

Transition Binder
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
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December 7, 2022

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December 7, 2022

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Ma:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

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- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.
- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

British Columbia has been disproportionately impacted by climate change disasters, from unprecedented forest fire seasons, including the historic fire in Lytton, to atmospheric rivers that washed out our highway system and almost overwhelmed the pump and dyke system in Abbotsford, impacting directly the livelihoods of many farmers in the Fraser Valley.

Beyond climate change, British Columbians are also aware we are at increased seismic risk compared with other parts of the country – a large earthquake or tsunami could have devastating effects on our province if we fail to prepare and to build in a way that withstands these types of disasters.

We need to continue to learn the lessons of past emergencies, build our capacity to be resilient in the face of recent emergencies, and prepare in a way that mitigates the risk of future emergencies. Your role as the first Minister of this new Ministry will be to lead and coordinate the ongoing cross-government work needed to learn from, respond to, and prepare for emergencies using the best data and information available.

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Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Overseeing the COVID-19 state of emergency and supporting people, businesses, and communities through the pandemic response and recovery.
- Responding to unprecedented extreme weather events, including heat, flood, fire, and drought, and working with communities to rebuild and recover.
- Initiating important work to reduce risks from disasters, including investments in the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and the move to a year-round wildfire service.

As a new ministry with responsibility to oversee delivery of our government's work on these important files, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Support urgent coordinated government response to communities in times of emergency through Emergency Management BC and review systems to ensure they are prepared for urgent response, incorporating lessons learned from previous emergencies.
- Complete work to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation that aligns with our government's commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to strengthen our ability to protect people and communities from disasters and emergencies.
- In partnership with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and in consultation with communities and Indigenous Peoples, advance B.C.'s commitments to the Sendai Framework by leading the development of a provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment that builds on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk. This will support development of a subsequent province-wide disaster and climate risk reduction plan that assesses risk priorities and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.
- Establish Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management by including First Nations from the beginning and at all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.

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- Lead cross-ministry coordination for our government's work to enhance B.C.'s resilience, such as our work through the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, the BC Flood Strategy, and other cross-government efforts, including work to build back better from recent disasters by:
 - Providing guidance to ministries delivering risk reduction and resilience initiatives regarding prioritization of efforts to help ensure that investments align with risk assessments; and
 - Improving transparency and awareness of these initiatives and their impacts by developing new tools for the public to access information on existing risks and work to improve resilience.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letter issued to them.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

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The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier



December 7, 2022

Jennifer Rice, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Rice:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you will assist the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in carrying out their ministerial in the House and speaking on the government's behalf when issues arise in the absence of the Minister. You will also play an important role in engaging British Columbians by representing the Minister at public events, delivering speeches on behalf of the Minister, or acting as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will reach out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society, and people across B.C. to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to the Minister.

You will work with your Minister help advance these shared responsibilities:

- Assist the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in developing modernized emergency management legislation.
- Support the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in establishing Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management by including First Nations from the beginning and at all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.
- Support the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in engaging local governments and community organizations as partners in the work of building community resilience, preparedness, and risk assessment in rural and urban communities across the province.

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- Continue to support the Minister of Forests to work with local governments on reducing wildfire risk and better preparing and supporting communities for future wildfires, including efforts to improve recruitment and retention in the BC Wildfire Service.

Your Minister is responsible and accountable for their ministry and their mandate; all key decisions will be made by them. You will understand your Minister's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans, and provide your best advice to the public service as they develop options for decision by the Minister.

You will collaborate with your Minister, ministry, and the Premier's Office to develop a workplan to guide your efforts, including detail on how the professional public service will support your work.

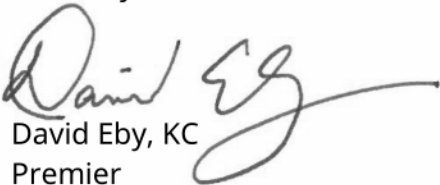
All members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a Parliamentary Secretary, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on your Minister and our government.

You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Minister, your Minister's staff, and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

Ministry:

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) 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.

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

Ministry Mandate:

EMCR is the lead coordinating agency for provincial-level emergencies and disasters supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction in British Columbia. EMCR 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 (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery).

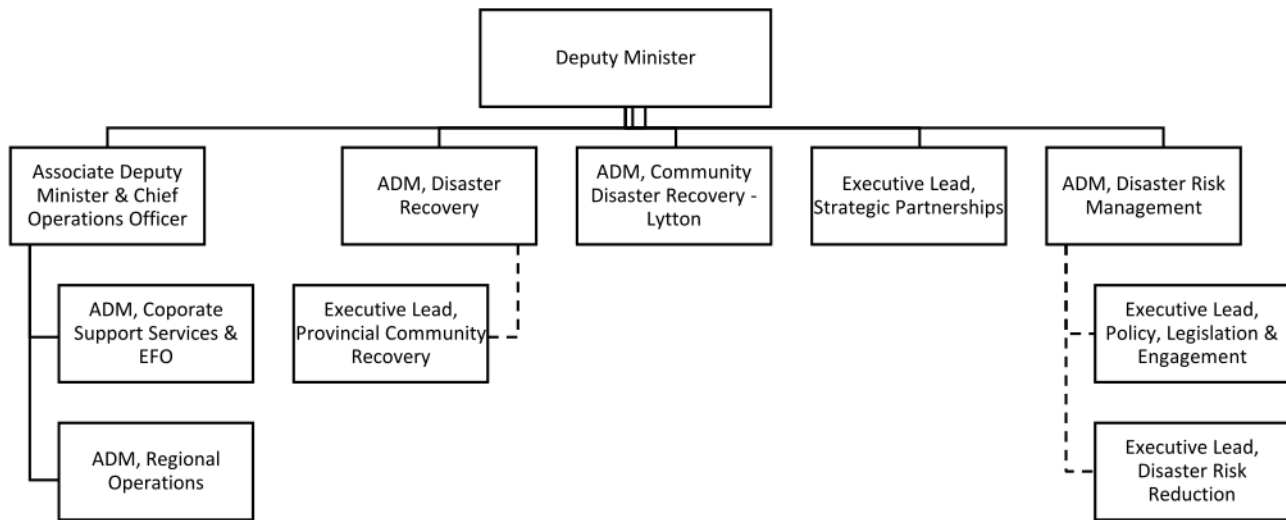
EMBC ensures the Minister responsible for the *Emergency Program Act* can effectively carry out his/her responsibilities including the declaration of states of emergency and the exercise of extraordinary powers necessary to respond to or alleviate the impact of emergencies.

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.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- Permanent: 310 FTEs (45 funded through ISC)
- Temporary: 122 FTEs (funded through EPA)

Executive Organizational Chart:



Budget:

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates ¹	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Corrections	262,742	261,661	261,661	261,661
Policing and Security	415,178	479,204	481,887	481,887
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	63,715	66,236	76,463	76,481
BC Coroners Service	17,569	21,459	22,148	22,120
RoadSafetyBC	18,311	27,810	27,720	27,660
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	1	1	1
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,539	19,564	19,564	19,564
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy ²	3,521	3,538	3,538	3,538
Emergency Management BC	30,899	44,591	44,467	45,360
Executive and Support Services	18,138	18,188	18,200	18,200
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36,420	436,420	36,420	36,420
Statutory Services ³	14,825	15,054	15,054	15,054
Total	900,858	1,393,726	1,007,123	1,007,946
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Corrections	1,062	1,062	1,062	1,062
BC Coroners Service	35	47	12	12
Emergency Management BC	550	1,209	47	93
Executive and Support Services	895	1,346	496	496
Total	2,542	3,664	1,617	1,663

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

² Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy was established as a new core business area in the 2022/23 Estimates.

³ Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Tara Richards
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Tara Richards was appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness effective November 25, 2020, leading the organization through one of the most challenging emergency management periods in BC's history.

Previously, Tara was Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Legislation, Finance with responsibility for policy analysis and advice in taxation policy, indigenous taxation, intergovernmental fiscal relations, and financial and corporate sector policy (including real estate, financial services, securities, insurance and pension plans). Tara held prior Executive roles at Finance as CEO, Financial Institutions Commission and Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services and EFO (serving the Office of Premier, Public Service Agency and the Ministry Finance). In that role Tara was the Ministry Operations Centre (MOC) Director for Finance from 2014-2016.

Tara has over 25 years experience in the BC Public Service and has held progressive roles in various ministries in the areas of policy and legislation, operations, intergovernmental relations, and planning and corporate support services.

Tara has a Master's Degree in Public Administration as well as an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Victoria.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Mary Sue Maloughney
Associate Deputy Minister
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Mary Sue Maloughney was appointed Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Operating Officer, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in March 2022 after initially joining in November 2021 as ADM, Strategic Executive Support.

Prior to joining EMBC, Mary Sue was Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager for the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch. Before that Mary Sue played a leadership role in the setup of the province's first Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and directed important work to advance B.C.'s mental health strategy as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Planning, Partnership and Research.

Mary Sue also led the BC Wildfire Service over the 2015 and 2017 wildfire seasons as the ADM, Integrated Resource Operations at FLNR. In addition to her work with BC Wildfire Service, her large operational portfolio included responsibility for the Archaeology Branch, Heritage Branch, Mountain Resort Branch, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch, GeoBC and the Natural Resource Officers in the Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Mary Sue has over 25 years of experience in the BC Public Service, having held leadership roles in various ministries and sectors in positions that ranged from policy, legislation and negotiations to operations.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Alex Chandler
Assistant Deputy Minister & EFO
Corporate Support Services
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Alex Chandler began his career with the Provincial Government in 2007 with the Ministry of Finance following completion of his Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of Victoria.

Over his public service career, he has held a variety of progressively more responsible positions in the Ministry of Finance including Manager of Performance Measurement and Budget Manager in the Corporate Services Division, and Executive Director with Treasury Board Staff. He joined Emergency Management BC as Executive Lead for Corporate Support Services in the spring of 2019 and in April 2021, was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer.

Alex has a passion for good governance, developing and empowering people. In his current role he provides strategic direction to the Corporate Support Services division, focused on supporting the building of capacity within EMCR to assist the transformation of service delivery across the organization.

Key accomplishments include developing and implementing an action plan to address recommendations made by Internal Audit and Advisory Services' review of EMCR's financial management practices. Building increased confidence in EMCR's financial practices with partners such as the Ministry of Finance by demonstrating greater financial awareness and transparency.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Madeline Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Madeline Maley is the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Regional Operations. In this role, Madeline is accountable for the coordination of the provincial and regional response to emergencies and disasters supporting the efforts of First Nations and local authorities in collaboration with provincial and federal ministries, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. In addition, she is accountable for the work of the Office of the Fire Commissioner which administers and enforces the *Fire Services Act* and regulations along with the British Columbia Fire Code and provides leadership in fire safety public education and fire fighter safety.

Madeline joined the Provincial Government in 1995 moving from Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario to Port Alberni and worked on the Coast until moving to Kamloops in 2003. Madeline held a variety of positions with the Ministry of Forests prior to joining EMBC in 2018.

Before coming to British Columbia, Madeline worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Sioux Lookout and Kenora, and at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. She has an Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Master of Science in Forestry from Lakehead University.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Jennifer McGuire
Assistant Deputy Minister
Disaster Recovery Division
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Jennifer McGuire has worked for the British Columbia Provincial Government since 1991 holding various positions in regions across the province within the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and Agriculture and Food. Most recently as Assistant Deputy Minister for Disaster Recovery Division since May 2022.

In May 2020, Jennifer stepped into the role of Assistant Deputy Minister for Science, Policy and Inspections Division with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to lead the Temporary Foreign Worker quarantine program, wild salmon recovery, and several policy pieces to support BC's food security. Following the November 2021 flooding event in the Sumas Prairie and the immediate impacts to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's - Animal Health Center Laboratory, Jennifer was focused on resuming plant and animal laboratory services in the facility.

Previous to this, Jennifer has held Assistant Deputy Minister roles in the Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Division and the Environmental Protection Division with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Jennifer is a graduate of the University of Waterloo, a member of the BCIT Ecological Restoration advisory committee, a Professional Agrologist, as well as a past-President with the BC Institute of Agrologists.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Dave Peterson
Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Disaster Recovery - Lytton
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

In February 2019, Dave Peterson was appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction. In January 2022, after the wildfire of 2021 that consumed the bulk of the Village of Lytton, Dave's portfolio was focused onto the recovery and rebuild of Lytton and the adjacent Nlaka'pamux communities. His current role recognizes the significant recovery challenges facing the community of Lytton and ensures a dedicated, ADM-level lead to the Province's support to that community-led recovery.

Prior, 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.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Monica Cox
Executive Lead
Strategic Partnerships
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Monica Cox is the Executive Lead, Strategic Partnerships leading the development and implementation of EMCR's inter-agency, inter-governmental and regional agreements with local governments and First Nations.

Monica was privileged to grow up in Victoria on the beautiful territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

After spending several years at the University of Calgary completing her Master's Degree, Monica returned to Victoria where she worked with First Nations communities, urban Indigenous organizations and local governments to develop and deliver community driven projects.

For the past fourteen years Monica has worked for the provincial government in corporate and Indigenous relations related positions at the ministries of Children & Family Development, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Public Safety & Solicitor General (EMBC).

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Kathryn Forge
Executive Lead
Disaster Risk Reduction
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Kathryn Forge is the Executive Lead, Disaster Risk Reduction and leads the division responsible for disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, and strategic reviews on behalf of the Province. In this role, Kathryn provides strategic direction to provincial disaster risk management policy, planning, training, exercising, cross-government business continuity management, strategic reviews to reduce future risk, and disaster mitigation strategy and funding programs to support communities in mitigating current and future risk to disasters.

Kathryn has held previous roles in emergency management and national security with the provincial and federal governments, including leading interagency strategic planning for catastrophic, health emergency management, intelligence analysis implementing the post-9/11 national security policy, and managing the operations centre of a Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel with the Royal Canadian Navy.

Kathryn holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Certificate in Project Management, is a certified Project Management Professional, and in recognition of her achievements she has received the federal Deputy Minister's Achievement Award for leadership and the Pacific Federal Council Community Contribution Award for extraordinary community and public service.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Grant Holly
Executive Lead
Policy, Legislation & Engagement
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Grant Holly joined Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness as the Executive Lead, Policy, Legislation and Engagement, on February 7, 2022.

Grant has been a provincial public servant since 2016, when he joined B.C.'s Ministry of Finance, where he worked in Treasury Board Staff from 2016 to 2018 and the Policy and Legislation Division from 2018 to 2022. Most recently, Grant was the Executive Director, Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations. He is particularly proud of the leadership role IFR played in creating the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, pandemic pay for frontline workers, the Canada-B.C. Safe Restart Agreement, as well as the 2020 Northern Capital and Planning Grant and B.C. Northern Healthy Communities Fund.

Prior to joining the BC Public Service, Grant worked for the federal government in Ottawa, primarily at the Department of Finance Canada in tax policy and economic development/corporate finance. Grant is a graduate of the federal government's Accelerated Economist Training Program.

Grant studied public policy at Carleton University, Queen's University and the Université de Montréal. He has published in academic journals in both English and French.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Julia Iwama
Executive Lead
Provincial Disaster Recovery
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Julia Iwama was appointed as Executive Lead, Provincial Disaster Recovery in December 2021. In this role she led Disaster Financial Assistance regulation changes to provide more support to individuals, businesses and communities impacted by the 2021 atmospheric river event.

Previously during her time as the Executive Director, Disaster Mitigation and Community Recovery, Julia had a front row seat witnessing the most devastating impacts of climate change in the province's history. Through it all, Julia has demonstrated she is an accomplished emergency leader, dedicated team member and compassionate advocate for communities and individuals in recovery. Through direct collaboration with communities, partner ministries, governments, and non-profit organizations she continues to challenge current policies and operations in pursuit of best practice for disaster recovery.

Julia holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of British Columbia and a Master's of Science in Public Health from the University of London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has had an international career working in global health in Nepal and leading teams for international deployments post disaster with the Red Cross. She has served as a civilian professional in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan and was head of delegation and Country Programme Manager in Myanmar.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Perry Grilz
Executive Lead
Community Recovery - Southwest
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Perry Grilz was appointed as Executive Lead, Community Recovery Southwest effective December 2021. Perry has an extensive career in public service in which he has taken on progressively more senior responsibilities and leadership roles

He began his career working in wildlife habitat management with Ducks Unlimited Canada in Saskatoon. In 1996, he moved west to take a job with the Ministry of Forests as a Rangeland Ecologist in Prince George. Since that time, he has served as a team leader for Forest Stewardship, Aboriginal Affairs Manager, Operations Manager in Prince George, before becoming the Associate Director of Range Branch in 2007, Director of Range Branch in 2014, and then Executive Director of Regional Operations for the South Area in 2019.

Perry has a strong passion for working with cross-provincial teams. He brings a very corporate approach to his work and a strong commitment to the One Land and Resource Manager, and to lead strategies that promote economic and environmental sustainability for rural British Columbia.

Perry has an undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Saskatchewan (1986) and a Masters in Range Sciences (1992).

DEPUTY MINISTER'S & ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE

Deputy Minister Responsible: Tara Richards

Associate Deputy Minister Responsible: Mary Sue Maloughney

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. **Corporate Planning & Strategic Priorities** – the branch leads the development and delivery of EMCR's business plan, divisional operational planning, and corporate reporting. The branch's project management office supports strategic priorities and high-profile corporate projects. The team also leads initiatives and programs that enable achievement of EMCR's organizational effectiveness including executive development, staff engagement, and internal communications.
2. **Executive Operations** – this team provides operational and administrative support to the Deputy Minister and ensures a coordinated approach to supporting the EMCR 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 EMCR, including records management.

Budget:

- DMO Ops: Government Financial Information
- ADMO Ops: Government Financial Information
- Executive Ops: Government Financial Information
- CPSP: Government Financial Information

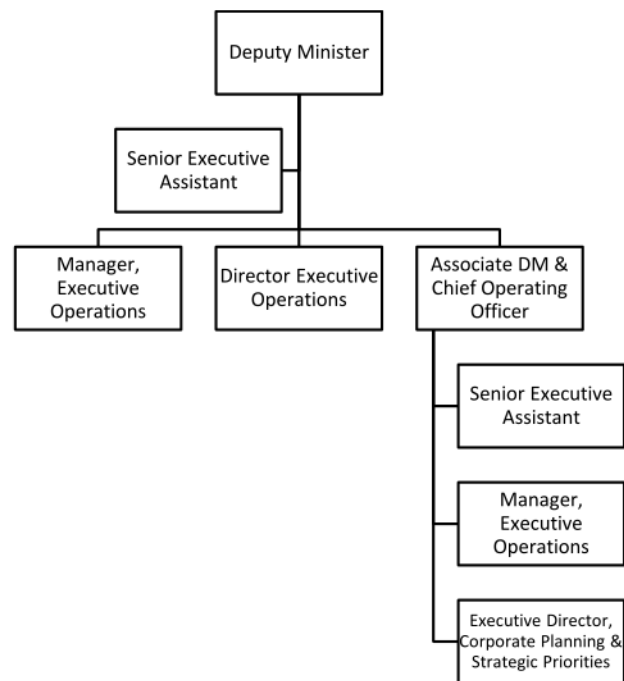
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- DMO Ops: 2 FTEs
- ADMO Ops: 3 FTEs
- Executive Ops: 4 FTEs
- CPSP: 12 FTEs

Related Legislation:

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

Organizational Chart:



COMMUNITY DISASTER RECOVERY – LYTTON

ADM Responsible: Dave Peterson

Core Business / Program Area Description / Critical Business Process:

Under the direction of the ADM, the Lytton Community Recovery team is the provincial lead in supporting the recovery for the Village of Lytton, Lytton First Nation and other impacted communities in the Fraser Canyon/Highway 1 corridor.

Through a formal Partnership Agreement, the team is directly engaged with Village of Lytton leadership to drive community recovery priorities and support decision making on key initiatives. As members of both the Federal-Provincial-NNTC Task Force and related working groups the team works through the Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council to support Lytton First Nation. The team collaborates with a wide network of internal and external partners to advance objectives related to the continual improvement of emergency recovery capacity, resiliency, and best practices at the provincial and community levels. Through a wholistic approach the team delivers strategic leadership and guidance to significant, high profile recovery planning risk management, programs and initiatives.

Budget:

- n/a

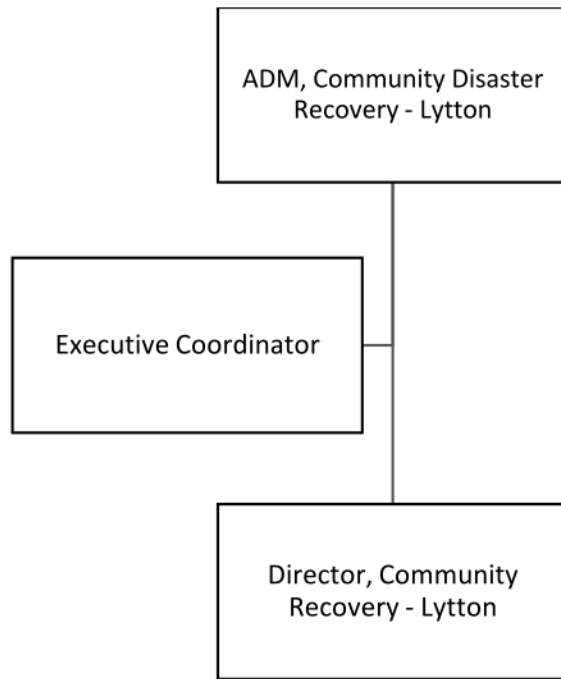
Full Time Equivalent (FTEs):

- Temporary – 7 FTEs (funded through EPA)

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:



CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

ADM Responsible: Alex Chandler


Core Business / Program Area Description / Critical Business Process:

The Corporate Support Services Division is responsible for the provision of strategic advice and the delivery of corporate services to support EMCR 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.
- Management of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements claim administration and provincial cost tracking
- Strategic 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 EMCR'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 EMCR's Business Continuity Plan.

Budget:

- operating

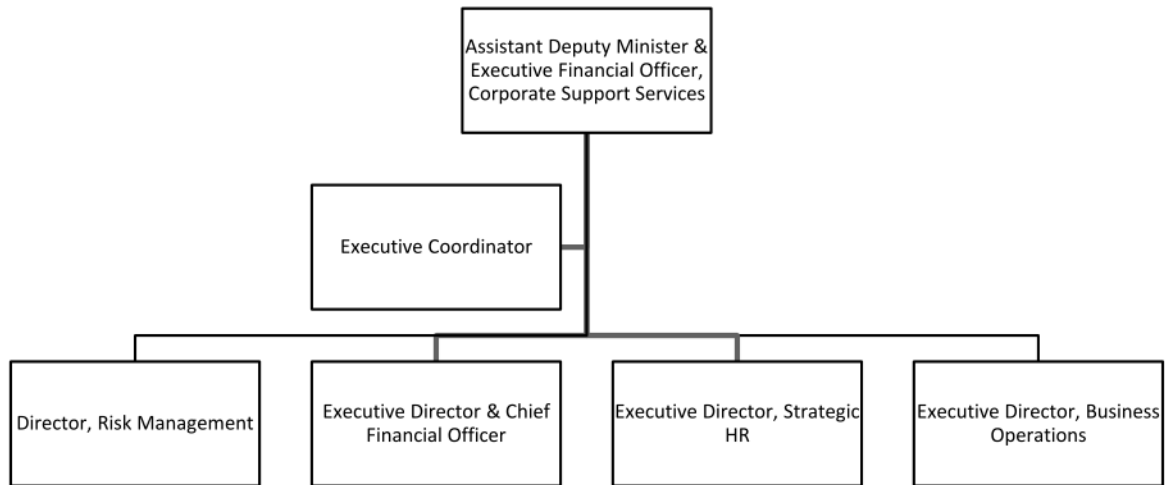
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- Permanent – 60 FTEs
- Temporary – 10 FTEs (funded through EPA)

Related Legislation:

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

Organizational Chart:



DISASTER RECOVERY

ADM Responsible: Jennifer McGuire

Core Business / Program Area Description / Critical Business Process:

The Disaster Recovery Division is comprised of two branches and one temporary area of responsibility:

1. Disaster Financial Assistance Branch

The Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) team leads the planning, communication, and implementation of funding program services available for individuals and communities when a natural disaster is deemed eligible for financial assistance. They are the subject matter experts for the Recovery Assistance Financial Tool (RAFT), and primary points of contact for the public and private sector for DFA applications. This team leads the development, implementation, and evaluation of the province's DFA program, with staff acting as statutory decision makers for DFA claims under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA). This team partners with diverse stakeholders including Indigenous Nations, Local Government, EMCR teams, BC ministries, Government of Canada, and non-government organizations to ensure the DFA program meets current and evolving needs of communities affected by disaster events.

2. Recovery Policy and Provincial Coordination Branch

This team leads the provincial coordination for the recovery of communities and individuals within key geographic areas. Within each area, Community Recovery teams collaborate with a wide network of internal and external partners to advance objectives related to the immediate and continual improvement of emergency recovery capacity, resiliency, and best practices at the provincial and community levels, among Indigenous Nations and local governments. The teams deliver strategic leadership and guidance to significant, high profile recovery planning and risk management programs and initiatives, incorporating a wholistic approach and ensuring timely recovery services to communities for social, economic and other needs. The team leads the development, implementation, and evaluation of the province's community disaster recovery program to ensure timely recovery services are provided to impacted communities, British Columbians, and businesses. The team partners with diverse stakeholders including Indigenous Nations, Local Government, BC ministries, Government of Canada, and non-government organizations to ensure the program meets current and evolving needs of communities affected by disaster events.

3. Provincial Community Recovery – Executive Lead

This temporary team is responsible for coordinating the provincial role in community recovery across the province for past natural disaster events back to 2017. This team will primarily focus on key areas impacted by the 2021 Atmospheric River and wildfires which includes Sumas Prairie/upper Fraser Valley area, Vancouver Island, Princeton, Merritt, and Lytton.

Government
Financial
Information

Budget:

- | operating

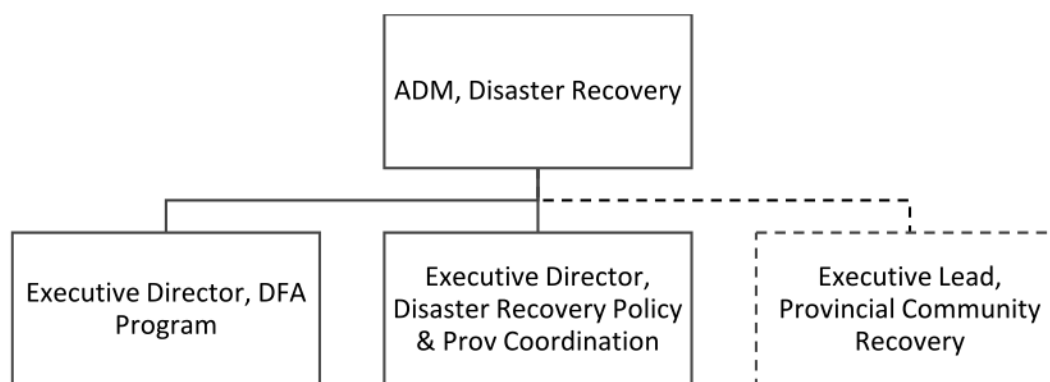
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- 27 permanent
- 42 temporary (funded through EPA)

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:



DISASTER RISK RECOVERY

Executive Lead Responsible: Kathryn Forge

Core Business / Program Area Description / Critical Business Process:

The Disaster Risk Reduction division is comprised of three areas of responsibility including: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation, Disaster Preparedness, and Strategic Review.

1. **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation:** The Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Branch is responsible for disaster risk reduction funding – including Budget 2022's \$110M Community Emergency Preparedness program – disaster risk reduction programs, such as earthquake early warning, and developing policy to reduce existing and future disaster risk, such as strategic retreat and ensuring climate change scenarios are incorporated in program design. Through the funding programs delivered by the Province, and in partnership with the Union of BC Municipalities and the federal government, the branch supports First Nations and local authorities to advance disaster risk reduction. Since 2016, EMCR's Disaster Mitigation Program has funded over 1,200 disaster risk reduction projects totaling over \$283M.
2. **Disaster Preparedness:** The Planning program develops, maintains, and implements provincial-level emergency plans, policies, and programs that address priority BC hazards. This includes development of preparedness and response planning tools for First Nations, local governments, and provincial ministries and the integration of response plans with key emergency management partners. The Provincial Business Continuity Management Program leads and provides a common framework for the development and administration of ministry business continuity management programs. This includes identification and prioritization of critical services the provincial government relies on and continuity of government operations to ensure an effective governance structure remains viable for the Government of BC following emergency events. The Training and Exercises program oversees 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. This includes working with academic institutions in the development and delivery of emergency management, search and rescue, and emergency support services training and collaborating with First Nations, local authorities, nongovernment organizations, industry, and provincial and federal partners in preparing for disasters through integrated tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises.
3. **Strategic Review Unit:** The Strategic Review Unit coordinates and delivers cross-government after-action reviews for disasters. After-action reviews are a standard practice in disaster risk management providing a measurable mechanism for government to evaluate response actions, and demonstrate accountability and continual improvement. Reviews undertaken by the unit also contribute to the planning and operational readiness for responses to a range of risks and emergencies that may affect large areas of the province. Currently the Strategic Review Unit is supporting the COVID-19 Lessons Learned review and the internal 2021 Atmospheric River After Action review.

Budget:

- Government Financial Information

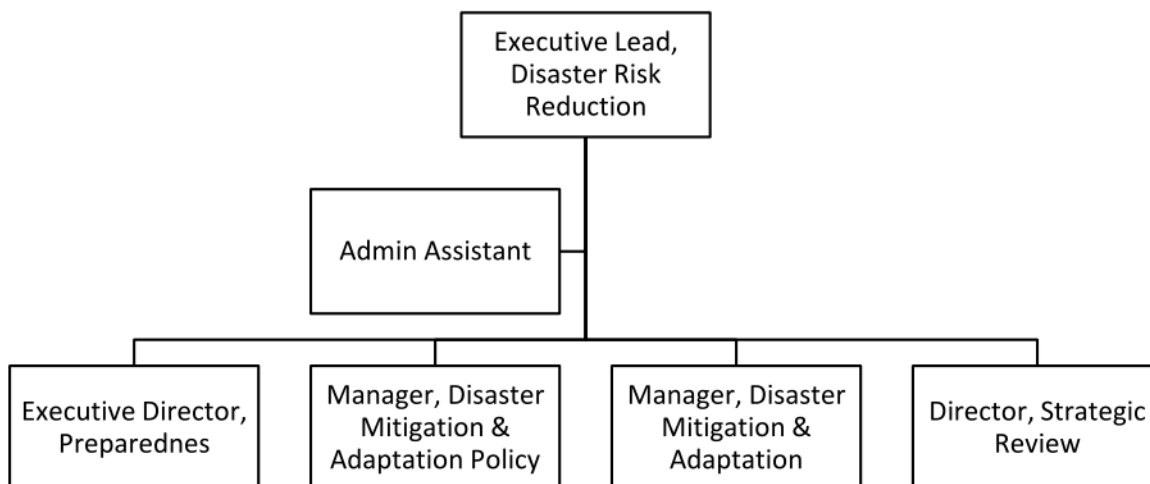
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- 42 permanent (5 funded through ISC)

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*

Organizational Chart:



POLICY, LEGISLATION & ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

Executive Lead Responsible: Grant Holly

Core Business/ Program Area Description/Critical Business Processes:

The Policy, Legislation and Engagement Division includes two branches: Policy and Legislation and Public Education

1. Policy & Legislation

The Policy and Legislation Branch leads on the organization's legislative work, including: legislative/regulatory changes; legislative/regulatory interpretations; and related policy changes. Currently, the Branch's major legislative project is to repeal and replace the Emergency Program Act (EPA) with a modernized statute and associated regulations. The Branch is

Cabinet Confidences

The Branch is developing a plan to

support local authorities, First Nations, and the Province in successfully implementing the legislation/regulations. Under the current EPA, when orders are required to declare, extend, or cancel a state of provincial emergency, or to mandate emergency actions, the Branch instructs counsel on the preparation of the orders and coordinates their deposit.

The Branch is a hub to support corporate and strategic/operational policy needs across the organization. This includes chairing, with the Union of BC Municipalities, the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee, which is the organizations' key point of contact with local governments.

2. Public Education

The Public Education Team is responsible for a variety of public information campaigns, such as educational programs and outreach and the organization's social media presence, including oversight of @PreparedBC Twitter. The Team leads on the organization's digital services and administration of the corporate website. The Team supports organization-wide engagement efforts, both online and in-person, particularly in regards in legislative projects.

Budget:

Government Financial
Information

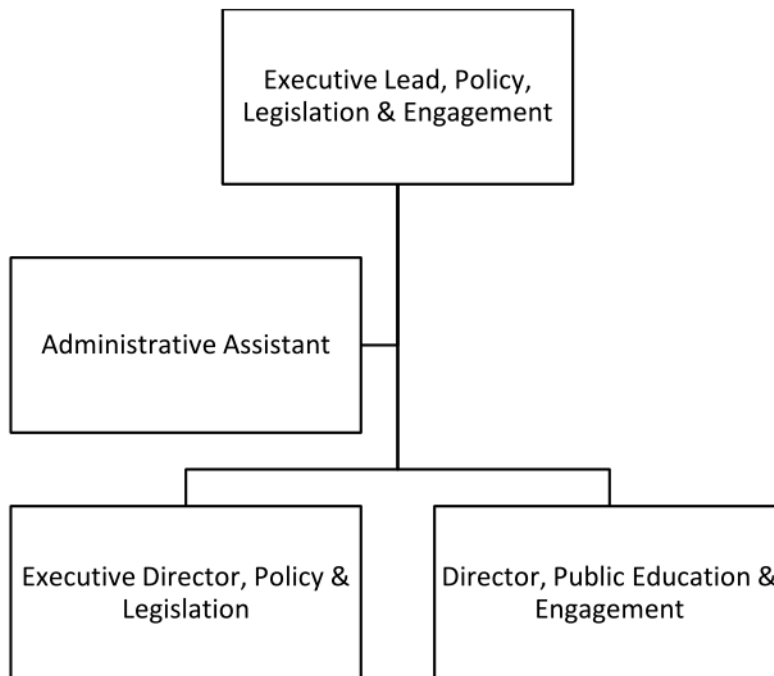
- million

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 27

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*
- Modernized legislation (Cabinet Confidences)

Organizational Chart:



REGIONAL OPERATIONS

ADM Responsible: Madeline Maley

Core Business / Program Area Description / Critical Business Process:

The Regional Operations Branch leads and coordinates the preparedness and response to provincial land regional level emergencies and disasters and supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction, working directly with First Nations, local authorities, provincial ministries and agencies, federal departments, other jurisdictions, industry and volunteers.

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

The Regional Operations Branch also coordinates BC's Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer groups, who provide an array of critical, front-line emergency services, including Ground Search and Rescue, Air Search and Rescue, Road Rescue, Emergency Support Services and Emergency Radio Communications.

Budget:

Government Financial
Information

- operating

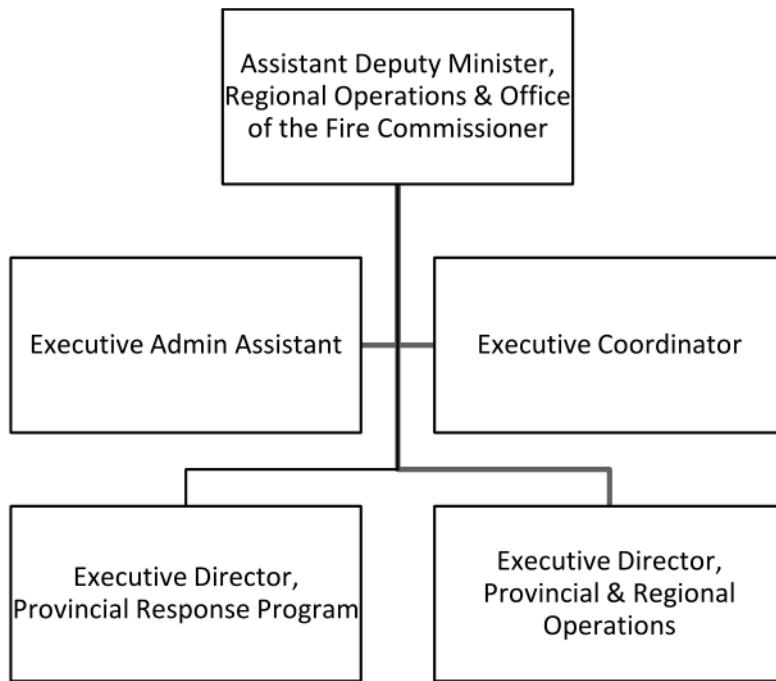
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- 106 permanent
- 64 temporary (funded through EPA)

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.

Organizational Chart:



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

Executive Lead Responsible: Monica Cox

Core Business/ Program Area Description/Critical Business Processes:

The Strategic Partnerships Division leads the development and implementation of EMCR's inter-agency and inter-governmental partnerships and consists of the following branches: Strategic Partnerships, Indigenous Community Relations and Partnership Engagement and Indigenous Peoples Policy.

1. Strategic Partnerships

The Strategic Partnerships team works to enhance BC's emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts while strengthening EMCR capabilities and capacity to address catastrophic events by establishing and leading regional emergency management partnership agreements with local governments and First Nations. The Strategic Partnerships team also coordinates BC's participation in cross-border arrangements and manages EMCR's partnership arrangements with intergovernmental, nongovernmental, faith-based, and other emergency management partners and agencies.

2. Indigenous Community Relations & Partnership Engagement

The Indigenous Community Relations and Partnership Engagement (ICRE) leads EMCR's implementation of a 10-year \$30 million agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide emergency services in First Nations communities. The ICRE team also leads the implementation of a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding in emergency management that includes the First Nations Leadership Council, ISC and EMCR. The ICRE team also works closely with the First Nations Health Authority and First Nations' Emergency Services Society and leads new and ongoing partnerships and agreements between Indigenous communities (i.e., Collaborative Emergency Management Agreements). These partnerships provide an opportunity for Indigenous communities to exercise self-determination within all phases of emergency management.

3. Indigenous Peoples Policy

The Indigenous Peoples Policy team leads EMCR's implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. This includes co-developing modernized emergency management legislation with the First Nations Leadership Council, Modern Treaty Nations and First Nations rights and title holders across the Province. This team also engages other Indigenous partners such as the Métis Nation of BC, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, the First Nations Emergency Services Society, and the First Nations Health Authority on the development of EMCR's policies, practices and initiatives.

Budget:

- Operations: Executive Lead – Strategic Partnerships - Government Financial Information
- Federal Government: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) - Government Financial Information

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- Permanent - 31

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency Program Act*
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- *The Emergency Management Act (Canada)*

Organizational Chart:



30-60-90
Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Submitted for: December 1, 2022

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
30 Days (December)	
COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report Release (Dec 2)	Public release of COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report
60 Days (January)	
Cabinet Confidences	
90 Days (February)	

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Government's overarching approach to building disaster and climate resilient communities is complicated and spread across multiple Ministries, both in terms of strategies and funding opportunities related to disaster and climate risk reduction.

Government needs to provide the public with a more clear and cohesive view across government's various strategies to better demonstrate leadership in building community resilience with Indigenous Nations, local authorities, and other partners. ^{Advice/Recommendations}
Advice/Recommendations

BACKGROUND:

- ^{Advice/Recommendations}

-

-

- Advice/Recommendations

- Advice/Recommendations should not be discussed publicly until it is announced^{Advice/Recommendations}
Advice/Recommendations

STARTING POINT LANGUAGE:

- This is just the beginning, a foundational initiative to build on as we engage, prioritize enhancements and work with First Nations and local governments on how to advance the tool to support their readiness and climate and disaster risk reduction decision making.

POSITIONING:

- Advice/Recommendations
-

NEXT STEPS:

- Multi-Ministry project team is underway and key milestones are being identified.
- Minister will be provided a more detailed briefing early in the new year.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (Consultation Needed)
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Consultation Needed)
- Ministry of Citizens Services (Consultation Needed)

PREPARED BY:

Jordan Turner
Project Lead
Advice/Recommendations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	06/12/22
Associate DM	MSM	06/12/22

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences

Page 047 of 253

Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences

**MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

ISSUE: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Minister's Meeting – December 14th – 16th, 2022

BACKGROUND:

- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management meet on a bi-annual basis with the last meeting in March 2022.
- At that meeting FPT Ministers approved the 2021-22 FPT EM Strategy Interim Action Plan and directed the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM) to enhance Indigenous engagement and inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in the preparation of the 2023-24 FPT EM Strategy Action Plan.
- The FPT Ministers' Meeting is scheduled for December 15 and 16, 2022 (Attachment 1) in Ottawa.
- The first day of the FPT Ministers meeting will be spent in discussion with the Leaders of the following National Indigenous Organizations: the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Metis National Council.
- The objective of these discussions is to share views on priorities for engagement moving forward, including on opportunities for collaboration to address opportunities and challenges identified through lessons learned through recent emergency events
- The day will close with Ceremony for Emergency Management Exemplary Service Awards held at the Canadian Museum of History and an FPT Ministers and Deputy Minister Dinner.
- The second day of the FPT Ministers meeting will be spent receiving updates and discussing the EM Strategy Action Plan Priorities, including a recommended approach for Indigenous Engagement
- The priorities and associated actions proposed for the 2023-24 FPT EM Strategy Action Plan align with BC's interest in advancing public alerting, ensuring the availability of affordable flood insurance and that funding programs such as Disaster Finance Assistance reflect BC's interests and focus on disaster prevention and mitigation activities.
- While these priorities will take a collective effort from Provinces and Territories as well as Public Safety Canada to move forward, BC urges advancement on these important topics.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In March 2022, the FPT Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen collaboration with Indigenous Leadership and requested SOREM include in the development of the 2023-24 Emergency Management Strategy Action Plan.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Madeline Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/12/2022
A.DM	MSM	01/12/2022
ADM	MLM	01/12/2022

Attachment 1: FPT Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Meeting
Agenda December 2022



Building Resiliency Together

**Meeting of Leaders of National Indigenous Organizations and
Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Ministers
Responsible for Emergency Management
on Emergency Management Priorities
December 15, 2022
Victoria Hall, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON + Virtual Option**

Item	Duration
1. Welcome and Meeting Opening	9:30 – 9:35
2. Opening Prayer from Elder	9:35 – 9:45
3. Opening Remarks from FPT Co-Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister Blair• Minister Piwniuk• Minister Mostyn	9:45 – 10:00
4. Opening Remarks from NIO Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFN• MNC• ITK	10:00 – 10:15
5. Scene-Setter: Federal Government and its Role in Indigenous EM and Initiatives <p>OBJECTIVE: Provide short overview of mandates of PS, ISC and CIRNAC with respect to Indigenous Emergency Management, as well as provide an update on key initiatives.</p>	10:15 – 10:30
6. Roundtable Discussion on Recent Emergency Events and Lessons Learned <p>OBJECTIVE: Discuss lessons learned, including gaps and priorities to consider moving forward.</p> <p>A. Perspectives of NIO Leaders: Each NIO will share their perspective (approx. 10 mins each)</p> <p>B. Perspectives of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers: Federal Ministers Blair, Hajdu (TBD), Miller (TBD), Vandal (TBD) and PT Ministers will be invited to share their perspectives</p>	10:30 – 11:30
HEALTH BREAK	11:30 – 11:45



Federal/Provincial/Territorial
Emergency Management Partners



Building Resiliency Together

7. Open Dialogue on Opportunities for Strengthening Emergency Management and Collaboration: All OBJECTIVE: Share views on opportunities for strengthening emergency management and collaboration, informed by lessons learned discussion.	11 :45 – 12 :45
Group Photo and Lunch (12:45 – 13:30)	
8. Moving Forward on Shared Priorities: All OBJECTIVE: Discuss next steps and path forward.	13:30 - 14:15
9. Closing Remarks from NIO Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFN• ITK• MNC	14:15-14:30
10. Closing Remarks from FPT Co-Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister Blair• Minister Piwniuk• Minister Mostyn	14:30-14:45
11. Closing Prayer from Elder	14:45-15:00
Ceremony for EM Exemplary Service Award Canadian Museum of History	16:30 – 18:30
Working Dinner Location TBD	19:00 – 20:30





Building Resiliency Together

**Federal/Provincial/Territorial
Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management**

December 16, 2022

FPT Ministers' Meeting (Victoria Hall, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON + Virtual Option)				
<u>AGENDA</u>				
Item	Objective(s)	Lead(s)	Duration	Action
1. Opening Prayers		Elder	9:00 – 9:10	N/A
2. Welcome and Introductions	Roll call, welcoming remarks and key updates	Co-chairs	9:10 – 9:25	N/A
3. National Public Alerting System	Update on FPT work to support the sustainability and enhancement of the NPAS	AB and PS	9:25 – 9:55	For direction
4. Public Safety Broadband Network	Updates and discussion on work to advance a PSBN for Canada	PS	9:55 – 10:25	For discussion
Group Photo and Health Break (10:25 – 10:45)				
5. Task Force on Flood Insurance	Discuss Task Force Report highlights and next steps to advance Flood Insurance	PS, BC, ON	10:45 – 11:15	For discussion
6. Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Review	Provide update on DFAA Review and next steps	PS	11:15 – 11:45	For discussion
Lunch (11:45 – 12:45)				
7. Humanitarian Workforce / Civilian Response Capacity	Provide updates to PTs on work to advance Civilian response capacity and stakeholder engagement and outreach	PS	12:45 – 13:15	For discussion
8. EM Strategy Action Plan Priorities	Review EM Strategy Action Plan priorities and initiatives for advancing these priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous engagement 	Co-chairs	13:15 – 14:00	For direction
9. Review of Communique		All	14:00 – 14:20	For Approval
10. Closing Remarks and Roundtable		All	14:20 – 14:40	N/A

Co-chairs to prep for Media Availability (15:00 – 15:30)

Media availability with FPT Ministers (15:30 – 16:15)



Federal/Provincial/Territorial
Emergency Management Partners

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: The Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation's statement of fact report: *Adapting to Rising Flood Risk: An Analysis of Insurance Solutions for Canadians*

BACKGROUND:

- For disaster events that have been declared eligible, government uses the Disaster Financial Assistance ("DFA") program, funded under the *Emergency Program Act*, to help residents and communities recover from uninsurable losses.
- DFA is designed as a last resort, providing minimal compensation to return residential and community properties to a pre-disaster state without consideration for mitigation of future risk or "build back better".
- Insurance is more predictable and provides better coverage than DFA, but for the peril of overland flood this insurance isn't readily available, or if available the price can be prohibitive for properties at highest risk of damage from flood events.
- The Government of Canada created the Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation (the "Task Force") in November 2020 with a mandate to explore solutions for a national low-cost flood insurance program for residents in high-risk areas and consider strategic relocation in areas at the highest risk of recurrent flooding.
- Emergency Management BC was an active participant on the Task Force, with EMCR's ADM, Dave Peterson co-chairing the Provincial-Territorial Task Team ("PTT") and additional EMCR representation from the Director of Risk Management and the Manager of Disaster Financial Assistance. Other BC members of the PTT were from the Ministry of Finance and BC Financial Services Authority.
- EMCR engaged with a broader group of government representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Forests, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Municipal Affairs, and other parts of Finance and EMCR, who reviewed and provided feedback on Task Force materials as required.
- The Task Force released its statement of fact report in August 2022, describing the four models examined as potential solutions to the availability and pricing problem for residential overland flood insurance.
- EMCR has learned that Public Safety Canada has collapsed the two "pool" models summarized in the statement of fact report to simplify the decision on a path forward, however EMCR has not been provided any details of the combined model.
- At this stage, BC favours a solution that combines components of both the public insurer and public re-insurer models, while retaining the re-insurer scheme overall as the analysis indicates it may result in better disaster risk reduction outcomes.

- BC will be looking for the final insurance program to feature risk sharing with the insurance industry, clear program sustainability, standardization of coverage and insurance policy wording, and broad participation amongst property policyholders.
- Decisions are pending on which model will be developed into a national flood insurance program and what financial commitment will be expected from provinces.
- At this time, it's unclear to what extent the provinces would be involved in, or could influence, the design and implementation of the national flood insurance program.
- Public Safety Canada has signaled the potential, and BC strongly supports the approach, to eventually expand the program beyond flood to include protection for additional perils such as wildfire, landslide, tsunami and earthquake.
- Regardless of the outcome of the national flood insurance solution, given the growing challenges facing the insurance market and the limitations of DFA, government may wish to evaluate alternative insurance models, including a public insurance option, for all residential (including strata) catastrophic perils in BC.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In parallel with the Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation's work, Indigenous Services Canada and the Assembly of First Nations launched the Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs to examine the specific home flood insurance needs of First Nations on reserves.
- The Steering Committee was the first co-led emergency management initiative between ISC and the Assembly of First Nations and included representatives from First Nations organizations such as the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association and the First Nations Housing Professionals Association, several federal government departments and agencies, Indigenous-owned and conventional insurance firms, and academia.
- The committee engaged 71 First Nations across Canada, gathering key information and obtaining First Nations-specific context regarding home flood risk insurance. The final report will inform future considerations and potential next steps related to flood insurance options on reserve.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Consultation completed with Ministry of Finance, Policy & Legislation Division, Financial Institutions Branch.

PREPARED BY:

Melissa McCabe, Director
Risk Management

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4/22
ADM	JM	Sept 27/22

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Issue:

Role of the Premier During Emergencies

Background:

- BC's statutory framework for emergencies exists within the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) and the regulations made under the EPA.
 - The government has announced plans to repeal and replace the EPA with modernized legislation.
 - Cabinet Confidences
 - there is no express statutory role for the Premier, rather:
 - the minister responsible for the legislation holds statutory powers to declare a provincial state of emergency and to make orders in relation to response actions (e.g., requiring evacuations, restricting travel, etc.); and
 - the Lieutenant Governor in Council also holds statutory powers to declare a provincial state of emergency
- Cabinet Confidences
- Cabinet Confidences).
- It is ordinary for the Premier to be involved in these declarations and response actions in a consultative or advisory capacity. This may be done through usual channels, or in a more long-term scenario, through a newly established process (e.g., Cabinet Working Group on COVID, which is chaired by the Premier).

Issue/Opportunity:

- The Premier also plays an important communications role in emergencies.
 - While emergency legislation provides a legal framework for temporary and extraordinary interventions, the success of those interventions is determined largely by how seriously the population takes the orders.^{Intergovernmental Communications; Security Concern}
 - Statements and appearances by the Premier can add significant gravity to declarations and orders made by the minister, thereby increasing the likelihood of voluntary compliance with emergency orders. During the COVID-19 state of provincial emergency, the Premier addressed the public frequently, highlighting the critical nature of adhering to PHO and emergency orders and strengthening the pressure to comply.
 - The Premier also provides assurance to British Columbians that government is taking the necessary and correct actions to address the emergency. Following the Lytton wildfire, the

Premier visited the site and spoke with those impacted by the wildfire, as well as local government officials.

- The Premier also plays a role in liaising with the federal government and advocating for BC's needs when requesting federal assistance. Following the Lytton wildfire, the Premier met with the Prime Minister to discuss federal government assistance and in response to the 2021 atmospheric river event struck a joint committee to address disaster response and climate resilience.
- Indigenous Peoples have been disproportionately impacted by recent emergencies in BC, with many sharing stories of racism and a lack of cultural safety experienced while taking response actions or while interacting with emergency services during evacuations.
 - Cabinet Confidences
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Next Steps:

- Modernized emergency management legislation is ^{Cabinet Confidences}

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: EMCR overview and role of the Premier and Minister responsible for emergency management during emergencies.

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is the Province's lead agency for coordinating emergency management activities across the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Emergency management and general emergency preparedness in BC is a shared responsibility that includes every household, business, and all levels of government. It begins at the individual level with an understanding of disaster risk, creating an emergency kit, and having a family emergency plan.
- Under the current legislative regime, local authorities are responsible for the development of local emergency plans that support the preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters. Many Indigenous communities are leading emergency management programs across all four pillars of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in support of First Nation's self-determination and resilience.
- The Province through EMCR supports all communities during all phases of emergency management through expert advice, provision of training, participating or co-facilitating exercises, reimbursement of allowable response and recovery expenses, and deployment of resources.
- In addition, EMCR also facilitates the sharing of information through a number of means including:
 1. Proactive public preparedness messaging prior to an emergency
 2. Coordination calls with partners
 3. Establishing an MLA telephone line in the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre
 4. Standing up a Joint Information Centre to support coordinated public messaging.
- Other ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Ministry of Forests' River Forecast Center and BC Wildfire Service also play an active role in emergency management supporting both community preparedness, response and recovery as well as managing impacts to Provincial infrastructure, such as the damage to road and rail corridors during the 2021 Atmospheric River events.

- The Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Minister of Forests, and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Members of the Legislative Assembly also play a strong role through direct communication with elected leaders of First Nations and local authorities, providing an avenue for those leaders to express concerns and be reassured.
- Local MLAs in particular can play a key role in providing information to response and recovery agencies as well as confirming with First Nations and local authorities that concerns are being actioned.
- BC's statutory framework for emergencies exists within the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) and the regulations made under the EPA.

Advice/Recommendations

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- Once an emergency is declared the minister has a suite of powers available to prevent, respond, and alleviate the effect of an emergency or disaster.
- As the statutory decision-maker with primary responsibility for declaring provincial states of emergency, the minister will typically weigh three factors in determining whether to declare (or cancel) a state of emergency:
 1. whether other legislative or policy tools are available (e.g., could other statutes, such as the *Public Health Act*, the *Environmental Management Act*, or the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, or extra-statutory approaches, such as media events, suffice without resorting to extraordinary emergency powers?);
 2. whether the circumstances at hand meet the statutory definition of an "emergency" (i.e., the situation must be present or imminent, triggered by a cause relevant to the definition, and prompt coordination of action must be required); and

3. more subjectively, whether a state of emergency is desirable (e.g., will it spur people to take action or exercise caution, and do those benefits outweigh potential drawbacks, such as complacency that could result from the overuse of states of emergency?).
- While there are legislated durations of provincial and local states of emergency (and they can be extended as necessary), they can be ended before their automatic expiration. The cancellation can be affected by an order of the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
 - It is ordinary for the Premier to be involved in these declarations and response actions in a consultative or advisory capacity. This may be done through usual channels.
 - The Premier also plays an important communications role in emergencies.
 1. While emergency legislation provides a legal framework for temporary and extraordinary interventions, the success of those interventions is determined largely by how seriously the population takes the orders. Enforcement by police and other authorities is generally light.
 2. Statements and appearances by the Premier can add significant gravity to declarations and orders made by the minister, thereby increasing the likelihood of voluntary compliance with emergency orders. During the COVID-19 state of provincial emergency, the Premier addressed the public frequently, highlighting the critical nature of adhering to public health orders and emergency orders and strengthening the pressure to comply.
 3. The Premier also provides assurance to British Columbians that government is taking the necessary and correct actions to address the emergency. Following the Lytton wildfire, the Premier visited the site and spoke with those impacted by the wildfire, as well as local government officials.
 - The Premier also plays a role in liaising with the federal government and advocating for BC's needs when requesting federal assistance. Following the Lytton wildfire, the Premier met with the Prime Minister to discuss federal government assistance and in response to the 2021 atmospheric river event struck a joint committee to address disaster response and climate resilience.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR works directly with First Nations, and indirectly through the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS), to support their varied mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. During emergency events, FNESS staff are integrated into the provincial emergency response structure through Multi-Agency Support Teams, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre, and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres. FNESS also

supports emergency operations centres in First Nations communities when requested.

- Indigenous Peoples have been disproportionately impacted by recent emergencies in BC, with many sharing stories of racism and a lack of cultural safety experienced while taking response actions or while interacting with emergency services during evacuations.
- The proposed new legislation is designed to recognize Indigenous Peoples as decision-makers in emergency management when exercising response and recovery powers.
- As noted above, the Premier, Minister responsible for Emergency Management and the Minister, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation often make timely outreach to First Nations leaders during emergency events and will also include First Nations leaders in statements and appearances as a way of demonstrating the Province's commitment to recognizing the decision-making role of Indigenous Peoples and to cultural safety.
- EMCR coordinates and administers disaster risk reduction funding to First Nations and local governments to improve understanding of disaster risk and for investments in structural and non-structural mitigation projects.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- None.

PREPARED BY:

Ken Craig
Executive Director
Disaster Preparedness

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	29/11/2022
Associate DM	MSM	28/11/2022
ADM RO	MLM	28/11/2022
EL PL&E	GH	25/11/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Central Regional Recovery

BACKGROUND:

- The atmospheric river event of November 2021 resulted in floods and landslides with unprecedented impacts to critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, the evacuation of over 10,000 people and the tragic loss of 2 lives in the Central Region. Damage was most acute in Merritt, Princeton and the Highway 8 Nicola indigenous communities.
- As of September 30, 2022, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) has provided \$22M to communities in the Central Region to support Atmospheric River event response activities.
- Some of this funding supported the City of Merritt, Town of Princeton, the Thompson Nicola Regional District, Okanagan Similkameen Regional District and Nooaitch First Nation in retaining Recovery Managers.
- Recovery plans have been submitted to EMCR from these communities with an estimated value of \$3.6M in 43 proposed DFA (public) recovery projects. As of October 1, 2022, 15 projects have been approved (\$219K paid out), 5 have been deemed ineligible for DFA support and 23 are pending approval.
- Central Region received 759 Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) applications (private sector) and a majority are complete.
- On April 14, 2022, the Province announced \$54M in funding dedicated to targeted recovery support for communities impacted by the Atmospheric River event. The Town of Princeton and City of Merritt have partnered with BC Housing to direct \$13.5M of this funding to interim housing for evacuees in these communities, with the first 20 of approximately 70 qualifying evacuees scheduled to move into temporary homes in the Fall of 2022/Winter 2023.
- EMCR funded the City of Merritt (\$329K) to retain a consultant to prepare Flood Mitigation Planning options. City staff have reached out to EMCR staff to enquire as to access to 15% Mitigation Enhancements funds, per DFAA Interpretation Bulletin No.7, Public Safety Canada, with the intent of funding/partially funding the “combined diking/waterside setback” (est. \$150M) preferred flood mitigation option. Merritt and EMCR staff will continue to work together to finalize detailed projects and spending plans so as to inform timely decisions for funding.
- To date, the Province does not have full accounting of DFAA 2021 AR expenditures to determine an amount that may be eligible for Mitigation Enhancement funding (many DFAA eligible projects are still in the forecasted stage).

- Advice/Recommendations
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- A number of the Nicola Valley Highway 8 Indigenous communities were impacted by the event, the communities of Nooaitch, Shackan and Cook's Ferry sustained significant property damage, land erosion and vehicular access interruptions.
- Trauma to community members due to mass evacuations, home utilities interruptions and food security interruption was significant.
- EMCR staff worked with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other ministries to assist evacuees in the reconstruction/replacement of their homes and to re-establish evacuees in their communities.
- Chiefs of the impacted communities are concerned about reserve land loss due to the event and are also concerned about vulnerability to future events.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR continues to work with partner agencies such as Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Indigenous Services Canada to support community recovery.

PREPARED BY:

Shannon Tucker
Executive Director
Recovery Policy & Planning

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	01/12/2022
ADM	JLM	01/12/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Southwest Regional Recovery

BACKGROUND:

- The atmospheric river event of November 2021 caused floods and landslides with unprecedented impacts to critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, extensive losses to the agriculture sector, the evacuation of over 17,000 people, and the tragic loss of 5 lives. Damage was most acute in the Fraser Valley and the southern interior of the province (Merritt, Princeton).
- Funding support has been approved through Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) for dedicated Recovery Managers for the City of Abbotsford, District of Hope, Fraser Valley Regional District, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, and Chawathil, Skwah, Seabird, Matsqui, Leq'á:mel and Semá:th First Nations.
- Recovery plans have been submitted by 18 communities (public sector) with an estimated value of \$95M and are under review. Government Financial Information
- As of November 30, 2022, projects valued at approximately \$4M have been completed in Abbotsford. This includes:
 - Main Dike permanent repair valued at \$1.6M (Key milestone by Anniversary)
 - Insurance deductible valued at \$500K
 - Various roadworks projects valued at \$600K
 - Parallel Road watermain valued at \$612K
 - Norrish Creek Watermain valued at \$1.3M (Key Milestone by Anniversary)
- Southwest region received 1,270 Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) applications (private sector) and a majority are complete.
- Several landslides impacted private property during the event, and two areas (Pemberton and Chilliwack River Valley) have significant lingering issues of unacceptable risk that prevents individuals from returning home.
- December 2nd the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) contacted the 8 property owners evacuated due to landslide risk to advise that 7 of the property owners will be allowed to return home as the risk has been reduced to an acceptable level. One property will remain under evacuation order.
- EMCR recently received Ministerial approval for a care-based landslide policy approach. Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- EMCR staff continue to work with the Canadian Red Cross to find interim housing solutions for evacuees in the Fraser Valley and the SLRD.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The event has magnified systemic issues in governance and existing programs that are impacting recovery and future disaster resilience in First Nation communities. Many First Nation communities do not have the capacity to thoroughly assess recovery needs or manage large scale recovery efforts. Several First Nations communities are facing recovery issues such as flood damage to homes, infrastructure, cultural losses, loss of traditional food sources as well as issues around debris and land recovery. These issues are often exacerbated by unacceptable pre-existing conditions. Interim housing needs remain a challenge. First Nations will play a key role in disaster management planning going forward, such as long-term solutions to the Nooksack flood risk, and management of the Sumas Prairie.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR continues to work with partner agencies such as Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Indigenous Services Canada to support community recovery.

PREPARED BY:

Perry Grilz
Executive Lead

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	2022-12-03
ADM	JLM	2022-12-01
EL	PG	2022-11-30

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministries:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Ministry of Forests

Issue:

Flood recovery and mitigation efforts in the Sumas Prairie, Nooksack Transboundary Flooding Initiative

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Background:

- The November 2021 Atmospheric River event caused flooding in various parts of the City of Abbotsford (City), and most notably widespread flooding in the Sumas Prairie, due to the Nooksack River overflow from Whatcom County in Washington state. Since the devastating impacts, the City has transitioned from response related activities to short term recovery planning (Disaster Financial Assistance funding) as well as development of broader Sumas Prairie flood mitigation options.
- The City has provided information on four options developed in conjunction with services by Kerr Wood Leidal Associates. While options include Build Back Better aspects and managed retreat, material change to existing land use is limited due in part to the high degree of private land, infrastructure development and importance of agricultural production from the Sumas Prairie. Information regarding the four proposed options has been shared publicly.
- The City announced their preferred option on June 13, 2022 and sent a letter to the Premier on June 27th sharing the preferred option and a request to advance funding for a new Sumas River pump station, limited scope dike improvements and improvements to the Barrowtown pump station (Phase 1). The City has identified the new Sumas River pump station as a critical need to address flood box deficiencies which caused the back-up of the Sumas River in November and subsequent flooding. Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Government Financial Information;
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
-

- In March 2022, Premier Horgan and Washington Governor Inslee announced cooperation to convene an ongoing Nooksack Transboundary Flooding Initiative to address flooding prevention and to identify sustainable solutions to mitigate risks of Nooksack River overflow flood events, which includes flooding across the border into Sumas Prairie. An interim working group of staff from First

Nations, Local, Provincial and State governments has begun to meet to discuss design of the initiative. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Issue/Opportunity:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Nooksack River Transboundary Partnership

BACKGROUND:

- The Nooksack River runs through Whatcom County in Washington, and when it overflows after heavy rains, it spills into the Sumas Prairie in the Fraser Valley. This was a significant problem in November 2021 during the atmospheric river event, and the flooding from last year was not an isolated incident. A similar flood in November 1990 resulted in property damage in the Fraser Valley and the closure of the Trans-Canada Highway for 26 hours.
- Significant diking and pump station infrastructure is in place in the Fraser Valley to protect communities from flooding, but this infrastructure is aging and was not designed for the flows of water that are present when a major freshet or fall flooding season occurs.
- On December 15, 2020, Premier Horgan appointed MLA Rick Glumac as Premier's Liaison for the State of Washington.
- On March 15, 2022, the Premier and the Governor of Washington issued a news release that announced further bilateral cooperation between both governments to address flooding issues. The initiative is meant to:
 - Respond to the more frequent and severe flooding caused by climate change
 - Bring together the necessary resources and the relevant experts to help identify, evaluate and advance solutions
 - Drive the design of projects and programs and identify sources of funding
 - Establish a governance framework to ensure durable pathways for cross-border collaboration.
- Since March, Washington officials have consulted with Tribes, local governments, and industry associations. Provincial staff have engaged extensively with the City of Abbotsford and local First Nations on the initiative.
- A three-tiered governance model will be used that consists of a leadership table of elected officials, a policy/steering table comprised of senior staff, and a technical table.
- Indigenous, local, provincial, state, and federal governments will be present at all three tables, and a neutral facilitator will be cost-shared between B.C. and Washington to ensure that all voices are provided the opportunity for input.
- Recently, the technical and policy tables have held meetings in September, and they will continue to do so on approximately a bi-monthly cadence.

- Decisions are still needed for which elected officials will form the leadership table.
- As part of this initiative, a small delegation undertook a technical site visit to the Nooksack River on July 21. A second technical site visit, co-hosted by the City of Abbotsford and the Sumas First Nation, took place on September 29, and included Global Affairs Canada and the U.S. Consulate General based in Vancouver.
- The next key milestone will be the signature of a “working together” MOU between the various levels of government who are partnering on this initiative.
- Ongoing engagement of the Canadian and U.S. federal governments will be paramount to secure the necessary funds to complete projects to reduce flood risk in the Sumas Prairie.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are significant reconciliation opportunities embedded within this work, and this is because the area now known as Sumas Prairie used to be Sumas Lake.
- Sumas Lake was drained in 1920 to create more agricultural land for settlers, and it was a key food source for the Sumas people. To this day there is an important spiritual and sociocultural connection to the land where the lake used to be.
- Three First Nations are most impacted by flooding from the Nooksack River – Se:math, Leq’á:mel, and Matsqui. All of these nations are members of the Sto:lo Nation Chiefs Council. On the U.S. side of the border, the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation are engaged in this work.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (Office of the Premier), and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

PREPARED BY:

Paul Squires, Executive Lead
BC Recovery & Resiliency Secretariat

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 11, 2022

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministries:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Issue:

Lytton Recovery

Background:

- On June 30, 2021, the Lytton Creek wildfire swept through the Village of Lytton and across Nlaka'pamux territory, prompting an immediate evacuation.
- Approximately 90% of the village was destroyed including the village office and public works buildings, police station, ambulance station, public library, and most of the commercial and service infrastructure, with additional structures lost on Lytton First Nations reserve lands and within the Thompson Nicola Regional District outside of the Village.
- Prior to the fire, the Village of Lytton had a population of approximately 250 residents with an additional 4,500 people living in the surrounding rural area that relied on it as a service hub.
- The Lytton Creek fire caused catastrophic loss of public and private infrastructure for the community of Lytton, mass displacement of residents, and complete loss of public records. This combined with impacts from the November 2021 atmospheric river event, and with environment and archaeological considerations have extended timelines for recovery.
- Coordinated by MUNI and EMCR, the Province has provided significant support to the Village of Lytton to aid in their recovery, including:
 - In December 2021, a \$1 million grant from FLNRORD for operational and economic development activities so that the Village of Lytton could continue to pay staff leading the wildfire recovery in the community.
 - In February 2022, more than \$8.3 million in funding through MUNI to support ongoing core Village operations and municipal recovery for a period of three years.
 - In April 2022, an \$18.4 million grant from EMCR to cover the costs of debris removal, archaeological monitoring, and soil remediation for municipal and all uninsured and underinsured properties in the Village.
 - In July 2022, an additional \$21 million through EMCR to cover the cost of critical services to enable the rebuild, municipal infrastructure repairs, recovery staffing, planning, and engagement.
 - An exclusive Recovery Team, including a dedicated Assistant Deputy Minister, working side-by-side with the Village leadership and staff.
 - Legislated provisions added to the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act* to support the Village council to repeal and replace lost bylaws.
- The federal government recently announced funding of \$64 million for resilient municipal infrastructure, \$6 million to support net-zero home reconstruction and \$7.2 million to help

businesses; EMCR, MUNI and JERI are working with federal partner agencies (Infrastructure Canada and PacifiCan), however Canada has still not provided clarity on the parameters for delivery of this funding.

- See attached Appendix A for a chronology of events from June 30, 2021, to present.

Issue/Opportunity:

- With the supports provided to-date, and progress seen, the Village of Lytton and Lytton First Nation should be in a position to allow rebuilding to commence in the 2023 building season and to begin to rebuild a resilient, sustainable community better prepared for the future.
- The Village has re-created their key bylaws, has hired a permanent Chief Administrative Officer and is in the process of filling other key staff positions; combined with the election of a new Mayor and Council in October, the Village should be in a position to assume full leadership of the recovery and rebuild, and the Province should be able to move into more of a support role and ministries such as Municipal Affairs should be able to resume their mandated program support to the Village's governance and infrastructure.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Next Steps:

- The Village's Recovery staff predict that the clean-up of the site to full environmental and health standards will be completed by the end of January 2023, and that all key infrastructure (hydro, water, etc.) will be in place by spring 2023.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Appendix A

LYTTON RECOVERY – CHRONOLOGY

June 30, 2021:

- Third day of record heat wave across BC.
- Over 50 degrees Celsius in Lytton and strong winds from the South.
- At 6:00 pm, wildfire erupted on the south edge of the Village of Lytton.
 - Within 2 hours, 90% of the Village and of 2 Indian Reserves burned.
 - Evacuees dispersed widely across BC through an unplanned evacuation.
 - 150 properties were burned, including commercial and service centre.
 - Village office and public works were destroyed, as well as all Village records.
 - Lytton First Nations office and 39 homes were destroyed on LFN land.

July 1 to December 31, 2021:

- Canada and BC provided commitment letters to Nlaka’pamux Nations (NNTC) for funding and shared leadership over recovery.
- BC, through EMCR, provides recovery support to Village residents; Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) takes the lead for recovery supports to Lytton First Nation.
- Significant turmoil and turnover within key Village recovery staff during this period.
- 1 Village councillor resigns, and Village Mayor and Council challenged to provide leadership.
- November Atmospheric River event impacts water intake and severs Highway access to Lytton for many weeks.
- Widespread public and media dialogue challenging the rate of progress throughout the fall and winter.
- Initial \$1M Provincial funding to support Village operations and payroll.
- Village staff put a significant focus on re-creating their records, bylaws, etc.

January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 (1 year anniversary of the fire):

- BC provides \$8.3M to fund the running of the Village over the next 3 years.
- Lytton First Nations makes significant progress on clean-up and housing, with dedicated funds and established programs from ISC.
- BC enters into Partnership Agreement with Village to support Village leadership and capacity.
- Shift in focus from recovering the Village operations and records to preparing for the site clean-up.
- LFN hosts the Village residents at a 1-year anniversary gathering; general sentiment of hope amongst the residents attending.

July 1, 2022, to present:

- Village coordinates clean-up for municipal and uninsured properties; BC provides \$18.4 M to protect archeological values during the clean-up and address significant site contamination.
- Clean-up funding and co-ordination extended to include “underinsured” properties.
- Canada provides \$77M for net zero and fire smart supports (program parameters still not finalized and communicated).
- Province provides additional \$21M for recovery support, to prepare for the rebuild.
- Site cleanup progress slowed due to complexities around archeology and contaminated sites (currently projected to complete in January 2023).
- Key infrastructure (BC Hydro, etc.) projected in place for rebuild for
- Significant complexities arising around protection of the archeological resource (have been many finds within the site cleanup); Village and BC considering implications to rebuild timelines as per Appendix B.

Advice/Recommendation

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Broadcast Intrusive Alerting

BACKGROUND:

NATIONAL PUBLIC ALERTING SYSTEM

- A Broadcast Intrusive (BI) public alert is issued for an imminent threat to public life or safety through radio, television and/or wireless devices and which the public cannot opt out of receiving.
- Issuance of BI public alerts are governed in Canada by the National Public Alerting System, a collaborative Federal-Provincial-Territorial initiative.
- Alert Ready is the public-facing brand name of the system employed by the National Public Alerting System and is run by Pelmorex (the Weather Network), a private company.
- The Canadian Radio-TV and Telecommunications Commission mandates that all radio, television, and cellular providers transmit Alert Ready BI alerts.
- In 2015, the Alert Ready BI public alerting system, which allowed the issuance of radio and television alerts, was launched in Canada, and adopted in BC. In 2018, BC added the capacity to deliver Alert Ready BI alerts to compatible wireless devices.
- Under the National Public Alerting System Environment and Climate Change Canada is the authorized issuer of Alert Ready BI alerts for extreme weather events; and the Province is the primary authorized issuer of all other Alert Ready BI alerts.
- The RCMP issue Amber and civil emergency (police incident) alerts in BC under the delegated authority of the Province.
- Many First Nations and Local Authorities across BC have acquired subscription-based, non-BI alert mass notification products (e.g., Alertable, Voyent); some products can receive and re-broadcast Alert Ready BI alerts.
- Community alerting systems may include subscription-based phone, email or text systems, sirens and individuals going door-to-door. These systems are important during tsunami events as local effects can vary greatly based on area geography.
- Under the *Emergency Program Act's* 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."

PUBLIC ALERTING PROGRAM:

- Tsunami notification protocols have been established since 2015 and include use of Alert Ready as part of the Provincial Emergency Notification System used by the Province to alert First Nations and Local Authorities, key partner agencies and media outlets of potential tsunami events by phone, email, and fax.
- In 2022, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) led the expansion of its Provincial BI Alerting program to include alerts for flooding, wildfire, and heat events that pose an imminent threat to public safety and where urgent action is required by the public.
- As of April 2022, BC First Nations and Local Authorities can request BI alerts from EMCR for flooding events; as of June 2022, this service is available for of wildfire events.
- In addition, EMCR implemented BI alerting for Extreme Heat Emergencies based on the Province's newly released Heat Alert Response System (HARS) in 2022.
- In April 2022, EMCR provided First Nations and Local Authorities with project updates and just-in-time training for requesting a BI Alert through EMCR.
- From April to August 2022, EMCR undertook internal training sessions and exercising with the public alerting operational roles.
- In 2022, a total of six BI Alerts have been issued in BC:
 - 2 Alerts issued by EMCR for wildfire events (at the request of communities)
 - 2 Amber Alerts issued by the RCMP
 - 3 Civil Emergencies issued by the RCMP (all for the same event and on the same day)
- Lessons learned from this year's expansion of BI Alerting will be used to strengthen the overall public alerting program.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- BI alerting depends on reliable broadcast and wireless networks and towers. Remote First Nation communities with limited access to broadcast and/or wireless connectivity will be at a greater risk for lack of BI alerting availability.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests- BC Wildfire Service
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Health
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Public Safety Canada

PREPARED BY:

Katie Reid, Manager Public Alerting
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	09/29/2022
A.DM	MSM	09/27/2022
ADM	MLM	09/27/2022
ED	IC	09/26/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Reimbursement Process for Emergency Support Services Suppliers and Local Authorities and First Nations Response Claims

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a provincial program led by Emergency Management and Climate Resilience (EMCR). It is administered on behalf of the Province by Local Authorities and First Nations through use of volunteers to provide emergency food, lodging, clothing, transportation, and incidentals to evacuees.
- Supports are provided through a registration and referral system that relies on the Local Authorities and First Nations to enter and maintain vendor relationships to facilitate reimbursement for the eligible support through the provincial government.
- In April 2020, EMCR introduce Evacuee, Registration and Assistance Tool (ERA) to enable digital delivery ESS. In June 2022, direct payment (by Interac e-Transfer) for evacuees was introduced.
- Direct payments allow evacuees to decide where to purchase food, clothing, and incidentals and eliminates the need for suppliers to seek reimbursement from the Province. The digital system also provides for case management of registrants and suppliers, additional privacy and security features, and enhanced auditing and reporting capacity.
- To date 88 communities, including 14 First Nations, have onboarded the ERA tool, which was used in several large events, including 2021 wildfire and atmospheric river events and again throughout the 2022 wildfire season.
- EMCR also processes reimbursements for response costs from local authorities and First Nations related to emergency events. EMCR has dedicated resources to support the timely review and payment of these claims however for provincial level events like the atmospheric river the volume and complexity of claims review can take up to 120 days.
- Both ESS claims and response claims are funded through the *Emergency Program Act* vote. Costs which exceed the budgeted amount are funded through the associated statutory spending authority.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR works closely with Indigenous communities and other partners to ensure ESS is delivered in a culturally safe manner and meets the needs of those receiving supports. Cost associated with on reserve response and recovery costs are reimbursed by the Federal government consistent with the *Bilateral Emergency Services Agreement*.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:

Madeline Maley
Associate Deputy Minister
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	09/29/2022
A.DM	MSM	09/27/2022
ADM	AC	09/27/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Financial Reimbursement for Response Costs

BACKGROUND:

- Under the *Emergency Program Act* and the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation*, local authorities can receive 100% reimbursement of eligible emergency response costs incurred during an emergency or disaster.
- First Nations are eligible under federal legislation to receive financial assistance for eligible response costs and under a bi-lateral agreement between the Province and Indigenous Service Canada (ISC). Claims and payments are administered through EMCR for First Nations in the same manner as for local authorities. The same eligibility and documentation requirements for BC disaster financial assistance that apply to local authorities also apply to First Nations.
- In defining what is eligible for reimbursement, the Province defines response as those efforts that save lives, reduce suffering, protect property, and other immediate objectives to reduce threats from emergencies. Response may begin before impact if early information warns of an imminent event and may continue if the event is in progress, or an imminent threat exists. Example of these cost include actions to prepare for flooding or evacuation activities.
- The reimbursement process requires a local governments or first nations communities to complete three steps:
 - Establish eligibility
 - EMCR has published guidelines to support the community reimbursement process. In addition, EMCR staff provide training and, in some circumstances, hands-on support to ensure that claims are processed in a timely manner.
 - Meet documentation requirements
 - Claims must include invoices, receipts, payroll records, contracts and proof of payment.
 - Submit a response claim
 - Multiple submissions are encouraged for lengthy or large-scale events versus a single submission after the event. If documentation is missing, it will delay/prevent reimbursement.
- In determining what is eligible for reimbursement, the Province applies the following criteria:

- The type of event– most natural hazard events will qualify. Some events such as extreme heat or cold must meet certain threshold before being considered eligible.
 - The size or magnitude of the event – e.g. localised flooding may not qualify for reimbursement.
 - The nature of the expenditure – only response expenses and staff time over-and-above normal day-to-day costs are eligible and must be required to preserve public safety related to a specific event.
 - Whether compensation may occur through other means, such as insurance, lawsuits, responsible parties.
 - The amount of the expenditure, to ensure a cost-effective and prudent allocation of resources.
- During emergency events such as flooding, and wildfires communities will be reimbursed for costs such as:
 - Emergency Operations Centre Costs including food and water for volunteers, room rentals, office supplies etc.
 - Purchase of sandbags, crews to remove danger trees, geotechnical assessments.
 - In the case of extreme heat, EMCR follows the guidance in the BC Heat and Response System (HARS) which provides temperatures thresholds and actions to mitigate impacts. EMCR has developed guidance for communities detailing eligible expenses during an extreme heat event.
 - For example, the Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs Addendum – Eligibility Assessment for Heat Emergency (Attachment 1).
 - In the case of extreme cold, EMCR will reimburse, at a community's request for warming centres. Shelters are the responsibility of BC Housing.
 - Similarly, EMCR has developed guidance to clarify eligible costs for communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - EMCR is focussed on continuous improvement. Current efforts underway include:
 - Centralization of response claims
 - Transition from paper-based to electronic submissions
 - Implementing MS Dynamic database tool
 - Improving communication

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous communities have expressed concerns regarding their capacity and capability to submit claims. EMCR is working with communities, the First Nations Emergency Services Society and Indigenous Services Canada to provide increase training, build capacity and simplify processes to facilitate timely reimbursement.
- Indigenous communities have also expressed a desire for community-led emergency management programs across all four pillars of emergency management including manage funds to support activities as part of First Nation self-determination and resilience.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Madeline L. Maley
ADM Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	06/12/2022
Associate DM	MSM	06/12/2022
ADM	MLM	02/12/2022

Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs Addendum - Eligibility Assessment for Heat Emergency			
<p>Task numbers may be requested when Environment and Climate Change Canada issues a Heat Warning or an Extreme Heat Emergency, in support of a community's response. The best way to ensure the eligibility of your expense is to submit an Expense Authorization Form (EAF) to EMBC for approval. The EAF provides the details of the expenditure, its rationale, and an estimate of the total expense for the response activity. Incremental costs will be considered for an extreme heat emergency, a forecasted extreme heat emergency, or heat warning where actions are taken as outlined in the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (HARS).</p>			
Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
Bottled Water	Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottled water made available at community cooling centre facilities Bottled water distributed during health and wellness checks where water is not readily available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottled water purchased for distribution to private residences or locations that have water readily available
Staff Overtime	Wages and Overtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental overtime for current staff to keep civic facilities open as cooling centres outside of normal operating hours Incremental costs for the wages of temporary auxiliary staff hired under contract specifically to support a designated cooling centre facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overtime wages that cannot be attributed to event Regular wages and benefits of employees Base operating costs, such as salaries or regular wages of employees, Compensatory Time Off (CTO) or banked overtime Excessive overtime and benefit rate payments
Day and night facility for use as Cooling Centres Cooling Centres are not Group Lodging Facilities	Facility Rental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental of a non-local authority or First Nation facility for the provision of a cooling centre Incremental janitorial and utilities costs Incremental security costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental of community-owned facility or loss of use charges
Transportation to and from Cooling Centres	Emergency Response Measures Community Partner incremental costs need to be run through contracting Local Government or First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial transportation of community members to and from cooling centers as needed in communities where no reliable public transportation exists or deemed to be not appropriate by a First Nation or Local Authority Mileage reimbursement at Provincial government rates for vehicles operated by a First Nation and local authority for the transportation of community to and from cooling centres where no reliable transportation exists Use of Taxis will be considered on a case-by-case basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation costs where other reasonable alternatives exist
Emergency Services	Fire Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental costs to fire services responding to increased heat related medical calls, specifically, operational response to assist with supporting medical emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine operations supporting medical response

Messaging	Emergency Response Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print, radio, and social media messages to local population amplifying ECCC and/or HEMBC messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messaging unrelated to heat wave response and/or unapproved by ECCC and/or HEMBC
Support for wellness checks	Materials Wages or overtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental overtime for Local and First Nations Government staff to provide “Just in Time” training for wellness checks Incremental costs for Local and First Nations Governments to provide additional materials, additional transport costs, or tools to do wellness checks (e.g., thermometer and bottles of water) When working under the request of a First Nation or Local Government, incremental costs incurred by a Community Partner or NG Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training that can be planned for in advance of a heatwave
Community Partner organization requested by a First Nation or Local Government to operate cooling centers	Wages or overtime for organizations contracted by First Nations and Local Governments *Costs should be run through contracting Local Government or First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental overtime for organizational staff keeping facilities open as cooling centres outside of normal operating hours Incremental janitorial and utilities costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular salaries or straight time for current staff; benefits and taxes; and the incremental payroll expenses
Cultural Supports	Community Navigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental costs for Community Navigator(s) connecting public with supports provided by First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and/or other Cultural organizations 	
Cultural Supports	Cultural Activity Locations Support(CALS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental costs for activities aimed at providing culturally appropriate services at cooling centres Incremental costs associated with a dedicated space within or close to a cooling centre, or when requested by a community, a separate designated gathering space where culturally appropriate services can be provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental of a community-owned facility or loss of use charges
Cooling device rental for Cooling Centres		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of cooling device rentals Incremental utility expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooling device costs submitted in the absence of a prior approved EAF
Basic snacks and bottled water at day and night facilities	Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snacks for the general public at community cooling centre facilities For example, fresh fruit and vegetables, muffins, yogurt, or comfort snacks such as donuts, popcorn Culturally appropriate snacks as determined by a First Nation or Local Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food purchased for distribution to private residences Meals provided at day and night facilities

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: DFA Program Overview & Operations Metrics – Private Sector

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is a provincial program, administered by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), to help individuals and local governments recover from uninsurable losses in a disaster.
- Compensation through DFA covers 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.
- DFA operates under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) and the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation. Compensation under DFA is not intended to provide for losses in the same way as insurance and not all property owners will meet the DFA eligibility criteria as defined in the Act and Regulations.
- The 2021 Atmospheric River event is the single largest event in the DFA program's history.
- On average, the program receives 450 applications per year across multiple events. The program has reached 2,298 applications for only the 2021 Atmospheric River event.

Private Sector Application Statistics

Summary – volume & status of applications	October 19, 2022	Percentage	November 29, 2022	Percentage
Currently open and under assessment	472	20%	250	11%
Closed with payment (eligible)	828	36%	949	41%
Closed without payment (ineligible or withdrawn)	846	37%	947	41%
Transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to be assessed under the 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security	152	7%	152	7%
TOTAL	2,298	100%	2298	100%

- As of November 29, 2022, 949 payments have been issued for approximately \$27.1 million paid to applicants across BC.
- Of all currently open and under assessment files, 64 are awaiting additional information before processing/eligibility assessment can continue. This represents 25.6% of all files that are currently open and under assessment or 2.7% of all applications.

- Farm owners (152, or 7%) are being assisted with their farm business-related damages through the Canada-BC 2021 Canada-British Columbia Flood Recovery Program for Food Security.
- Applications have been received from every region of the province, with the largest number of applications received from the communities of Abbotsford (681); Merritt (493); Chilliwack (239); and Princeton (189).
- To support the surge in applications, EMCR implemented several operational, regulatory, and program policy changes to expedite application handling including:
 - Authorizing an increase in the number of staff and utilizing consultants;
 - Remote evaluation for tenant applications with claims under an estimated value of \$7,500; and,
 - Regulation changes to expand eligibility to cover more people, landlords and small businesses and increased the limit to assistance from \$300,000 to \$400,000.
- In addition to the recent changes, staff continue to work on options for government's consideration around complex issues (e.g. landslide policy review, ^{Government Financial Information} Government Financial Information)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Under the 10 year bi-lateral Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement signed in 2017 between Canada and the Province, the Province agrees to provide equivalent emergency management services, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery on reserve.
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) reimburses 100% of recovery costs for Indigenous people living on reserve, ISC provides no funding to those living off reserve.
- Indigenous applicants living on reserve in a privately owned home, or renting a home, apply for DFA under the private sector side of the program and are paid directly for their damaged structure and/or contents as applicable.
- Indigenous communities apply to the public sector side of the program for support with community infrastructure, including band-owned homes.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not Applicable

PREPARED BY:

Catherine Morrison, Manager, Recovery Funding (Private Sector)

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	12/01/2022
ADM	JM	11/30/2022

Attachments(s):

- **Appendix A: Private Sector DFA Applications Evaluation Information**

Appendix A: Private Sector DFA Applications Evaluation Information

Supplementary Information on Eligibility for Disaster Financial Assistance

- Each application category must meet certain DFA requirements to qualify.
 - For example, all applicants must have eligible damages under the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation; they must have uninsurable losses; and they generally need to have not received a DFA payment twice previously.
- Each application category also has specific eligibility criteria.
 - As an example, homeowners and residential tenants may only apply in relation to their principal residence and must be able to demonstrate the address where the damages have occurred is their principal residence (e.g., homeowners must be eligible for a homeowner grant).
- The key stages of handling an application are to (1) confirm an applicant's basic eligibility, (2) refer the applicant's file to the provincially funded evaluator who prepares an estimate of damages recommended for payment under the DFA program (based on a site visit in most circumstances), and (3) make a determination on the application, issuing a payment assuming the applicant is confirmed to have eligible damages.

Claim amounts and eligible expenses

- The Regulation requires the payment of the least cost option out of:
 - The cost to repair the structure to the condition it was in immediately before the disaster;
 - The cost to rebuild the structure;
 - The cost to replace the structure; or
 - The assessed value of the structure.
- The amount of assistance payable in respect of any private sector applicant's claim is 80% of the amount by which the amount of the accepted claim exceeds \$1,000, to a maximum payable under this Part for an accepted claim of \$400,000 (increased limit to assistance ratified in September 2022).
- The Regulation defines eligible expenses for each category of private-sector applicant, which are limited to what the Regulation defines as essential items. The amount compensated for damaged or destroyed contents is limited to the value of a basic model replacement of the damaged item.

Examples of reasons for outstanding information from the applicant or third party

- Required documents to support application – there is a complete set of documents needed to confirm that the applicant meets basic eligibility before the file gets assigned to the field manager for an assessment of the applicant's damages.
- Lack of clarity from the insurance company – the company says an applicant declined to buy insurance, but the applicant says they did not, and DFA needs a subsequent letter from the insurance company confirming if, how and when the applicant declined to buy the insurance.

- Covenants – an applicant has a covenant on the property requiring the homeowner to build the building a particular elevation in order to mitigate flood risk, so the field manager must contact the local government to check conformity with the covenant.
- If we do not receive a response to a minimum of one phone call and two email attempts to contact the applicant, we will send a “21 day letter” informing the applicant of the information missing and that their application will be closed if they do not respond within 21 days.

Examples of file complexity that takes more time for processing DFA application:

- Unclear ownership – e.g. an applicant’s driveway is damaged, but we need to establish who owns the driveway.
- Small business financial complexity – e.g. the program needs to verify documentation that a small business owner had the minimum amount of revenue to qualify, or needs to consider factors like whether the applicant is the day-to-day manager of the business.
- Added due diligence situations – e.g. two applicants who are roommates have both claimed the same items.
- Geotechnical assessment – e.g. an evaluator makes a visit to look at damage to a home, but finds there is complexity such as land movement or slope failure that requires a professional opinion. The evaluator then needs to arrange for a geotech to attend the property. The geotech might need prior engineering reports to assess the cause of the situation or how best to fix it.

Examples of reasons that an applicant may be found to be ineligible for DFA:

- Damages were not eligible (e.g. land erosion; pre-existing damage);
- Damage to non-essential items; and damages valued at less than the \$1,000;
- Insurance deductibles are not eligible for DFA funding;
- Applicant has insurance sufficient to cover the damages;
- The applicant declined to purchase insurance;
- The home is not the applicant’s principal residence and/or the applicant is not eligible for the homeowner grant, in the case of homeowner applicant;
- Small businesses, farm owners, and charitable organizations must also meet eligibility criteria specific to their categories.

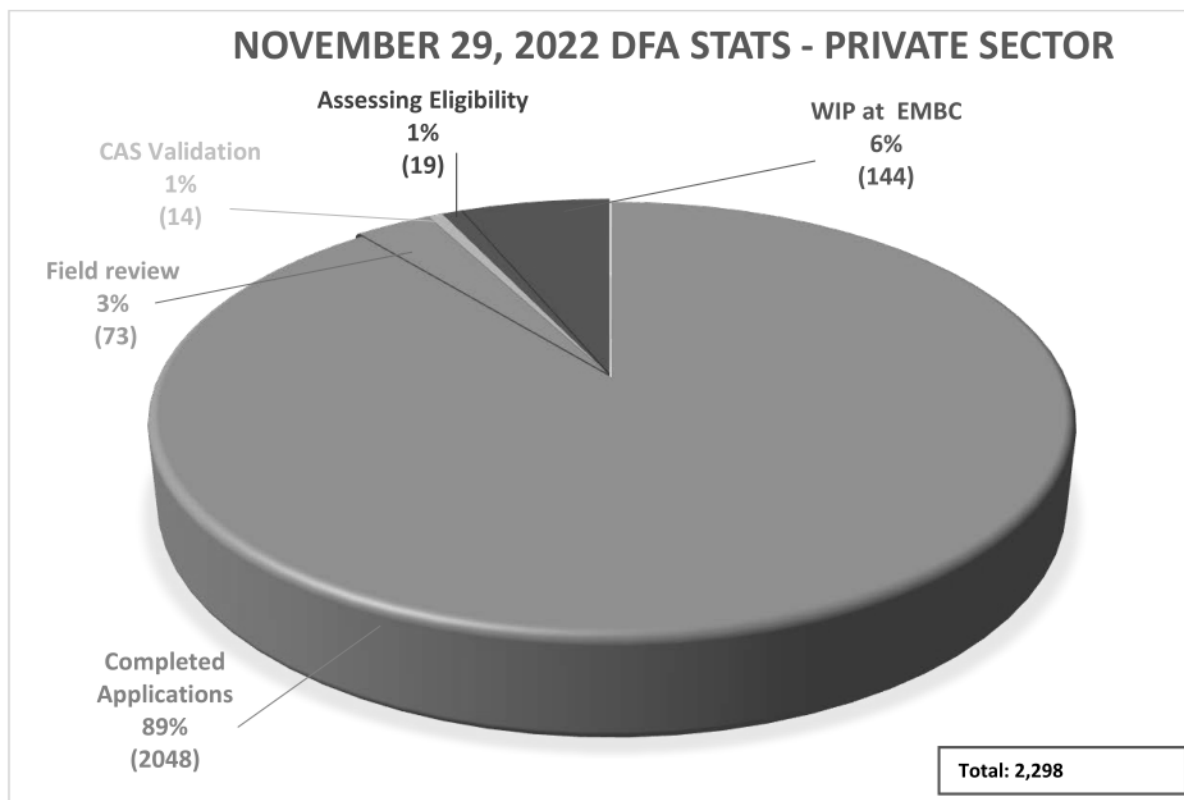
Disaster Financial Assistance

For the Atmospheric River Event – November 15 to December 5, 2021

Data reported as of November 29, 2022

Highlights:

- \$27,117,363.27 payments issued to date, an increase of \$940K in the last 7 days
- 2,298 applications received. **250** applications remaining to be processed.
- **2%** increase in completed applications since November 22, 2022.
- **Approximately 100 complex files require additional supporting information not immediately available which may delay completion of all applications for December 31, 2022. New target for completing complex files by January 20, 2023.**
 - **These files are complex because they are primarily small business files that came in at the July 2022 transition window cut off. They are complex because we need to review business financials, commercial insurance policies, permits and additional documents to determine eligibility.**



Next milestone: December 13, 2022 is 2126 or 92% of applications completed following the implementation plan.

Key Updates (change in bold):

- 1) **204** – 21 day letters have been issued for non-responsive applications since July 4th.
- 2) Ongoing work by DFA staff is continuing to fully realize the new data system benefits and effectiveness.
- 3) **MNP contact ends November 30, 2022. Remaining applications require active management.**
- 4) **Nov 30, 2022 sending non-eligibility letters to six FVRD landslide applicants.**

Legend Description:

- Completed Applications – Closed, paid, withdrawn, or transferred to Agriculture
- Field Review – Applications assigned to Field Manager for review
- CAS Validation – Applications waiting for entry into CAS for payment
- Assessing Eligibility – Applications awaiting assignment to field manager
- WIP at EMBC – Work-In-Progress includes applications at various stages at EMBC (waiting for documents from applicants, internal checks (HOG), compliance checks, QR approval, etc.)

**MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

ISSUE: DFA Program Overview & Operations Metrics – Public Sector

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is a provincial program, administered by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), to help individuals and local governments recover from uninsurable losses in a disaster.
- Public sector DFA programs provide communities with reimbursement for repair of essential infrastructure, which was damaged in a DFA eligible event.
- Program staff develop an understanding of what infrastructure was damaged and assist communities in creating an Infrastructure Cost Recovery Plan (ICRP) for approval by EMCR.
- The ICRP's outline the intended repair plan and estimated costs. Once approved the community may begin to submit claims against that project for the work, which must be completed within 18 months.
- The top three projects most commonly requested on ICRP's consist of road repair, slope stabilization and dike repairs.
- The 2021 Atmospheric River event is the single largest event in DFA program's history and has placed the greatest demand ever on the program area.

Public Sector (Indigenous communities, local governments, and other public sector applicants) (Updated November 29, 2022)

- To date, 52 public sector applicants have requested support from the DFA Program for the 2021 Atmospheric River event from across the province, representing 364 infrastructure projects.
- 10 files have been closed as communities have completed their works, or have withdrawn their request for support.
- The number of infrastructure projects identified is anticipated to grow as communities progress through their recovery.
- As of November 29, 2022, of the 52 communities, 32 have been supported in drafting or have submitted ICRP's for an approximate value of \$100M.

- The approximate value of approved ICRPs by region are:

Region	Initial \$ request from communities	Total \$ of ICRP approval (100%)	Total claims paid
November 29, 2022			
Central	\$1,998,754	\$4,991,750.37	\$0
Southwest	\$95,353,784	\$5,191,572	\$793,768
Vancouver Island	\$2,549,194	\$219,016	\$114,887
Total	\$99,901,732	\$10,402,340	\$908,656

- There is an unknown number of projects that communities have yet to submit for consideration. As assessments continue, communities will add eligible projects to their ICRPs.
- The DFA program has engaged with communities to support the creation of a recovery plan, the program notes more than 70% of communities have at least one draft infrastructure ICRP.
- Most communities without ICRP's are actively engaged with the program to share the required information prior to receiving DFA decision. (e.g. ownership, level of insurance, assessments ongoing, cross ministry coordination required).

Program Changes

- The changes made to the regulation in spring 2022, for communities impacted by disaster events after November 17, 2021, have been well received.
 - Communities may be eligible to receive up to 50% of their approved project amount as an advance in order to support initial project works, secure the required professionals, and begin their recovery;
 - For municipalities and regional districts, regulation change from the 80%/20% cost share to a revised per capita cost-share at 95%/5% with a 10% cap; and
 - For all other public sector applicants, regulation change from the 80%/20% cost share to a revised 95%/5% cost share.
- EMCR has recently retained the services of a multidisciplinary professional service provider to support the existing portfolio of work.
 - The agreement supports the operational program requirements to review projects under the scope of the regulation; and
 - It also supports the program in providing general construction management guidance and knowledge to communities across the province.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Under the 10-year bi-lateral Emergency Management Services Funding Agreement signed in 2017 between Canada and the Province, the Province agrees to provide equivalent emergency management services, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery on reserve.
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) reimburses 100% of recovery costs for Indigenous communities on reserve, ISC provides no funding for community infrastructure off reserve.
- Indigenous communities on reserve apply for DFA under the public sector side of the program and are paid directly for their damaged structure and/or materials as applicable.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- No other ministries were consulted.

PREPARED BY:

Rachelle Carey, Manager
Recovery Funding (Public Sector)

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	12/01/2022
ADM	JLM	11/30/2022

Disaster Financial Assistance

Monthly data report for November 2022

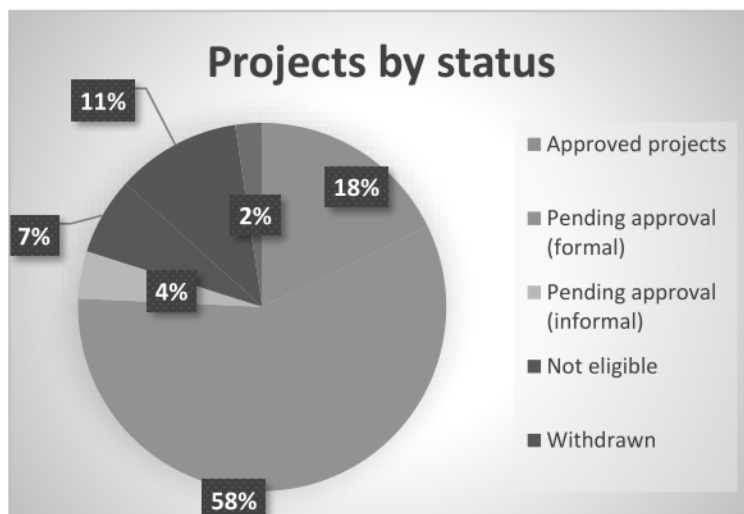
PUBLIC SECTOR

HIGHLIGHTS FOR ATMOSPHERIC RIVER

- 52 communities have applied for DFA. 42 remain open, 10 have completed their projects or withdrawn their request.
- 32 of 52 have been supported by program staff in drafting or have submitted their own Cost Recovery Plan'(s) (CRP) for an approximate value of \$ 100M ¹
 - 21 communities are being supported in creating, or streamlining their existing, infrastructure recovery plan through provincially sourced technical professionals, at no cost to communities.
 - Of the 20 open applications from indigenous communities, 11 have received approval from EMBC for their projects, representing \$1.725M.
 - 24 of the 32 communities have received approval for one or more projects for a total value of \$10.402M ²
- During the last reporting period:
 - 21 new infrastructure projects were identified.
 - 5 projects were completed and submitted for claim, reimbursing \$689K to communities.
 - 9 Projects were approved for \$212k.
 - 5 Projects were withdrawn.
 - DFA program has engaged with communities to support the creation of recovery plans, greater than 50% of communities have at least one draft cost recovery plan.
 - Most communities without recovery plans are actively engaged with the program to share the required information prior to receiving DFA decision. (e.g. ownership, level of insurance, assessments ongoing, cross ministry coordination required).
- A resourcing strategy is proposed to transfer up to 15 temporary and auxiliary staff from DFA Private team, starting January 4. This will position the DFA Public team to support communities with their outstanding DFA Public CRPs.

PROJECTS BY STATUS

- Approved projects are subject to 18-month deadline for claim submission.
- Projects pending approval (formal)- reflect the number of projects that have been requested by a community on a recovery plan or have been added by program staff.
- Project pending approval (informal)-reflect the number of projects that have been identified by DFA staff through conversation/coordination calls with community as DFA eligible, however receipt of a CRP by the program is pending.



¹ Communities may have submitted multiple CRP's for review- the figure provided reflects how many communities have at least one draft recovery plan

² Approved CRP's may contain more than 1 project. CRP's may be amended or phased

2021 Atmospheric River DFA Dashboard
ALL COMMUNITIES
Nov 14-Dec 2, 2021

Community	CRP Initial Request (\$)	No. of Projects	Projects Approved to-date / remaining open	Pending Approval	Not Eligible under DFA	Withdrawn	Projects Completed
Abbotsford, City of	\$						
Intergovernmental Communications							
Chawathil First Nation	\$						
Chilliwack, City of	\$						
Cowichan Tribes	\$						
Cowichan Valley Regional District	\$						
Cultus Lake Park Board	\$						
Delta, City of	\$						
Fraser Valley Regional District	\$						
Halalt First Nation	\$						
Hope, District of	\$						
Katzie First Nation	\$						
Langley, City of	\$						
Langley, Corporation of the Township of	\$						
Lytton First Nation	\$						
Lytton, Village of	\$						
Matsqui First Nation	\$						
Merritt, City of	\$						
Mission, City	\$						
Nanaimo, District of	\$						
Nooaitch Indian Band	\$						
North Cowichan, Corporation of the District of	\$						
North Saanich, District of	\$						
Princeton, Town of	\$						
Seabird Island Band	\$						
Shawnigan Improvement District	\$						
Sooke, District of	\$						
Spuzzum First Nation	\$						
Squamish, District of	\$						
Sumas First Nation	\$						
Sunshine Coast, RD	\$						
Surrey, City of	\$						
Tzeachten First Nation	\$						
TOTALS:	\$ 99,901,732.60	346	68	222	10	37	9

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Recent revisions to Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) landslide policy and future framework for addressing landslide-affected properties.

BACKGROUND:

- The November 2021 Atmospheric River (AR) event caused unprecedented damage to several communities, including extensive damage to homes.
- The DFA program received over 50 landslide-related homeowner claims where the applicant reported a landslide as a cause of damage.
- The DFA program's landslide policy guides decisions on eligibility for landslide-related claims in disaster events. While most DFA claims are for structures and personal contents damaged or lost in a disaster, a landslide can make a structure permanently unsafe to inhabit even if it did not sustain direct physical damage.
- Advice/Recommendations
- The program has traditionally interpreted the current landslide policy as stated under the Compensation DFA Regulation (CDFAR) as follows:
 - 1) DFA is automatically denied where conditions of slope instability pre-dated a damaging landslide; and
 - 2) DFA can be granted for a home or other structure that did not sustain direct physical damage.
- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information
- Advice/Recommendations
-
- This is further exacerbated by the fact that the DFA program is unable to provide funding for mitigative enhancements (DFA is only able to provide funds for the cost to repair/rebuild/replace the structure or the assessed value of the structure, whichever amount is lower as per the CDFAR).

Advice/Recommendations

-
- EMCR intends to modernize the *Emergency Programs Act* through introducing the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) in Spring 2023,
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- Major policy developments or legal clarifications regarding DFA program administration will be incorporated into this legislation.

Landslide Policy Framework – FVRD

- Advice/Recommendations

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- On April 1, 2017 EMCR entered into a 10-year emergency management services agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) which mandates EMCR to deliver response and recovery services (including DFA) on reserve as if the EPA/CDFAR applied there.

- EMCR's Recovery Funding Branch engaged with ISC and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Advice/Recommendations

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Consultation for the proposed framework is required with the following ministries:
 - Municipal Affairs
 - Finance
 - Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Forests
 - Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
 - Environment and Climate Change
 - Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Shannon Tucker
Executive Director
Recovery Policy and Planning

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date/update
DM	TR	Nov 29 2022
ADM	JLM	Nov 29 2022
ED	QY	Nov 22 2022

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ministry of Finance

Issue: Overview of Emergency Management Planning

Background:

Legislative Framework:

British Columbia's (B.C.) statutory framework for emergencies exists within the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) and the regulations made under the EPA. This legislation dates to 1993.

Under the EPA, two types of emergency plans are contemplated: provincial emergency plans and local emergency plans.

- Each ministry is required to prepare emergency plans that include plans for business continuity, address any specific hazards for which any given ministry is (by regulation) responsible, and that are coordinated with the plans of other ministries. These plans inform B.C.'s comprehensive emergency management plan.
- Local governments (municipalities and regional districts) are required to prepare plans that establish staff responsibilities for emergency response actions and procedures for:
 - procuring vital resources;
 - notifying citizens of emergencies;
 - coordinating the provision of vital goods and services; and
 - prioritizing and coordinating the restoration of essential services.

The government has announced plans to repeal and replace the EPA with modernized legislation with an enhanced focus on disaster risk reduction, in line with the UN Sendai Framework. This legislation is
Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

The current EPA identifies ministers responsible for coordinating the government's response to a particular hazard. Provincial plans that describe a whole-of-government approach to emergency management have been developed for key hazards including catastrophic earthquake, tsunami notification, flood, wildfire, pandemic, extreme heat, drought, and foreign animal disease.

Local Government Risk-Based Planning

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

EMCR Planning Supports

The Province has a suite of multi-agency emergency plans that are reviewed and updated regularly to ensure BC is prepared for general and hazard-specific disasters. The Province also supports First Nations and local authorities conduct hazard risk assessments and has developed a planning guide to assist them in preparing emergency management plans.

In support of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS), Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is updating the Provincial Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to integrate climate change considerations in addition to a reassessment of a wide range of hazards across the province, including earthquake, pandemic, volcanic, extreme heat and hazardous material spills.

The provincial government, led by EMCR, coordinates an exercise program that enhances catastrophic earthquake planning and preparedness through regular earthquake exercise activities. Exercise Coastal Response 2023, scheduled to occur in February 2023, is intended to validate elements of the provincial earthquake response plan and foster increased cooperation amongst all levels of government, First

Nations, critical infrastructure sectors, and non-governmental organizations.

EMCR also coordinates and administers disaster risk reduction funding to First Nations and local governments to improve understanding of disaster risk and funding and invest in structural and non-structural mitigation projects. This funding may be used to support First Nations and local governments in meeting some of the new requirements for planning and hazard assessments under the new legislation.

B.C. has agreements in place with all Canadian provinces and territories, and the states of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon to expedite the movement of emergency resources in the event of a significant disaster, such as an earthquake.

Issue/Opportunity:

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

Next Steps:

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
-
-

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Provincial Business Continuity Management Program (BCMP) –
Background and Internal Audit and Advisory Services Review

BACKGROUND:

- In accordance with Core Policy and Procedures Manual (CPPM) Chapter 16, EMCR is responsible for the centralized coordination and oversight of ministry Business Continuity Management Programs (BCMP). EMCR achieves this through the provision of a common framework that includes tools and templates, strategic planning guidance, training, and cross-government exercises.
- CPPM Chapter 16 outlines the objectives, roles and responsibilities, program requirements, and regular status reporting needs of ministry BCMPs.
- Each ministry has staff identified to support their respective BCMP that includes branch-level business continuity plans (BCPs) and Ministry Operations Centre plans to ensure critical services can be recovered in a timely manner following an emergency event or business disruption.
- EMCR leads a monthly cross-government committee meeting comprised of BCP advisors from all government ministries and other partners (e.g. central government agencies) that seeks to standardize BCP practices.
- Ministries report annually to EMCR on program status, which includes required documentation, strategies developed for an emergency event or business disruption, training and exercises, and provisions for required resources.
- In 2019, at the request of EMCR the Ministry of Finance, Internal Audit and Advisory Services (IAAS) agreed to conduct a cross-government review of the Provincial 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. Phase II dates are still to be determined and will focus on government readiness. Of note, the Phase I review did not consider ministry business continuity practices that were implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IAAS selected five core government organizations for review: EMCR, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

- The Phase I review resulted in 18 recommendations centred around the themes of Governance and Oversight, Execution, Exercise and Validation, and Knowledge, Skills and Training. Highlights of these recommendations include:
 - Establishment of a cross government senior executive committee;
 - Development of a provincial business continuity strategic plan;
 - Review of cross government critical services;
 - Review of BCP templates;
 - Development of a provincial business continuity training and exercise program; and
 - Qualitative evaluation of ministry program maturity and the validation of reported data.
- As the IAAS recommendations are relevant across government, ministries not selected for review were encouraged to consider adopting these recommendations to enhance their respective BCMP.
- EMCR developed an Action Plan for the 11 recommendations that were specific to the Provincial BCMP. The Action Plan is being implemented between 2021-2024. EMCR reports annually to IAAS on progress and is on schedule to meet all deliverables.
- EMCR provided support and coordination to the target ministries as they developed their respective Action Plans.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Nil.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All government ministries (consultation not required)

PREPARED BY:

Lisa Karoway, Manager
Provincial Business Continuity Program

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	28/09/2022
A.DM	MSM	27/09/2022
EL	KF	21/09/2022
ED	KC	21/09/2022

List of Provincial Emergency Management Plans

Plan Type	Plan	Owner	Purpose
Foundational Plans and Procedures	BC Emergency Management System	EMCR	Standardized emergency management system covering governance, methodologies, key concepts, terminology, and approaches across all phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery). Currently required for use within provincial government, and recommended for other partners.
	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	EMCR	Compendium of planning documents outlining a whole-of-government response to an emergency/disaster. Includes the All-Hazard Plan, Functional/Support Annexes, and Hazard-Specific Annexes; for example, the Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy is a hazard-specific annex to the CEMP.
	All-Hazard Plan	EMCR	Describes a whole-of-government response framework to address hazards in BC. Supports a coordinated, integrated provincial response.
	Interim Disaster Recovery Framework	EMCR	Central coordination, accountability, and oversight mechanism for integrated disaster recovery. Establishes scalable, flexible, adaptable coordinating platforms. Describes principles, processes, capabilities necessary to manage and enable recovery.
	PECC Operational Guidelines*	EMCR	Guidelines for various roles and functions at the PECC level.
	PREOC Operational Guidelines	EMCR	Guidelines for various roles and functions at the PREOC level.
	Operations Centre Guidelines	EMCR	Guidelines for various roles and functions within an EOC generally.
Hazard-Specific Plans	Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy	EMCR	Defines framework for decision-making and coordination to support immediate response operations following a catastrophic earthquake; supports the needs of impacted areas; sets the conditions for sustained response and recovery.
	Provincial Flood Emergency Plan	EMCR/FOR	Describes how the province will coordinate flood-related activities, clarifies roles and responsibilities before, during, and after an event, and outlines a concept of operations to foster collaboration between governments and partners.
	Tsunami Notification Process Plan	EMCR	Describes roles, responsibilities, procedures used by international, federal, provincial, and other partners in disseminating tsunami messages in BC.
	BC Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Plan	EMCR	Describes provincial preparedness and a concept of operations for responding to and managing consequences of the criminal use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive materials.

Plan Type	Plan	Owner	Purpose
	BC Nuclear Emergency Plan	HLTH	Annex to the Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan, describes provincial response to accidental or unintentional nuclear emergency. May be used to address radiological consequence management for deliberate or malicious nuclear events.
	Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland/Urban Interface Fires	FOR	Framework for integrated provincial response to wildland/urban interface fires; sets out a concept of operations to foster collaboration between multiple partners; clarifies roles and responsibilities of provincial ministries involved in response.
	Hazardous Materials Response Plan	ENV	Defines the scope and structure of provincial government involvement in responding to a significant release of hazardous material.
	Inland Oil Spill Response Plan	ENV	Defines the scope and structure of provincial government involvement in responding to a major inland oil spill resulting from events such as pipeline or tank-farm rupture, trail derailment, or vehicle accident.
	Marine Oil Response Plan	ENV	Defines the scope and structure of provincial government involvement in responding to a major marine oil spill from a vessel, oil terminal, or any other source.
	Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan	EMCR/HLTH	Describes provincial government's strategy for cross-ministry coordination, communications, and business continuity in response to pandemic public health events.
	Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide for Agencies and Ministries	EMCR/HLTH	Outlines the provincial approach to responding to extreme heat events.
	BC Heat Alert Response System	HLTH	Describes heat alert levels, key messages, and recommended actions for partners for each alert level.
	Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan	FOR	Outlines drought management responsibilities to guide actions of provincial gov in responding to drought and water scarcity. Includes drought indicators and levels and actions recommended prior to, during, and after a drought.
	Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan	AGRI	Defines roles and responsibilities for prov and federal agencies in responding to reportable foreign animal diseases to control transmission and manage consequences.
Functional Plans	Provincial Transportation Earthquake Immediate Response Plan	TRAN	Provides strategic guidance to support the fulfillment of TRAN's responsibilities for earthquake response during the immediate response phase.

Plan Type	Plan	Owner	Purpose
	Mass Fatality Response Plan	PSSG/BC Coroners Service (BCCS)	Addresses how the BCCS will prepare for and respond to mass fatality incidents. Outlines the major components of mass fatality response and provides for the proper coordination of response activities.
	BC Marine Unit Earthquake Response Coordination Plan	TRAN	Provides a framework for collaboration among partners in the marine transportation sector in response to a major earthquake. Includes roles and responsibilities, describes the relationship between partners, and activation, information-sharing, and response activities.
	Education Sector – Integrated Response Plan for Catastrophic Earthquake	EDUC	Drawing on the Earthquake Immediate Response Plan, outlines protocols and responsibilities that align the K-12 education sector’s collective response to a catastrophic earthquake.
	Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre Concept of Operations	EMCR	Describes how the provincial will work with other governments, agencies, and partners to coordinate response and initiate recovery following a catastrophic emergency. Includes detailed proposed organizational structure.
	Disaster Response Transportation System	TRAN	System of integrated, cross-jurisdictional, multi-modal strategies and methods for the safe and coordinated movement of emergency personnel, resources, and impacted people following an event that significantly disrupts transportation networks. Includes Disaster Response Route plans and policies.
	Flood Waste and Debris Removal Plan	EMCR/ENV	Framework for flood-related debris management.

*Note: specific programs may have additional operational guidelines that are not captured in this catalogue, i.e. Disaster Financial Assistance operational guidelines, deployment operational guidelines, etc..

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

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 disaster risk reduction actions they would not otherwise have the financial resources to undertake.
- The Province, through EMCR, provides contributions towards these disaster risk reduction actions of local authorities and First Nations through several mechanisms:
 - Provincial initiatives, including:
 - EMCR's disaster mitigation program; and
 - the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
 - Contributions towards federal cost sharing programs and projects 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, including both the Green Infrastructure and the Covid Vulnerability and Resilience Infrastructure streams.
- These programs provide funding to help communities understand disaster risk and funding and invest in structural and non-structural mitigation projects.
- Since 2016, EMCR's Disaster Mitigation Program has funded over 1,200 disaster risk reduction projects totalling over \$285.7 million in Provincial funds.
- Advice/Recommendations
- Disaster risk reduction is closely related to climate preparedness and adaptation. Climate risk is incorporated in funding program applications, technical evaluations, and project reporting.

EMCR Disaster Mitigation Funding

- These investments have been financed through both EMCR's mitigation budget (\$6.94M per year) and one-time grants funded through the *Emergency Program Act* statutory spending authority. Supporting the shift towards proactive investment in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation will require an increase to EMCR's mitigation budget.
- Since the 2015/16 fiscal year, EMCR has funded 60 mitigation projects in B.C., with a total value of \$176 million (provincial share \$127 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.

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

- The CEPF is administered by UBCM for a 5% administration fee.
- Fund: Since 2017, the Province has provided \$189 million to the UBCM to coordinate the fund, including a recent addition of \$110 million to sustain this important program.
- The CEPF is intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and First Nations communities. The currently open funding streams, as of August 2022 include:
 - Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation
 - Emergency Operations Centres & Training
 - Emergency Support Services
 - Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning
 - Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility Training
 - Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning
 - Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training
- To date, the fund has contributed more than \$78 million of Provincial Funding towards over 1015 local government and First Nations projects across the province.

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)

- Public Safety Canada launched the five year, \$200-million flood-focused National Disaster Mitigation Program in April 2015. Originally slated to end on March 31, 2020, one additional intake was added, and the program will now be complete by March 31, 2023.
- The program was 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. Total requested funding per project could not exceed \$3 million.
- Eligible proposals could request funding through one of several project streams, including non-structural mitigation such as flood risk assessments, flood mapping, and mitigation planning or for small-scale structural mitigation, such as upgrading existing diking structures to improve flood resilience.
- Since April 2015, the federal government committed approximately \$28 million, and the provincial government committed approximately \$21.6 million toward 106 flood mitigation projects, spanning six program intakes.

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.

- DMAF funding has two streams, with \$670 million allocated to the small-scale project stream (projects with total eligible costs between \$1 million and \$20 million) and the remaining funding allocated to the large-scale project stream (projects with total eligible costs of \$20 million and above).
- The Province is not required to contribute towards DMAF projects. The program has contributed towards projects in Surrey, Victoria, Kelowna, Richmond, and Skwashway (Chilliwack), through the Disaster Mitigation Funding Program.
- The Province is providing a contribution of \$31.6 million toward the \$50 million Grand Forks flood mitigation project being co-funded with Canada, through the Disaster Mitigation Funding Program.

COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) of the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program

- In December 2020, EMCR launched the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- This program stream offered an 80% federal / 20% provincial cost share formula, but required a compressed intake timeline and project schedule, including completion by December 31, 2021.
- 24 structural and natural flood mitigation projects have recently been approved and announced, totaling \$56.2 million including \$10 million in Provincial Funds.

Green Infrastructure Stream (Green) of the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program

- The Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program is a sub-stream under the Green Infrastructure umbrella.
- The program 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 program has a total of \$81.865 million federal and provincial dollars to support projects that increase structural capacity and/or natural capacity with the intent of reducing, or even negating, the effects of flooding.
- The intake for this program closes on October 11, 2022

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, are being reflected in EMCR's work

- to modernize the *Emergency Program Act*.
- EMCR 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.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes Free, Prior and Informed Consent, a specific right that pertains to Indigenous Peoples. This right allows Indigenous Peoples to withhold or give consent to a project that may affect them or their territories.
- Public reporting occurs quarterly by the Province to Indigenous Services Canada under the Tripartite Agreement; this reporting includes how disaster mitigation funding is being allocated to First Nations.
- 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.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

EMCR 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).

PREPARED BY:

Heather Stober, Manager
Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Program:

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	27/09/2022
A.DM	MSM	27/09/2022
EL	KF	27/09/2022

Mitigation Funding Programs in BC

Provincial Snapshot - November 2022

Prepared by Disaster Mitigation Branch

CURRENT DISASTER MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION FUNDING PROGRAMS													
Funding Breakdown	INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP)		NDMP Intake 6 DMU Grants EMBC - DMU End of Year Grants EMBC - DMU Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information			COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND (CEPF)							
	ARDM (CVRIS)	ARDM (Green Infrastructure)				Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation	Emergency Operations Centres & Training	Emergency Support Services	Extreme Heat, Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning	Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Training	Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning	Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments	
	\$56.25M (\$45M fed / \$11.25M prov)	\$81.865M (\$44.365 M fed / \$37.5M prov)				\$20M - fed 21/22 nationally (50/50 fed-prov split)	\$93M	\$5M	\$3M	\$2M	\$1M	\$1M	\$5M
	\$10M max	\$10M-20M max				\$3M max	\$150,000 - \$2M max	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
	Structural and natural infrastructure projects to address the impacts of flooding and flood- related hazards	Build or modify infrastructure (including natural) to prevent, mitigate and protect against floods and flood-related hazards				Flood Risk Assessments, Mapping, Mitig. Planning, Non-Structural Mitigation	Risk mapping, risk assessments, planning, non-structural projects, small-scale structural projects.	Purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs, EOC training and exercises.	Volunteer recruitment, retention and training, including in-house training, and the purchase of ESS equipment.	Extreme heat risk mapping, assessments, planning.	Cultural safety & humility training, adapting emergency management tools to be inclusive of Indigenous peoples, & activities related to partnering with, or providing assistance to, Indigenous communities during emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, & recovery	Public notification and evacuation route planning.	Purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.
Program Status	Intake closed Jan 11; Approved projects underway	Intake Closed Oct 11, 2022	24 projects underway - project extended to Mar 2023	Announcement Jan 2023 for Sept 2022 intake, and May 2023 for Feb 2022 intake	Announcement June 2023	Announcement April 2023	Funding announcement September 14, 2022	Funding announcement February 2023	Funding announcement July 2023	Funding announcement January 2023			
Scheduled Intake	Jan 11, 2021 - complete	July 15, 2022	Jan 7 2021	Feb 24, 2023 deadline	March 31, 2023 deadline	Jan 27, 2023 deadline	closed	Nov 25, 2022 deadline	April 28, 2023 deadline	Closed			
Approvals	Apr 2021	Jan 2023	Apr 2021	Various									
Sunset Date	Dec 2024	Dec 2027	Mar 2023	June 2025									

OTHER FUNDING PROGRAMS								WILDFIRE	
Funding Breakdown	DMAF Managed by INFC	ICIP - Rural & Northern Communities Managed by MUNI	First Nations Adapt/ EMAP Managed by ISC	First Nations Infrastructure Fund Managed by ISC	Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program Managed by NRCan	Canada Community-Building Fund (prev fed Gas Tax) Managed by UBCM	The Natural Infrastructure Fund Managed by INFC	Community Resilience Investment (CRI) Firesmart Community Funding (UBCM)	Community Resilience Investment (CRI) Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (FOR)
	\$3.375B	\$153.7M	varies annually	unknown	\$63.8 M	Average \$280M in BC	\$200M	\$60M initial investment	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
	No max, minimum \$1M	average \$2M	Est \$80K to \$160K	unknown	unknown	per capita formula	\$30,000-\$3M	\$100k-\$200k	
	Projects that address natural hazard risks, including flood, wildfire, landslides, tsunامي.	Rural and remote communities – supporting their wide range of infrastructure priorities.	wide variety of adaptation projects, non-structural	Part of Capital Facilities & Maintenance Program - will fund structural mitigation	Funding will be allocated to nationally to Province for flood hazard identification and mapping	Provides stable funding for community priority infrastructure and capacity building	Natural/hybrid projects protecting natural environments, resilient communities, & economic growth	Community based Firesmart activities focused on wildfire prevention.	
	October 2021 intake closed; July 2022 intake is postponed	Ongoing collaboration between EMBC and MAH	Funding is fully allocated	Communities apply each fall through First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan	Discussions ongoing between NRCan, EMBC and FLNRORD	delivered to local governments directly twice annually	Intake closed September 28, 2022	Applications open October 1, 2022	
Project Maximum (\$)									
Eligible Activities									
Program Status									
Scheduled Intake	July 2021 - October 2022	Oct 2020	Complete	N/A	N/A	direct payments	July 14- Sept 28, 2022	Oct 1, 2022- Dec 31, 2023	
Approvals	TBD	Summer 2021	Complete	N/A	N/A	N/A		Within 90 days of submission	
Sunset Date	Dec 2032	Mar 2026	Unknown	N/A	Mar 2024	2014-2024	Dec 2024		

Funding Sources without futher commitment
Currently accepting applications
Funding sources either open or has a commitment to red

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Catastrophic Earthquake Planning and Earthquake Early Warning Initiatives

BACKGROUND:

- The Province, led by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), enhances catastrophic earthquake preparedness in collaboration with partners through the ongoing development of plans, training, exercising, public education, agreements, and investments in seismic mitigation.
- The Province is committed to planning for catastrophic seismic events following the release of two reports:
 - The Office of the Auditor General Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014); and
 - The BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (2014).
- In October 2022, the Province will release the Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS). The PEIRS describes how the Province will lead and coordinate immediate response activities following a catastrophic earthquake.
- In August 2022, EMCR revised the Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC) Concept of Operations, a response model that could be employed following a catastrophic earthquake.
- The Province, led by EMCR, coordinates a provincial exercise program that strengthens catastrophic earthquake preparedness through regular earthquake exercise activities. The culmination exercise for the current program period (2018 – 2023) is Exercise Coastal Response 2023, scheduled to occur in February 2023. Exercise Coastal Response 2023 objectives include validating aspects of the PEIRS and the CERRC Concept of Operations.
- Exercise Coastal Response 2023 milestones include:
 - Tabletop Exercise One in February 2020 involved 200 participants to discuss the first 48 hours following a catastrophic earthquake;
 - Tabletop Exercise Two in February 2021 involved 230 participants to discuss the 48-96 hour window following a catastrophic earthquake;
 - Logistics Workshop in April 2022 involved 135 participants to discuss logistics management;

- Mass Care/Humanitarian Assistance Workshop in June 2022 involved 110 participants to discuss humanitarian assistance;
 - Exercise Aries in September 2022 involved 110 participants to discuss critical infrastructure considerations during the first 96 hours following an earthquake event and the linkages to Exercise Coastal Response 2023; and
 - Tabletop exercise scheduled in October 2022 with lower mainland First Nations to discuss their training objectives and opportunities to participate in Exercise Coastal Response 2023.
- The Province has agreements in place with all Canadian provinces and territories, and the states of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon to expedite the movement of emergency resources in the event of a significant disaster, such as an earthquake.
 - In 2019, the Province developed the Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework that outlines provincial roles and responsibilities, governance, coordination, and guidance on a structured funding model for disaster recovery. The Framework is being updated to incorporate lessons learned from recent recovery efforts following the 2021 wildfire and atmospheric river flooding events.
 - In April 2022 EMCR updated the Tsunami Notification Process Plan based on lessons observed following tsunami advisory alerts resulting from the January 15, 2022 Tongan volcano eruption. The Tsunami Notification Process Plan describes the roles, responsibilities and procedures used by international, federal, provincial, and partner agencies in the dissemination of tsunami messages.
 - The Province continues to work with National Resources Canada (NRCan) on the development and implementation of the National Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Program in BC. The program is expected to become operational in 2024 and will provide early warning notifications to initiate protective actions and reduce the impacts of an earthquake. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- The Province has also invested in earthquake preparedness in recent years through contributions of over \$6M to Ocean Networks Canada to develop an EEW system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This project is nearing the end of commission.
 - The Province provided \$3M to the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction for seismic microzonation mapping aimed at assessing earthquake related hazards within a portion of Metro Vancouver, for engaging the Engineers and Geoscientists

of BC for peer review of the project, and for the development of professional practice guidelines for the use and development of seismic microzonation maps.

- In addition to investments in an EEW system, EMCR has been working with the Ministry of Citizens' Services and the Seismic Resilience Innovation Corporation on the Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response pilot project to install sensors in a selection of government facilities to better understand the performance of those facilities in an earthquake.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Engagement with First Nations and Indigenous support organizations was conducted during the development of the PEIRS.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- First Nations located in seismically high risk areas have experienced seismic events and developed knowledge systems since time immemorial on how to prepare for these events; however, these communities are also often disproportionately at risk due to the location of their reserve lands (e.g., tsunami inundation zones), infrastructure deficits, and remote locations (e.g., evacuation routes, cellular signal availability).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All ministries participated in the development of the PEIRS and have been encouraged to participate in Exercise Coastal Response.
- The Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response pilot project involves the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs, Education, Health, and Advanced Education and Skills Training (consultation completed).

PREPARED BY:

Ainslie Avery
Director, Planning and Business Continuity

Amanda Broad
Manager, Disaster Mitigation and
Adaptation Policy

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	29/09/2022
A.DM	MSM	27/09/2022
EL	KF	21/09/2022
ED	KC	20/09/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Modernized emergency management legislation

BACKGROUND:

- BC's *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) was enacted in 1993 and has been used regularly as the framework for managing provincial and local responses to emergencies including wildfires, flooding, and COVID-19.
- In both October 2018 (through adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) and May 2019 (through adoption of the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework), Cabinet directed EMCR to replace the EPA with modernized emergency management legislation.
- EMCR undertook a broad public engagement process in 2019 and early 2020, issuing a [discussion paper](#) and receiving feedback from the public, ministries and other governments, First Nations, business, and volunteer organizations involved with emergency management in BC. A [What We Heard](#) report summarizing this feedback was released in August 2020.
- Cabinet Confidences
- In spring 2022, EMCR began an intensive co-development process with Indigenous partners. Cabinet Confidences
Cabinet Confidences
- Target dates for the legislation have been revised several times. In June 2022, the government updated its public-facing information to indicate that it is targeting the spring 2023 legislative session to introduce new legislation. Cabinet Confidences
Cabinet Confidences
-
- First Nations and local governments emphasize that they are already facing cost-pressures related to emergency management and will require new supports and funding to implement the legislation.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Through the distinctions-based approach to co-development, the frequency and level of engagement is most attentive to the degree to which various Indigenous partners hold land-based rights.
 - EMCR has been meeting frequently (weekly or bi-weekly, depending on capacity) with technical teams representing the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and the First Nations Leadership Council. It also held a series of regional engagement sessions with rightsholders in June 2022 and plans to make a consultation draft of the legislation available under a non-disclosure agreement with rightsholders in fall 2022.
 - EMCR has met regularly, but less frequently, with the Métis Nation BC. In a July 2022 meeting with Métis Nation BC Minister Susie Hooper, Minister Farnworth committed to sharing a consultation draft of the legislation with Métis Nation BC.
 - EMCR has also engaged with service providers including the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the First Nations Health Authority.
- Five priority regulations have been identified. These regulations will be co-developed with Indigenous partners, beginning in fall 2022.
- The federal government is the primary funder of emergency management on-reserve. EMCR has briefed Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada on the new legislation.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR is consulting with all ministries on an *ad hoc* basis through an Executive Director-level working group, ^{Cabinet Confidences}
Cabinet Confidences
- EMCR is in regular contact with MUNI (to discuss local government impacts and capacity), AG (for legal advice), and MIRR (for advice on co-development).
- EMCR is also consulting directly with local government representatives through the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Group.

PREPARED BY:

Keith Preston
Executive Director
Policy and Legislation

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4, 2022
Associate DM	MSM	Oct 2, 2022
EL	GH	Aug 17, 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Implementation of Modernized Legislation

BACKGROUND:

- Government first committed to repealing and replacing the *Emergency Program Act* with modernized legislation in 2018, as part of its adoption of the Sendai Framework.
- Since then, the timeline for the legislation has been adjusted, most recently due to the events of 2021, and is Cabinet Confidences
- Cabinet Confidences

-

- Advice/Recommendations

- Cabinet Confidences

- EMCR staff – including senior executive from across the organization – is currently developing implementation options. Consideration is being given variations in scale, timelines, and service delivery. Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations Ultimately, the implementation options will inform the Treasury Board submission and subsequent implementation planning and phased roll-out.

- Indigenous partners, notably the First Nations Leadership Council, has expressed an interest in co-developing the implementation plan, similar to the legislation. EMCR staff are reaching out the Declaration Act Secretariat for insights about what this might look like.
- Similarly, the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee as well as the UBCM Local Government Financial Resiliency Working Group has asked for information on the implementation plan, specifically funding for local governments. All input has been very high-level.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- As a result of the extreme weather-related emergencies in recent years, First Nations have experienced traumatic emergency evacuations, loss of and damage to homes and buildings, food and resource insecurity, isolation, health crises and deaths. First Nations will continue to be uniquely and disproportionately impacted as a result of future emergencies due to remoteness and capacity limitations, including lack of infrastructure (including communications infrastructure), equipment, personnel and revenue streams.
- The federal government – through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) – is responsible for ensuring that First Nations communities receive emergency management services, including emergency planning, flooding prevention (such as sandbagging), and wildfire suppression. During an emergency, ISC is also responsible for providing advice and support as requested by the affected First Nation and province.
- ISC does not provide direct emergency response services to First Nations communities. It negotiates emergency management service agreements with provinces or other service providers, such as the Canadian Red Cross or the First Nations' Emergency Support Services, to provide emergency services in First Nations communities. These agreements are intended to clarify roles and responsibilities, support preparedness training and capacity building, and ensure that First Nations receive coordinated emergency response and recovery services.
- In BC, EMCR provides preparedness, non-structural mitigation, response, and recovery programs and services to First Nations communities. This work is supported by a 10 year, \$30M service agreement between EMCR and ISC. Discussions about renewal of the agreement are ongoing.
- In November 2022, the Auditor General of Canada released a report finding that ISC did not provide sufficient support to First Nations communities needed to manage emergencies.
- EMCR has briefed ISC about the legislation's proposed policy shifts, which will result increased capacity challenges for First Nations communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR is consulting MIRR and MUNI as it develops implementation options.
- EMCR is also consulting ISC, given its responsibility for First Nations communities.

PREPARED BY:

Grant Holly
Executive Lead
Policy, Legislation and Engagement

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Dec 2/2022
A.DM	MSM	Dec 1/2022

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Budget Overview

BACKGROUND:

- In the 2020/21 estimates funding allocated to Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) fell under 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.

Budget 2022 PSSG Resource Summary Table

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN				
Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Budget	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
	In \$ Millions			
Corrections	262.742	261.661	261.661	261.661
Policing and Security	415.178	479.204	481.887	481.887
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	63.715	66.236	76.463	76.481
BC Coroners Service	17.569	21.459	22.148	22.120
RoadSafetyBC	18.311	27.810	27.720	27.660
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.539	19.564	19.564	19.564
Cannabis, Consumer Protection and Corporate Policy	3.521	3.538	3.538	3.538
Emergency Management BC	30.899	44.591	44.467	45.360
Executive and Support Services	18.138	18.188	18.200	18.200
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36.420	436.420	36.420	36.420
Special Accounts	14.825	15.054	15.054	15.054
TOTAL	900.858	1,393.726	1,007.123	1,007.946

- EMCR is unique in that its operations and programs are funded through two separate Votes.
 - A sub vote under Vote 40 (see EMCR in table above) provides for core operations; and
 - Vote 41 - Emergency Program Act (see *Emergency Program Act* in table above) provides for the Disaster Financial Assistance program and emergency response related cost. The Vote 41 allocation also provides for the Statutory Spending for costs which exceed the budgeted allocation.
- Budget 2023 will reflect the these allocations under EMCR.

Overview of *Budget 2022* Changes

Operating Budget (Vote 40):

- EMCR's base budget increased for 2022/23 by approximately \$13.7 million over the prior year. This includes new funding of \$6.8 million to increase provincial capacity to prepare and respond to climate-related events, ensure communities are supported during and after events, improve the public alerting system, and to help support communities with emergency preparedness.
- Operating budget increase of \$6.820 million provided for:
 - Wildfire response and recovery (~45 FTEs - \$6.665 million for 2022/23 this grows to 65 FTEs by 2024/25);
 - Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy – Heat Response Framework (one FTE - \$0.112 million per year); and
 - Legal services \$0.043 million.
- Budget track also reflected previously approved increases of \$6.872 million:
 - Ongoing Ground Search and Rescue funding for 2022/23 onwards (Budget 2020 decision - \$6.211 million per year); and
 - Additional capacity for the Office of the Fire Commissioner (Budget 2021 decision - \$0.661 million per year building on the \$0.779 million increase provided for fiscal 2021/22- six FTEs).
- This ongoing funding was complemented by \$120 million provided in 2021/22 to support community emergency preparedness and mitigation which included:
 - \$110 million to sustain the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund; and
 - \$10 million provided to the First Nations Emergency Services Society to support Indigenous-led emergency management priorities.

Emergency Program Act Budget (Vote 41) :

- The *Emergency Program Act* vote increased by \$400 million to \$436.4 million for 2022/23 reflecting the anticipated costs associated with the recovery from the 2021 floods and wildfires. This will support ongoing disaster response and recovery activities such as debris removal and clean-up and support programs such as the Disaster Financial Assistance program which provides local governments, individuals, businesses, farms and charitable organizations with financial assistance to support recovery. This includes provision for costs associated with recent Disaster Financial Assistance changes.
- *Budget 2022* also set aside \$1.1 billion in Contingencies funding over the fiscal plan period to accommodate anticipated costs and additional supports for people, communities and businesses impacted by the 2021 floods.
-

Vote 40 – EMBC (now EMCR) Operations - Overview

- Provides for all EMCR'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 \$6.94 million 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 \$3.0 million per year from Indigenous Services Canada for the Emergency Services Bilateral Agreement flows through this Vote. This funds approximately 30 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 41 – Emergency Program Act Overview

- Provides for emergency response and recovery costs including:
 - \$406.5 million for the Disaster Financial Assistance program and related recovery costs
 - \$10 million 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
 - \$20 million related to costs incurred by provincial ministries and transferred to EMCR 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

<i>Emergency Program Act expenditures</i>					
In Millions					
2016/17	2017/2018	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
\$128M	\$276M	\$275M	\$108M	\$149M	\$519M

- The expenditures have an incremental impact on government's fiscal plan, EMCR 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; and
 - other emergency management priorities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR support all communities including First Nations equitably.
- Costs related to on-reserve First Nations response claims are subsequently reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada consistent with the bilateral Emergency Services Agreement.
- Costs associated with emergency response and recovery supports for First Nations living off reserve are a provincial responsibility. For large scale events which draw federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements these costs are shared in accordance with program guidelines.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Corporate Support Services

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/05/2022

**MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

ISSUE: Overview of upcoming Treasury Board submissions

BACKGROUND:

- Table 1 provides a list of Treasury Board submissions EMCR anticipates advancing in the next 18 months in response to Treasury Board direction or to secure funding to advance key priorities.

Table 1: Anticipated Treasury Board Submissions

Title	Timeframe	Summary
Report back on 2021 hazard response	By October 24, 2022	Report back on costs associated with 2021 hazard response including identifying options to increase capacity to respond to future emergencies
Cabinet Confidences		

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

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
Assistant Deputy Minister

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 7, 2022
ADM	AC	Oct 6, 2022
CFO	DL	Oct 5, 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)

BACKGROUND:

- When a disaster has a significant impact on a community, the Province may declare the disaster eligible for Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). Once DFA is declared, 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.
- When emergency response and recovery costs exceed what the province could reasonably be expected to bear DFAA can be requested from the federal government.
- The DFAA funding formula provides for a progressively higher share of federal funding when the Province's disaster response and recovery costs exceed the \$17 million threshold.
- The per capita funding formula results progressively higher contribution from Canada, the greater the response and recovery costs. Costs exceeding \$85 million are shared 90% federal / 10% provincial.
- Since 2016, BC has had 9 approved events with an estimated total cost of \$6.6 billion on disaster response and recovery. The federal government portion of these costs under DFAA are estimated to be \$5.6 billion.
- DFAA only provides federal cost sharing of expenditures that are eligible under the DFAA program guidelines.
- DFAA eligible expenditures include cost funded through the *Emergency Program Act Vote* such as local government response costs and DFA program expenditures in addition to eligible costs incurred by other provincial ministries.
- DFA is only a subset of the entire provincial DFAA claim. In general, the costs shared with the federal government are the aggregate of the provincial and local government response costs, the total DFA costs and the total provincial recovery costs incurred.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- On reserve emergency management costs including DFA are funded by Canada as First Nations reserve lands are the responsibility of Canada. Off-reserve costs related to Indigenous peoples incurred by the Province are subject to cost sharing with Canada per the DFAA cost-sharing formula.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler
Assistant Deputy Minister & EFO
Corporate Support Service

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	12/2/2022
A.DM	MSM	9/27/2022
ADM	AC	9/26/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: DFAA Atmospheric River and other eligible events

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) is a federal program designed to assist provinces with the costs of responding and recovering from a large-scale natural disaster which would otherwise place a significant burden on a provincial economy.
- The per capita funding formula results in a higher contribution from Canada, the greater the response and recovery costs. Costs exceeding \$85 million are shared 90% federal / 10% provincial.

BC DFAA Cost Sharing as of January 1, 2021

Expenditure	Cost Share	
	BC	Canada
First \$17M	100%	0%
Between \$17M and \$35M	50%	50%
Between \$35M and \$85M	25%	75%
Above \$85M	10%	90%

- The Province is responsible for the delivery of disaster assistance programs to support communities and individuals (i.e., Emergency Support Services, Disaster Financial Assistance, Agricultural Sector supports and other event specific initiatives). Local governments and individuals do not apply directly to the federal government to access DFAA funding. Funding is received through provincially delivered programs such as Disaster Financial Assistance and other recovery programs.
- Program provides for 15% provision for mitigative enhancements on infrastructure related expenditures. In addition to innovative recovery solutions.
- There were 4 events confirmed by PSC for DFAA cost-sharing in 2021 as detailed below (the authorizing federal order-in-councils were approved in March 2022) and 1 event submitted October 2022 requesting federal assistance for the 2022 Wildfires (pending PSC decision).

Event Name	Actuals		Estimate	Total Estimated Event Cost	Potential Advance Payment	Advance Payment Received
	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23 and beyond			
	(In Millions)					
2020 Spring Flood and Landslides	\$26	\$22	\$173	\$221	\$52	\$50
2021 Spring Flood and Landslides		\$30	\$1,083	\$1,113	\$484	\$355
2021 Wildfires		\$369	\$10	\$379	\$145	\$208
2021 November Rainstorm		\$239	\$3,695	\$3,934	\$1,758	\$469
2022 Wildfires *1			\$60	\$60	\$11	
TOTAL	\$26	\$660	\$5,021	\$5,707	\$2,450	\$1,082

- The Province has received advance payments of \$1.082 million related to the Atmospheric River event and other events during the 2022/23 fiscal year. EMCR continues to work with Canada to ensure funding available under DFAA guidelines is received as early as possible.
- Advanced payments may be requested to accelerate financial support to the province. The Province has 5 years from the date of issuance of the federal Order-in-Council to submit its final claim for an event.

2022/23 Costs:

- Costs do not need to be funded through the *Emergency Program Act* to be eligible for reimbursement through DFAA.
- Highway reinstatement program costs associated with the recovery of the Coquihalla, Highway 1 and Highway 5 will be funded through the BC Transportation Financing Authority.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- On reserve emergency management costs are funded by Canada as First Nations reserve lands are the responsibility of Canada. Off-reserve costs incurred by the Province are subject to cost sharing with Canada per the DFAA cost-sharing formula.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler
Assistant Deputy Minister & EFO
Corporate Support Services

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/13/2022
ADM	AC	10/12/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Emergency Management and Climate Readiness & the First Nations
Emergency Services Society Partnership

BACKGROUND:

- The First Nations Emergency Services Society's (FNESS) mission is to assist First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities.
- FNESS' emergency management department provides community-based emergency management guidance, support and assistance to First Nations communities.
- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and FNESS have a positive history of working in partnership on several emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives.
 - During emergency events, FNESS staff are integrated into the provincial emergency response structure through Multi-Agency Support Teams, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres. FNESS also supports Emergency Operations Centres in First Nations communities when requested.
 - FNESS, EMCR and the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) have co-developed plans and strategies to increase Indigenous engagement and participation in emergency management, wildfire risk reduction, preparedness and response.
 - From 2019 to 2021, FNESS assisted BCWS with training 147 wildland firefighters.
 - EMCR, FNESS and BCWS are currently working on a letter of understanding to formally define roles and responsibilities during emergencies.
- EMCR is contracted by Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) to provide emergency management services to First Nations communities on reserve through a ten-year bi-lateral service agreement.
- It is anticipated that the bi-lateral service agreement will be re-negotiated in the next year to include First Nations signatories and that FNESS will take on an expanded role for First Nations emergency management under the new agreement.
- In 2022, EMCR provided \$10,000,000 to FNESS to support First Nations emergency management. From April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2024, FNESS will use this funding to:
 - support First Nations Emergency Operations Centres and Emergency Support Services;
 - provide training and integrate First Nations communities into the Provincial Emergency Management System;

- provide First Nations communities with access to structure protection and flood response equipment during emergencies;
 - provide First Nations communities with improved emergency management and risk assessment technology (Lightship, GIS and LIDAR tools);
 - provide First Nations with engineering and drone work to enhance community emergency response plans;
 - support First Nations Communities in applying for grant funding, and
 - provide First Nations communities with emergency management capacity funding.
- In addition to these funds, BCWS also provided FNESS with \$500,000 in 2022 to develop a wildfire training program.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Supporting an Indigenous-led emergency management organization (FNESS) aligns with the Province's commitments to reconciliation by advancing the participation of First Nations as full partners in emergency management.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- BCWS, Ministry Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Kayla Pepper
Director, Indigenous Partnerships

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 5/22
EL	MC	Oct 4/22

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: First Nations Health Authority Letter of Understanding

BACKGROUND:

- June 18, 2022 was the one-year anniversary of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness' (EMCR) renewed Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).
- The first LOU between EMCR and FNHA was signed in May 2019 followed by the signing of a *Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility* which addresses mutual commitments to combat racism and enhance cultural safety practices in emergency management.
- These foundational documents formalized EMCR and FNHA's partnership in the spirit of wrap-around wellness supports for BC First Nations during an emergency.
- The priorities of the LOU serve BC First Nations by harmonizing efforts and outcomes under the health emergency management and emergency management systems through greater alignment and integration of First Nations perspectives on health and wellness.
- Mutual commitments and priorities are defined and monitored through the LOU workplan. Tangible outcomes of the LOU to date include but are not limited to:
 - development of a policy for culturally safe evacuee care, including embedding cultural safety and humility into Emergency Support Services for the 2022 season;
 - collaboration and implementation of tracking and responding to incidents of racism through an anti-racism escalation pathway modeled by FNHA's Fraser Salish region;
 - representation of FNHA in the Multi-Agency Support Teams, Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres when activated including participation in coordination calls and issues resolution as needed, and
 - co-development of modernized provincial emergency management legislation, policy, and regulation.
- As per the LOU governance structure, EMCR's Deputy Minister and FNHA's CEO meet quarterly and the LOU working group meets regularly.
- The work between FNHA and EMCR came to the forefront during recent and overlapping emergency events including wildfires, floods, residential school findings,

and the COVID-19 pandemic which have signaled a need to better align government systems to the needs of First Nations communities.

- FNHA is often called upon to offer cultural and spiritual support to impacted First Nations communities. They have a demonstrated history of supporting reception centres, emergency operations centres, and filling health emergency management gaps at the community and regional levels.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- This partnership between EMCR and FNHA is key to ensuring community-centred, holistic health approaches are integrated into emergency management practices in alignment with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Health

PREPARED BY:

Kayla Pepper
A/Executive Director, Indigenous
Community Recovery & Strategic
Initiatives

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4/22
EL	MC	Sept 30/22

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: T̓silhqot'in National Government's Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement Renewal

BACKGROUND:

- In February 2018 the inaugural Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) was signed between Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and the T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG). This CEMA was the first tripartite emergency management agreement of this nature in Canada.
- In February 2022, the Province (EMCR, BCWS, MIRR), Canada (ISC) and the TNG signed a renewed five-year CEMA to strengthen support and capacity for the TNG communities to be true partners and leaders in emergency management.
- The agreement enables the TNG and the governments of British Columbia and Canada to build on successes from the 2018 agreement while advancing reconciliation through the development of a respect-based, government-to-government framework for emergency and wildfire management.
- The CEMA creates a structure for collaboration to ensure that TNG communities are informing decisions that affect them, their families and their territories while prioritizing the importance of cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge in wildfire and emergency management.
- The agreement identifies and supports the implementation of policies and protocols to allow seamless and effective emergency management across all orders of government. It also commits the parties to jointly explore and develop a proposal for an Indigenous-led regional emergency centre, a training facility and evacuation centres.
- With the signing of this agreement, the governments of British Columbia and Canada bring forward a renewed determination to deliver emergency services with Indigenous Peoples in a way that is culturally safe, efficient and effective.
- During the implementation of the first agreement, six sub-committees were developed to advance shared goals and two key reports were drafted: The Fires Awakened Us (post-2017 wildfire report) and Dada Nentsen Gha Yatastiig (COVID-19 report).

- In January 2022, BC and Canada received a funding request from the TNG that outlines their resource and capacity needs to operationalize the agreement (\$14,416,543 over five years). To address the TNG's funding request, a Solutions Table including representatives from all parties was formed.
- The renewed agreement does not commit the Province to funding the TNG's requests; however, the renewed agreement does commit all parties to seeking options and confirming financial commitments by February 19, 2023.
- Since 2019, the Province of BC, through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, has granted TNG \$836,883 to advance emergency support services, emergency operations centre and firefighting priorities. This year, an additional \$280,000 was granted by EMCR to further priorities set under the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement, including training, administrative support, emergency management working group, and operating costs.
- BC Wildfire Service has granted the TNG exclusive access to the Riske Creek facility through a Temporary License of Occupation. The Ministry of Forests are investigating transferring a portion of the property and associated infrastructure to the TNG as a longer-term solution.
- In July 2022, provincial and federal ministers and TNG Chiefs held a public signing event in Vancouver to celebrate the renewed CEMA.
- In September 2022, Premier Horgan, Ministers Farnworth, Rankin, Conroy, Ralston and Dean travelled to the TNG Aboriginal Title land in the Chilcotin to participate in leadership meetings with the TNG Chiefs. During this visit Minister Farnworth agreed to support the TNG in exploring opportunities for ongoing funding for the renewed CEMA and the development of an emergency management centre for the TNG communities. Minister Farnworth also re-confirmed provincial support for TNG's licence of occupation of the BCWS's Riske Creek facility as well as the co-location of TNG and BCWS staff at the BCWS Alexis Creek facility.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The agreement reflects the common goal of the three governments to build trust and relationships in the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Kayla Pepper,
A/Executive Director, Indigenous
Community Recovery & Strategic
Initiatives

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4/22
EL	MC	Sept 30/22
ED	KP	Sept 30/22

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Indigenous Services Canada Agreement and Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) has two key agreements that support the delivery of First Nations emergency management services. These agreements include:
 - a ten-year \$30 million bilateral service agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) signed in April 2017 to deliver emergency management services on First Nation reserves, and
 - a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on emergency management with ISC, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) signed in 2019 with the purpose of working collaboratively to advance meaningful recognition and enhanced First Nations emergency management capacity.
- The ISC-EMCR bilateral service agreement doubled the number of communities that EMCR supports (adding 204 First Nations to 181 local governments). Within EMCR, 27 staff positions are currently funded by the agreement.
- Although the bilateral agreement is set to expire in 2027, since 2021, First Nations and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) have been communicating their desire to replace the 2017 bilateral service agreement signed between EMCR and ISC, and the 2019 tripartite MOU (Canada, BC, FNLC) with a new 'trilateral agreement' that better serves the unique need of BC First Nations.
- A series of meetings have taken place to provide a forum for the FNLC, provincial and federal ministers to discuss the need to re-evaluate the current bilateral service agreement. Canada, BC and the FNLC have achieved consensus to pursue negotiations towards a new emergency management services agreement.
- EMCR is working in collaboration with the FNLC policy team and ISC staff to action preliminary steps to negotiate a new trilateral agreement. These actions include the development of a critical path document and the identification of key priorities as noted in the draft Pathway to a New Tripartite Relationship on Emergency Management endorsed by Canada, BC and the FNLC.
- In June 2022, the FNLC received support from First Nations Chiefs through resolutions passed by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit to develop options for the negotiation of a new

trilateral agreement. This enables the FNLC to engage with First Nations in BC and provide possible negotiation models to Canada and BC.

- Negotiations will be led by ISC—who have fiduciary responsibility for the delivery of emergency management services on reserve—while working in partnership with EMCR, BCWS, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), the FNLC, First Nations, and the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS). Parties will identify lead agencies under a new agreement to support a suite of services spanning all phases of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- The Province has provided \$330,000 to the FNLC to support capacity to negotiate the agreement and engage directly with First Nations to ensure their voices, perspective, and priorities are represented throughout the process.
- Partners agree that a new tripartite agreement needs to:
 - align with *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* commitments;
 - clarify the roles of participating agencies, including the role of FNESS;
 - respect First Nation knowledge, laws, values, and approaches, while also recognizing the impacts of climate change;
 - support enhanced emergency management capacity in communities (e.g., full-time emergency program coordinators), and
 - provide a framework for additional First Nation-based Collaborative Emergency Management Agreements.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The new trilateral agreement aims to uphold the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and aligns with the *Declaration Act Action Plan* (2022) priorities.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Kayla Pepper
A/Executive Director, Indigenous
Community Recovery & Strategic
Initiatives

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4, 2022
EL	MC	Sept 30, 2022
ED	KP	Sept 30, 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2019, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was enacted.
- Section 3 of the Declaration Act describes B.C.'s commitment to consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in aligning provincial laws, including statutes and regulations, with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).
- The Declaration Act requires the provincial government to report annually on progress made on the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration and developing and implementing an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration.
- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is committed to meaningful implementation of the Declaration Act Action Plan, which was released in March of 2022.
- Specific EMCR Actions in the Declaration Act Action Plan include:
 - 1.10 Co-develop modernized emergency management legislation (replacing the *Emergency Program Act*).
 - 2.11 Integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire into wildfire prevention and land management practices and support the reintroduction of strategized burning. (Ministry of Forests, EMCR)
- Also included in the Declaration Act Action Plan is the following outcome related to emergency management:
 - The overall emergency management structure and regime in B.C. is revised, in collaboration with the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples, to enhance Indigenous Peoples' emergency management outcomes through a strong tripartite approach.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

EMCR is using a distinctions-based approach to co-development of modernized emergency management legislation, consistent with the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Co-development

partners include the First Nations Leadership Council, Modern Treaty Nations and First Nation Rights and Title holders. EMCR staff are also engaging Métis Nation BC, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Emergency Services Society on the development of new emergency management legislation.

EMCR is also currently developing guidelines for the co-development of provincial emergency management programs, policies and initiatives that impact Indigenous peoples.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Attorney General, Indigenous Relations Legal team
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Bryan Williams
Director, Indigenous Peoples Policy
Strategic Partnerships

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/04/22
EL	MC	09/30/22
Director	BW	09/20/22

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Overview of the Public Education and Digital Services Unit

BACKGROUND:

The Public Education and Digital Services unit is responsible for:

- Oversight of PreparedBC – British Columbia’s preparedness education program serving First Nations communities, local authorities, and the public. Includes resource development, outreach and online communications.
- Oversight of fire prevention education, outreach and online communications in support of the Office of the Fire Commissioner as the Province’s lead agency for home fire prevention education.
- Oversight of EMCR’s corporate website to ensure it addresses the needs of partners and the public and meets all BC government web standards.

PreparedBC preparedness public education

- The program was created in 2015 in response to three key reports: British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness (Henry Renteria, 2014); Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness (OAG, 2014); and an internal Public Education Needs Assessment.

Key initiatives:

- **PreparedBC guide library:** Personal preparedness guides that address BC’s top hazards and highlight steps people can take to get prepared. There are also guides that specifically target small business owners and tourism operators. The guides are currently undergoing a review to ensure PreparedBC’s content is effective, inclusive and accessible. Recent additions to the library include the Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide and the Pandemic Preparedness Guide.
- **High Ground Hike tsunami readiness program:** Annual event for at-risk communities to practice their tsunami response plans by encouraging and incentivizing residents to know where high ground is and walk/run/hike their evacuation routes. The event is run during Tsunami Preparedness Week (second full week of every April). In 2022, four Indigenous communities and eight non-Indigenous communities hosted a high ground hike for their members.
- **Annual campaigns:** Tsunami Preparedness Week (April), Emergency Preparedness Week (May) and ShakeOut earthquake drill (October).
- **Earthquake Early Warning (EEW):** A new campaign is being developed jointly with Natural Resources Canada. This will be an opportunity to educate people, both

inside seismically active areas and in other communities geographically outside these areas, about what the EEW system is, how it works, and how it will be useful in promoting public safety by preventing injuries, deaths, property loss and damage.

- **Online communications and web:** PreparedBC is heavily focussed on engaging with the public online. This is supported by the Twitter (@PreparedBC), Facebook and the EMCR corporate website.
- **Master of Disaster classroom program:** Classroom program for grades 4 to 8 that educates youth about the hazards they face and how to properly prepare. This program aligns with Ministry of Education curriculum and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

Digital services

- Following an extensive Web Transformation Project, a new web governance model has been implemented.
- Ongoing training and engagement with staff ensures they understand and follow EMCR's new web governance model. Staff are also supported to conduct bi-annual content audits and making necessary changes/updates.
- This function requires being responsive to staff questions and requests for assistance, particularly around emergency activations.
- Ongoing liaison with GDX/IAC to ensure EMCR employs emerging web best-practices and standards.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Lisa Barrett
Online Communications & Fire Prevention
Education
Office of the Fire Commissioner

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Nov 28 2022
A.DM	MSM	Nov 27 2022
EL	GH	Nov 24 2022

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Issue:

COVID-19 Lessons Learned Review

Background:

On March 16, 2022, the provincial government publicly announced the launch of an independent review and public consultation on government's operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic to capture lessons learned to date.

Government commissioned the independent review as a means of continuous improvement to inform preparations and response to a future pandemic and to contribute to the planning and operational readiness for response to the full range of disasters and emergencies that may affect large areas of the province.

An independent project team of former senior leaders of the BC Public Service were appointed by the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to under-take the review. Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is the lead agency in government for the initiative and supported the independent project team through an EMCR-staffed secretariat.

The review has concluded and a final COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report was submitted by the project team to government on September 23, 2022.

Issue/Opportunity:

The COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report contains 26 comprehensive findings. While the findings are not framed as recommendations, each finding has a conclusion about where government effort is needed.

Overall the report found that the province managed well throughout the pandemic, and the findings are consistent with government's understanding of what worked well and the areas of focus for improvement in preparation for future events.

However, there are significant areas of constructive criticism that success came despite the province not being well prepared for the pandemic.

The report findings encompass six themes - trust, preparation, decision-making, communications, implementation, and Indigenous impacts - summarized as follows:

Trust: high levels of trust supported the response yet that trust eroded over time, similar to what was seen in other jurisdictions.

Preparation: the B.C. government mounted a strong and generally successful response deploying varied and adaptive approaches, despite not being well prepared for the pandemic.

Decision-Making: public health decisions were better informed than many people thought and considered economic and social implications, as well as population health effects.

Communications: the communications approach taken by the Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health was successful initially, but issues arose as the pandemic wore on.

Implementation: government did a good job of operationalizing changes to program delivery, however, it did not have a good understanding of the interconnectedness of social services that supported communities prior to the pandemic, or the interactions among government social support programs.

Indigenous Impacts: with limited engagement and feedback, this topic is not a strong component of the report and may be subject to criticism. Most Indigenous organizations characterized government's overall response performance as generally good and recognized the importance of the First Nations Health Authority.

Next Steps:

A communications plan to support the public release of the final report is being developed by Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) and will include an information bulletin with a link to the report on EMCR's website. Currently, the release is tentatively planned for December 9, 2022, pending final consideration of timing in relation to the swearing in of the new Cabinet on December 7th.

This review was launched so that government could improve its operational response to emergencies in the province; and will take the review's findings forward as government continue to enhance overall preparedness for emergencies, including modernizing emergency management legislation.

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Integrated Disaster Council of BC, Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management and Regional Emergency Management Partnership

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency management is a shared responsibility. Disasters do not respect jurisdictional boundaries; therefore, it is important that different orders of government work together to plan and prepare for emergencies to strengthen local, regional and provincial collaboration in emergency management.
- While Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is responsible for leading the management of provincial-level emergencies, 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 *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) 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 like wastewater treatment, solid waste management, drinking water and more.

Integrated Disaster Council of BC

- BC hosts a variety of unique not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations that offer a wide range of services during emergencies/disasters.
- Pursuant to the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS), EMCR's partnership with non-governmental organizations and charities is coordinated through the Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC).
 - The IDCBC provides a collaborative approach to the enhancement of community resilience through all phases of emergency management: mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, within the Province.
 - The IDCBC coordinates the efforts of the many government and non-government agencies engaged in disaster-related humanitarian aid and fosters effective activities to support local authority and First Nations' emergency management within the Province.
 - The mandate of the IDCBC is to increase coordination amongst participating agencies by creating a forum for communication and information sharing.
 - The primary objective of the IDCBC is to provide an integrated approach to disaster-related human consequence initiatives and enhance the level of services delivered throughout British Columbia.
 - Each member agency retains the responsibility to deliver services according to their roles and mandates and as such to raise and/or acquire funds for their own purposes.

- The IDCBC is governed by a Terms of Reference and is co-chaired by the Province (EMCR) and one member agency (currently The Salvation Army). Membership is limited to agencies, government, ministries, or departments with a role in emergency management.

2021 IDCBC Collaboration Highlights:

- The Salvation Army provided 32,491 meals, 38,200 snacks, and 45,630 drinks to evacuees, emergency managers, and first responders
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) assisted 400+ individuals in Camp Hope while continuing to support First Nations evacuees due to wildfires; provided feeding and lodging as well as mental, emotional and spiritual supports
- Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team (CDART) distributed pet supplies; and supported requests for assistance for animals that were left behind during evacuations
- BC SPCA supported 50+ animals in care from evacuees in Fraser Valley, and distributed pet supplies at the Tradex reception centre
- United Way launched the BC Flood Response Fund to support British Columbians who are displaced or have lost housing, belongings or employment, and who have suffered physical or mental health trauma
- Food Banks BC arranged a full trailer of food from Loblaws to be delivered to the Salvation Army in Kamloops; and delivered food to Nicomen, Boston Bar and Lytton
- Samaritan's Purse set up and managed group lodging in Abbotsford

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver and Regional Emergency Management Partnership in the Capital Region

- Regional partnerships address multi-jurisdictional, emergency management planning needs (i.e., training, exercises, plan development, and bridging relationships), by integrating plans and processes for geographical areas with common hazards.
- EMCR has established two regional emergency management partnerships with local government.
 - The Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) was established in April 2009 with the Metro Vancouver Regional District on behalf of 21 municipalities, one Treaty First Nation, and one electoral area. With the largest regional population of 2.6 million people across several jurisdictions, an integrated regional approach to emergency planning ensures coordination is seamless in all areas of emergency management between people, environment, and infrastructure. With the exception of Tsawwassen First Nation (Treaty Nation), First Nations are not signatories to the IPREM agreement.
 - The Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) was established in March 2016 with the Capital Regional District, on behalf of 13 municipalities and three electoral areas, located on Southern Vancouver Island. Due to a shared earthquake and tsunami risk, the partnership also recognizes the importance of collaborating with the First Nation communities in the area. REMP staff have engaged First Nations in the CRD but they are not yet signatories to the agreement.

- Each partnership is directed by a Steering Committee equally made up of senior-level decision makers from the local government within the region and from the Province.
- The governance and purpose of IPREM and REMP are foundational models for establishing new intergovernmental partnerships such as the Central Coast Regional Emergency Management Partnership (CCREMP), established with the Central Coast Regional District and Nuxalk Nation in December 2018.
- The Province's contribution to IPREM is \$173,000 in 2022/23, which is matched by the Metro Vancouver Regional District on behalf of its member jurisdictions.
- The Province's contribution to REMP is \$125,000 in 2022/23, which is matched by the Capital Regional District on behalf of its member jurisdictions.

IPREM and REMP Collaboration Highlights:

- IPREM and REMP have been conducting independent, regional after-action reviews throughout the pandemic to identify learnings and areas for improvements. Each partnership has completed two interim reports that have documented 10 recommendations that support continuous improvement during the pandemic and will also strengthen regional collaboration in other hazards for emergency management.
- IPREM and REMP have developed and exercised a regional decision-making model that provides a process for local and provincial government in the Capital and Metro Vancouver regions to collaborate on joint decision-making during emergency response.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- First Nations' Emergency Services Society, First Nations Health Authority, and Indigenous Services Canada are all members of the Integrated Disaster Council of BC and positioned to coordinate response and recovery activities in support of Indigenous communities.
- In the Metro Vancouver Region, there are a total of 11 Indigenous communities with traditional territories in the region, of which, nine communities have reserve lands within the region including Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN). TFN became a Modern Treaty Nation on April 3, 2009 and is a member of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board and therefore participates in collective decision making on services for the region. As a member jurisdiction of the Regional District, TFN financially contributes towards IPREM. No other Indigenous communities financially contribute to IPREM; however, some are engaged in project work on an ad-hoc basis.
- In the Capital Region, there are a total of 11 Indigenous communities with traditional territories in the region, of which nine communities have reserve lands within the Regional District boundaries. None of these communities are currently Treaty Nations. Currently, there are three communities listed as Ex-Officio members of the Steering Committee, that contributed to the development of the original strategic plan in 2016, however, these members do not often participate due to capacity challenges. Currently, Indigenous communities do not financially contribute to REMP.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The following Provincial Ministries have representation on the IDCBC:
 - Ministry of Attorney General and Responsible for Housing
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
- Provincial ministry representatives on the IPREM and REMP Steering Committees are selected based on alignment with IPREM and REMP projects and are on two-year terms.
- IPREM:
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs
 - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 - Ministry of Forests
- REMP:
 - Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
 - Office of Homelessness Coordination, Office of the Housing and Construction Standards, Ministry of Attorney General
 - Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

PREPARED BY:

Brittany Schina
Director, Strategic Partnerships

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4/22
EL	MC	Sept 21/22
Dir	BS	Sept 16/22

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Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Summary of Provincial Preparedness for an Extreme Heat Event

BACKGROUND:

- In the summer of 2021 temperatures spiked to record high levels across BC, most notably from June 25 to July 1 when extended high temperatures created a heat dome phenomenon.
- During this period, the Village of Lytton experienced the highest temperatures in Canadian history three days in a row, creating circumstances that contributed to a devastating wildfire which destroyed the Village and many structures in Lytton First Nation.
- The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) determined that BC suffered 740 heat-attributable deaths during this period, producing mortality rates more than three times greater than average.
- On June 7, 2022, the BC Coroners Service released a public report summarizing the findings from a death review panel that examined the circumstances surrounding the high mortality rate associated with the 2021 heat dome. The Panel provided 14 recommendations to reduce heat-related deaths under three key areas:
 - Implement a coordinated provincial heat alert and response system,
 - Identify and support populations most at risk of dying during extreme heat emergencies, and
 - Implement extreme heat prevention and long-term risk mitigation strategies.
- To prepare for extreme heat events, the Province introduced four key initiatives prior to the summer of 2022:
 - BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS).
 - Prepared BC Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide.
 - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) heat-related funding stream.
 - A guide for Extreme Heat Preparedness for Provincial Ministries and Agencies.

BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS)

- The Ministry of Health (HLTH) and the BCCDC co-chair the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (BC HEAT) Coordinating Committee, which includes representatives from all health authorities and EMCR, to support planning and response efforts related to public health impacts for extreme heat events.

- The preliminary objective of the BC HEAT Coordinating Committee was to ensure public health coordination was in place by Summer 2022. This was addressed by developing the BC HARS that:
 - Describes the triggers for two alert levels: heat warning and extreme heat emergency.
 - Identifying public health actions when heat warnings and extreme heat emergency alerts are issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).
 - Identifying public health messaging that can reduce heat-related illness and mortality.
- The BC HARS includes a recommendation that HLTH advise EMCR when to employ the Alert Ready broadcast intrusive system to advise the public of an extreme heat emergency.
- To support First Nations and local authorities implement recommended actions contained in the BC HARS, EMCR developed a *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs – Eligibility Assessment for Heat Emergency Policy*.

Prepared BC Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide

- A Prepared BC Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide was developed in partnership with the HLTH, the BCCDC, and ECCC. The guide includes a forward from Dr. Bonnie Henry and is meant to help British Columbians understand the risks associated with extreme heat, how to prepare their residences, and how to cope once temperatures rise.
- The guide is available in hardcopy or by download from www.PreparedBC.ca. It is available in multiple languages: English, French, Punjabi, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese.

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Heat-related Funding Stream

- On May 6, 2022, the Province announced additional funding under the CEPF for First Nations and local governments. Included in this announcement was a new Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning stream funded to a maximum of \$2M that provided eligible applicants up to \$30K for heat-related initiatives.
- This funding program was developed by EMCR, HLTH, the BC Climate Action Secretariat, and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).
- The intent of this funding stream is to support First Nations and local governments in better understanding the risks associated with extreme heat. The funding also supports communities develop effective response plans and strategies to prepare, mitigate, and adapt to extreme heat risks.

- This stream closed on June 24, 2022 and resulted in 38 communities receiving funding for their heat-related initiatives.

Guide for Extreme Heat Preparedness for Provincial Ministries and Agencies

- A cross-ministry working group co-led by EMCR and HLTH was established in 2022 to develop a guide to support provincial heat-related planning.
- The guide has three main objectives:
 - To summarize the impacts of extreme heat on public health and other sector.
 - To introduce the BC HARS.
 - To describe Provincial-level actions in response to an extreme heat event that lays the foundation for the subsequent development of a comprehensive response plan.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The First Nations Health Authority is a member of the BC HEAT Coordinating Committee.
- The CEPF is currently the most accessible disaster risk reduction federal or provincial funding program in BC, after the federal First Nation Adapt Program and the BC Wildfire Service's Community Resiliency Investment Program.
- HLTH is undertaking consultations with First Nations, local authorities, and equity-seeking populations to update the BC HARS and determine additional supports required to support extreme heat-related preparedness prior to summer 2023.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Health (consulted)

PREPARED BY:

Ken Craig
Executive Director, Disaster Preparedness

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	29/11/2022
Associate DM	MSM	29/11/2022
ADM RO	MLM	22/11/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Canadian Red Cross – 2021 Supports and Approach to Future Events

BACKGROUND:

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) capacity has historically been relied upon to supplement humanitarian services for response and recovery efforts for large scale emergencies which exceed provincial or local government capacity.

This has included both direct provincial contributions towards service delivered by the CRC such as direct financial support (i.e., payments to those on evacuation orders for long durations) and temporary accommodation support.

Donation matching contributions have also been provided to complement event related appeal campaigns run by the CRC. Most recently this has included provincial contributions of \$5.7 million towards 2021 wildfire related programming and \$30 million towards 2021 atmospheric river related programming. The provincial contributions enable case management informed services to individuals, housing repair, debris removal and other community recovery needs as identified by the CRC.

- As of June 30, 2022, the CRC indicates 226 households have accessed case management services related to 2021 wildfires.
 - \$0.844 M has been provided to 85 household to assist with interim housing and food supports and
 - \$0.189 M has been provided to the Central Okanagan Regional District to assist with debris removal.
- As of June 30, 2022, 1,020 households have accessed case management services related to the 2021 floods.
 - \$1.763 M has been provided to 611 households to assist with temporary accommodation and basic needs; and
 - \$1.859 M has been provided to 639 households to support housing repair and reconstruction.

EMCR continues to work with the CRC to ensure provincial donation matching funds are directed toward identified community needs.

There have been some challenges identified with CRC supports associated with recent events. This has included:

- the extent of evacuee related information sharing with the Province, local governments and First Nations,

- the level of detail provided to the province in respect to recovery programming through ongoing reporting,
- Inconsistency with speed and delivery of case management supports,
- Cultural sensitivity, and
- Community receptivity to working with the CRC.

Informed by the 2021 hazard season experience, EMCR is working to identify a broader range of pre-qualified suppliers of emergency management services (such as group lodging operations, case management providers, emergency operations centre staffing etc.) to improve the range of provincial services and responsiveness to future events. The CRC have been advised and are invited to participate in an upcoming procurement process for the 2023 hazard season.

Longer-term housing supports have been identified as a need which fall outside of the scope of services offered by the CRC. EMCR will continue to work with the Office of Housing and Construction Standards and other ministries on policy options to address this need.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The CRC indicates it works to deliver culturally safe services to First Nations evacuees impacted by emergency events.
- The CRC has direct relationships with many First Nations communities in addition the First Nations Health Authority.
- Some service recipient Interior First Nations community leaders have expressed dissatisfaction with CRC, citing cultural sensitivity issues.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Citizens' Services

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler
ADM / EFO

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10-19-2022
A.DM	MSM	10-19-2022
ADM	JM	10-16-2022
EL	RC	10-14-2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Recovery Status of Past Disaster Events (including Grand Forks)

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is a provincial program, administered by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), to help individuals and local governments recover from uninsurable losses in a disaster.
- Compensation through DFA covers 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.
- EMCR has also provided funding for recovery outside of the DFA program through contribution agreements, such as an agreement with Grand Forks for the 2018 Freshet event.
- Due to the nature of some of the damage and other contributing factors (outlined below), applications continue to be open for past disaster events.

DFA Private Sector- Past events

- There are 21 open DFA private sector applications for six events between 2020-2021.
- Key challenges for files remaining open include:
 - Outstanding supporting documentation required;
 - Area was inaccessible for a period of time following the event; and
 - Secondary field visits required.
- For the remaining open applications, either a 21-day notice of application closure due to non-response has been sent to the applicant or field review has been prioritized in order to assess and close out the remaining files.
- As of September 22, 2022, there are only 15 open files under active management. The majority of open files have received an interim payment and are awaiting potential secondary payments for eligible damages related to essential access repairs (e.g. bridges), subject to Ministry of Forests (FOR) permits. A high-level estimate of outstanding payments is less than \$500,000.

Table 1: Status of Past Event DFA Private Sector Open Applications

DFA Event Year	Event Type	Region	# of applications received	# of open applications
June 2-7, 2021	Freshet	NWE (Terrace)	14	1
April 15-May 3, 2020	Freshet	NEA (150 Mile House, Baker Creek, Lac La Hache, Riske Creek)	50	4
May 18-June 1, 2020	Freshet	SEA (Creston, New Denver)	27	2
June 14-July 13, 2020	Freshet	NEA (150 mile House, Baker Creek, Lac La Hache, McBride)	65	5
April 20 - July 7, 2020	Freshet	CTL (Lillooet, Clinton, Savona, Cache Creek)	37	8
January 31-February 2, 2020	Atmospheric River	SWE (Tsawwassen)	231	1
Total			424	21

DFA Public Sector Local Government and First Nations

- The Public sector DFA program provides communities with reimbursement for repair of essential infrastructure, which was damaged in a DFA eligible event.
- Program staff develop an understanding of what infrastructure was damaged and assist communities in creating an Infrastructure Cost Recovery Plan (ICRP) for approval by EMCR.
- The ICRPs outline the intended repair plan and estimated costs. There is no time limit for the projects to be completed; however, all claims must be submitted within 18 months after the approved ICRP date.
- Public sector DFA projects are typically more complex than private sector. As these projects are mainly related to infrastructure, they can be completed in phases and over multiple years and sometimes are limited to specific times of the year (e.g., fish windows, seasonal construction windows) for construction. In these situations, applicants may send a request to EMCR for a claim submission extension past the 18 months.
- There is no time limit for a local governments or First Nations to submit a ICRP for an event, as such the number of applications fluctuates over time.
- There are DFA Public Sector projects **pending approval** for past events:
 - 53 DFA Public Sector Local Government projects.
 - 33 DFA Public Sector First Nations projects.
- Key challenges for files remaining open include:
 - Permits or specific approvals required from other government agencies;
 - Some communities experience back-to-back events, such as flooding then wildfire, and do not have the capacity or time to complete an ICRP before

the next event occurs. This requires time to assess which event caused damage to what infrastructure; and

- Communities' capacity to develop and implement ICRP and high turn over of staff.

Table 2: Status of Past Event DFA Public Sector Local Government Open Projects

DFA Event	No. of Projects	Open Projects Approved to-date	Pending Approval	Not Eligible under DFA	Withdrawn	Closed Projects Completed
18/19 General	12	4	0	4	0	4
19/20 General	53	39	3	3	8	0
20/21 General	108	39	33	4	14	18
2017 Freshet	104	8	0	7	50	39
2018 Freshet	34	3	9	0	7	15
2021 Wildfire	3	2	1	0	0	0
2021 Wildfire	15	6	6	2	0	1
21/22 General	2	1	1	0	0	0
Total	331	102	53	20	79	77

Table 3: Status of Past Event DFA Public Sector First Nations Open Projects

DFA Event	No. of Projects	Open Projects Approved to-date	Pending Approval	Not Eligible under DFA	Withdrawn	Closed Projects Completed
18/19 General	10	1	0	1	3	5
19/20 General	30	5	11	3	0	11
20/21 General	36	15	8	8	2	3
2017 Freshet	18	2	0	6	7	3
2018 Freshet	31	8	13	7	2	1
2021 Fire Season	5	3	1	0	1	0
Total	130	34	33	25	15	23

Grand Forks Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund Project

- In May of 2018 a major flood event struck the City of Grand Forks, destroying approximately 400 homes and 100 businesses. Formal recovery engagement with Grand Forks was initiated shortly thereafter and is currently ongoing.
- In 2019 a Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund contribution agreement was signed for \$52.4 million between the Government of Canada (\$19.9M), the Province of British Columbia (\$31.5M), and the City of Grand Forks (\$1M). The purpose of the agreement was to fund:
 - Protection of residential neighbourhoods and downtown core;
 - Re-creation of wetland areas destroyed by flooding; and
 - Re-establishment of wetlands, building dikes, raising roads, installing pumps for storm water drainage, and bank stabilization.

- EMCR is currently responsible for monitoring Grand Fork's performance under the contribution agreement, including requests for periodic reporting as well as participation in Oversight Committee meetings with Federal and local counterparts.
- Due to the impacts of the COVID pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and inflation, the City of Grand Forks has indicated potential impact to the project deliverables as outlined in the DMAF charter. EMCR is in the information-gathering phase of responding to this issue and will be making a site visit to Grand Forks in October to assess the situation further.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The program operates under the 10-year Bi-lateral agreement between the Province and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The agreement is nearing the end of its term and a new Tri-lateral agreement between First Nations Emergency Support Services, EMCR, and ISC is under consideration.
- The program provides quarterly reporting to ISC as per the agreement, including recovery status of impacted First Nations communities by region.
- The program works directly with ISC representatives when navigating areas not clearly defined in regulations. Indigenous community files which do not meet the regulatory requirements are transferred to ISC for their continued action and support.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Janet Crocker
A/Director
Recovery Policy, Planning and Appeals

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/05/2022
ADM	JM	10/05/2022
EL	JI	10/04/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Silver Alerting

BACKGROUND:

- The number of people expected to be experiencing dementia by 2024 is over 87,000¹ and 26% of BC's population will be comprised of seniors by 2041.² Six in ten people with dementia will wander³ and many will get lost. If not found within 24 hours, many suffer injuries and sometimes death.
- Alert systems, such as Silver Alert, help in locating missing persons. These programs are designed to support first responders in locating vulnerable people who wander from home and returning them quickly and safely. The development and implementation of a made-in-BC Silver Alert Program led by Ministry of Health and supported by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General was included in both ministers' November 2020 mandate letters.
- The Ministry of Health conducted a jurisdictional review on Canadian and international sources to identify alerting systems or programs that exist for people with dementia who are missing. The results of the jurisdictional scan showed the greatest development of "silver alert" systems were international, including broad state-specific systems and programs in the United States. Most alert systems expanded the population beyond seniors with a dementia diagnosis to include individuals with cognitive impairments who have gone missing, and who may or may not be seniors (individuals with other diagnoses that may result in disorientation and getting lost) but would fall within a category of vulnerable adult. Most alert systems employed technologies such as geo-targeted phone alerts, individualized GPS tracking devices and public cellphone apps. All programs included the option to engage media to inform the public about a missing adult. In all cases the decision to engage media was determined by law enforcement.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

¹ Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health, Dementia (age 40+ years), data extracted December 2015

² Wister, O'Dea, Fyffe, & Wagner. (2019). Fact Book on Aging in BC and Canada. Retrieved from: <https://cnpea.ca/images/september-15-factbook.pdf>.

³ <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/stages-behaviors/wandering>

- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness staff recently shared information on a newly developed silver alert program being piloted in Quebec and Ministry of Health staff are reviewing.

NEXT STEPS:

- Initial work being done by Ministry of Health will include looking at strategies currently in place in BC for vulnerable adults who may become lost. Work underway includes:
 - Development of a project plan that is inclusive of stakeholder identification and engagement, key milestones, and activities.
 - Briefing for PS Elmore, Office of the Seniors Advocate, and others
 - Engaging key internal and external stakeholders to inform the work, and obtain input and feedback
 - Recommendation for the Minister and PS Elmore
 - Pending approval, draft implementation strategy

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There have also been calls from Indigenous groups for the establishment of Red Dress Alerts, an early warning system for when an Indigenous woman or girl goes missing.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Minister of Health

PREPARED BY:

Madeline Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	04 Oct 2022
A.DM	MSM	27 Sept 2022
ADM	MLM	26 Sept 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Hazard Readiness

BACKGROUND:

- General readiness for emergencies is a shared responsibility in BC that includes households, businesses, not-for-profit agencies, and all levels of government and requires an understanding of disaster risk and appropriate emergency plans.
- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is the Province's lead agency for coordinating the development of integrated all-hazard and event-specific emergency management readiness with First Nations, Local Authorities, provincial ministries, non-government organizations and critical infrastructure agencies.
- Provincial ministries have a responsibility to develop hazard specific emergency response plans (e.g., the Ministry of Forests is responsible for wildfire events).
- EMCR acts as the provincial coordinating agency, while the ministry responsible will coordinate tactical and operational response to the hazard.
- The Province undertakes and coordinates readiness for specific seasonal hazards such as flooding, wildfire events and extreme heat, as well as seismic hazards.
- EMCR hosts regional Seasonal Readiness Calls in the fall and spring of each year for First Nation and Local Authority Emergency Programs and focus on ensuring the readiness of all partners for flood, wildfire, fall winter storms and heat events.
- EMCR coordinates advance planning for the provision of Emergency Support Services (ESS) supports, including temporary accommodation, that may be required by large-scale evacuations due to flooding or wildfire events.
- EMCR maintains a robust 24/7/365 regional and provincial staffing model to ensure constant readiness for emergency response to disasters anywhere in the province.
- EMCR provides preparedness guides for individuals and businesses as part of a whole-of-society approach to risk reduction and readiness.

Flood Readiness

- Flooding in BC is typically driven by freshet snowmelt (during the spring/early summer) and heavy precipitation (possible anytime of year, but most common during fall storms or when occurring at the same time as freshet snowmelt).
- Flooding of coastal areas due to ocean storm surge is also possible in BC but has not been a frequent or major cause of significant human consequence impacts.
- Roles and responsibilities for flood preparedness and response are outlined in the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan.

- EMCR engages Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to provide year-round weather forecasting for provincial emergency management partners of precipitation events, as well as temperature trends that will impact freshet snowmelt.
- The Ministry of Forests River Forecast Centre (RFC) produces springtime snowpack mapping and analysis, predicts flow levels in BC rivers and streams, and issues regional flood warnings, watches, and advisories to inform emergency managers and the public about current and upcoming flood conditions and risk.
- The information from ECCC and RFC is then cross-referenced by the Province, First Nations, and Local Authorities against local floodplain mapping to further refine predictions of flood risk and inform flood readiness activities.
- EMCR pre-positions flood control assets (e.g., sandbags) in consultation with communities to ensure the assets are ready for rapid deployment to areas with imminent flood threat.
- EMCR is working with communities and other partners to identify and address flooding vulnerabilities created or increased by the 2021 Atmospheric River (AR) event (as well as recent drought and wildfire events).
- As part of these efforts, EMCR is working with:
 - Ministry of Environment to address natural and human debris deposited in riverways during the AR event that may increase flooding risk.
 - Ministry of Forests Water Management Branch to identify changes to river system flows that may increase local flood risk and orphan dike vulnerabilities that need to be addressed.
 - Communities to understand further diking improvements needed following the AR event and for future climate change threats.

Wildfire Readiness

- Mapping and publishing of wildfire risk, as well as readiness for tactical wildfire response (on both crown land and in partnership with First Nation and Local Authority wildfire response plans) is largely undertaken by the BC Wildfire Service.
- As the Province's lead agency for coordinating emergency management activities in BC, EMCR works closely with the BCWS in all aspects of wildfire readiness.

Extreme Heat Readiness

- Following the 2021 heat dome event, the Province established the Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee, led by the Ministry of Health, and supported by EMCR.
- In 2022, the BC HEAT Committee developed the BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS) that established criteria and response actions for a two-level system of heat alerts (Heat Warnings and Extreme Heat Emergencies).

- The BC HARS outlines key messages for the public and provides recommended actions for public health officials, EMCR, communities and other provincial heat response partners during heat events.
- EMCR ensured First Nation and Local Authority Emergency Program Coordinators were familiar with the BC HARS plan and supported them in its recommended response actions during 2022 Heat Warnings.
- The BC HEAT Committee will review and update the BC HARS in advance of summer 2023.

Seismic Event (Earthquake and Tsunami) Readiness

- EMCR's 24/7/365 staff maintain readiness for seismic events, including the ability to launch the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) to notify communities and emergency management partners of tsunami warnings, advisories or watches.
- PENS includes Broadcast Intrusive Public Alerts to radio, TV and cellular devices to notify the public in the event of a tsunami warning.
- EMCR is responsible for maintaining the Earthquake Immediate Response Plan, which details the roles, responsibilities and integration of the Province and its partners during the immediate response phase following a catastrophic earthquake.
- EMCR and the Ministry of Citizens' Services coordinate all other Ministries in developing their Catastrophic Response Actions (critical functions required for the continuity of government and the Public Service after a catastrophic seismic event).

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Flood, wildfire, extreme heat, and seismic events can impact Indigenous Peoples in BC and cause harm to land, practises, community and families, culture, physical wellbeing, and spirituality.
- It is recognized that Indigenous Peoples have been disproportionately impacted by major emergency events in BC since 2017 and are likely to continue to be impacted by the results of climate change.
- EMCR provides emergency preparedness supports to First Nations governments on behalf of Indigenous Services Canada through a 10-year, \$30M service agreement.
- EMCR is committed to providing equitable emergency management support to all individuals and communities in BC.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service
- Ministry of Forests, Water Management Branch
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Citizens' Service
- All Provincial Ministries (Seismic Readiness)

PREPARED BY:

Brendan Ralfs
Director, Provincial Response Programs

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 4, 2022
A.DM	MSM	Oct 2, 2022
ADM	MLM	Sept 26, 2022
ED	IC	Sept 26, 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Joint Committee on Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience

BACKGROUND:

- On November 26, 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau visited B.C. to survey the damage from the November flood events. During this visit he announced the formation of a joint committee of federal and provincial ministers to manage British Columbia's recovery from the flooding and deadly mudslides. The Committee was named the Joint Committee on Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience (DRCR), and ten provincial ministers, ten federal ministers, and three First Nations Leadership Council representatives made up the table.
- The Committee was co-chaired by Minister Bill Blair, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada, and Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and by Minister Farnworth. The DRCR was structured to be short-term in nature, with a planned duration for six months.
- The Committee has now wrapped up, and in total, five meetings were held between December 2021 and July 2022. Two meetings were held in person in BC, and one was held in Ottawa. Topics ranged from initial response efforts for farmers, infrastructure, and community supports in the beginning, and over time the agendas focused on disaster risk reduction in communities and harmonizing provincial, federal and first nations efforts on climate adaptation and emergency management.
- Separate from the DRCR, on December 14, the federal government announced an "initial" \$5 billion in flood recovery funding that was attached to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program. This funding was not linked to the creation of the DRCR, but to date, more than \$1.2 billion has been claimed to help offset provincial costs for response and recovery efforts.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The three First Nations Leadership Council representatives on the Joint Committee were Regional Chief Terry Teegee from the BC Assembly of First Nations, Kukpi7 Judy Wilson from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and Robert Phillips from the First Nations Summit.

- At an April Committee meeting, Kukpi7 Judy Wilson suggested that a joint declaration be drafted for discussion and released at a subsequent meeting. An initial draft was co-developed between provincial, federal, and FNLC staff, and it was shared with Committee members at a June meeting. Intergovernmental Communications
- FNLC were satisfied with being invited to the table at the Joint Committee, and they stated at the final meeting that they would like to continue with an ongoing table where provincial and federal elected leaders meet with FNLC leaders to discuss climate change, climate adaptation, and emergency management.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- A total of 10 provincial Ministers were members of the DRCR. These included: Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture and Food, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Municipal Affairs, Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Forests, and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.
- Collaboration between these ministries remains significant as the province continues to support communities in their recovery efforts.

PREPARED BY:

Paul Squires
Executive Lead
Recovery & Resiliency Secretariat

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Oct 5, 2022
EL	PS	Oct 4, 2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: General Overview and Supports for 2021 Atmospheric River Event

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2021, the Province of BC experienced catastrophic impacts from three atmospheric river events that shed exceptional amount of precipitation (85 mm total rainfall in the Fraser Valley) resulting in substantial overland flooding and landslides.
- These events caused large-scale evacuation of communities in multiple regions of the province, loss of life and significant damage to transportation corridors, isolating many communities, and disrupting supply chains.
- EMCRBC's (EMCR) Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) were activated in the EMCR regions of Vancouver Island - Central Coast, Southwest, and Central and supported by the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC).
- The role of the PREOCS and PECC is to provide overall coordination of response efforts and support communities as they activate their emergency response plans.
- The Province through EMCR reimbursed over \$83.5 million to local authorities and \$2.5 million to Indigenous communities for community response costs. Reimbursement to Indigenous communities was fully recovered from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through the bilateral emergency services agreement.
- Included in approved and reimbursed response costs are repairs to and raising of berms and dikes, erosion mitigation work, riverbank restoration, critical infrastructure repairs, anthropogenic and natural debris removal, scraping of sediment deposition in waterways, livestock disposal, hazardous waste management, Emergency Support Services (ESS) support, traffic control, recovery managers, and geotechnical, bathymetric, and hydraulic assessments to evaluate risk.
- In addition to expense reimbursements, PREOCs supported communities in the following ways:
 - Daily coordination calls with subject matter experts from Environment Canada, River Forecast Centre (RFC), Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), BC Hydro, rail providers, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS).
 - Community-specific coordination calls for hardest impacted local partners.
 - Daily outreach to impacted communities to identify unmet needs and assist in coordination of agency supports.
 - Dedicated supply chain coordination calls focusing on potential and/or perceived impacts to food, fuel, medical and water supplies.

- Introductory recovery calls to raise community awareness on actions beyond the response phase of the event.
- Coordination and deployment of Provincial and Federal personnel and resources to support response efforts.
- Community recovery was coordinated by EMCR Community Recovery Teams. Dedicated teams were assembled for the Sumas Prairie/Abbotsford area and the Central Interior. These teams worked closely with EMCR Regional Offices, other EMCR Strategic Partnerships, and other agencies and ministries to ensure a smooth transition between response and recovery and facilitate a rapid return to community for evacuees.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The November 2021 Atmospheric River Events had profound and lasting impacts on Indigenous communities in all three of the most heavily impacted EMCR regions, with the most notable impacts including evacuations from their respective communities and isolation from critical supplies and resources.
- All PREOC activities in response to the Atmospheric River Event were completed in alignment with the province's commitment to the Draft Principles guiding BC's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- During the Atmospheric River Event, PREOCs supported First Nations partners in the following ways:
 - Activated Indigenous People Units with the PECC and PREOCs with representation from EMCR Strategic Partnerships, ISC, FNHA and FNESS to address community challenges and unmet needs through a one-door approach.
 - First Nation-specific coordination calls, with only community representatives and First Nation-support agencies invited to support needs unique to Indigenous peoples.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

PREPARED BY:

Pader Brach, Executive Director
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	29/11/2022
Associate DM	MSM	29/11/2022
ADM	MLM	28/11/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Ombudsperson Review of Disaster Assistance Supports Provided to People Impacted by 2021 Wildfires and Floods

BACKGROUND:

- In the Spring of 2022, the Ombudsperson initiated an investigation of provincial disaster assistance programs - Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) - on how they supported people who were displaced from their homes and communities as a result of 2021 wildfires and floods.
- The review is examining the fairness of program administration in addition to identifying gaps and limitations with supports provided.
- EMCR staff continue to work closely with Ombudsperson staff to inform the investigation.
- On October 6, 2022, the Ombudsperson opened an online survey to solicit feedback from those impacted by 2021 events on their experiences. This [survey](#) is open until December 31, 2022.

- Advice/Recommendations

-

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Supports provided to Indigenous people and communities through ESS and DFA are in scope of the Ombudspersons' review.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Not applicable

PREPARED BY:

Alex Chandler
Assistant Deputy Minister

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	11-14-2022
Associate DM	MSM	11-10-2022
ADM / EFO	AC	11-10-2022
ADM Rec	JLM	11-09-2022
ADM Reg	MLM	11-09-2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: North Shore Rescue Night-Hoisting Trial

BACKGROUND:

- North Shore Rescue (NSR) volunteers respond to approximately 130 incidents per year. Approximately 37% of the requests for NSR to support Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) incidents involve night operations.
- In August 2020, NSR received approval from Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to participate in a pilot project; this project was to trial GSAR groups' use of night-vision imaging system (NVIS) to extend their aerial search and transport operating hours.
- In addition to the use of NVIS, NSR and Talon Helicopters are seeking to expand their night operations to include subject and responder hoisting capabilities.
- To date, in a life-or-death situation, when a helicopter is needed to extract someone at night, the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria will deploy a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter from Canadian Forces Base Comox.
- The EMCR Search and Rescue staff have raised concerns regarding supporting GSAR groups conducting night hoisting operations, citing the following:
 - Night hoisting capability exists in BC. In a life-or-death situation, the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria will deploy a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter from Canadian Forces Base Comox.
 - Adding night hoisting to GSAR group(s) provincial capabilities may incur additional costs, increase volunteer risk exposure, and require extensive training.
- Transport Canada is the regulator for aviation operations and responsible for approving all requirements for night hoisting operations. Talon Helicopters has received Transport Canada approval for their night hoisting operations.
- NSR and Talon Helicopters have asserted that large military machines create unsafe downwash in mountainous terrain, which creates a danger for both subjects and responders on the ground. In addition, they suggest that delays in military deployment could impact the success of the operation.
- On October 6, 2022, Minister Mike Farnworth released the following statement in support of NSR's request to undertake night-hoisting operations:

“Ground Search and Rescue volunteers in British Columbia are among the best in the world, and the province is committed to supporting their invaluable work.

“The Province began a pilot project to trial the use of Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS) with North Shore Rescue in December 2020. Looking at options to test the capability of night hoisting operations with NVIS is the next step. I am supportive of this next step, and I have asked EMCR staff to look at how we can proceed in this direction.

“Night hoisting operations conducted by North Shore Rescue would be the first for a Ground Search and Rescue volunteer team in the country and we need to make sure it’s done safely. I am confident we will make progress, and, in the meantime, our partners at the Canadian Armed Forces (442 Squadron) continue to play a vital role across the country. They provide night hoisting operations when required, in addition to their primary mandate for marine and airborne SAR.”

- On October 6, 2022, EMCR Executive Director Pader Brach and NSR’s Team Leader Mike Danks agreed to the establishment of a NSR night-hoisting trial to begin no later than November 2022.
- In this meeting it was agreed to that should a life-and-death situation arise while the trial is being developed, and where alternate means of rescue may lead to unfavourable outcomes, NSR is permitted to immediately undertake night-hoisting operations.
- Other GSAR groups have raised concerns around fairness regarding the approval of the NSR trial, in part due to their previous applications being put on hold until a Provincial Needs Assessment can better inform GSAR groups’ requests for additional capabilities.
- On average, NSR responds to approximately, 28-night operations per year. Of those, only a few would require night-hoisting. To ensure opportunity for enough night-hoisting operations to support effective data collection, analysis, and evaluation, EMCR intends to conduct the trial over the next 24 months. NSR is supportive of this timeframe.
- EMCR will continually assess the trial throughout its duration and at the completion will provide recommendations for next steps.

NEXT STEPS:

- EMCR is committed to working collaboratively with NSR over then next 24 months on this night hoisting trial.

- NSR and EMCR have agreed to continue the NVIS pilot project during the night-hoisting trial and intend to conclude both by November 2024.

- Advice/Recommendations

- Legal Information

-

- EMCR is reviewing all current GSAR Group applications for additional capabilities.
- EMCR has committed to assessing the approval process for GSAR groups to acquire additional capabilities, including determining if a comprehensive Provincial Needs Assessment is the most effective approach.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- N/A

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Pader Brach, Executive Director
Regional Operations

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
Associate DM	MSM	29/11/2022
ADM	MLM	25/11/2022
ED	CO	22/11/2022

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: Provincial Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

BACKGROUND:

- An updated and modernized assessment of provincial-scale disaster and climate risks is critical for the Province to strategically prioritize risk reduction and climate adaptation investments and develop programs to strengthen the Province's resilience to risk.
- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) have aligned legislative and government commitments:
 - In 2018, BC adopted the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that provides guidance for utilizing an all-hazards approach to assessing risk and resilience.
 - The modernized Emergency Management legislation will require all regulated entities to undertake risk assessments using the best available local and Indigenous knowledge and climate science. The methodology used to develop a provincial disaster risk assessment is intended to be adapted for use by regulated entities.
 - CAS is responsible to meet the Climate Change Accountability Act commitment of assessing and publicly reporting on climate risks every five years. To meet this commitment, BC's first climate risk assessment (CRA) was published in 2019 with the next iteration due by 2025. CRA 2019 was the first provincial-scale assessment of climate risks in Canada, and the first assessment of risks in BC since the Provincial Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) in 1997.
 - BC's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) also committed EMBC to develop a provincial-scale HRVA, in 2025.
- Realigning these assessment commitments in light of the new mandate, likely requires combining the two assessments into one. The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) will reflect modern contexts and the latest information. The methodology to undertake the assessment is intended to be transferable to regulated entities and information generated will be brought into the BC Resilient Communities Hub.
- This approach aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction utilizing an all-hazards approach to assessing risk and resilience in BC. Five broad

categories of hazards will be considered: biological, environmental, geological/geophysical, hydrometeorological, and technological.

- Extensive engagement and data input is required to inform risk and resilience identification and analysis, including: hazard studies, climate impacts and risks, and disaster risk; hazard information; risk driver information to inform the underlying conditions; exposure data; vulnerability; resilience (e.g., capacities, institutions); and potential impacts (e.g., risk models).

Advice/Recommendations

- The new mandate timeline necessitates advancing the deadline for the HRVA a year sooner. This comes with substantial risk, specifically, regarding the engagement process required to deliver the assessment as well as limited funding and staffing resources. The Province received substantive criticism on the CRA 2019, most notably lack of inclusion of Indigenous values and knowledge-systems, lack of consideration of disproportionate impact of risks across populations and geographies, and the limited applicability of the risk assessment results to local or regional scales.
- Based on the learnings from the CRA 2019, international best practices, and the feedback received through related engagements, CAS and EMBC have the following key pillars informing the development of the DCRRA:
 - Co-develop methodologies and products with Indigenous governing bodies.
 - Integrate the principles of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)
 - Ground the assessment in local and Indigenous knowledges, experiences, and realities, and reflects the variability of risks and resilience across B.C.
- Where possible, work underway across provincial ministries will be brought into these comprehensive provincial-scale risk assessment processes (e.g., Ministry of Forests assessment of provincial flood risks).

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Climate and disaster risks 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. Climate and disaster risks impact the ecosystems that underpin Indigenous identities, cultures, languages, economies, health, and well-being.
- To address gaps in the CRA 2019, and to ensure the results of the DCRRA are in alignment with Indigenous values, knowledge, and priorities, the assessments will be co-developed with Indigenous Governing Bodies as per Articles 18, 19, 27, 31, and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Forests

PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Lotz
Policy Analyst, Disaster Mitigation and
Adaptation Policy
Disaster Risk Reduction Division

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	06/12/2022
Associate DM	MSM	06/12/2022
ED	KC	06/12/2022
Mgr	AB	06/12/2022

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 CEPF to support disaster response and recovery projects. This is part of an initiative by EMCR to increase resiliency across all communities in British Columbia and improve B.C.'s overall emergency preparedness. There are nine streams of funding under CEPF. Application intake for the streams are staggered throughout the year.

Event opportunity: Announce successful recipients of CEPF funding
Potential dates: January 2023: Community Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) January 2023: Composite Fire Departments Advice/Recommendations
Headline: Example) Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Announcement: News releases
Partners: Local gov'ts, First Nations, UBCM (administers fund)

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)

flood mitigation projects in B.C. have received their share of in funding from the federal and provincial government under NDMP. Many of these projects are already completed. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
 Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Event opportunity:	Advice/Recommendations
Potential date:	Advice/Recommendations
Headline:	Advice/Recommendations
Announcement:	News release
Partners:	Local gov'ts, First Nations, Public Safety Canada

Coastal Exercise Response 2023

Public Safety Canada and the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness are leading the development of the federal/provincial whole of government earthquake exercise known as Coastal Response 2023 (CR23). The exercise, which will take place February 7-9, 2023, has been deemed the National Priority Exercise for the 2020-23 period.

The aim of CR23 is to practice strategy, coordination, and communication through an integrated response to a catastrophic earthquake. The exercise scenario will begin 96 hours after an earthquake that causes significant damage to the Metro Vancouver area.

CR23 will be an opportunity for all levels of government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups to test operational capabilities, evaluate policies and plans, familiarize personnel with roles and responsibilities, and foster meaningful interaction and communication.

Event opportunity: Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Potential date: February 6 (the day before CR23 begins)
Headline: Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Announcement: News releases
Partners: Local gov'ts, First Nations, other participating organizations (such as Canadian Red Cross, health authorities, etc.), Public Safety Canada

Earthquake Early Warning (EEW)

Earthquake Early Warning has the potential to reduce the impact of major earthquake in Canada.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is initiating a five-year program to construct such a system with initial operation to begin in ~2024. EEW can provide seconds to minutes of warning before the arrival of strong shaking to allow protective measures and reduce the impact of an event. Canada currently has earthquake monitoring, but not a national warning system.

Advice/Recommendations

Event opportunity: Announce B.C.'s use of EEW
Potential date: Advice/Recommendations
Headline: Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Announcement: Advice/Recommendations
Partners: NRCan

Emergency Program Act Modernization

EMCR has been directed to modernize its emergency management legislation 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.*

Event opportunity: Announce modernized emergency management legislation
Potential date: Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
Headline: Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
Announcement: Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
Partners: Stakeholders who gave input to legislative changes (too many to list)

Green Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program

The Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program is a sub-stream under the Green Infrastructure umbrella.

The program 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 program has a total of \$81.865 million in federal and provincial dollars to support projects that increase structural capacity and/or natural capacity with the intent of reducing, or even negating, the effects of flooding.

Intake for Green ARDM closed in October 2022. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Event opportunity: Announce successful recipients of Green ARDM funding
Potential date: <small>Advice/Recommendations</small>
Headline: <small>Advice/Recommendations</small> <small>Advice/Recommendations</small>
Announcement: News release + possible event in one of the communities receiving funding
Partners: First Nations, local governments, federal government

Potential Issues

COVID-19 Lessons Learned Review

Issue:

In March 2022, EMCR announced an independent review of the government's operational response to COVID-19. The review was submitted in late September and
Advice/Recommendations We hadn't previously announced when we intended to make the review public.

The review makes 26 conclusions directed at EMCR and the Ministry of Health on how it can improve its operational response for future provincewide emergencies, such as pandemics.

Background:

The project team includes former senior leaders of the BC Public Service: Bob de Faye, Dan Perrin, and Chris Trumpy.

Although the project team was asked not to make specific recommendations, each finding includes conclusions about where government effort is needed.

The project team looked at best practices and engaged extensively with government agencies, First Nations, Indigenous organizations, stakeholders, partners and independent regulators involved in responding to the pandemic. From March 16 to April 20, the public had an opportunity to provide written feedback on how they, their business or organization, were impacted by government's response

Earthquake Early Response Systems

Issue:

Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) was awarded \$5 million in 2016 (and additional funds since) to develop an offshore earthquake warning system. The delivery of that system was supposed to be in early 2019, however, Advice/Recommendations

Meanwhile, there is a parallel Natural Resource Canada early earthquake warning system in development that is land-based, announced in 2019, which will be operational by 2024.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

Background:

An earthquake early warning (EEW) system rapidly detects an earthquake and provides alerts before damaging shaking begins. These systems can provide a few critical seconds of warning to allow people, 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.

Ocean Networks Canada (ONC)

In 2016, the Province invested \$5M in ONC's EEW system in B.C. The funding supported connecting existing sensors and established sensor stations at 35 land-based and eight offshore sites adjacent to the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This project was completed in July 2019.

In 2020, the Province invested \$1.7M to support the commissioning of the system and an initial phase of operations for two years. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

National Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Program

The federal government, through Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), has secured funds to develop an EEW system for Canada. They're developing the system in areas with high seismic hazard and where there is critical infrastructure of national significance (incl. Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky Corridor, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii). The first sensor station officially opened at Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal on March 28, 2022.

The system will be made up of a core network operated by the federal government and an extended network operated by other organizations in B.C. The extended network will add additional sensors within the geographic area of the core network and expand the system to areas not already covered by the network.

A federal program will support organizations with participating in the extended network, and projects aimed at the advancement of innovation of EEW systems and the public's ability to respond to warnings.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations

This system is anticipated to be operational in 2024.

Emergency Program Act

Issue:

EMCR is working modernizing its emergency management legislation (“Emergency Program Act”) – directive in the 2020 mandate letter. The timeline for the completion of the new legislation has been extended a number of times, however, EMCRC is on track to introduce the legislation in spring 2023.

Background:

To ensure adequate time for the next steps in the legislative development process, government has extended the timeline to introduce a new Act to spring 2023. Engagement with partners and stakeholders continued in 2020 and 2021, but in 2020/21 it was limited due to the pandemic.

EMCR and UBCM partnered to create the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee (FWAC) composed of elected officials and staff from local governments to provide ongoing policy advice. Local governments also provided thorough feedback in response to the 2019 Discussion Paper, Modernizing Emergency Management in BC.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

From October 2019 to January 2020, EMCRC conducted engagement on a discussion paper on the modernization of the emergency management legislation, outlining the proposed policy direction. EMCRC conducted 172 engagement sessions and received 239 written responses. Overall, there was a high level of support for the proposals. EMCRC released a “What We Heard” Report in August 2020, summarizing key themes from the responses and indicating next steps.

EMCR worked with partners and stakeholders to identify lessons learned from the pandemic that will be incorporated in the new legislative framework.

About the Emergency Program Act

The Act 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 Act 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.

Ombudsperson review of 2021 DFA and ESS

Issue:

In October, the Office of the Ombudsperson announced it would be conducting a review of 2021 Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) and Emergency Support Services (ESS). A questionnaire is open to the public until Dec. 31, 2022. ^{Advice/Recommendations}
Advice/Recommendations

Background:

Disaster Financial Assistance is available to people affected by flooding and landslides in northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and Vancouver Island from Nov. 14 to Dec. 2, 2021. This assistance is open to homeowners, residential tenants, businesses, charitable organizations, local governments, Indigenous communities, and farmers with losses that could not be covered by insurance providers. Claims have taken longer to process than in the past due to the extreme volume coming in. Changes have been made in the administration of the program to speed up processing.

EMCR has received a total of 2,298 DFA applications. As of Nov. 22, 2022, 2,011 applications have been completed and more than \$26 million has been paid out. The average payout to DFA recipients is approximately \$30,000.

Public Alerting

Issue:

B.C.'s use of the Alert Ready system was questioned in the media and by Opposition during both the heat dome and when the series of atmospheric rivers caused severe damage with little warning in November 2021.

In spring 2022, EMCR expanded the use of the National Alert Ready system to include wildfire, flood and extreme heat emergencies. EMCR issued two alerts for wildfires in 2022. However, EMCR continues to be questioned on why it is used so minimally compared to other provinces.

Background:

EMCR can currently use Alert Ready for tsunamis, wildfires, flooding, and Extreme Heat Emergencies. The RCMP can use Alert Ready for Amber Alerts and civil emergencies. These alerts can broadcast immediately on television, radio and wireless devices (or to wireless devices only).

Other provinces have used Alert Ready for emergencies including tornado, wildfire, and civil emergency.

Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible mobile devices within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

Public alerting tests are conducted across Canada twice a year, usually in November and during Emergency Preparedness Week in May.

Other 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 EMCR's website (Emergency Info BC), social media and by using cross-government email.

Uses of Alert Ready in 2021 and 2022

2022 – Seven alerts have been issued. Two from EMCR for wildfire evacuations in the Peace River Regional District; five from the RCMP, including two for Amber Alerts and three for an active shooter in Langley in July.

EMCR Alerts in 2022:

- Sept. 4, 2022 - Wireless Intrusive alert for the community of Kelly Lake and surrounding area at the request of Peace River Regional District for the Bearhole Lake Wildfire.
- Sept. 10, 2022 - Broadcast and Wireless Intrusive alert for the community of Hudson's Hope at the request of the District of Hudson's Hope and the Peace River Regional District for the Battleship Mountain Wildfire.

2021 – Two alerts were issued by RCMP for an active shooter in Vanderhoof in November.

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.

EMCR Calendar

November 2022

Date	Event	Significance
November 5	United Nations: World Tsunami Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsunami awareness and approaches to risk reduction
Nov. 7 – 10	Third Party: Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference (EPBCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THIRD-PARTY CONFERENCE: Brings together professional emergency planners, business continuity planners and others with a responsibility for emergency preparedness and business continuity. • Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness 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.
Wednesday, Nov. 16	Alert Ready – National Public Alerting System test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
No fixed date - Advice/Recommendations	EMCR: Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of dedicated Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers in B.C. • These award winners are a select few among thousands of Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers who conduct air and ground searches, help the victims of serious car accidents, set up networks of volunteer teams, and co-ordinate services for victims of natural disasters.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award winners have demonstrated significant contributions to emergency and disaster response in British Columbia.
No fixed date – November through March	EMCR: Storm Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual campaign to help British Columbians prepare for severe weather and power outages. Could also be an Info Bulletin.

December 2022

N/A

January 2023

Date	Event	Significance
Advice/Recommendations		

February 2023

Date	Event	Significance
Advice/Recommendations		

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Heat Preparedness and Alerts

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- As we've seen over the last two summers, heat events are becoming more frequent – and projected to become more severe – due to climate change.
- It's vital that we make sure B.C., and our healthcare system, is prepared and resilient during extreme heat events, and heat warnings like we experienced this past summer.
- We have taken several steps to improve public education, communication and services during heat events. This includes:
 - launching the BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS)
 - releasing the PreparedBC Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide
 - supporting First Nations and local authorities by creating a new extreme heat funding stream under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, and
 - providing guidance and funds for local authorities to proactively open cooling centres.
- The new heat alert and response system, and actions the Ministry of Health is taking to strengthen the ambulance system and emergency care, will help keep people safe during future heat waves.

IF ASKED ABOUT PUBLIC ALERTING:

- When Heat Warnings were issued this summer, the Province used its EmergencyInfoBC platforms to amplify messaging from Environment Canada about the warnings and community cooling centres.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) also held coordination calls with communities to provide updates on the situation and answer questions.
- For Extreme Heat Emergencies, EMCR is prepared to issue alerts through the national public alerting system, Alert Ready, to make sure people are aware and can take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones.

- This builds on our expanded use of Alert Ready to issue alerts for wildfires and floods, in addition to Amber Alerts, civil emergencies and tsunami warnings.
- The BC HEAT Committee will recommend EMCR issue a BI Alert when conditions reach, or are expected to reach, an Extreme Heat Emergency.
- No regions in B.C. met the conditions of an Extreme Heat Emergency in summer 2022.

IF ASKED ABOUT FUNDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES:

- Last spring, we introduced a new stream under the \$189-million Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for heat risk mapping, assessment, and planning so communities can develop effective response plans to keep people safe during heat events.
- In September, we announced that 36 First Nations and local governments across B.C. will receive their share of nearly \$1.9 million in heat preparedness funding.

BACKGROUND:

In late June 2021, British Columbia experienced an unprecedented extreme heat event, with record temperatures in many parts of the province lasting for several days. The BC Coroners Service identified 619 deaths identified as heat-related, in their report released June 7, 2022.

Over the summer of 2022, there were multiple heat warnings issued across B.C. Most notably, there were sustained heat warnings across much of B.C. from July 26 to Aug. 3. On Aug. 9, the BC Coroners Service released a report on suspected heat-related deaths, which found 16 suspected deaths between July 26 and Aug. 3.

BC HARS: Given the severity of the heat dome, and likelihood of future heat events due to climate change, the Province developed the BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS), which it launched on June 6, 2022.

The BC HARS was developed by the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures Committee (BC HEAT Committee). It's led by the Ministry of Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and includes the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Environment and Climate Change Canada, EMCR, First Nations Health Authority, regional health authorities, BC Emergency Health Services, BC Housing, WorkSafeBC and other partners.

The BC HARS describes the temperature criteria in each of five regions within B.C. used to establish a two-tier heat alert system. A **Heat Warning** will be issued for a region when there are two or more consecutive days when the daytime maximum temperatures and overnight minimum temperatures are forecast to reach or exceed the region's established trigger temperature criteria. A more dangerous **Extreme Heat Emergency** will be issued when the forecast, or observed temperatures, in a particular region surpasses the **Heat Warning** criteria, and there is high certainty that temperatures will substantively increase day over day for three or

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more consecutive days.

Media interest: Given the heat dome in 2021, there is significant interest in any heat warnings or heat waves in B.C. Inquiries focus on whether the Province is doing enough to prevent heat-related deaths, and whether the Province will issue an alert through Alert Ready.

Example of coverage during late July 2022 heat warnings: Most of B.C. under heat warning as week of soaring temperatures begins, CBC, July 25, 2022

EMCR – PUBLIC ALERTING

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- People and communities across British Columbia are experiencing extreme weather emergencies – such as heat, wildfires and floods – like never before due to climate change.
- During emergencies, we need to help people be safe and informed by providing the most important and urgent information as quickly as possible. That's why our government has prioritized the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C.
- In spring 2022, the Province formally introduced the ability to issue broadcast intrusive alerts for wildfires, floods and extreme heat emergencies – in addition to tsunamis, civil emergencies and Amber Alerts.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the public alerting systems already in place.
 - This includes local government emergency alerts, coastal siren systems, door-to-door notifications, social media, and the national Alert Ready system.
- We've made strides in recent years in how our government supports people in B.C. with emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and I'm committed to continue to strengthen our provincial alerting program.

IF ASKED WHY WE HAVEN'T ISSUED MANY ALERTS THROUGH ALERT READY:

- In the event of an emergency, we are prepared to issue an alert through the national Alert Ready system.
- For example, on Sept. 4, 2022, we sent out a Wireless Intrusive alert at the request of Peace River Regional District about an evacuation order, given the public safety risk of the Bearhole Lake Wildfire.
- However, it is important to note that many programs are already in place to alert people about emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems.

- Developing alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
 - how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
 - broadcast intrusive (emergency alerts) versus informational alerts (public alerts)
 - role of the Province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
 - how the Province manages jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
 - provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting.

BACKGROUND:

Emergency Management BC has expanded the use of the National Alert Ready system to include wildfire, flood and extreme heat events.

In 2021, B.C.'s use of the Alert Ready system was questioned in the media and by opposition during both the heat dome and when the series of atmospheric rivers caused severe damage with little warning. EMBC can currently use Alert Ready for tsunamis, wildfires, flooding, Extreme Heat Emergencies. The RCMP can use Alert Ready for Amber Alerts and civil emergencies. These alerts can broadcast immediately on television, radio and wireless devices (or to wireless devices only).

Other provinces have used Alert Ready for emergencies including tornado, wildfire, and civil emergency.

Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible mobile devices within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

Public alerting tests are conducted twice a year, usually in November and during Emergency Preparedness Week in May.

Other 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 and by using cross-government email.

Uses of Alert Ready in 2021 and 2022

2022 – Seven alerts have been issued. Two from EMBC for wildfire evacuations in the Peace River Regional District; five from the RCMP, including two for Amber Alerts and three for an active shooter in Langley in July.

EMBC alerts in 2022:

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- Sept. 4, 2022 - Wireless Intrusive alert for the community of Kelly Lake and surrounding area at the request of Peace River Regional District for the Bearhole Lake Wildfire.
- Sept. 10, 2022 - Broadcast and Wireless Intrusive alert for the community of Hudson's Hope at the request of the District of Hudson's Hope and the Peace River Regional District for the Battleship Mountain Wildfire.

2021 – Two alerts were issued by RCMP for an active shooter in Vanderhoof in November.

How this is different from the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS)

PENS is designed to provide emergency notification and information about tsunami events that will impact or have the potential to impact B.C. PENS includes Alert Ready Broadcast Intrusive alerts that are pushed to the public through TV, radio and compatible mobile devices. There is also an email and phone component that directly alerts local governments, emergency response officials and the media of tsunami alerts (these organizations then activate their own tsunami alerting protocols).

Media interest: There's been consistent major media coverage about why and when B.C. uses Alert Ready, with reporters asking why it wasn't used during the summer 2021 heat dome, the atmospheric rivers in November 2021, and 2022 heat warnings.

AVALANCHE FUNDING AND SUPPORT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The Province appreciates Avalanche Canada's continued support to backcountry users through public avalanche forecasts and outreach, trip planning tools, terrain models and avalanche safety programs.
- About 75% of all Canadian avalanche fatalities occur in B.C. and about 90% of Avalanche Canada's services are delivered in this province.
- That's why we provided a \$10 million grant in 2021, to assist Avalanche Canada with the funding certainty required continue their great work in keeping British Columbians safe by monitoring avalanche risk and providing important public safety information.
- The work that Avalanche Canada does is vital for public safety, and I'm pleased we're able to support this organization's important work.
- The grant also allows Avalanche Canada to expand its regional forecasts to under-served regions in B.C., increase its delivery of avalanche safety training for youth, and provide more programs for winter recreationists of all types.

IF ASKED ABOUT CHARGING FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE COSTS TO DETER BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION IN UNSAFE AREAS:

- People recreating in B.C.'s wilderness should be prepared to take care of themselves and their companions, and anyone requiring search and rescue support is urged to contact authorities without delay.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supports the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association's position that charging for search and rescue response could directly affect whether a lost or injured person would request help, which would negatively impact the timeliness of a rescue.
- As risks and/or recreational activity picks up in backcountry areas, Avalanche Canada, the Province and other agencies, such as AdventureSmart, issue public information about risks and the precautions that should be followed.

BACKGROUND:

On May 17, 2021, B.C. announced a \$10 million grant to Avalanche Canada to provide long

term funding certainty and allow for an expansion of avalanche safety programming delivered in British Columbia. This funding was provided in response to Avalanche Canada's request for an annual contribution of \$1 million to allow for an expansion of programming within B.C.

Funding for Avalanche Canada's programming in B.C. has been uncertain from year to year because it primarily consisted of annual grant funding and donation, which limited the organization's ability to plan for the long term and support the expansion of services.

This annual grant will allow for forecasts to be delivered in popular winter backcountry recreational areas such that are not currently served by forecasts and will provide for more comprehensive snowpack modelling and automated terrain modelling. Avalanche Canada's work to ensure public safety helps several groups, including:

- Backcountry users who want to recreate safely
- Communities who rely on safe adventure tourism
- Workers who rely on Avalanche Canada's reports to safely work in remote areas
- Search and rescue volunteers who rely on Avalanche Canada reports for safety
- The general public, by ensuring avalanche information is available and accessible to everyone.

Media interest: There's consistent media coverage on avalanche risks and warnings that MOTI responds to. In 2021, the \$10 million provincial grant received major media coverage (CBC, CHEK, Vancouver Sun, Black Press).

CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The Province continues to ensure that B.C. is more resilient and prepared for earthquakes because we know that areas of our province are at risk of serious earthquakes and tsunamis.
- That's why we continue to explore all avenues to make sure B.C. is prepared to respond to a catastrophic earthquake. For example:
 - This summer, the Province completed significant updates to B.C.'s earthquake response strategy — a major cross-government initiative that enhances B.C.'s preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake.
 - B.C. works with the federal government to develop earthquake scenarios and plans to address national support strategies.
 - We have agreements with other jurisdictions to share resources in the event of a significant disaster such as an earthquake.
 - In February 2023, B.C. will hold a large-scale earthquake exercise to practice an integrated response by all levels of government including Federal departments and agencies, provincial ministries, First Nations, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations.
 - And in all our planning, we continue to incorporate lessons learned from exercises and recent emergency events such as COVID-19, wildfire and the November 2021 flooding.
- We also continue to reinforce the importance of personal preparedness, including having emergency kits and a household emergency plan in place.

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 Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014), and the BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (2014) were critical of the Province's preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Preparedness (EMCR) is publishing an updated Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS) in October 2022, which was completed in August 2022. The original Earthquake Immediate Response Plan was developed in 2015.

PEIRS details how the Province will lead and coordinate following a catastrophic earthquake, and outlines the roles, responsibilities, and integration of governments, agencies and partners. The strategy is set to be soft launched to partners in September 2022 and launched publicly around Oct. 20 (ShakeoutBC).

Preparedness measures include:

- **Agreements with jurisdictions:** B.C. has agreements in place with all Canadian provinces and territories, and the states of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, to share resources in the event of a significant disaster such as an earthquake.
- **Back-up systems:** There are back-up communications and power systems at the EMCR Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and all six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres.
- **Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC):** In tandem with revisions to PEIRS, EMCR has updated plans for a CERCC Concept of Operations to provide response and recovery coordination to all levels of government, First Nations, and partners through an integrated, centralized operations centre.
- **PreparedBC:** B.C.'s official disaster preparedness education program serving the public, local authorities, First Nations and schools. EMCR'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.

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. The \$189 million program is funded by the Province and administered through the Union of BC Municipalities. The funding streams include Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation, Emergency Support Services and Evacuation Route Planning.

Media interest: Regular media coverage of small earthquakes that occur and B.C.'s preparedness for the "big one."

Release of COVID-19 Review

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- Government is committed to protecting British Columbians and keeping people, businesses, and communities safe during emergencies, whether it be a local wildfire or global pandemic. The independent review was conducted to help government continue to strengthen and improve its emergency management protocols for future emergencies.
- The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented situation, and we moved quickly to keep people safe and stop the spread of the virus.
- We knew there were lessons to be learned, and the Province commissioned this review so government could continue to strengthen its emergency management protocols for future province-wide emergencies.
- Most – if not all – of these findings do not come as a surprise to us and we've already made concrete steps to address some of the findings in this review. For example,
 - This review will aid the Province as we continue our work to modernize our emergency management legislation – to be introduced in the spring of 2023.
 - The Ministries of Health and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) have begun work to identify how the Provincial Pandemic Coordination Plan could be updated. The plan was last updated in March 2020.
 - In February 2023, EMCR and partners will participate in Exercise Coastal Response – a simulation of a major disaster in the province –

to hone emergency response activities, such as coordination and supply chain management.

- EMCR is also working with communities to develop planning approaches to facilitate last-mile distribution of essential supplies following a catastrophic event.
- The challenges we have faced – and continue to face – during the pandemic are not unique to British Columbia. Our cross-government response has helped to keep people safe and healthy.
- Overall, among the four largest provinces, British Columbia had:
 - The lowest death rates per capita
 - The highest vaccination rates per capita
 - The highest satisfaction ratings from the public
 - The lowest maximum level of restrictions
 - The least impacted GDP
 - The most COVID-19 briefings in Canada

BACKGROUND:

In March 2022, EMCR announced an independent review of the Province's and the B.C. public sector's response to COVID-19 since January 2020. The final report was submitted to government in late September 2022.

The project team includes former senior leaders of the BC Public Service: Bob de Faye, Dan Perrin, and Chris Trumpy. Each of the 26 findings includes conclusions about where government effort is needed.

Decisions about economic recovery, such as supports for small businesses and families, and public health orders, such as mask mandates and gathering restrictions, were not part of the review.

The project team looked at best practices and engaged extensively with government agencies, First Nations, Indigenous organizations, stakeholders, partners and independent regulators involved in responding to the pandemic. The project team spoke with over 200 people representing about 145 groups and organizations in over 70 engagement sessions. They received 13 written submissions from stakeholders. An online survey for local governments received 15 responses.

From March 16 to April 20, the public had an opportunity to provide written feedback on how they, their business or organization, were impacted by government's response. Over 15,000 British Columbians responded to the survey, providing over 3,000 pages of comments. The public survey results show that 20% of British Columbians agreed that the Province did a good job at managing the pandemic. However, the project team notes in their report that in public research polls that ensure a representative sample, B.C. say 60-70% satisfaction rates. The report highlights that British Columbians have been consistently more satisfied with the performance of their provincial government than residents of any other provinces throughout the pandemic.

The final cost of the review was \$775,000. The Province budgeted \$1.71 million for the review. The budget was largely underspent due to most engagement sessions being held virtually instead of in person – minimizing travel costs; large unused contingency; no overspend on consulting contract; and secretariat staffing expenses lower than forecasted due to less staff and no travel.

To date, B.C. is the only province to complete and release an independent review of similar scope and size. In July 2022 the Government of the Northwest Territories announced a review of similar scope, with a target completion date of Fall 2022. The GNWT is leading the review and the final report has not been published. Some provinces completed reviews of smaller/targeted scope such as first wave response, or response within long-term care facilities.

QUOTES:

- “The Government of British Columbia’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic was strong, showing resilience, balance, and nimbleness that should give British Columbians confidence in its ability to respond to future province-wide emergencies.” (p. 1)
- “The data shows that B.C. public health measures were somewhat less restrictive overall and somewhat more stable, that B.C. had the highest increase in program spending, and had a slightly higher vaccination rate than other jurisdictions. In terms of health outcomes, B.C. had slightly lower rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths.” (p.3)
- “From an economic perspective, employment in B.C. recovered to pre-pandemic levels by July 2021, about the same as most other provinces and had the least impact on gross domestic products (GDP) over the pandemic.” (p.3)
- “B.C. had a strong overall response to the pandemic, and the public trust built by the calm and competent daily press conferences led by the Provincial Health Officer contributed significantly to that success.” (p.5)
- “The effort across all of government to maintain service delivery and respond to the pandemic and its disruption showed a nimbleness and resiliency that was a major success for the pandemic response.” (p.5)
- “B.C. had a strong and effective response to the pandemic that bodes well for its ability to respond effectively to the next event. Government and society pulled together to do what needed to be done. Government was nimble and resilient.” (p.9)

- “The pandemic experience prepared government to react in a more nimble and timely way to the atmospheric river disruptions.” (p.36)
- “Throughout the pandemic, many indicated that B.C. had done better than other provinces during the pandemic.” (p.38)
- “More often than not, we heard that B.C. did a better job in its pandemic response than the rest of Canada or that stakeholders were glad they were working in B.C. and not another province, with several calling B.C. ‘a beacon of sanity.’” (p.59)
- “British Columbians have been consistently more satisfied with the performance of their provincial government than residents of any other provinces over the last 30 months.” (p.71)
- “Overall, B.C. mounted a strong and generally successful response to the pandemic that bodes well for its ability to respond to the next province-wide event.” (p.108)
- “Overall, the B.C. government mounted an effective response to the pandemic, demonstrated a balanced public health response based on the principle of minimizing restrictions, and a nimbleness and resiliency that surprised many. There is an opportunity now to build on that response.” (p.111)

QA:

1. Does the government accept all the recommendations (“conclusions”)?

- Many of the findings of this review are not a surprise.
- The pandemic was an unprecedented situation – as we have gone through it, our government has learned lessons and made changes along the way.
- The findings will aid the Province as we work to update our Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan and modernize our emergency management legislation, to be introduced in the spring of 2023.

2. Does the government refute any of the conclusions made in the review?

- All findings are being carefully reviewed.
- Many of the conclusions in the review refer to work that is already underway. For example, we’re enhancing our preparedness and planning (responsive to recommendations 1 & 2) practices for provincewide emergencies by:
 - Updating our emergency management legislation
 - Updating the Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan
 - Holding Exercise Coastal Response in February 2023 with dozens of partners to validate emergency response activities, such as logistics as part of broader supply chain management practices.

3. What was the final cost of the review?

- The final cost of the review was \$775,000.
- The Province budgeted \$1.71 million for the review.
- The budget was largely underspent due to most engagement sessions being held virtually instead of in person – minimizing travel costs; large unused contingency; no overspend on consulting contract; and secretariat staffing expenses lower than forecasted due to less staff and no travel.

4. This report was submitted to government in September. Why are you only releasing it now?

- Government undertook this review to identify how our emergency management processes fared when put to the test, and how they can be improved in the event of future province-wide emergencies.
- We have taken the time to review the contents of the review, including the feedback received from the public and those inside government, in order to be able to best provide tangible outcomes when releasing the report, such as cross-government coordination to prepare to update our Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan

5. Why were decisions made by the PHO excluded from the review?

- The specific objective of this review was to improve the government's ability to respond to future emergencies of all kinds.
- Understanding the results of government's cross-ministry operational response, including decision-making and communicating to the public helps to prepare for future emergencies, including a future pandemic

6. In this citizen engagement survey, less than 20 per cent agreed government had done a good job at managing the pandemic. Why do you think that is? How do you respond?

- Our goal in B.C. has always been to find the right balance to keep people safe and businesses open.
- Finding the right balance meant that not everyone was happy.
- As the report notes, of those who were dissatisfied at the time of the engagement, many of them wanted more restrictions, while others wanted fewer.
- The report highlights that British Columbians have been consistently more satisfied with the performance of their provincial government than residents of any other provinces throughout the pandemic.
- The review also notes that in more representative public opinion research polls, which ensure samples are representative, B.C. saw 60-70% satisfaction rates.

7. Will you be releasing the public survey results?

- The report provides a comprehensive summary of the survey results
- The results produced over 3,000 pages of comments that require careful analysis for the redaction of personal information. This work is underway.

THE MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS:

8. What preparedness plans were in place prior to the pandemic?

- EMCR maintains an All-Hazard Plan that outlines the response of government ministries, agencies, and other groups in the event of a provincial emergency.
- This plan is the basis for government's response to dangers or risks posed by all types of hazards in British Columbia.
- On March 6, 2020, the Province released the BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan under the All-Hazard Plan to respond to the situation as it was evolving at that time.

9. The report states that plans that were in place before the pandemic dealt only with coordination and were mostly not followed. Why not?

- As government rapidly responded to the crisis, we adopted a model that the report says resulted in effective crisis management decision-making.
- As the pandemic evolved, so did our approach.
- While EMCR immediately established the committees and structures required by the pandemic coordination plan, moving swiftly to manage the initial response required a small group of Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, and the PHO.
- Over time, the structure evolved in order to best manage the overall response.

10. Will EMCR be updating its All-Hazard Plan based on findings from this report?

- EMCR and partner ministries regularly review and amend provincial emergency plans to ensure they're up to date for future emergencies and disasters.
- The All-Hazard Plan (updated in 2012) includes provincial operations, and roles and responsibilities in an emergency or disaster, and is still relevant for current emergency responses.
- However, the Province has been focused on developing comprehensive hazard-specific plans – such as flooding, wildfires, earthquakes, extreme heat, drought, and pandemics – to supplement the All-Hazard Plan.
- At this time, we're beginning work with the Ministry of Health to enhance our pandemic specific plan (the Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan), which was last updated in March 2020.

11. Will EMCR and the Ministry of Health be updating the British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan based on findings from this report?

- The Ministry of Health and EMCR have begun preliminary scoping to identify how the Provincial Pandemic Coordination Plan can be updated. The plan was last updated in March 2020.
- This review will assist in informing the purpose and content of the plan.

12. The report suggests that EMCR be given accountability and responsibility for the coordination of province-wide emergencies in the future. Will that be the case in future emergency?

- This review was undertaken to assess the operations of the government throughout the first two years of the pandemic – what worked well and what could be done differently.
- We will use this information as we revise and update our emergency planning so all of government is able to best respond to future province-wide emergencies like this one.

13. The review reveals that Cabinet was briefed on the potential of a pandemic in late 2019. What steps were taken between then and the WHO declarations in March 2020?

- Following the Cabinet briefing on the evolving situation, EMCR led work to update the BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan, completed in early March 2020.
- EMCR conducted a tabletop exercise with the EMCR executive to orientate them to the roles and responsibilities identified in the BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan.
- EMCR provided ministry business continuity advisors with a training package that allowed them to facilitate tabletop exercises with their respective ministry executive to review BCP and pandemic-related responses

14. One individual surveyed is quoted saying, “By never saying they got something wrong before, made government look untrustworthy.” Will the government admit it made missteps? What missteps specifically?

- This pandemic was an unprecedented event, and government moved quickly throughout the past several years to help ensure the health and safety of people and communities.
- As we learned, we adjusted our approach, and made every effort to explain those changes to the public. However, we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that government communication can always be improved.
- We know that not every decision we made was popular, but they were made with the best information available at that time.

15. What progress has government made on improving its supply chain practices?

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the November 2021 atmospheric river event exposed weaknesses in BC’s supply chain that we know need to be addressed to help keep people and communities safe.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, we developed new relationships – both within and outside of government – to ensure we had access to supplies like PPE.
- The pandemic response helped to strengthen relationships, which contributed to better coordination and communication during the atmospheric river response.
- EMCR is also working with communities on developing planning approaches to facilitate last-mile distribution of essential supplies following a catastrophic event.

16. The report notes that EMCR’s reputation within government was damaged. Can you explain why that was?

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is among the best in Canada when it comes to providing coordination and support during and after emergencies.
- Whether it’s responding to wildfires or atmospheric river events, EMCR provides exceptional support to government, communities and British Columbians.
- I don’t believe EMCR’s reputation was damaged. EMCR played an important role in government during the pandemic.
- We knew the pandemic would present opportunities for improvement. We knew there were lessons to be learned. That’s exactly why we commissioned this report.
- EMCR is now taking the project team’s recommendations under careful consideration as it enhances its emergency management legislation and pandemic coordination plan, so we can be even *more* prepared for future provincewide emergencies.

17. Why were there long delays with EMCR approval and reimbursements for response costs?

- COVID-19 response measures proposed by local governments varied considerably and many were unique to the pandemic.
- As such, approvals often required case-by-case consideration to ensure payments were made within EMCR’s financial authorities and there was consistency with the support provided to local governments that didn’t duplicate supports provided through other programs.

- This, in addition to the volume of claims did result in some delays in review and payment.
- EMCR continually reviews and update processes, and lessons from this review will aid in ensuring more timely reimbursements moving forward.

18. How will preparation for emergencies be more inclusive of Indigenous peoples?

- We're committed to advancing reconciliation with First Nations by working with them to improve emergency management supports.
- Our emergency management legislation is being co-developed with First Nations and Indigenous leaders using the United Nation's Sendai Framework, which recognizes Indigenous traditional knowledge as a crucial source of wisdom for emergency management.
- B.C. continues working closely with the First Nations Emergency Services Society, First Nations Health Authority, Indigenous Services Canada and other Indigenous partners to strengthen First Nations emergency management supports in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE PHO:

- Our priority as government is to protect British Columbians and keep people and businesses safe during emergencies, whether it be a local wildfire or global pandemic.
- This review was conducted to help government continue to strengthen and improve its emergency management protocols for future emergencies.
- Decisions that were made were a judgment about the least restrictive approach possible in each circumstance to keep people safe, with the best information available.
- We're reviewing the findings in this report and are taking steps to ensure we are prepared for future province-wide emergencies.
- This includes a review of the decision-making process during emergencies, and the implementation and roll-out of public health orders.

Disaster Financial Assistance

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- It continues to be an incredibly difficult time for people and communities affected by the November 2021 flooding, and our government is committed to supporting those individuals and communities.
- We know that people applying for Disaster Financial Assistance need this money as soon as possible.
- We received almost 2,300 applications for Disaster Financial Assistance from individuals, small businesses, farms, charitable organizations, and local authorities impacted by the November 2021 flooding.
- To support this surge in applications we've implemented significant operational improvements, including increased staff in the field, as well as more staff for approving and processing payments.
- Claims are being processed and more than \$26 million has been paid as of November 22.

IF ASKED ABOUT IMPROVING DFA:

- Following flooding in November 2021, the Province is making significant changes to ensure more people, communities and businesses can access and receive increased benefits from the DFA program.
- In April, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) announced five regulation changes to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The changes include:
 - Increasing provincial contributions to local infrastructure recovery
 - Up-front cash flow to communities from the Province
 - Expanding eligibility based on minimum income for small businesses
 - Increasing maximum annual revenue for small businesses
 - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties
- In September, EMCR announced another regulatory change to increase the maximum DFA limit for recipients from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

- We are currently modernizing our emergency management legislation, which will include updating DFA regulations, and ensuring additional gaps are addressed.

IF ASKED ABOUT DFA FOR FARMERS:

- The recent changes to Disaster Financial Assistance will ensure more farmers are eligible for the program. The changes include:
 - Raising the maximum annual revenue threshold for all small businesses from \$1 million to \$2 million.
 - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties. People are now eligible if they have a defined connection to the corporation and use the home as a primary residence, which is not uncommon in the farming sector.

BACKGROUND:

Disaster Financial Assistance is available to people affected by flooding and landslides in northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and Vancouver Island from Nov. 14 to Dec. 2, 2021. This assistance is open to homeowners, residential tenants, businesses, charitable organizations, local governments, Indigenous communities, and farmers with losses that could not be covered by insurance providers. Claims have taken longer to process than in the past due to the extreme volume coming in. Changes have been made in the administration of the program to speed up processing.

EMCR has received a total of 2,298 DFA applications. As of Nov. 22, 2022, 2,011 applications have been completed. The average payout to DFA recipients is approximately \$30,000.

Media interest: Ongoing significant media coverage on the flooding, including financial support for evacuees, property owners, farmers and communities, and status of DFA payments.

EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING AND SEISMIC MONITORING

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The Province continues working to ensure that our Province is resilient and prepared for earthquakes because we know that areas of B.C. are at risk of earthquakes and tsunamis.
- The federal government is leading the development of a national earthquake early warning system and we are committed partners in having a fully operational national network ready on the ground in B.C. in 2024.
- In March, we launched Canada's first early earthquake sensor station in Horseshoe Bay – this is the first in what will become a national Early Earthquake Warning network.
- The sensor station can detect an earthquake beginning before the shaking starts and will give us tens of seconds of advanced notice before an earthquake strikes.
- We look forward to more early earthquake sensor stations being installed in B.C. and a fully operational system in early 2024.
- This work will help reduce the impacts of an earthquake and help the Province respond more effectively to disaster and emergency situations.

IF ASKED ABOUT OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA – EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM:

- We are working with a number of partners on earthquake early warning.
- Our partnerships with the federal government and public sector to develop a national early earthquake warning network ensure we will be better prepared for a major earthquake or tsunami in the future.
- Prior to the Federal commitment to a national system, B.C. invested in the development of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone with Ocean Networks Canada (\$6.7 million).
- Given the subsequent Federal commitment and partnership with the Province to deliver an operational system in 2024, \$1.7 million of the ONC investment was targeted to exploring the feasibility of integration with the national EEW system as funding two parallel systems is not feasible or efficient (something like that).

- Natural Resources Canada is the authoritative source on earthquake early warning in Canada. Their priority is ensuring that any systems integrated into the network meet the technical requirements in place to protect Canadians, national security and national infrastructure.
- We are fully invested in the national system and we appreciate the work Ocean Networks Canada has done to advance the science around earthquake early warning.
- Ultimately, our priority is to keep British Columbians safe. We remain committed to ensuring that earthquake early warning is advanced in B.C. and that there is coordination between systems as they are implemented.

BACKGROUND:

An earthquake early warning (EEW) system rapidly detects an earthquake and provides alerts before damaging shaking begins. These systems can provide a few critical seconds of warning to allow people, 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.

Ocean Networks Canada (ONC)

In 2016, the Province invested \$5M in ONC's EEW system in B.C. The funding supported connecting existing sensors and established sensor stations at 35 land-based and eight offshore sites adjacent to the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This project was completed in July 2019.

In 2020, the Province invested \$1.7M to support the commissioning of the system and an initial phase of operations for two years, as well as integration with the national system.

ONC plans to finish the commissioning of the system by the end of this year, subject to a peer-review process. The project is expected to be completed in March 2023 but a project extension to March 2024 is being considered to account for delays.

National Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Program

The federal government, through Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), has secured funds to develop an EEW system for Canada. They're developing the system in areas with high seismic hazard and where there is critical infrastructure of national significance (incl. Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky Corridor, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii). The first sensor station officially opened at Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal on March 28, 2022.

The system will be made up of a core network operated by the federal government and an extended network operated by other organizations and agencies in B.C. The extended network will add additional sensors within the geographic area of the core network and expand the system to areas not already covered by the network.

A federal program will support organizations with participating in the extended network, and projects aimed at the advancement of innovation of EEW systems and the public's ability to

respond to warnings. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

This system is anticipated to be operational in ~~2024.~~

Advice/Recommendations

Prioritized Post-Earthquake Response

In 2018, the Province invested \$250,000 in a pilot project with the Seismic Resilience Innovation Corporation (SRI), 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 system has been implemented in five government facilities in Greater Victoria with one pending. Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

Media interest: Occasional requests about earthquake preparedness and the early earthquake warning systems.

EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- To ensure our province and the people who live here are more resilient in the event of a disaster, B.C. is modernizing our emergency management legislation, with a focus on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, recovery, and climate adaptation.
- The Act was introduced more than two decades ago and hasn't kept up with evolving emergency management approaches that have a stronger emphasis on up-front risk identification, avoidance and mitigation.
- We're planning to introduce the new legislation in spring 2023 to incorporate lessons learned during this past year's severe and unprecedented weather events.
- The new legislation – which we're co-developing with First Nations and Métis leaders – will enable greater collaboration between the provincial government, Indigenous and local governments.
- We will continue 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 from the wildfires and floods of the past five years, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The new legislation will also enable greater collaboration and shared decision making between EMCR and Indigenous governments in emergency management for the future.

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) has been directed to modernize the Emergency Program Act to support more effective management of emergencies in B.C. This is a 2020 mandate letter commitment.

To ensure adequate time for the next steps in the legislative development process, government has extended the timeline to introduce a new Act to spring 2023. Engagement with partners and stakeholders continued in 2020 and 2021, but in 2020/21 it was limited due to the pandemic.

EMCR and UBCM partnered to create the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee (FWAC) composed of elected officials and staff from local governments to provide ongoing policy advice. Local governments also provided thorough feedback in response to the 2019 Discussion Paper, Modernizing Emergency Management in BC.

Cabinet Confidences

From October 2019 to January 2020, EMCR conducted engagement on a discussion paper on the modernization of the emergency management legislation, outlining the proposed policy direction. EMCR conducted 172 engagement sessions and received 239 written responses. Overall, there was a high level of support for the proposals. EMCR released a “What We Heard” Report in August 2020, summarizing key themes from the responses and indicating next steps.

EMCR worked with partners and stakeholders to identify lessons learned from the pandemic that will be incorporated in the new legislative framework.

About the Emergency Program Act

The Act 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 Act 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.

Media interest: Some media coverage of the legislation and status of update including CTV and CBC.

FLOOD PREPARATION

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- We know people are concerned about flood risks, after last November's extensive flooding highlighted the importance of flood preparation.
- We have been increasing B.C.'s preparedness since forming government, precisely because of the warnings from experts on flood hazards and the impacts of climate change.
- This includes \$123 million for over 340 flood risk reduction projects since 2017 with First Nations and local governments.
- We've launched a new Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy that recognizes disaster risk reduction measures, including supports for nature-based solutions.
- In addition, the Province is investing in better floodplain mapping and developing a new comprehensive provincial flood strategy and flood resilience plan, which will help to reduce flood risks while enhancing our resilience to more frequent extreme flood events in the future.
- The Province is also creating a plan to use to federal cost-matching dollars to improve flood hazard information in areas that do not currently have adequate floodplain maps. This proposed action would make the best use of provincial and federal resources.
- We've expanded the use of Alert Ready to include flood events that pose an imminent risk to life.
- Now our task is to take the lessons learned from what we've experienced, and channel that into even more aggressive action on reducing flood risk and adapting to B.C.'s changing climate.

IF ASKED ABOUT DIKE MANAGEMENT ON THE FRASER RIVER:

- The Premier has acknowledged the need for more provincial involvement in flood mitigation and dike management.
- We recognize the need to collaborate in a range of ways to address flood risk and protect communities in B.C.
- The lead for repairs and maintenance of most dikes rests with local dikeing authorities, stemming back to the time the dikes were constructed.

- Decisions on floodplains and local approaches to flood risk reduction are stronger when informed and directed by the relationships and values at the community-level, with support and guidelines from the Province.
- The Province will continue to work collaboratively with local governments, First Nations and other partners to explore and implement a broad range of flood risk reduction options, including investments in dikes.

IF ASKED ABOUT NOOKSACK RIVER AND COLLAB WITH FEDS & WASHINGTON STATE:

- The Province continues dialogue with the federal government who we anticipate will cost-share flood mitigation projects in the Fraser Valley and Washington, and assist with building back better.
- In March, Premier Horgan and Washington Governor Inslee announced a transboundary initiative that will:
 - Respond to the more frequent and severe flooding of the Nooksack River caused by climate change
 - Bring together the necessary resources and the relevant experts to help identify, evaluate and advance solutions
 - Drive the design of projects and programs and identify sources of funding
- Since March, Washington and B.C. have been conducting engagements on their respective sides of the border.
- Together, we are now working on establishing a governance structure that includes municipal, indigenous, provincial, state, and federal officials to advance the identified priorities under the transboundary initiative.
- As part of this initiative, a small delegation led by the Premier's Liaison to Washington State, MLA Glumac, undertook a technical site visit to the Nooksack River on July 21. A second technical site visit, co-hosted by the City of Abbotsford and the Sumas First Nation, took place on September 29, and included Global Affairs Canada and the U.S. Consulate General based in Vancouver.
- Any future investments regarding dike infrastructure in B.C. will need to take into consideration what projects occur south of the border.

IF ASKED ABOUT SUPPORTS FOR FLOOD PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS:

- B.C. supports several major flood prevention and emergency preparedness projects and funding programs with the goal of making people more resilient to disasters:
 - **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (\$189M since Sept. 2017):**

- Communities can access funds through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, intended to help enhance the resilience of First Nations and local governments in responding to emergencies, including managing flood risk.
- The Province has launched the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation stream, which includes funding of nature-based solutions to disaster risk reduction, including flood risk. The deadline is Sept. 30.
- Since 2017, First Nations and local governments have received more than \$50.8 million through CEPF for more than 1,000 projects.
- In Budget 2022, the Province contributed an additional \$110 million to this fund.
- **Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program (\$138M):**
 - In December 2020, B.C. launched the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation program, investing \$56.2 million in structural and natural flood mitigation projects across the province.
 - The Province launched the Green ARDM stream in August 2022, with \$81.8 million available for communities for flood mitigation and climate adaptation projects. The application deadline is Oct. 7.
- **Climate preparedness and adaptation strategy:**
 - Preparing for and reducing flood risk is also an important part of the new climate preparedness and adaptation strategy, which we launched in June 2022.
- **Disaster Mitigation Program (\$93M):**
 - Since 2016, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness's Disaster Mitigation Program has funded over 50 projects totalling \$93 million.
 - This includes funding for flood-mitigation planning projects in several communities affected by November 2021 flooding (Merritt, Princeton, and Okanagan-Similkameen) to help them prepare for freshet 2022 and increase long-term resilience.

- In addition, in 2019, the Province and Canada provided almost \$50 million for an important flood mitigation project in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary community of Grand Forks (provincial funding \$28.9 million).
- **National Disaster Mitigation Program:**
 - Since 2016, the Province has partnered with Public Safety Canada to cost-share 107 flood risk reduction projects totalling \$57.6 million (provincial funding \$21.6 million).

PREP FOR FALL AND WINTER STORMS 2022:

- For the upcoming fall storm season, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) will host seasonal readiness sessions in each of its regions. All First Nations and local authorities in each region will be invited to attend and receive an update on conditions (e.g. long-term weather forecasts) and readiness actions being planned and taken.
- EMCR is working with communities and providing timely funding to address post atmospheric river vulnerabilities, such as repairs to and raising of berms and dikes, erosion mitigation work, hydrological surveys, riverbank restoration, critical infrastructure repairs. Completion of these projects will help to reduce anticipated flooding vulnerabilities.
- EMCR supports communities by providing sandbags, and prepositioning sandbag machines and other flood control assets, as well as coordinating other provincial supports, including flood assessment flights and BC Wildfires Service crews – as needed – to assist with flood response.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure continues to add to the initial response work done on the highways damaged by November's flood event. They will continue to closely monitor highways, including the Coquihalla, to ensure the safety of the road for drivers and travellers.
- **Flood assets:**
 - EMCR maintains a stockpile of sandbags and other flood control assets in Chilliwack, which are deployed as needed across B.C. during emergencies.
 - As of Sept. 16, 2022, the Province has a stock of:
 - more than 3.4 million sandbags, with an additional 1.3 million ordered and expected to arrive in batches between now and September
 - 32 kilometres of Tiger Dams
 - 10 kilometres of Gabion Baskets

- 12 sandbag machines
- Deployment of flood control assets can be directed to the site of an active or imminent flooding event or can involve pre-positioning the assets closer to the generalized area of flood risk.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2021, B.C. experienced catastrophic flooding caused by a series of atmospheric rivers that brought heavy rains resulting in severe floods and mudslides to northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and on Vancouver Island. It's estimated to be the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history. Climate change is increasing the frequency, duration, and intensity of these events.

Many areas hardest hit by the fall flooding may be more vulnerable to flooding in the immediate future as they are still recovering.

Related to the Atmospheric Rivers in November 2021

- The unprecedented and catastrophic flooding that occurred in November 2021 has made many rivers more vulnerable to high flows.
- Due to the significant erosion, debris flows and possible changes in river channel morphology that occurred in many areas (including the Coldwater River, Nicola River, Tulameen River, and Coquihalla River), rivers may be at increased vulnerability to flooding at lower flows or in different areas than previous storm seasons.
- La Nina conditions are again forecast for this fall, which are correlated with a cooler and wetter seasonal pattern. Although there is no definitive link between La Nina conditions and stronger atmospheric river events in B.C., increased variability in weather conditions may also be influenced by climate change.

Related to the 2021 Wildfires

- The 2021 Wildfire season was very active in the province with many watersheds sustaining significant burns.
- Flows from snowmelt dominated watersheds impacted by fires tend to be greater and peak earlier as compared to undisturbed areas, even under normal weather conditions. Areas that recently experienced severe wildfire are at greater risk for higher peak flows

CEPF – Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation

The recently launched Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation CEPF funding stream will support eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks through the development and implementation of:

- Accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face and the risks associated with BC's changing climate
- Effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate, and adapt to those risks.

This funding stream can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of:

- Category 1 (Foundational Activities): \$150,000
- Category 2 (Non-Structural Activities): \$150,000
- Category 3 (Small Scale Structural Activities): \$2 million

Media interest: This was a significant and regular part of the media coverage during the fall 2021 flooding. There was heightened media interest during spring freshet 2022 given the November 2021 flooding.

FLOOD RECOVERY

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- It continues to be an incredibly difficult time for people and communities affected by the November 2021 flooding and landslides.
- Through the Red Cross, we continue to provide supports to people who have been evacuated from their homes, including temporary accommodation and mental health support.
- We are working with local governments and First Nations to safely remove debris and flood-damaged materials.
- Established in February 2022, the Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security is helping B.C. farmers recover, return to operation, and help strengthen our food security and food economy.
- The Province is providing \$53.6 million in funding for recovery, infrastructure planning and temporary housing to support 10 flood-impacted communities. This is in addition to more than \$2.1 billion that Budget 2022 provides to help people recover from last year's floods and wildfires, and to better protect communities against future climate disasters.
- Staff are working with communities on their recovery plans so that they can quickly access funding needed to support the recovery.
- We know that there is a lot of work that still needs to be done and our government is committed to supporting both individuals and communities.

IF ASKED:

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

- We know that people applying for Disaster Financial Assistance need this money as soon as possible.
- Claims are being processed and more than \$26 million has been paid as of November 22.
- On April 28, 2022, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) announced five regulation changes to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The changes include:
 - Increasing provincial contributions to local infrastructure recovery

- Up-front cash flow to communities from the Province
 - Expanding eligibility based on minimum income
 - Increasing maximum annual revenue for small businesses
 - New eligibility for corporation-owned properties
 - The Province re-opened the program to give businesses the opportunity to apply for assistance under the new eligibility requirements. The application intake closed on July 27.
- In September 2022, EMCR announced a regulatory change to increase the DFA limit from \$300,000 to \$400,000.
 - We also continue to provide supports to people who have been evacuated from their homes, including temporary accommodation and mental health supports through the Canadian Red Cross.
 - So far, more than \$42 million has been distributed to over 7,500 households through the Canadian Red Cross. These funds available from the Canadian Red Cross have been made possible from contributions from British Columbians, the Province of BC and the Government of Canada.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS?

- The November flooding was the most impactful disaster ever in our province, resulting in profound losses for many B.C. farmers and food producers.
- The Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security delivers support to help B.C. farmers recover, return to operation, and help strengthen our food security and food economy.
- To date, close to 800 payments have been provided to over 370 applicants.
- More farmers will receive financial support in the weeks and months ahead as farmers make decisions on planting and repairs.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF DEBRIS REMOVAL AND CLEANUP?

- The flooding left a lot of debris behind, and we know that people are anxious to get it cleaned up.
- We are supporting the safe removal of debris and flood-damaged materials through a coordinated approach with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, local governments, and First Nations.
- Recovery and debris management work is being managed by contractors, non-governmental organizations, and a specialized contingent of BC Wildfire Service crews.

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- Debris has been removed with the use of heavy machinery, helicopters, boats, and specially trained handpicking crews.
- More than 575 debris sites have been identified along eight of B.C.'s major waterways – including the Tulameen, Similkameen, Nicola, Thompson, Coldwater, Chilliwack, Fraser and Coquihalla rivers.
- Nearly all debris sites have been cleaned up. There are less than 30 debris sites that will need to be addressed in spring 2023 due to permit status for instream works expiring.
- Work will continue on the remaining debris sites after the wet season, when there is less risk to wildlife species, habitat, and public safety.
- As part of the response, 128 sediment sites were identified. Crews have assessed 110 of the sites and 28 have been approved for remediation works, such as sediment removal and waterway repair.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2021, B.C. experienced a series of atmospheric rivers that caused severe and widespread flooding and mudslides with little warning. The flooding event was described by experts as a “once-in-a century” flooding. The damage to highways, infrastructure and properties makes the flooding the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history.

Issues raised by people, communities, MLAs and media include supports for evacuees, financial support for farmers and property owners, and what's being done to support communities with their clean-up and recovery, specifically Abbotsford, Merritt, and First Nations communities.

People had immediate support through Emergency Support Services and the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). Starting Feb. 1, 2022, support shifted to personalized wraparound services delivered by the CRC. CRC continues to provide supports: Financial assistance for housing repair and reconstruction for damaged homes, as well as temporary accommodations; mental health and wellbeing supports, as well as referrals to other counselling services and programs; and financial assistance for replacing uninsured content and clean up support.

EMCR has received a total of 2,298 DFA applications for the November 2021 flooding event.

Preliminary response and recovery costs associated with the atmospheric river event are estimated at more than \$4 billion. The Province anticipates significant federal support for these costs through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) and has put in an advance payment request based on estimated costs to date. B.C. has five years from the federal order in council, which confirmed eligibility of the event for DFAA, to submit a final claim that will confirm the actual of federal cost sharing received based on a review of costs submitted.

Media interest: Ongoing significant media coverage on the flooding, specifically on the clean-up and recovery, and financial support for evacuees, property owners, farmers, and communities. From Nov. 14 to Dec. 10, 2021, EMCRC responded to 423 media requests and

organized 22 media availabilities.

FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- We recognize that First Nations communities are disproportionately impacted by wildfires and flooding events in B.C.
- Recent emergencies have highlighted challenges and gaps, and underline how critical it is to work with First Nations communities to better support their emergency management needs.
- We're committed to advancing reconciliation with First Nations by working with them to improve emergency management supports.
- We're currently modernizing our emergency management legislation, which we're co-developing with First Nations and Indigenous leaders using the United Nation's Sendai Framework, which recognizes Indigenous traditional knowledge as a crucial source of wisdom for emergency management.
- In 2022, the Province, Tšilhqot'in National Government (TNG), and the federal government, signed a renewed Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement – strengthening support and capacity for the TNG and its communities.
- B.C. continues working closely with the First Nations Emergency Services Society, First Nations Health Authority, Indigenous Services Canada and other Indigenous partners to strengthen First Nations emergency management supports in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

BACKGROUND:

Examples of progress:

- **Co-development of new legislation:** The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is working with technical teams from Indigenous organizations such as the First Nations Leadership Council and Modern Treaty Alliance to develop policies for inclusion in modernized legislation (e.g. cultural safety, modern Indigenous governance structures). This work will continue through the fall to develop a consultation draft of the legislation. Indigenous government representatives were engaged in regional dialogue sessions in June 2022; additional sessions are planned for fall.
- **Tripartite MOU:** In April 2019, the signing of the Tripartite MOU 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 Agreements (CEMAs):** In February 2018, the Province signed a CEMA with the TNG to improve emergency management services and supports for Tšilhqot'in communities, and a renewed CEMA was announced in July 2022.

EMCR is exploring other CEMAs with the Interior Nations communities and the Secwepemc Nation.

- **First Nations Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables** provide a venue for First Nations and provincial agency emergency managers to meet, plan and identify capacity in First Nations communities. Partnerships Tables were last held in January 2021 (online). EMCR is working with First Nations and partner agencies to organize in-person Partnership Tables in Fall 2022.
- **First Nations coordination calls** continue through the EMCR PREOCS to ensure a cross-agency response to any hazard event. EMCR also provides updates to First Nations leadership including technical and political level briefings as required during emergencies.
- **Enhanced training and public education** resources to better support the needs of First Nations communities.
- Use of **Local and traditional knowledge** to help guide operations and operational priorities.
- **Strengthening EMCR's partnership with First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS):** In support of Nations, EMCR continues to collaborate with FNESS on supports for First Nations EOCs including providing personnel and training.

Agreements

- In April 2017, EMCR began implementing 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 and allows EMCR to increase its capacity to better support First Nations communities.
- In April 2019, EMCR, the First Nations Leadership Council, 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.

Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) - T̓silhqot'in

- This CEMA was renewed in 2022 for five years, enabling the TNG and provincial and federal governments to build on successes from the 2018 agreement while advancing reconciliation through the development of a respect-based, government-to-government framework for emergency and wildfire management.

Media interest: How government works with and supports First Nations was a regular question that came up in media during the fall 2021 flooding. There was minor media coverage of the renewed CEMA agreement in July 2022.

LYTTON RECOVERY

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- Together, with the leadership of the Village of Lytton, the Province continues to support the people and Village in their recovery activities, so that people can have confidence in the rebuild process and timelines.
- That's why we have specifically funded debris removal, archeological work and remediation for all properties including those without insurance.
- The Province has demonstrated its commitment to Lytton with nearly \$50 million towards the Village's recovery and ongoing operations.
- Thanks to the hard work of many people on the ground, the Village recovery team is forecasting that site remediation will be completed early in the new year.
- The archaeological work to-date has confirmed the rich Indigenous heritage underlying the Village site and continues to move forward in a measured, thoughtful manner.
- Our dedicated team continues to support the Village of Lytton to make sure rebuilding milestones are met quickly and we look forward to the vision of the new Mayor and Council.
- By working closely with officials in Lytton, we're doing everything we can to help the Village fully implement its Short-Term Recovery Plan and consider longer term planning needs.

IF ASKED:

How much funding has the Province provided to the Village to assist with the rebuild?

- The Province has demonstrated its commitment to Lytton with nearly \$50 million towards the Village's ongoing operations and recovery. This includes:
 - \$21 million to help re-establish essential infrastructure and services like water treatment and sewer infrastructure, municipal and fire services.
 - \$9.3 million to support ongoing village operations and staffing.

- \$18.4 million to enable debris removal, archeological work and soil remediation for uninsured and underinsured properties in the Village.
- Funding will support the Village through three years of core operations (2022, 2023, and 2024), so they can focus on planning, recovery and rebuilding rather than on revenue generation.

Why is it taking so long to get people back to the community?

- Our government recognizes the importance of getting property owners to the point of beginning their rebuild as soon as possible, while at the same time, supporting the Village in providing certainty around that rebuild process.
- That's why we have specifically funded debris removal, archeological work and remediation for all properties including those without insurance.
- It is also why we have provided access to funding for activities that will enable people to return, such as interim housing for essential service workers.
- Thanks to the hard work of many people on the ground, the Village recovery team is forecasting that site remediation will be completed early in the new year.
- The archaeological work to-date has confirmed the rich Indigenous heritage underlying the Village site and has required the clean-up to move forward in a measured, thoughtful manner.
- The Province is committed to protecting that archeological heritage, while assisting the Village in preparing the site for the next phase of rebuilding, starting with homeowner planning and permitting.

What has the archeological work found? How many properties are impacted?

- The archeological work to-date has confirmed the rich Indigenous heritage underlying the Village site and has required the clean-up to move forward in a measured, thoughtful manner.
- Archaeological sites are protected under provisions of the Heritage Conservation Act, whether sites are known or as-yet unrecorded, on public and private land.
- Work to date has been authorised by Heritage Conservation Act permits, and to our knowledge, has been in conjunction with debris removal and remediation. Procedures are in place to minimize work stoppages or slowdowns related to archeological work.

What more is the Province doing to expedite getting people home?

- We have a dedicated team to support the Village of Lytton to make sure recovery milestones are met quickly.
- The Province has funded more than a dozen positions in the Village's recovery team, some of the specifically dedicated to longer-term recovery planning.
- The Province is also supporting the Lytton First Nation in their recovery planning, and the Lytton First Nation is an important partner in the success of the Village's recovery.
- By working closely with leaders in the Lytton area, we're doing everything we can to help the Village address the challenges and continue advancing recovery.

What supports are available for people until they can return to their community and start rebuilding?

- The Canadian Red Cross continues to provide an immediate housing support subsidy to those who lost their primary residence.
- In addition to financial assistance, and at the request of the Village of Lytton, Red Cross is offering case management support to residents.
- This may include planning for return to home, understanding insurance, and providing information to help make decisions and inform next steps.
- The Red Cross works with individuals to help them navigate their recovery journey, including goal setting and decision-making processes.
- This support is made available thanks to the generosity of Canadians and support from the Province of British Columbia and the federal government.
- The Province is also supporting the Lytton First Nation in their recovery planning. Several Lytton First Nations members have now moved into interim housing.
- The planning of these housing solutions takes time, and a process is followed to ensure all needs are considered and funding is available for those impacted.

How are those who were uninsured being supported in their rebuilding efforts?

- We understand how challenging this situation is for people who lost their homes in Lytton, and for those who didn't have insurance.
- The Province is working hard to support those affected by recent disasters, but ultimately flood and fire insurance is one of the best ways people can protect their families.
- There are no further provincial financial supports for rebuilding of uninsured homes – this is consistent with other disaster events across the province in recent years and with other governments across Canada.
- Thankfully, the public outpouring of support for the people of Lytton has been truly heartwarming. For example:
 - Teal Jones has offered 500,000 board feet to support the rebuild of approximately 50 homes.
 - The Village has received direct donations through its Rebuild Fund.
 - Additional reconstruction and rebuild supports through Canadian Red Cross (which includes both provincial and federal funding).
- The province will support the Village in their work to help coordinate donation supports to impacted residents.

BACKGROUND:

In the early evening of June 30, 2021, a wildfire swept through Lytton within minutes, destroying much of Lytton and causing two fatalities. The cause of the wildfire remains undetermined and an RCMP and BCWS investigation is underway.

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 about 45 residences, 5 commercial properties, and 2 outbuildings. Indigenous Services Canada will fund the rebuild of all the damaged structures on the IR land.

Media interest: There has been sustained media interest and regular requests for interviews about Lytton's recovery. General tone in media has been that recovery is taking a long time and residents feel "forgotten", although that tone may be changing with the election of a new Mayor and Council.

Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- We continue working to ensure B.C. is prepared to respond to a catastrophic earthquake.
- We recently updated our Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy, which outlines the roles, responsibilities, and integration of governments, agencies and partners during a catastrophic earthquake. This strategy replaces the Earthquake Immediate Response Plan, which was originally developed in 2015.
- The core of this strategy is a unified response between all ministries and governments – provincial, federal, First Nations, and local.
- This strategy is designed to be flexible, scalable, and can be used for other major emergency events.
- This builds on other preparation and agreements, such as:
 - Working with the federal government to develop earthquake scenarios and plans to address national support strategies.
 - Agreements with other jurisdictions to share resources in the event of a significant disaster such as an earthquake.
 - In February 2023, B.C. will hold a large-scale earthquake exercise to practice an integrated response with all levels of government, First Nations communities, the Canadian Armed Forces, and non-governmental organizations.
 - And in all our planning, we continue to incorporate lessons learned from exercises and recent emergency events such as COVID-19, wildfires, and the November 2021 flooding.
- We also continue to reinforce the importance of personal preparedness, including having emergency kits and a family emergency plan in place.
- All people in B.C. should be prepared to manage on their own for a minimum of 72 hours in the event of an emergency. Ideally, people, particularly those living in areas susceptible to significant seismic activity, should be ready to cope without formal government support 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 Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014), and the BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (2014) provided recommendations to enhance the Province's preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake.

The original Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP) was developed in 2015 in response to these reports. However, following publication of the IRP, the Province entered into several agreements and adopted new legislation that necessitated revisions to incorporate considerations specific to Indigenous communities and equity-denied populations, a disaster risk reduction approach, and new roles and responsibilities for provincial ministries and agencies.

Summary of PEIRS

EMCR is publishing an updated Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS) in October 2022 to coincide with the Oct. 20 ShakeOut BC drill. PEIRS details how the Province will lead and coordinate during a catastrophic earthquake, and outlines the roles, responsibilities, and integration of governments, agencies and partners. The new strategy will be posted online and shared with stakeholders and other partners involved with emergency management.

PEIRS outlines the Province's response strategy for two catastrophic earthquake scenarios and their anticipated impacts: major, shallow earthquakes near the urban centres of Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria. The strategy lays out anticipated impacts, including the number of lives lost and people critically injured, social and economic impacts, and damage to residential buildings and critical infrastructure.

The strategy, which sets the conditions for future operational planning, is intended to be used by partners to help update or create their own operational plans to address specific functions and/or sectors. For example, we expect that PEIRS will act as the basis for operational planning for topics including logistics management, critical infrastructure, and humanitarian assistance.

In addition to different scenarios and anticipated impacts, PEIRS addresses the main priorities expected to emerge following a catastrophic earthquake: Governance; Roles and Responsibilities; Situational Awareness; Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Services; Critical Infrastructure; Logistics; Surge Capacity; Strategic Communications; and Recovery.

EMCR engaged with First Nations governments, Indigenous agencies, local authorities, federal partners, and other partners while developing this strategy.

Key changes from the 2015 Earthquake Immediate Response Plan:

- New title and clarified purpose to clearly describe the role and function of PEIRS
- Inclusion of Indigenous considerations and perspectives
- Equity considerations, including cultural safety and GBA+ considerations
- Incorporation of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including assessing impacts on populations with vulnerabilities and a "whole of government" and "whole of society" response model
- Incorporation of a proactive approach to responding to a catastrophic event
- Shift from "mass care" to "humanitarian assistance" reflecting emerging wise practices
- All ~80 ministry and agency roles and responsibilities updated

- Two new sections – surge capacity and recovery

Projected impacts of a major earthquake (7.0 or greater) in Greater Victoria or Greater Vancouver:

- PEIRS includes two scenarios, and figures below relate to one or the other. Depending on the location and characteristics of an actual seismic event, impacts may differ.
- 1,000 to 2,000 fatalities, depending on whether the earthquake occurs in the Leech River Fault (affecting Greater Victoria) or the Georgia Basin (affecting Greater Vancouver).
- 500 (Greater Victoria) to 1,000 (Greater Vancouver) people critically injured, 3,200 (Greater Victoria) to 6,500 (Greater Vancouver) with non-critical injuries and 10,000 (Greater Victoria) to 21,000 (Greater Vancouver) in need of a paramedic or first aid treatment.
- 7,000 (Greater Victoria) to 10,000 (Greater Vancouver) buildings deemed uninhabitable due to severe damage, 4,200 (Greater Victoria) to 6,100 (Greater Vancouver) buildings with minor to medium damage that are partially inhabitable. About 1 million people face damage to their homes in Victoria, and 1.7 million in Vancouver.
- 43,000 (Greater Victoria) to 70,000 (Greater Vancouver) households could be displaced.
- \$20 billion (Greater Victoria) to \$30 billion (Greater Vancouver) in economic losses (direct property losses) plus up to \$10 billion in damage due to fires post-earthquake.
- Major roads and highways may be damaged or partially functional (possibly for weeks or months). Many road surfaces may be damaged or completely washed out in sections, some bridges may be closed due to damage, and large pieces of debris may block routes for vehicle traffic.
- Mass scarcity of fuels (gasoline, diesel and LNG) due to blocked roadways and damage to fuel delivery networks (such as fuel tankers and gas stations).
- Loss or interruptions to telecommunications (internet, cellphone and phone services) due to damage to cell towers and phone lines.
- Liquefaction (process in which the ground temporarily behaves like a liquid while being shaken) of roadways in Richmond and Delta may cut off or reduce access to and from Vancouver International Airport and the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal.
- Infrastructure in impact areas may be damaged, disrupted or inoperable. Power could be out in many regions and generators could fail if a fuel source is not accessible.
- Due to the proximity to the earthquake rupture of the Victoria General and Royal Jubilee Hospitals in Greater Victoria, both may suffer damage despite being the most central care centres to treat victims. Because of this, there may be a greater reliance on evacuating patients and victims to medical facilities outside the impact area, such as Cowichan, Nanaimo or Vancouver.
- Similarly, St. Paul's Hospital in downtown Vancouver is an older building with masonry elements and may be significantly impacted by a large earthquake. Other hospitals are likely to see increased demand as a result.
- Other impacts after an event: economic (small business and banking disruptions, indirect losses), social (language, financial, medical, mobility, barriers), psychosocial (mental health, trauma, family separation), animal (pets, livestock, carcass disposal), environmental (water contamination, fire smoke, debris, hazardous material spills, biological hazards, dike/dam

failures), government operations (staffing shortages, limited first responders), and supply chain (movement of consumer goods, essential goods both in and out).