincial infrastructure, benefit residents and the farming community.	Will support timely delivery of watershed recovery programs that protect provincial infrastructure, benefit residents and the farming community.	\$250,000

Priority	EMCR Priority	Proponent	Project Description	Expected Outcomes	Est. Cost
5		Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Support resourcing, training, staffing and planning required to implement a culturally safe evacuation centre for First Nations communities in the Nicola Valley. Note, this is top-up funding on the \$225,000 provided through Indigenous Services Canada and Strategic Partnerships.	Reduced trauma associated with evacuations and improved services for Indigenous evacuees.	\$25,000
5	s.13; s.16; s.17				
Total					\$6,940,000

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Tara Richards, Deputy Minister

ISSUE: Need for criteria and procedures for ranking non-Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) recovery public infrastructure funding requests which increase community resilience to future events.

BACKGROUND:

- DFA is available for public infrastructure repair, rebuild or replacement where structures are damaged as a result of a DFA eligible event. There are however improvements and new infrastructure proposals which are emerging as community funding requests as a means to support community recovery from recent events and resiliency for future events. Many of these improvements and new infrastructure requests are not covered under the current Compensation Financial Disaster Assistance Regulation and are sequentially necessary to achieve full and resilient community recovery from the event.
- Communities are exploring many avenues to obtain all or partial funding to implement their recovery plans. Several ministries are frequently approached to seek funding. Consistent criteria and defined procedures for processing community requests are needed to ensure equitable and intentional provincial government investment in community infrastructure and disaster recovery plans.
- MUNI has a detailed technical assessment tool which provides rigour to applications seeking specific funding. Components of this tool include technical and risk assessments, a borrowing test, and alignment with desired provincial outcomes. The MUNI tool also applies weight to specific components of the assessment.
- EMCR has existing funding streams for emergency preparedness and risk reduction which are specific to mitigation and adaptation; a new stream for climate resilience has yet to be developed.

DISCUSSION:

- s.13; s.16

- A consistent funding process and criteria for all communities seeking non-DFA recovery is unclear which results in communities creatively seeking funding from many ministries in order to address their recovery goal.

- s.13

- Climate resilient, acceptable return on investment or per capita spend, and environmental benefits such as improvements to ecosystem goods and services, watershed health & fish survival are not consistently assessed for community recovery proposals. Through specific funding programs within ministries, these individual criteria are applied to assess the merits of applications received through these specific funding programs.

- s.13

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous partners are key to the successful development and implementation of many community recovery projects. Infrastructure and land use changes to address flooding and other hazards are typically components of community recovery plans. Indigenous peoples bring local, traditional knowledge necessary for success in investing in resilient hazard reduction and mitigation approaches. Absence of Indigenous peoples involvement can contribute to harm to land, practices, culture, physical wellbeing and spirituality practices by Indigenous peoples.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs – consultation required
- Ministry of Housing - consultation required
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – consultation required
- Ministry of Forests – consultation required

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
Associate DM	MSM	18/03/2023

ATTACHMENT:

- MUNI EQ3 Tech Assessment Form 2022

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