



Transition Binder

October 2024

**Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Transition Binder – 2024 Table of Contents**

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MINISTRY PROFILE

Ministry: Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness

Ministry Mandate:

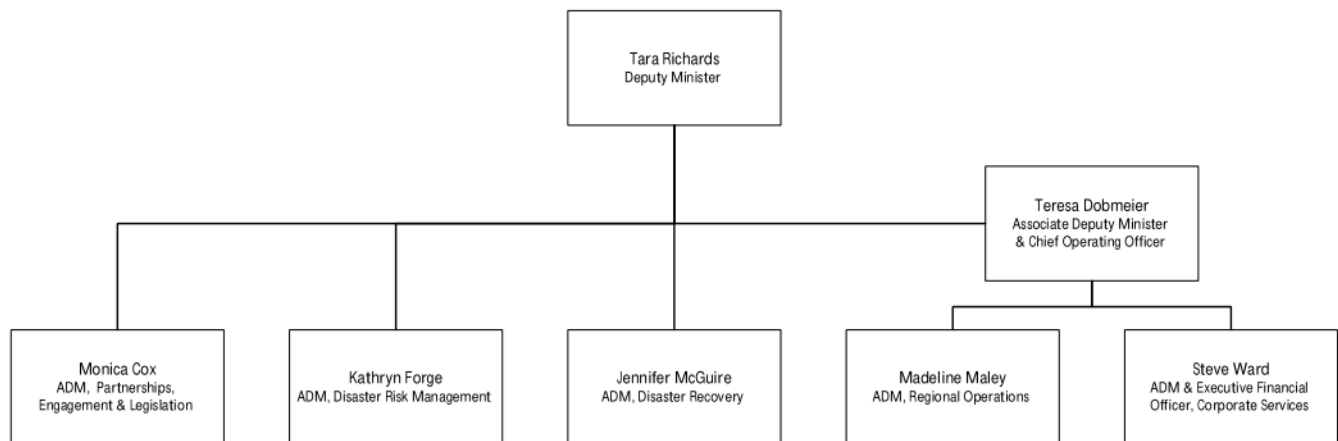
The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is responsible to British Columbians as the primary coordinating agency for reducing climate risk impacts and responding to provincial-level emergencies and disasters. The ministry works to advance a vision of a disaster resilient British Columbia

The mission of the Ministry is to lead provincial emergency and disaster risk management, build and foster collaborative relationships and partnerships, advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and support all people in British Columbia to reduce climate and disaster risk.

The Ministry is responsible for providing cross-ministry coordination to enhance British Columbia’s readiness and resilience towards climate and disaster risks and working toward a comprehensive and interconnected approach to achieving climate and disaster risk reduction. The Ministry leads provincial emergency management through the four-phased approach of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in close collaboration with First Nations, local authorities, other provinces and territories, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations, and volunteers. Delivery of the Ministry’s mandate is supported by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 394 (OPER) / 138 (EDMA)

Executive Organizational Chart:



Budget:

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	32,416	39,033	38,633	38,633
Climate Readiness Programs	18,429	28,429	38,429	38,429
Executive and Support Services	13,739	11,585	11,584	11,584
Emergency and Disaster Management Act	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Financial Assistance	6,420	6,420	6,420	6,420
Total	101,004	115,467	125,066	125,066
Capital Expenditures				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	524	548	53	53
Total	524	548	53	53

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

**EMCR Useful Acronyms
MO-DMO List**

EMCR Specific and Common Government Administrative Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ADM	Assistant Deputy Minister
ADMO	Assistant Deputy Minister's office
CAB OPS	Cabinet Operations
CSD	Corporate Services Division
CTL	Central Region
DM	Deputy Minister
DMO	Deputy Minister's office
DR	Disaster Recovery Division
DRM	Disaster Risk Management Division
EMCR:	Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness
MO	Minister's office
NEA	North East Region
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NWE	North West Region
OIC	Order in Council
OOP	Office of the Premier (See also PO)
PDM	Provincial Duty Manager
PEL	Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation Division
PO	Premier's Office (see also OOP)
PECC	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre
PPS	Planning and Priorities Secretariat
PREM	Premier
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre
PS	Parliamentary Secretary
PSOE	Provincial State of Emergency (see also SOPE)
RDM	Regional Duty Manager
RO	Regional Operations Division
SEA	South East Region
SET	Senior Executive Team
SOLE	State of Local Emergency
SOPE	State of Provincial Emergency (see also PSOE)
SWE	South West Region
TBS	Treasury Board Staff
VIC	Vancouver Island Coastal Region

Common Programs, Terms and Organization Specific Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
AAR	After Action Review
AR	Atmospheric River
ADM-EC	Assistant Deputy Minister – Emergency Council
ADMC DREM	Assistant Deputy Minister Committee on Disaster Risk and Emergency Management
AHP	All Hazards Plan
ARDM	Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation (funding program)
BCAFN	BC Assembly of First Nations
BCEHS	BC Emergency Health Services
BCEMS	British Columbia Emergency Management System
BCSARA	BC Search and Rescue Association
BCWS	BC Wildfire Service
BI	Broadcast Intrusive Alerting
CDFAR	Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation
CEMA	Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CEPF	Community Emergency Preparedness Fund
CI	Critical Infrastructure
CORE	Coordinated Operations Response in Emergencies
CPAS	Climate Preparedness Adaptation Strategy
CVRIS	Covid 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (funding program)
DCRRA	Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment
DCRRS	Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy
DFA	Disaster Financial Assistance
DFAA	Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements
DMAF	Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund
DM-EC	Deputy Minister – Emergency Council
DMC DREM	Deputy Minister Committee on Disaster Risk and Emergency Management
DRIF	Disaster Resilience and Innovation Fund (DRIF)
DRIPA	Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR-CA	Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (stream of CEPF)
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
EDMA	Emergency and Disaster Management Act
EEW	Earthquake Early Warning
EMAP	Emergency Management Assistance Program
EMO	Emergency Management Organization
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EPA	Emergency Program Act
EPC	Emergency Program Coordinator
ERA	Evacuation Registration and Assistance
ESS	Emergency Support Services
EWS	Earthquake Warning System

Acronym	Full Name
FNESS	First Nations' Emergency Services Society
FNHA	First Nations Health Authority
FNLC	First Nations Leadership Council
FNLG	First Nations Leadership Gathering
FNS	First Nations Summit
FPT	Federal, Provincial, Territorial
SSX FRDT	Stó:lō Syélt Xéssel Fraser River Debris Trap
GSAR	Ground Search and Rescue
HRVA	Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment
HUSAR	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue
IAWG	Indigenous Agency Working Group
ICIP	Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
ICRP	Infrastructure Cost Recovery Plan
ICS	Incident Command System
IDRF	Interim Disaster Recovery Framework
IDWG	Inter-agency Drought Working Group
IDCBC	Integrated Disaster Council of BC
IER	Indigenous Engagement Requirements
IERFP	Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program
IPREM	Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management
ISC	Indigenous Services Canada
JIBC	Justice Institute of British Columbia
LCAC	Leadership Culture Advisory Committee
LFN	Lytton First Nation
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LUSAR	Light Urban Search and Rescue
MAST	Multi-Agency Support Team
M-DEC	Ministers' Deputies Emergency Council
MJEMO	Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Management Organization
MO	Minister's office
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDMP	National Disaster Mitigation Program
NNTC	Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
NOAA	National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration
NTWC	National Tsunami Warning Center
OFC	Office of the Fire Commissioner
PEIR	Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy
PSC	Public Safety Canada
PSLV	Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer
PT	Provincial/Territorial
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Partnership
SENDAI	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SFN	Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation
SRWFMP	Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Partnership
TEMWG	Tripartite Emergency Management Working Group
TFI	Transboundary Flood Initiative (Nooksack)
TNG	T̓silhqot'in National Government

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION (CSD)

ADM & EFO Responsible: Steve Ward

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Corporate Services Division is responsible for leading the provision of strategic business and corporate services in support of EMCR programs.

This includes:

- Financial Services such as strategic and operational financial support, financial reporting, administrative support, accounts payable, procurement, and risk management, and coordination with central government agencies including Treasury Board Staff, the Office of the Comptroller General, Provincial Treasury, Risk Management Branch, and Procurement Services Branch.
- Strategic Human Resources including human resources, recruitment services, workforce planning, learning and training development, and internal communications.
- Support for legislated, strategic, and mandated initiatives including projects, multi-year plans, planning, change management, performance reporting, communications, and risk management.
- Information technology services such as support for day-to-day technical requirements, asset management, efficient execution of approved work, understanding client needs, project facilitation, and data analytics.
- Facility support services including policy, planning, space management, tenant improvements, and fleet management.
- Management of Federal-Provincial Cost Recoveries including administration and coordination with local governments and First Nations for emergency cost reimbursements.
- Oversight and coordinator of EMCR's Business Continuity Plan.

Budget: \$11.585M*

**Total budget for Executive and Support Services shared by CSD, DMO, and MO*

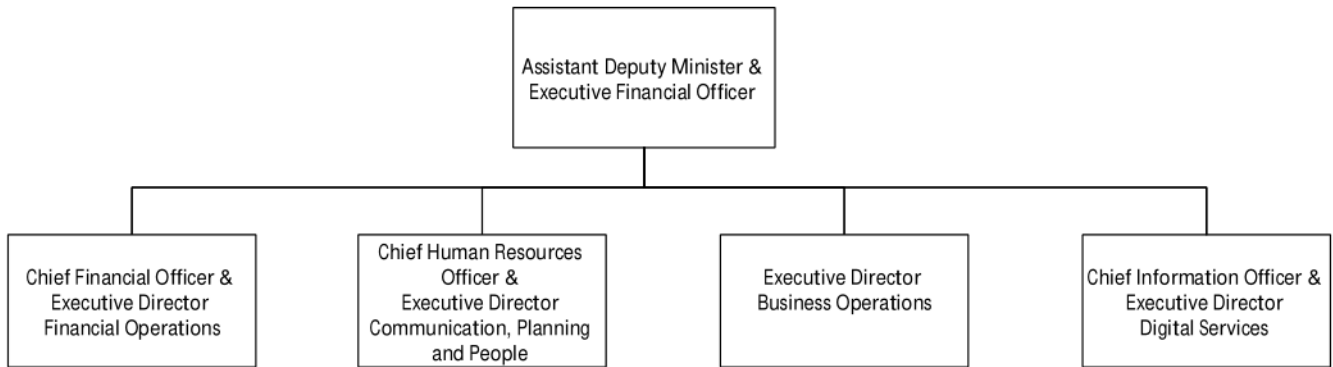
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

- Permanent – 92 FTEs
- Temporary – 28 FTEs (funded through EDMA)

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*
- *Financial Administration Act*
- *Personal Information Protection Act*
- *Public Service Act*

Organizational Chart:



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION (DRM)

ADM Responsible: Kathryn Forge

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

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

- 1. Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation:** The Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Branch advances BC's Commitment to the United Nations' Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction through enhancing understanding of provincial and regional disaster risk and providing support to communities and local authorities to better understand and reduce their disaster risks. At the provincial and regional levels, the branch leads the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments, provides guidance to regulated entities, and conducts risk assessments for EMCR assigned hazards under EDMA. To support local authorities and First Nations, the branch oversees six disaster risk reduction funding programs, and advances the practice of disaster mitigation by curating the ClimateReadyBC platform and developing new tools and policy frameworks to support disaster mitigation. The branch also co-manages the Stó:lō Syélt Xéssel Fraser River Debris Trap with Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation.
- 2. Disaster Preparedness:** The Disaster Preparedness Branch enhances provincial disaster preparedness through leading provincial emergency management planning, training and exercising, and continuity of government to reduce vulnerability to hazards and disasters. Specific areas of responsibility include the Provincial Planning Program (provincial-level emergency plans, policies, and programs that address priority BC hazards, namely through the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan); the Training and Exercise Program (oversee and deliver emergency management training and exercises designed to enhance provincial, regional, and community preparedness); and the Provincial Business Continuity Management Program (leads and provides a common framework for ministry business continuity management programs, including identifying and prioritizing critical services and continuity of government operations in emergencies and disasters).
- 3. Strategic Initiatives:** The Strategic Initiatives Branch provides strategic leadership to reduce disaster and climate change risks through the design and execution of strategies, programs, policies, and frameworks that enhance provincial disaster resiliency. Key areas of responsibility include the development of a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS) that will establish a coordinated, all-of-government approach to disaster and climate risk management (the current EMCR Service Plan commits to releasing the DCRRS by Spring 2026), leading strategic after action reviews following significant events to reduce risk, strengthen preparedness and response and support continuous improvement, and building and leveraging internal and external relationships (e.g. Industry partners, academic partners) to increase understanding and reduction of disaster risk.

Budget: \$28.429M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 64 (OPER 61/EDMA 3)

Related Legislation:

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)

Organizational Chart:



PARTNERSHIPS, ENGAGEMENT & LEGISLATION DIVISION (PELD)

ADM Responsible: Monica Cox

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

EMCR's Partnerships, Engagement & Legislation Division (PEL) consists of three branches (Strategic Partnerships & Negotiations, Partnerships, Agreements & Reconciliation Initiatives and Policy & Legislation) that work collaboratively to develop and lead EMCR's partnerships, agreements, policy and legislation initiatives. PEL coordinates BC's participation in EMCR's partnership arrangements with intergovernmental, nongovernmental, faith-based, and other emergency management partners and agencies. PEL is also responsible for EMCR's legislative initiatives including all statute and regulation-related work. The division provides support with legislative interpretations, leads corporate policy initiatives and procedures, and produces guidance materials and tools for staff, partners, and stakeholders.

1. Strategic Partnerships & Negotiations Branch

- Leads implementation of current EMCR First Nations Emergency Management Services Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada to provide emergency management services on reserve and leads the negotiation of a new multi-lateral emergency management agreement
- Leads *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) Implementation related to Indigenous Knowledge & Cultural Safety requirements
- Leads development and implementation of EMCR's strategic partnerships with the First Nations Health Authority, First Nations Emergency Services Society, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

2. Partnerships, Agreements & Reconciliation Initiatives Branch

- Leads EDMA implementation related to Indigenous Engagement Requirements and funding for First Nations and local governments
- Leads EDMA Agreements Strategy (i.e. Collaborative Emergency Management, Coordination, Declaration Act Section 6 & 7 and Multijurisdictional Emergency Management Organization Agreements)
- Leads EMCR regional agreements with local governments (IPREM & REMP)
- Coordinates the Integrated Disaster Council of British Columbia (IDCBC)
- Leads EMCR implementation of Nation based partnerships (T̓silhqot̓'in National Government Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Commitment Letters, negotiation of Secwepemc Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement)

3. Policy & Legislation Branch

- Responsible for all EMCR's legislative initiatives
 - Leads legislative design, collaborative development, drafting, and approvals for EDMA and future EDMA regulations and all EMCR legislative interpretation
- Leads the development of provincial emergency declarations and orders during activation
- Provides cross-ministry support on policy and procedures

- Develops EMCR corporate and operational policy and guidance documents

Budget: \$39.033m*

**Total budget for Emergency and Disaster Management Operations shared by PELD, RO & DR divisions.*

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 57 (OPER 51 / EDMA 6)

Related Legislation:

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)

Organizational Chart:



DISASTER RECOVERY (DR)

ADM Responsible: Jennifer McGuire

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

The Disaster Recovery Division provides leadership and coordination of provincial resources to support individuals and communities impacted by disasters. The objective is to quickly re-establish social, cultural, economic, and community functions through inclusive measures that move towards achieving a disaster-resilient B.C. This includes taking steps to repair a community impacted by a disaster and restore conditions to an acceptable level or, when feasible, improve them with the aim of increasing resilience in individuals, families, organizations, and communities. The Division works closely with the Regional Operations and Disaster Risk Mitigation Divisions to ensure effective transition in supporting planning, mitigation, and preparation initiatives.

The Disaster Recovery Division is comprised of 4 branches:

1. Recovery Funding Branch

The Recovery Funding branch is the lead for the planning, communication, and implementation of recovery funding program services available for individuals and communities when a natural disaster is deemed eligible for financial assistance. This team is accountable for the development, implementation, evaluation and continuous improvement of the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program, with staff acting as statutory decision makers for DFA claims under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA). The Branch is the primary contact for Indigenous Governing Bodies, local governments, private citizens and non-government organizations for DFA application. The Branch works across BC ministries, other provinces and the federal government to ensure the DFA program meets current and evolving needs of BC communities recovering from disaster events.

2. Recovery Policy and Planning Branch

This branch leads the development, implementation, coordination and evaluation of the province's community disaster recovery program to ensure timely recovery services are provided to impacted communities. The key responsibilities are to support communities and provincial sectors in the medium- and long-term phases of recovery to re-establish social, cultural, physical, economic, personal and community well-being through inclusive measures that reduce vulnerability to disaster and to support 3 key watershed tables in the Southwest and Vancouver Island Coastal regions. The teams ensure collaboration across Provincial ministries, Federal government, NGOs, non-profit organizations, and other recovery partners. The focus is on developing and evaluating recovery resources, tools, and guides to support recovery activities for communities, and to support communities to transition from response to recovery. This branch is also responsible for DFA appeals and provides independent oversight from Recovery Funding.

3. 2023 Wildfire Recovery Operations and Coordination Branches

In response to the devastating wildfire season in 2023, EMCR introduced a temporary (2 year) structure of dedicated staff to provide direct recovery support to impacted communities.

The key responsibilities of the Wildfire Recovery Operations Branch are to serve as a disaster affected community’s focal point representing Provincial Ministries, understand and document needs, leverage existing funding supports and ensure that efficient recovery supports are reaching British Columbians.

The Wildfire Recovery Coordination Branch’s role is to develop processes and policies to remove barriers to support efficient and effective community recovery, consolidate and analyze data to gauge community recovery progress and inform funding decisions, and host inter-Ministry working groups and committees to ensure alignment and reduce duplication.

Budget: \$39.033M*

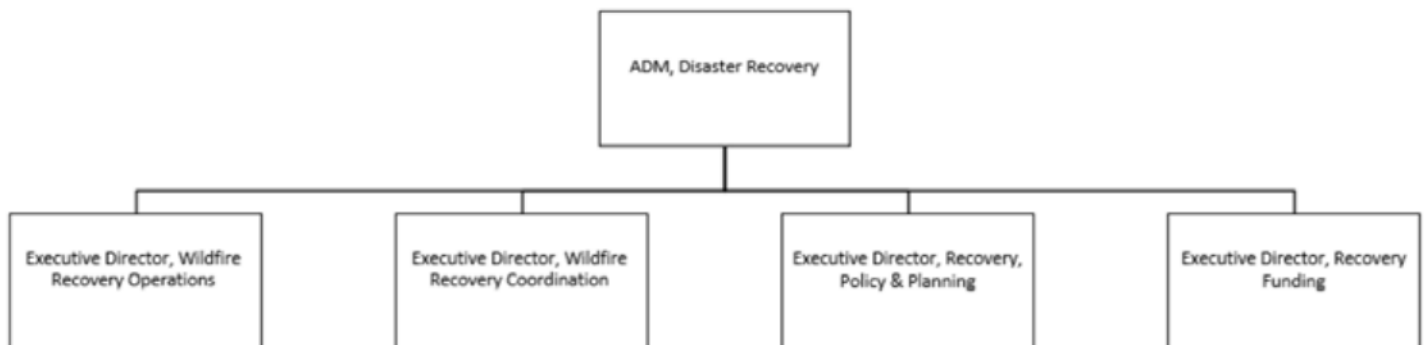
**Total budget for Emergency and Disaster Management Operations shared by PELD, RO & DR divisions.*

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 86 (OPER 60 / EDMA 26)

Related Legislation:

- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)*
- Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation

Organizational Chart:



REGIONAL OPERATIONS (RO)

ADM Responsible: Madeline Maley

Overview of Core Business / Program Area:

EMCR Regional Operations is comprised of three branches: Provincial & Regional Operations; Provincial Programs - Ground Search & Rescue and Road Rescue; and Provincial Programs - Emergency Support Services and Emergency Alerting.

The Regional Operations Branch leads and coordinates the preparedness and response to provincial land, regional level emergencies and disasters, and supports 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 in Surrey, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George and Terrace, with the Vancouver Island Coastal Regional Office 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 Provincial Program Branches coordinate 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. In addition, the Provincial Programs - Emergency Support Services and Emergency Alerting supports the issuance of Broadcast Intrusive alerts.

Budget: \$39.033M*

**Total budget for Emergency and Disaster Management Operations shared by PELD, RO & DR divisions.*

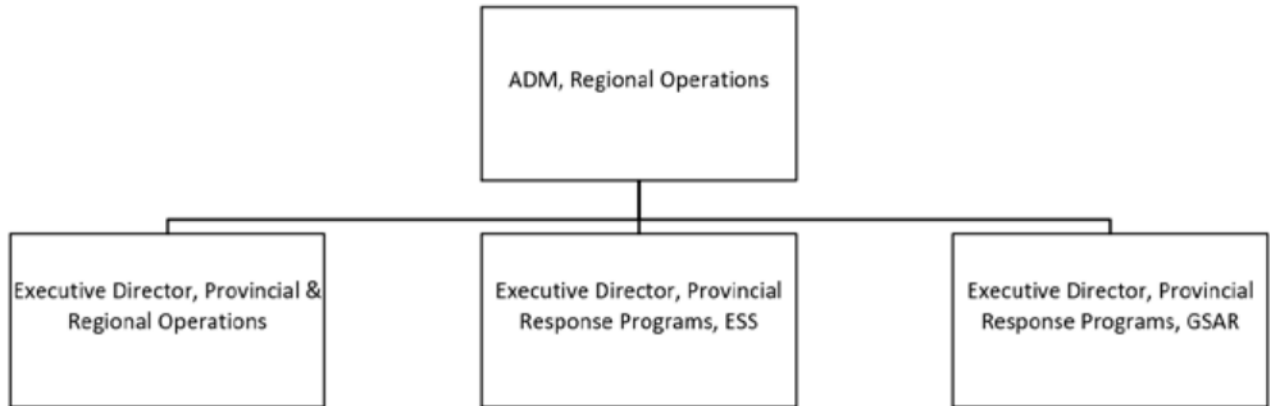
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 195 (OPER 120 / EMDA 75)

Related Legislation:

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)

(The Emergency and Disaster Management Act replaced the Emergency Program Act on November 8, 2023. This Act clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the provincial government and local authorities (municipalities or regional districts), shifts from focusing on emergency response to the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery, and sets out the framework for Indigenous Engagement Requirements.)

Organizational Chart:



Acronym	Full Name
UBCIC	Union of BC Indian Chiefs
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Tara Richards

Title: Deputy Minister

Ministry: Emergency Management & Climate Readiness

Biography:

Tara Richards was appointed Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC effective November 25, 2020, leading EMBC 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 28 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

Name: Teresa Dobmeier

Title: Associate Deputy Minister

Ministry: Emergency Management & Climate Readiness

Biography:

Personal Information

Teresa joined the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness as the Associate Deputy Minister in June 2023. Prior to this, she was the Associate Deputy Minister for Indigenous Health and Reconciliation in the Ministry of Health responsible for leading Indigenous specific anti-racism work, implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and supporting partnerships and engagements with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of and in British Columbia.

Teresa also previously served as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Children and Family Development for 5 years, Responsible for operations of the Ministries front line services across the province including oversight of 200 district offices and 4000 staff. Before joining the BC Public Service in 2015, Teresa held three leadership positions in Interior Health Authority, including Aboriginal Health, Community Health, Acute Care and Residential Care. She brings extensive experience working with Indigenous communities and organizations from her roles in Interior Health, Health Canada, and the BC Association of Friendship Centres.

Teresa has been fortunate throughout her career to be in roles that reflect her passion for leading in complex systems. In many of her roles she has led and participated in managing emergency situations, code orange situations and recovery actions. Teresa has personal goals to lead with humility, agility, collaboration and political acumen. She has had the privilege of supporting many youth, women and upcoming leaders to step into leadership and opportunities to grow and develop themselves. This has been one of the favorite themes throughout her career.

Teresa holds an Aboriginal Health Administrator certificate, Bachelor of Social Work Degree and a Master of Arts in Work, Organizational Leadership and is a current candidate in a Masters of Business Administration in Advancing Reconciliation.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Monica Cox

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister, Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation

Ministry: Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

Biography:

Monica Cox leads EMCR's Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation (PEL) division. PEL is responsible for the ministry's work with a variety of partners including local governments, non-governmental organizations, Canada and First Nation communities. PEL leads implementation of EMCR's current partnership agreements with Metro Vancouver, the Capital Regional District, Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nations Health Authority, the First Nations Emergency Services Society and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. PEL is responsible for the development and implementation of new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) Indigenous engagement requirements and partnership agreements. PEL leads all legislative reviews, regulation and operational policy development and ensures all ministry programs, policies and legislation are aligned to the *Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the four phases of emergency management. PEL also leads external and internal engagement related to proposed legislation and regulations and their implementation.

Personal Information

Personal Information

After spending several years at the University of Calgary completing her master's degree, Monica returned to Victoria where she worked with local governments, First Nations communities and urban Indigenous organizations to develop and deliver community driven projects. For the past sixteen years Monica has worked for the provincial government in corporate, policy and strategic partnership related positions at the ministries of Children & Family Development, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and Public Safety & Solicitor General.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Kathryn Forge

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister, Disaster Risk Management Division

Ministry: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Biography:

Kathryn Forge is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Disaster Risk Management and has over 20 years' experience in the federal and provincial public service related to national security and emergency management, including leading provincial strategic planning for disaster risk management, implementing the post-911 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 in recognition of her achievements has received the national Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award, the federal Deputy Minister's Achievement Award for leadership, and the Pacific Federal Council Community Contribution Award for extraordinary community and public service.

The Disaster Risk Management Division is responsible for disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and climate adaptation, and advancing disaster risk reduction on behalf of the Province. This Division provides strategic direction to provincial disaster risk management policy, planning, training, and exercising; cross-government business continuity management; strategic reviews of disasters, and; disaster mitigation funding programs to support communities in mitigating future disasters.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Name: Madeline Maley

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations

Ministry: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Biography:

Madeline Maley is an Assistant Deputy Minister and leads the division responsible for Regional Operations on behalf of the Province. 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.

Madeline joined the Provincial Government in 1995 Personal Information

Personal Information and worked on the Coast until moving to Kamloops in 2003. Madeline held a variety of positions with the Ministry of Forests until joining EMBC.

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



Name: Jennifer McGuire

Title: Assistant Deputy Minister, Disaster Recovery Division

Ministry: Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Biography:

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. Since May 2022, Jennifer has been with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness as the Assistant Deputy Minister for Disaster Recovery Division and acting in the Associate Deputy Minister role.

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



Name: Stephen Ward

Title: ADM and Executive Financial Officer, Corporate Services

Ministry: Emergency Management & Climate Readiness

Biography:

Steve graduated from Bishop's University with a BBA and obtained his CPA, CA in 1995 and his CIA designation in 2001. Steve previously was the CFO at the Ministry of Health, and the Executive Director of Finance with the Child Care Branch leading the transition of Child Care from Children & Family Development to Education & Child Care, while creating the finance function to support their work. Prior to that, Steve was the Executive Director of Internal Audit within the Ministry of Finance.

Steve has been a Controller for a large public company and an Operations Director at a national professional organization. He has been on various boards, professional and not for profit organizations.

Personal Information

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Issue: Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness

- The Ministry of 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 has a Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS) that details how the Province will lead and coordinate immediately following a catastrophic earthquake and articulates the roles and responsibilities of emergency management partners.
- The Province builds and maintains response capabilities for a catastrophic earthquake through regular exercises with First Nations, local and Federal governments, non-government organizations, and senior government leadership.
- EMCR maintains a surge capacity of staff from across the public service as members of the Coordinated Operation Response in Emergencies (CORE) program. These staff are trained in foundation level provincial Emergency Management (EM) and offer both staff capacity for emergency operation centres and subject matter expertise in their fields.

Background:

- In 2014, the Office of the Auditor General released the Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014) and the BC Earthquake Consultation Report (2014), both of which identified shortcomings in BC's earthquake preparedness.
- In 2015, EMCR published the Earthquake Immediate Response Plan, the predecessor to the PEIRS, which outlines the government's planned response immediately after a catastrophic earthquake.
- In 2016, EMCR established a multi-year exercise program to improve preparedness for complex emergency events that require a multi-jurisdictional response.
- In 2023, Exercise Coastal Response, a large-scale, provincial catastrophic preparedness exercise included over 1,500 participants and 50 agencies exercising capabilities to improve catastrophic preparedness and response.
- The 2023 to 2028 exercise program will continue with a variety of activities to improve provincial disaster preparedness leading up to the 2028 Exercise Coastal Response.
- The Province is a committed partner to Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) national Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system. EMCR's role is to coordinate public alerting, support public education and actions people need to take to protect themselves through EEW.
- PreparedBC, EMCR's public education program, is responsible for sharing earthquake preparedness information through regular social media posts and campaigns, information at public events and booths, and webinars. PreparedBC partners with the BC Earthquake Alliance every October to encourage participation in ShakeOutBC.
- In a catastrophic event, and on recommendation from EMCR, the Ministers-Deputies Emergency

Committee (M-DEC) may be activated to coordinate Provincial response.

- Chaired by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, M-DEC facilitates high-level information sharing and decision-making, provides high-level policy decisions and strategic direction, authorizes extraordinary activities and ensures the full support of all ministries, crown corporations and agencies as part of an integrated government response.
- During response to provincially significant emergencies, the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Disaster Risk and Emergency Management (DMC-DREM) and the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Disaster Risk and Emergency Management (ADMC-DREM) support prompt and effective cross-government leadership of emergency response through the following:
 - Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee (M-DEC)
 - Deputy Ministers' Emergency Committee (DM-EC)
 - Assistant Deputy Ministers' Emergency Committee (ADM-EC)
- Senior government leadership is provided with communication tools, access to systems and means to connect immediately after a catastrophic event. Procedures are in place to help facilitate decision making and build situational awareness.
- Core Policy 16 outlines Business Continuity Management requirements and practices for Ministries to plan for the resumption of critical government services and functions in emergencies and business disruptions.
- Every ministry has identified the critical services they provide and has business continuity plans in place. Each Ministry has a Ministry Operations Centre (MOC), which would activate to support their ministries should business continuity plans be overwhelmed. In a catastrophic earthquake, all MOCs would activate to support government continuity.

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) identifies EMCR as the ministry responsible for earthquakes, with new requirements for risk assessments, emergency management plans, and business continuity plans.
- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) will be delivered later this year and will examine provincial risks resulting from a major earthquake scenario, among other hazards. The DCRRA will inform future updates to PEIRS, Core Policy 16, and the next catastrophic exercise to meet EDMA requirements.
- EDMA also requires the EMCR Provincial Administrator to prepare, maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Governing Bodies, and in coordination with Local Authorities.
- The CEMP, as the Provincial emergency management plan, guides the actions of government in emergencies and disasters, including for lead and non-lead hazard-assigned Ministers. It incorporates all Provincial hazard plans, including earthquake.
- EMCR has begun updating the CEMP, starting with an update to the All-Hazard Plan, outlining Provincial roles, responsibilities and approaches pertaining to most hazards.

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- N/A

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Issue: Role of Premier in Emergencies

Background:

- Emergencies resulting from climate driven events, such as extreme heat, floods, wildfires and droughts, have both immediate and long-term impacts on the socio-economic fabric of society, impacting the health of people, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting the economy.
- In addition, British Columbia is also at increased seismic risk, which could result in large-scale earthquakes and/or tsunamis.
- The mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery phases require cooperation and coordination across all of society, with the Provincial government playing a key leadership role.
- BC's statutory framework for emergencies exists within the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA), brought into force in November 2023, and the regulations made under the EDMA.
- Under the EDMA, 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 and to make extraordinary regulations (e.g., making exceptions to, or altering the application of, enactments).
- 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 was chaired by the Premier or the 2023 Premier's Task Force on Emergencies.).

Implications / Considerations / Opportunities:

- Prior to known hazard seasons, such as spring freshet or wildfire season, or if an emergency is imminent, responsible ministries will provide briefings to the Premier regarding the scope and scale, potential consequences, and actions to mitigate.
- During emergencies, responsible ministries provide ongoing and regular briefings following an agreed to escalation pathway that provides for triggers to initiate action by the Premier.
- The Premier 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. Enforcement by police and other authorities is generally light.

- 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.
- The Premier also provides assurance to British Columbians that government is taking the necessary and correct actions to address the emergency. During the 2023 wildfire season, the Premier visited the communities and spoke with those impacted by the wildfire, as well as local government officials and responders. Following the 2023 wildfires, the Premier struck the Premier's Task force on Emergencies to provide advice to government on opportunities to strengthen preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in advance of and for implementation in the 2024 season.
- The Premier plays a role in liaising with the federal government and advocating for B.C.'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.
 - The EDMA has been designed to recognize Indigenous Peoples as decision-makers in emergency management. Agreements with Indigenous governing bodies will be used to coordinate the exercise of powers under the EDMA with the inherent right of self-government by the Indigenous governing body in responding to or recovering from an emergency. The EDMA also enables section 6 and 7 agreements as outlined in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
 - During emergency events, the Premier may wish to consider including Indigenous leadership in statements and appearances as a way of demonstrating the Province's ongoing commitment to recognizing the decision-making role of Indigenous Peoples and to cultural safety.
- In the event that an emergency occurs during the Interregnum period:
 - local governments remain empowered to declare states of local emergency and to use emergency powers necessary to respond to the emergency;
 - the minister responsible for the EDMA remains empowered to declare a state of provincial emergency and to use emergency powers necessary to respond to the emergency;
 - a process for briefing the minister responsible for the EDMA in a way that respects the caretaker convention has been devised: ministry staff and Premier's Office staff will brief Minister Conroy (as the caretaker minister), and Minister Conroy would brief Minister Ma (as the minister responsible); and,
 - GCPE would lead communications (involvement by the Premier in communications during Interregnum is expected only in extraordinary circumstances).

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:

- N/A

MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries:

- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)
- Water Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)
- Forests (FOR)

Issue:

- Multi-hazard/Multi-event Recovery (Flood and Wildfire) and Disaster Recovery and Resilience Programs

Background:

Multi hazard/Multi Event Recovery

- More frequent and severe climate related disasters are increasing impacts on communities and demands for disaster financial assistance. Since 2017, there have been 21 events that have been declared as Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) eligible with over 178,000 people being displaced during this time with the most significant being Atmospheric River (AR) 2021 (13,500) and Wildfire 2023 (48,900).
- AR 2021 was unprecedented in the number of communities impacted by this event. EMCR's Disaster Recovery Division continues to support many of these communities along with its partners including the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) who continue to provide housing supports and financial assistance to help with expenses related to repair or rebuild for those who lost their primary residence. Further, the CRC is offering personalized recovery supports to residents.
- The 2023 wildfire season's impacts include 2.84 million hectares of forest burned, tens of thousands of evacuations and the loss of 612 residential structures. Recovery teams liaised with nine Regional Districts, eight First Nations and two local governments to assess impacts and support disaster recovery planning. Recovery supports have ranged from "low touch", where communities are mostly self-sufficient and adequately resourced to support their own recovery needs to "high touch", which typically includes more intensive provincial government involvement, funding, and supports.
- EMCR is working with Ministry of Forests (FOR) and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to fast-track provincial permitting processes for Riparian Area Protection Regulation and *Heritage Conservation Act* permits to support housing construction.
- FOR's Archaeology Branch has created customized HCA Permits which allow multiple proponents to sign on to the permit without having to go through the full permitting process themselves. This reduces administrative timelines and supports people getting back into their homes more quickly. Currently, there are 5 active HCA Permits that support rebuilding structures lost to recent wildfires and floods (the flood permit is intended for critical infrastructure).
- WLRS developed the 2023 Wildfire Rebuilding Direction to support the rebuilding of waterfront homes in riparian areas damaged by the 2023 wildfires by streamlining legal processes, reducing

administrative burden on homeowners, and providing tailored restoration direction and funding support for the unique situation of the high-intensity 2023 wildfires.

- A revised Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) was completed in May 2024. It sets out the government's corporate, strategic approach to aligning and leveraging ministries to best support emergency and disaster impacted communities in their recovery. In 2025, a revised recovery guide for local authorities will be published, following engagement early in the year.

Federal Government

- The federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) is a federal/provincial cost sharing arrangement which is triggered by large-scale natural disasters. Administered by Public Safety Canada (PSC), DFAA currently reimburses B.C. up to 90% of the costs of disaster, including costs for both response and recovery. Only large events which exceed a threshold of \$21M of impact are eligible for DFAA.
- PSC is modernizing its DFAA program to support the mitigation of disaster risks and increase climate resilience of Canadian communities. The modernized guidelines include a reduction in the cap on Canada's cost-share of recovery-related expenses for infrastructure, homes and small businesses from up to 90% to 70% will result in increased provincial costs. However, the program will include an additional stream of funding for mitigation. Staff continue to negotiate with PSC on this cost share arrangement. The guidelines will come into effect April 1, 2025.
- The Federal government funds essential large-scale disaster risk reduction projects directly with communities through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). In July 2023, the communities of Abbotsford, Merritt and Princeton each applied to the DMAF however their applications were denied in May 2024. DMAF is now closed for future applications, creating uncertainty and a funding gap for the medium to large infrastructure projects needed to mitigate flood risk.
- The Province continues to lead work on the Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan (SRWFMP) and the Transboundary Flood Initiative (TFI) which have not received support or participation from the federal government. A letter recently sent by Minister Ma expressed disappointment with the federal government's lack of commitment to this work and requested participation on both tables.
- On September 18, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, declined participation at the tables, citing his department's role as an investor and the DMAF program being competitive in nature. Minister Sajjan did not respond.
- The 2024 federal budget committed PSC to stand up a low-cost national flood insurance program within the next year that will consist of a federally backstopped reinsurance product as well as a provincial subsidy to keep premiums affordable for properties in high-risk areas. The program is intended to ensure flood insurance is reasonably, readily available and affordable in high-risk flood areas and eliminate access to DFAA for flood events for residential properties.
- The Federal government intends to transition out of the flood Insurance program after 20 years of aggressive investment in flood mitigation. Future federal funding to support this investment is uncertain given the denial of DMAF applications for Abbotsford, Merritt and Princeton.
- Staff are working with PSC on the flood insurance program Advice/Recommendations;
Intergovernmental Communications

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)
Cabinet Confidences

Decision(s) Required / Next Steps:
Cabinet Confidences

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter Status

BACKGROUND:

- In December 2022, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) was created as the primary coordinating agency for reducing climate risk impacts and responding to provincial-level emergencies and disasters.
- The Ministerial Mandate Letter (Attachment 1) was issued to the new Minister of EMCR, outlining the priorities for the remaining period of the mandate.

DISCUSSION:

- The Ministerial Mandate Letter outlines five priorities, of which, one is complete and four are in progress:
 - Complete:
 - § Co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.
 - In Progress:
 - § Support urgent coordinated government response to communities in times of emergencies.
 - § Lead the development of a provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment (now referred to as Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment).
 - § Establish Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management.
 - § Lead cross-ministry coordination for our government's work to enhance B.C.'s resilience.
- Further details on the status of each priority, with specific examples that support the advancement of these priorities, is provided in Attachment 2.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Ministerial Mandate Letter includes a focus on strengthened partnerships with Indigenous Peoples by including First Nations from the beginning and at all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.
- Attachment 2 contains specific examples for each Mandate Letter priority outlining the ministry's collaboration and consultation with Indigenous Peoples to advance emergency management in B.C.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Advancing the priorities outlined in the Ministerial Mandate Letter required consultation and collaboration with other ministries. This includes:
 - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 - Ministry of Forests
 - Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1 – 2022 EMCR Ministerial Mandate Letter
- Attachment 2 – Ministerial Mandate Letter Summary of Progress

PREPARED BY:

Geoff Gudavicius
Manager, Corporate Planning
Communications, Planning & People

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	15/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	11/10/2024
EFO (if applicable)	SW	10/10/2024
ED	CF	10/10/2024



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:

- **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.

.../2

**Office of the
Premier**

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Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **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.

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 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.
- 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.

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.

.../4

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.

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 black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in the 2022 Ministerial Mandate Letter.

Additional details for the examples outlined below as well as other advancements of the Mandate Letter priorities can be found in the [2022/23 and 2023/24 Annual Service Plan Reports](#).

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of October 2024
<p>Support urgent coordinated government response to communities in times of emergency and review systems to ensure they are prepared for urgent response, incorporating lessons learned from previous emergencies.</p>	<p>This priority represents an on-going accountability for the ministry. Since December 2022, the ministry has made significant progress towards this priority by supporting response efforts, promoting preparedness, enhancing access to key programs, and implementing lessons learned from past events.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting response efforts during annual emergency seasons, including the historic wildfire season in 2023 and the Chilcotin landslide in summer 2024. • Delivery of Seasonal Hazard Preparedness sessions to brief local government and First Nations partners, critical infrastructure providers, non-profit organizations, and federal and provincial agency representatives on forecasted hazards and associated risks. • Enhancing key programs such as Emergency Support Services and Disaster Financial Assistance to improve accessibility and operating efficiency to better support communities and individuals impacted by disasters. • Implementing findings and recommendations for continuous improvement from the Atmospheric

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of October 2024
	<p>River and Exercise Coastal Response After Action Reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairing the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies with the Ministry of Forests, which was created to develop action-oriented recommendations to improve preparedness and response for the anticipated 2024 emergency season.
<p>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.</p>	<p>This work is complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> came into force in November 2023.
<p>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.</p>	<p>This work is in progress and expected to be completed in 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023/24 the ministry completed the risk assessment methodology in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and co-developed with Indigenous Partners. The selected hazards for the methodology will inform the subsequent provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (coastal and riverine flooding, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, earthquake, and a scenario of cascading and compounding risks). • The provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment is underway and is expected to be released in 2024/25. • The provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (referred to as Plan in mandate letter) is underway and is currently being

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of October 2024
	<p>scoped. Public release is expected in 2026.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>This priority represents an on-going commitment for the ministry. Since December 2022, the ministry has made significant progress advancing this priority and the ministry continues to work closely with First Nations partners on key emergency management initiatives.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing agreements with First Nations partners, including a Letter of Understanding with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society to ensure collaboration in emergency management; the Transboundary Flood Initiative and the Sumas River Flood Mitigation Collaborative Framework; and the Fraser River Debris Trap Co-Management Agreement. • Introducing modernized emergency management legislation developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations partners and developing guidance materials for internal and external audiences to support meeting Indigenous engagement requirements outlined in the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>. • Continuing work with First Nations partners to develop regulations associated with the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>. • Coordinating annual Partnerships Tables across the province, providing a regional forum for First Nations emergency managers to build

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of October 2024
	relationships, share knowledge, and inform emergency management service delivery efforts.
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>This work is in progress and on-going. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Flood Strategy: This work is complete. The B.C. Flood Strategy was released in March 2024. • Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: The ministry continues to work with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on this initiative. This work is in progress and is further detailed above with the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments. • ClimateReadyBC: The ministry launched the platform in February 2022, providing a publicly accessible disaster and climate risk resource hub. Work is on-going to add new information and resources as they become available.

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan

February 2024



For more information on the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness contact:

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Published by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bowinn".

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
February 9, 2024

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Strategic Direction

In 2024/25, the Government of British Columbia will remain focused on providing the services and infrastructure that people depend on to build a good life. Government will continue delivering results that matter to British Columbians including helping people with costs, attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean and fair economy. Government will continue working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples as it implements the Action Plan for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and delivers initiatives that advance reconciliation in ways that make a difference in communities throughout the province.

This 2024/25 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [December 2022 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (the Ministry) is responsible to British Columbians as the primary coordinating agency for reducing climate risk impacts and responding to provincial-level emergencies and disasters. The Ministry works to advance the vision of a disaster resilient British Columbia.

The mission of the Ministry is to lead provincial emergency and disaster risk management, build and foster collaborative relationships and partnerships, advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and support all people in British Columbia to reduce climate and disaster risk.

The Ministry is responsible for providing cross-ministry coordination to enhance British Columbia's readiness and resilience towards climate and disaster risks and working towards a comprehensive and interconnected approach to achieving climate and disaster risk reduction. The Ministry leads provincial emergency management through the four-phased approach of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in close collaboration with First Nations, local authorities, other provinces and territories, federal departments, industry, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers. Delivery of the Ministry's mandate is supported by the [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#).

Operating Environment

In recent years, British Columbia has seen an increase in climate risks and extreme weather events – including extreme heat, extreme cold, flood, fire, and drought. British Columbia is also at greater seismic risk compared with other parts of the country and must be prepared to manage the devastating effects of a large earthquake or tsunami. Additionally, the uncertainty of when British Columbia will experience an emergency or disaster, and the variable severity of yearly hazard seasons, poses significant risk to government's fiscal plan and the people of B.C.

As the Province's lead for emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery, the Ministry will focus on lessons learned from past emergencies and disasters, build capacity to recover and be resilient in the face of current disaster and climate risk, and prepare for hazards in a way that mitigates the risk of future emergencies.

With the increase in extreme weather events in recent years, the Ministry has experienced an increasing demand from local authorities and First Nations for emergency preparedness, mitigation planning, and response and recovery supports. The Ministry will continue internal planning to ensure resources are effectively managed and allocated in the event of an emergency, and that the delivery of services, programs, and supports are not adversely affected and meet the urgent need of people and communities.

The Ministry will also continue working to sustain a robust organizational structure with the capacity and skills to deliver on its mandate and to support organizational excellence. Navigating B.C.'s competitive labour market remains a challenge and the Ministry will continue to explore and implement new approaches to recruit, retain, and develop staff, while also fostering a learning culture that aims to establish internal capacity with the necessary specialized and technical skillsets.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: B.C.'s strategies and systems reduce the impacts of climate-driven hazards and other emergencies and disasters.

Effective systems, proactive strategies, and planning can help reduce the impacts of climate-related hazards and other emergencies and disasters on people, communities, infrastructure, the environment, and the economy when they occur.

Objective 1.1: Lead provincial coordination for disaster risk reduction and climate readiness initiatives to improve awareness and transparency, increase resilience, and build back better from disasters.

As the Province's lead agency responsible for climate readiness and disaster risk reduction, the Ministry coordinates across the provincial government and with external partners to bring together expertise to develop plans and strategies. These plans help ensure B.C.'s communities, economy, and infrastructure are prepared to meet the challenges of a changing climate and other emergency events.

Key Strategies

- Lead cross-ministry coordination and provide guidance to ministries and collaborate with federal, local, and Indigenous governments to deliver risk reduction and resilience initiatives.
- Develop a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan that assesses risk priorities and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.
- Update the Province's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, inclusive of all four phases of emergency management, to better prepare British Columbia for disasters and emergencies in partnership with ministries, Indigenous governments, local authorities, and critical infrastructure partners.
- Work across ministries to help maintain the overall provincial business continuity program, including ministry plans that address infrastructure and services that governments, people, and businesses rely on, and continuity of government operations following an emergency or disaster.

Discussion

As the Province's lead for emergency and disaster risk management, the Ministry will continue to work across the provincial government to advance emergency preparedness and risk reduction. This includes working with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to strengthen the province's flood resilience through completion of the [B.C. Flood Strategy](#), and accelerate improvement of B.C.'s communication, planning, response, and mitigation of water

scarcity and drought conditions; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to enhance the sustainability and reliability of B.C.'s food system during emergencies, recognizing the importance of the province's food system to a secure, clean, and fair economy; the Ministry of Forests to support the BC Wildfire Service to reduce wildfire risk and prepare communities for wildfire; and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to implement the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy Actions for 2022-2025](#), including provincial and regional Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments (previously referred to as Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessments).

Building off the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments (DCRRA), the Ministry will begin the development of a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan. This plan will be informed by the DCRRA results and associated consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies, align with the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, and consider the responsibilities delegated to B.C. ministries, local governments, and critical infrastructure owners and operators.

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* also outlines new requirements for the Province's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The Ministry will begin to update the CEMP to advance a four-phase and all-hazard approach to Provincial emergency management in alignment with the [United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#).

The Ministry will advance all of government business continuity, now enshrined as a priority requirement in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, through the Provincial Business Continuity Program. In 2024/25 the Ministry will establish a Critical Services Framework and identify, with ministry partners, a Critical Services Prioritization list for business continuity during emergencies.

Lessons learned in helping communities recover will also be applied in future disaster mitigation planning and actions. The Ministry will work with the federal government to inform the development of a national flood insurance program and modernize the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program.

In collaboration with the federal government and other provinces, the Ministry will also contribute towards a civilian workforce review for response and recovery to support non-government organizations in building and maintaining a humanitarian workforce to provide surge support in response to the pandemic and other large-scale emergency events.

Objective 1.2: Champion evidence-based approaches across the B.C. government to identify and reduce disaster and climate risks and invest in disaster risk reduction.

The Province is developing a more proactive approach to disaster risk reduction informed by Indigenous and local knowledge, climate change scenarios, equity considerations, and lessons learned from past events. Using global best practices and reliable data and information, the Ministry will lead cross-government efforts aimed at enhancing the province's ability to

withstand future disasters and minimize impacts to people, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Key Strategies

- In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and in collaboration with communities and Indigenous Peoples, advance B.C.'s commitments to the Sendai Framework by leading the development of provincial and regional Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments that build on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk.
- Advance disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation in B.C. by providing funding programs for First Nations and local authorities to undertake emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation planning and projects.
- Develop partnerships with post-secondary institutions, Indigenous organizations, non-government organizations, and other emergency management organizations and jurisdictions to support continuous improvement of the Province's emergency preparedness management and disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Implement the recommendations of the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies and enhance preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery to better support people on the front lines of emergencies.

Discussion

Assessing provincial and regional disaster and climate risk is an important step towards disaster risk reduction and supports evidence-based decision-making towards the Province's investments in emergency preparedness and mitigation. The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* outlines new requirements for risk assessments to include the effects of climate change, local and Indigenous knowledges where available, and consideration of vulnerable people, animals, places, or things. The provincial and regional DCRRAs will incorporate these new requirements and result in new information, methods, and guidance for future risk assessments undertaken by local authorities, critical infrastructure owners, and others.

Over the coming year, the Ministry will continue to invest in disaster risk reduction through different funding programs. These include the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, which funds projects that help First Nations and local authorities prepare communities for the risks of natural hazards and climate change and lessen the effects before disasters happen.

The Ministry will also continue to administer funding for Indigenous governments and local authorities via the Green Infrastructure Adaptation, Resilience & Disaster Mitigation sub-stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (Green ARDM). The Green ARDM program is a Federal and Provincial cost sharing program that supports projects that increase structural capacity and/or increased natural capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters, and/or extreme weather events with the intent of reducing, or even negating, the effects of flooding.

In October 2023, the Province launched the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies to develop action-oriented recommendations to improve preparedness and response for the anticipated 2024 emergency season. The task force is co-chaired by The Ministry and the Ministry of Forests, and consists of representatives from the Premier’s Office, the BC Wildfire Service, the Ministry, Indigenous and local authority leadership, and other external experts.

The Ministry will work to ensure that the recommendations developed by the Premier’s Task Force are actioned in advance of, and for implementation in, the 2024 wildfire season. This includes enhancing the Evacuee Registration Assistance tool, modernizing community delivery of Emergency Support Services, and identifying opportunities to assist First Nations and local authorities improve evacuation orders and alerts awareness and compliance.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
1.1 Provincial and regional risk assessments developed	<p>Foundational risk assessment methodology completed.</p> <p>Initiate a joint provincial scale Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and developed in collaboration with First Nations partners.</p>	<p>Complete and publish the provincial scale DCRRA.</p> <p>Initiate regional scale DCRRA in partnership with ENV and developed in collaboration with First Nations partners.</p> <p>Initiate the development of a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan in partnership with ENV.</p>	<p>Complete and publish the regional scale DCRRA.</p> <p>Complete and publish a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan.</p>	TBD ¹

Data source: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Manually compiled.

¹ Targets for 2026/27 will be determined in future service plans.

Discussion

This performance measure tracks the Ministry’s progress toward completing provincial and regional DCRRA’s in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. In 2023/24 the Ministry completed development of the risk assessment methodology and, in collaboration with First Nations partners and through engagement with partners, selected hazards to assess in this phase of work. These include coastal and riverine flooding, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, earthquake, and a scenario of cascading and compounding risks. The Ministry will establish a First Nations advisory group for the risk assessment and a

series of working groups involving subject matter experts from Indigenous organizations, provincial ministries, academia, and non-governmental organizations to assess risk and resilience for each hazard. The Ministry is targeting Summer 2024 for release of the provincial DCRRRA on [ClimateReadyBC](#). The provincial DCRRRA will inform the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan.

Following completion of the provincial DCRRRA, the Ministry will continue collaboration with First Nations partners and engagement with local authorities and other partners to complete regional DCRRAs. These assessments will focus on hazards and values that are priorities for each region. Regions will be defined by watersheds and First Nations language groups. Results of these assessments will also be made available on [ClimateReadyBC](#) and will support local authorities and critical infrastructure owners to complete risk assessments as required under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and associated regulations. Regional and local risk assessment results will inform development of emergency management plans and prioritization of investments in disaster mitigation.

The Ministry does not have a target for the 2026/27 fiscal year. On-going programming to undertake and support disaster and climate risk assessments will be linked to new requirements in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and future year targets will be determined in future service plans.

Goal 2: Indigenous Peoples are true partners and leaders in emergency and disaster risk management.

In line with the B.C. Government's commitments to true and lasting reconciliation, the Ministry will include First Nations in all four phases of emergency management and improve the cultural safety of emergency services provided to Indigenous Peoples.

Objective 2.1: Include First Nations in all phases of emergency management, including all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.

Effective emergency management requires involvement and expertise of First Nations and Indigenous organizations across B.C. The Ministry will work with Indigenous governing bodies through government-to-government relationships to foster shared leadership across all phases of emergency management, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, to build their future resilience.

Key Strategies

- Build emergency management partnerships and agreements with Indigenous organizations to strengthen emergency and disaster risk management knowledge, capacity, and practices.
- Enhance First Nations emergency management capacity by working with the federal government and the First Nations Leadership Council, who are directly engaging First Nations communities, to replace the current bi-lateral service agreement with a new

multi-lateral service agreement for the delivery of emergency management services on reserve lands.

- Support the advancement of Indigenous-led disaster risk management priorities that reduce risks to communities and consider future climate conditions.
- Develop, negotiate, and implement new emergency management government-to-government agreements with Indigenous governing bodies enabled through the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Discussion

Recognizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge for effective emergency management and the increased risk of climate-related emergencies in rural and remote communities, the Ministry will work to establish First Nations as true partners and encourage collaboration with local authorities across all phases of emergency management. These relationships will be based on a foundation of respect and humility, and cultural sensitivity.

The Ministry will also work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to replace the current bi-lateral agreement, signed in 2017, to deliver emergency management services on First Nations reserves equitable to services delivered to local governments across all four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Due to the increasing scope, scale, and frequency of emergency management events impacting communities over the past several years, First Nations communities have signalled an urgent need to modernize the current approach to service delivery and replace the current bilateral service agreement with a new multilateral agreement that better serves the unique needs of First Nations and aligns with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The Ministry will also continue to advance flood mitigation in the Nooksack River and Sumas River Watersheds through the Transboundary Flood Initiative. This initiative represents a multi-government agreement between the Sumas, Matsqui, and Leq'á:mel First Nations, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, the City of Abbotsford, and Whatcom County, Washington and advances a collaborative framework to identify and pursue actions for flood-risk reduction and habitat restoration.

The Ministry will also work to make the Sumas Prairie more resilient to flooding through the Sumas River Flood Mitigation Collaborative Framework. The Ministry will work closely with the Semá:th, Matsqui, and Leq'á:mel First Nations, the City of Abbotsford, and the City of Chilliwack to support the design of mitigation projects in the Sumas River watershed and timely delivery of watershed recovery programs that benefit people and the farming community and protect infrastructure.

Objective 2.2: Better shape the delivery of services to Indigenous Peoples to consider both the needs and the cultural perspectives of individual members and communities.

Actions and decisions taken by the Ministry will be guided by the B.C. Government's commitment to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Ministry recognizes the diversity of First Nations in British Columbia and respects self-determination of Indigenous Peoples. Services, programs, and training will be sustained to improve cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Key Strategies

- Deliver emergency management services and supports guided by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action that enable in-person connection with community leaders, knowledge keepers, and recovery leads and incorporate cultural safety and humility.
- Support capacity building and training through regional and provincial emergency management meetings and forums and First Nations' Emergency Services Society.
- Provide coordinated provincial, federal, and Indigenous partner emergency management services through the Multi Agency Support Team initiative.
- Facilitate an Indigenous Agency Working Group to promote situational awareness and support response to communities during emergency events.

Discussion

Lessons learned following recent devastating provincial emergencies have highlighted the importance of establishing First Nations as true partners and leaders during all phases of emergency management.

The Ministry will continue to support capacity building and training through regional and provincial emergency management meetings and forums. The First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables (Partnership Tables) began in 2018 to offer a regional forum for First Nations emergency managers to build relationships, share knowledge and conduct training, as well as guide service-delivery efforts supported by the Ministry, ISC, and other key Indigenous service providers. Additionally, the annual Emergency Management Forum, supported by the Ministry, ISC, and FNLC provides a provincial forum for First Nations to share their lived experiences, learn from best practice, and share policy and funding updates.

Once a new multi-lateral service agreement is negotiated, the Ministry, ISC, and FNLC will be reassessing the current approach to both the Partnership Tables and the Emergency Management Forum to find opportunities for greater collaboration and alignment, based on feedback from First Nations communities. It is anticipated a new model will be introduced in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

The Ministry will also work with First Nations support organizations – including First Nations' Emergency Services Society, First Nations Health Authority, and ISC – and the Ministry of

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation through the Multi Agency Support Team (MAST) initiative to collaborate with impacted First Nations communities during emergency events and as required during recovery.

MAST provides timely and integrated support to impacted First Nations communities, an enhanced understanding of the most urgent needs, and provides immediate supports where possible. MAST also prioritizes face-to-face communications and increases community access and understanding of wise practices, information, and response options to ensure decisions are made in an informed way.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
2.1 Number of new Indigenous Emergency Management Agreements	0	2	5	5

Data source: Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation Division, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Discussion

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* includes an agreements framework that supports reconciliation, self-determination and self-government, and decision-making. The Ministry's approach to agreement development and implementation meets the objective of working towards Indigenous Peoples being full partners in emergency management, supports implementing the agreement framework, and advances the principles in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

This performance measure, new to the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan, tracks the number of new Indigenous Emergency Management Agreements between Indigenous governing bodies and the Province enabled by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* that came into force in November 2023. The Ministry will work closely with First Nations to collaboratively develop an agreements process and learn where there is interest in agreements. The Ministry has set a target of two new Indigenous Emergency Management agreements for the 2024/25 fiscal year and aims to increase the number of agreements in future years.

Types of agreements include Collaborative Emergency Management Agreements, Joint Decision-Making Agreements for Emergency Management, and Coordination Agreements.

Collaborative Emergency Management Agreements (CEMAs) create a structure for collaboration to ensure that First Nations are at the table and 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 Ministry will advance discussions with First Nations communities in high-risk areas that have an interest in entering CEMAs or other types of agreements.

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* enables Joint Decision-Making and Consent-Based agreements between Indigenous governing bodies and the Province. Statutory powers or statutory powers of decision under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* are based on Section 6 and 7 of the *Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Coordination Agreements are also enabled by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and recognize that Indigenous Peoples may exercise authorities, or have Indigenous laws related to response and recovery actions, in parallel to other governments' authorities and laws. By agreement, provincial decision makers in exercising statutory powers or powers of decision could exercise those powers in a coordinated manner respectful of Indigenous Governing Body preferences, and respectful of Indigenous law, or parties can harmonize and coordinate plans, policies, and programs.

Goal 3: B.C. has modernized and enhanced emergency management in all four phases (prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover).

Government is expected to follow modern and effective practices in emergency management. This goal addresses the Ministry's role in supporting Indigenous communities, local authorities, and individuals to prepare for emergencies, mitigate the risks of a changing climate, respond to disasters, and recover quickly after they occur.

Objective 3.1: Modernize B.C.'s emergency and disaster risk management legislation.

Modernizing the Province's emergency management legislation is a crucial step in implementing the Sendai Framework, emphasizing the importance of disaster risk reduction, and strengthening the four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Key Strategies

- Work with Indigenous partners, local authorities, and other organizations and interest groups to support the implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and promote effective coordination, collaboration, and information sharing among partners.
- Support regulated entities in implementing new Indigenous engagement obligations required under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.
- In accordance with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, consult and cooperate with First Nations in the development of emergency management regulations.

Discussion

Over the fiscal year, the Ministry will continue to support implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, working with First Nations, local authorities, and other organizations

and interest groups. This will include providing guidance and supports in relation to new and changed aspects of the legislative framework.

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* outlines engagement obligations that require local authorities, the Province, and critical infrastructure operators to consult and cooperate, engage and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies, and incorporate cultural safety and available Indigenous knowledge into risk assessments and emergency management plans. Additionally, for the response and recovery phases, consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies are required when a municipality or regional district plans to use certain land-based response or recovery powers.

The objective of consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies is to obtain free, prior, and informed consent, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Municipalities and regional districts must adopt this as the standard, make every effort to achieve it, and reflect it in their approach when they engage with Indigenous governing bodies.

To support this work, the Ministry has released an [Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance document](#) to outline the general engagement requirements with Indigenous governing bodies. Further guidance related to Indigenous engagement requirements is expected to be released in Spring 2024.

Additionally, the Province is providing \$18 million to First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts to support the implementation of Indigenous engagement requirements. The funding will be used to support relationship-building across jurisdictions through consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies and ensure the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety across emergency management practices. The funding also supports policy improvements that reflect the lived experience of Indigenous Peoples and address the disproportionate effects on Indigenous Peoples during emergency events.

The Ministry will also continue development of supporting regulations. In accordance with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and Declaration Act Secretariat's Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3, the Ministry will consult and cooperate with First Nations as a key aspect of developing new regulations. The Ministry will also engage with many other partner groups such as local governments, critical infrastructure owners, Indigenous organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Work in 2024/2025 will focus on regulations related to provincial ministries, local authorities, and post-emergency financial assistance.

Objective 3.2: Support Indigenous communities, local authorities, and individuals to access the tools and resources needed to manage emergencies and disasters in alignment with local conditions and needs.

The Province plays a key role in providing programs, systems, and resources that people need to prepare themselves and their communities for disasters and manage emergencies when they occur.

Key Strategies

- Continue to expand the [ClimateReadyBC](#) platform with new and current hazard data and resources to guide the public and communities on disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports.
- Expand public education initiatives, such as the [PreparedBC](#) program, and deepen engagement with partners to increase awareness of emergency preparedness across British Columbia, focusing on inclusive and culturally appropriate resources.
- Continue to evolve the public alerting system to enhance First Nations and local authority preparedness and response.
- Enhance catastrophic earthquake preparedness in collaboration with partners through the ongoing development of plans, training, exercises, and public education.

Discussion

By providing tools, resources, and education, people and communities can mitigate risks and better prepare for emergencies and disasters.

ClimateReadyBC, a disaster and climate risk reduction resource hub, will be expanded over the coming year. The Ministry will continue engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local authorities, and other organizations to improve the platform, make it more accessible, and incorporate local and Indigenous knowledge. The provincial DCRRA will also inform the development of new content, including new and refreshed data, maps, and tools.

PreparedBC, the Province's emergency preparedness education program, will continue to increase the resilience of British Columbians by providing accurate, meaningful, and relevant emergency preparedness information, and support Indigenous communities, local authorities, and other partners in their preparedness efforts and actions. This will be achieved by increasing public outreach opportunities, improving preparedness education programming for youth, and exploring opportunities to modernize service delivery, such as the use of interactive online tools.

The Ministry will continue to evolve the public alerting system in collaboration with First Nations and local authorities to help people make informed decisions. The Ministry will also collaborate with federal-provincial-territorial alerting partners and help educate the public about the public alerting system.

Objective 3.3: Support urgent coordinated government response and recovery to communities in times of emergency.

The Ministry will apply lessons learned from past events and support a coordinated emergency and disaster response and recovery efforts to improve outcomes for people and communities.

Key Strategies

- Continue to support the province-wide response and recovery from the widespread damage caused by severe events, such as wildfire, flooding, drought, and landslides in B.C.
- Enhance emergency management program and service delivery through lessons learned, systems reviews, and by promoting a culture of continuous improvement.
- Enhance awareness and modernize Emergency Support Services and Disaster Financial Assistance to improve accessibility and operating efficiency to better support communities and individuals impacted by disasters.
- Continue to work closely with the Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer groups in support of response related efforts.
- Maintain specialized regional emergency management partnership agreements with local authorities, and cross-border arrangements and agreements with key groups, aimed at enhancing B.C.'s preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for disasters.

Discussion

Climate-related emergencies are growing in scope, scale, and duration in British Columbia. The Ministry will continue to support people and communities impacted by past emergencies and disasters, and apply lessons learned from past events to improve programs and service delivery.

The Ministry will work to enhance community recovery readiness by supporting post-secondary and other education recovery programs, contractors and non-governmental organizations specializing in recovery, and local and First Nations governments. This also includes corporate supply agreements that enable communities to access recovery supports more easily through established channels and drive competition in the private sphere of recovery, honing expertise, and stabilizing the cost of recovery supports. The Ministry will also work with educational institutions to develop training for both communities and the public sector to undertake recovery.

Over the fiscal year, the Ministry will work towards enhancing awareness and modernizing Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). Key actions include continuing the support to local authorities and First Nations to transition to the Evacuee Registration and Assistance tool, integrating cultural safety in the delivery of ESS, and reviewing policies to assess equity and disproportionate impacts. The Ministry will also establish a reliable communications hub for evacuees to access information and improve awareness and improve capacity to process DFA applications and appeals in a timely manner.

The Ministry will continue to actively promote agreements and relationships that enhance coordination and information sharing during the four phases of emergency management. This includes ongoing work to support strategic planning and steering committee meetings for the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver, which supports improved coordination of emergency management planning and streamlined communication with municipalities and First Nations in the Metro Vancouver region. Similarly, work will continue to support the Regional Emergency Management Partnership in the Capital Region.

Additionally, EMCR will work with partners to develop tools to support Indigenous governing bodies and local authorities with establishing multijurisdictional emergency management organizations enabled under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
3.1 Percentage of eligible communities onboarded and utilizing the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool	35%	50%	75%	95%	95%

Data source: Regional Operations Division, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Discussion

The ERA tool, a digital platform that supports ESS, increases the efficiency and speed of service delivery and payments for evacuees. ERA enables the ability to transfer funds directly to evacuees for things like food and incidentals and provides evacuees with increased ability to make decisions that align with their personal preferences, culture, and health needs.

The Ministry has completed significant engagement with communities regarding further modernization of community supports and digital transformation. Modernized ESS service delivery reflects the need to respond to more complex and longer duration emergency events and demonstrates the Ministry's progress on strengthening community resilience and providing rapid response when disasters occur. ERA also allows communities from across the province to remotely provide supports to evacuees during large-scale events and streamlines renewal of supports when needed to support lengthy emergencies.

The Ministry has set a baseline of 35% for this measure, representing the percentage of eligible communities onboarded and utilizing the tool in the first year after launch in 2022/23. The Ministry has set a target of 75% of eligible communities onboarded and utilizing the ERA tool for the 2024/25 fiscal year and aims to increase the percentage to 95% by 2025/26. The Ministry set and is working towards these targets through the promotion of the value of the tool and providing training and support. Achievement of the target is limited by community uptake as it is voluntary.

In 2024/25, the Ministry will continue to engage with communities to onboard and train on the ERA tool and work closely with communities to encourage adoption and highlight the value proposition of the tool. The Ministry will also continue to work with Indigenous communities and other partners to ensure the program is administered in a culturally safe manner and meets the needs of those receiving support.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast ^{2,3}	2024/25 Target ^{2,4}	2025/26 Target ²	2026/27 Target ²
3.2 Percentage of complete Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) private applications processed within 90 days	25% ¹	TBC	60%	75%	90%

Data source: Disaster Recovery Division, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

¹ Baseline does not use the same methodology as targets. Baseline includes all applications for the Atmospheric River event that were processed up to September 28, 2022. This includes incomplete applications that required additional information from the applicant before assessment.

² Forecast and targets do not include incomplete applications received that were delayed awaiting supporting information from the applicant.

³ DFA Digital Portal completed in Fall 2023 for homeowners and tenants (2 of 5 private sector application categories). Data for application processing times will be available in Spring 2024.

⁴ Digital Portal expected to launch for remaining private sector application categories in 2024/25.

Discussion

The DFA program is offered by the Ministry to support individuals and businesses in the aftermath of an eligible disaster with financial assistance to restore sudden, unexpected, or uninsurable losses that affect homes, people's livelihood, and community services. The DFA program is split into two sectors: Private, which includes homeowners, residential tenants, charitable organizations, farm owners, and small businesses, and Public for communities.

In November 2023, the Ministry completed the DFA Digital Portal for private applications. The portal will replace the previous paper-based application process to streamline and strengthen the program. This will improve service delivery, timeliness of financial assistance, and the user experience. This performance measure, new to the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan, tracks the percentage of complete DFA private applications processed within 90 days.

The Ministry has set a baseline of 25% for this performance measure. This represents the percentage of DFA private applications from the Atmospheric River event processed within 90 days under the previous paper-based model. This baseline includes both complete and incomplete applications meaning it includes the time spent waiting for supporting information from the applicant. The Ministry has set a target of 60% of only complete applications processed within 90 days for the 2024/25 fiscal year and is targeting 75% and 90% for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 fiscal years, respectively. The Digital Portal helps to ensure applications are complete, reduces delays in the Ministry's adjudication of applications, and improves recovery outcomes through timeliness of financial support to rebuild post-disaster.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	32,416	39,033	38,633	38,633
Climate Readiness Programs	18,429	28,429	38,429	38,429
Executive and Support Services	13,739	11,585	11,584	11,584
Emergency and Disaster Management Act	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Financial Assistance	6,420	6,420	6,420	6,420
Total	101,004	115,467	125,066	125,066
Capital Expenditures				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	524	548	53	53
Total	524	548	53	53

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2023/24 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Ministry
30-60-90 Day Issues
Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness
Submitted for: November 2024

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
30 Days (November 2024)	
<p>Draft All-Hazard Plan <small>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet</small></p>	<p>EDMA requires the Province to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies and in coordination with Local Authorities</p> <p>The CEMP includes the All-Hazard Plan, hazard plans, and supporting documents (ie guidance). The All-Hazard Plan outlines provincial actions across most hazards, and all four phases of emergency management and is the first to be updated.</p> <p><small>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</small></p>
<p>Distribution of Year 2 Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding (IERF)</p>	<p>This fall, PEL and CSD will begin distribution of Year 2 IERFP agreements and reporting templates.</p> <p>Recipients of Year 1 funds have until March 31, 2025 to spend Year 1 funds, and the ministry can deliver funds for Year 2 as soon as agreements are signed, and reporting confirms that Year 1 funds are spent.</p>

National Flood Insurance Program – Draft report	Awaiting Federal government to circulate draft statement of fact report from discussions with PTs and Industry; report to be finalized in late fall for presenting final version to DM Public Safety Canada (PSC) and President of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
Joint Minister Briefing – Seasonal Hazard Response	Joint briefing of Ministers of EMCR, Forests, WLRS, MOTI and ENV (possibly) on seasonal hazard response. To occur in advance of MLA Call.
MLA Call	Organize an all MLA call on seasonal prep (before Christmas) (2-3 weeks later the formal Senior Officials Training)
Seasonal Hazard Preparedness	Winter storms seasonal hazard virtual preparedness workshops hosted by staff with Local Authorities and First Nations
Local Government EDMA regulation	Engagement of Indigenous partners on local government on regulation policy work to resume following interregnum. In September, policy briefs were shared with technical tables representing Modern Treaty Nations and the First Nations Leadership Council, and one meeting was held with Modern Treaty Nations. FNLC opted to defer meeting until after interregnum.
Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) for local government EDMA regulations	LGAC meetings expected to resume in November after interregnum. Four meetings of the LGAC were held in July/August prior to interregnum.
Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program – funding decisions	The cutoff for the initial intake of the DRIF program was September 15, 2024 for FY24/25 funding decisions. The Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Programs team will present funding package options to the DM and Minister for decision.

Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS)	<p>Ongoing early engagement with various Indigenous and First Nations Committees and Working groups on the Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy including the First Nations Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk, FNLC Technical Working Group).</p> <p>Engagement expected to re-engage post-interregnum.</p>
Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA)	<p>Ongoing collaboration with the First Nations Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk to finalize the Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment for public release in January.</p> <p>Engagement post-interregnum with beta testers of the DCRRA online geospatial dashboard and analysis to make improvements to the tool prior to public release. Beta testers include emergency management and climate adaptation staff from local governments, First Nations and public sector organizations who were invited to test the dashboard prior to interregnum.</p>
Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) event declaration decision	The October 19-20 Atmospheric River (AR) event damages are being assessed to determine if this AR event is eligible for DFA Private and/or public funding. Assessment process is underway and is informed by information provided by impacted communities. Decision is delegated to ADM DRD.
60 Days (December 2024)	
Exercise Pacific Integration December 2 - 3, 2024	<p>Full scale emergency response exercise testing the Federal Emergency Plan and Ministry of Health’s Nuclear Response Plan.</p> <p>Ministry of Health is hazard lead; EMCR is supporting the Provincial planning and coordination of the exercise</p>
Multilateral Negotiations	<p>Advice/Recommendation negotiations with ISC, FNLC & EMCR expected to begin in December.</p> <p>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p>
90 Days (January 2025)	
Senior Officials Preparedness Training	Training and orientation to Chiefs of Staff and Cabinet on the Senior Officials Guide and their roles and responsibilities in an emergency. Training also includes how to use their satellite phone and an emergency teleconference line drill in the event normal means of communication is not available.

First Nations Leaders Gathering (FNLG) – January 21 – 22, 2025	FNLG planned for January 21 – 22 nd in Vancouver.
Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan (SRWFMP) leadership call	Leadership will be presented with a draft conceptual plan with a preferred alternative for flood mitigation in the Sumas watershed. Intention to brief minister on the preliminary results and explain sensitivities associated with this process.
Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information	
	Advice/Recommendations
Multilateral Negotiations Update	Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
Ground Search and Rescue Needs Analysis Report	Update on findings and next steps
Local Authority - Policy Decisions	Ministry briefing on policy intentions
Ministers (EMCR, Health, MIRR) meeting with NNTC Chiefs	

**Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

Name	Description	Key Issues / Interests
<i>Federal Counterparts</i>		
<p>Indigenous Services Canada</p> <p>The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister Email: patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca PH: 613-996-4792</p> <p>Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</p>	<p>Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) works collaboratively with partners to improve access to high quality services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis. ISC’s vision is to support and empower Indigenous peoples to independently deliver services and address the socio-economic conditions in their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral emergency management agreement between ISC, the Province and FNLC for First Nations communities in BC.
<p>Ministry of Emergency Preparedness</p> <p>The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister Email: harjit.sajjan@parl.gc.ca 613-995-7052</p> <p>Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</p>	<p>Federal counterpart as it relates to Emergency Preparedness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements • Partner in proposed National Flood Insurance • Partner on FPT Minister’s Table for Emergency Management

<i>First Nations Contacts</i>		
<p>Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations</p> <p>Eva Clayton, President (Nisga'a Nation) Email: evac@nisgaa.net</p>	<p>The Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations works together to advance and advocate for areas of shared interest relating to the implementation of modern treaties in British Columbia. Membership includes each of the eight Modern Treaty Nations in BC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Engagement Requirements under EDMA
<p>BC Assembly of First Nations</p> <p>Terry Teegee, Regional Chief Email: regionalchief@bcafn.ca PH: (250)962-1603</p> <p>1004 Landooz Road Prince George, BC V2K 5S3</p>	<p>The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO) representing and advocating for the 203 First Nations in British Columbia. BCAFN representation and advocacy is inclusive and extends to First Nations currently engaged in the treaty process, those who have signed modern treaties, and those who fall under historic treaty agreements which include the Douglas Treaties and Treaty 8.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Engagement Requirements under EDMA • Seasonal Hazard and Major Events Response • First Nations Leadership Council Member • Multilateral emergency management agreement between ISC, the Province and FNLC for First Nations communities in BC
<p>First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS)</p> <p>Anthony Moore, President Email: anthonym@nisgaanation.ca Ph: 250-377-7600</p> <p>Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) Traditional Territory</p> <p>A274 Halston Road Kamloops, BC V2H 1P7</p>	<p>With the support of the First Nation Leadership Council, FNESS is the organization that communities reach out to for support and delivery of essential emergency and forest fuel management programs and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Hazard and Major Events Response • Emergency Support Services for First Nations • Supports weekly or monthly hazard calls with all first nations chiefs across the province

First Nations Contacts		
<p>First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)</p> <p>Richard Jock, CEO Email: richard.jock@fnha.ca Ph: 604-693-6500</p> <p>Suite 500 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2</p>	<p>The FNHA is the health and wellness partner to over 200 diverse First Nations communities and citizens across BC, responsible for BC First Nations health governance and health care delivery of programs and services formerly delivered by Health Canada. Since it's establishment in 2013, the FNHA has been working to address service gaps through new partnerships, closer collaboration, health systems innovation, reform and redesign of health programs and services for individuals, families, communities and Nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency planning/preparedness • Disaster mitigation • Emergency response • Recovery from events and community supports
<p>Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council</p> <p>Matt Pasco, Chair NNTC Chief Oregon Jack FN Email: mpasco@nntc.ca PH: 250-457-0851</p> <p>1750- 400 Burrard St Vancouver, BC</p>	<p>The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council is a governing body of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. NNTC exists to protect and advance Nlaka'pamux title and rights and is involved with cultural and natural resources, environmental sustainability, economic independence, health and well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehensive recovery from the 2021 Lytton wildfire
<p>Union of BC Indian Chiefs</p> <p>Grand Chief Stewart Philip, President <i>Member of First Nations Leadership Council</i> Email: president@ubcic.bc.ca Ph: (604) 684-0231</p> <p>Suite 1200 - 100 Park Royal South West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2</p>	<p>One of the main principles of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs is that, despite our differences, we will be stronger if we work together. The goal of the UBCIC is to support the work of First Nations people, whether at the community, nation or international level, in their common fight for the recognition of aboriginal rights and respect for aboriginal cultures and societies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Engagement Requirements under EDMA • Seasonal Hazard and Major Events Response • Multilateral emergency management agreement between ISC, the Province and FNLC for First Nations communities in BC

Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Key Contacts		
<p>Avalanche Canada</p> <p>Kevin Seel, President Email: kseel@avalanche.ca Ph: <small>Personal Information</small></p> <p>1596 Illecillewaet Road Revelstoke, BC, V0E 2S1</p>	<p>Key partner for issuing public avalanche forecasts and special public avalanche warnings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response • Search and Rescue
<p>BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA)</p> <p>Chris Mushumanski, President Email: president@bcsara.com Ph: 778-584-5882 / 250-567-0972</p> <p>P.O. Box 2176 Sidney, BC V8L 3S6</p>	<p>Key government partner delivering direct search and rescue support services in communities throughout the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Search and Rescue • Road Rescue • Communications with GSAR groups •
<p>Food Banks BC</p> <p>Dan Huang-Taylor, Executive Director Email: dan@foodbanksbc.com Ph: 604-498-1798</p> <p>Suite 302, 12761 16 Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 1N2</p>	<p>Represents 100 food banks across the province.</p> <p>Emergency food access support. Coordination of food procurement and delivery to affected areas or displaced populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response • Community Recovery • Food Security
<p>Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)</p> <p>Aaron Sutherland, Vice President Email: asutherland@ibc.ca Ph: 604-684-3635 ext 223</p> <p>Western and Pacific 1st Floor, 470 Granville Street Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5</p>	<p>Key partner in work on Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program and other issues related to emergency management matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Financial Assistance • Emergency Response and Recovery

<i>Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Key Contacts</i>		
<p>Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM)</p> <p>Mike Hurley, Metro Vancouver Board Chair Co-Chair IPREM Policy Group Email: chair@metrovancover.org Ph: 604-946-3210</p> <p>4515 Central Boulevard Rd Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6</p>	<p>The Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) is an inter-governmental partnership between the Province of BC and Metro Vancouver Regional District that leads collaborative regional emergency management planning and coordination for the Metro Vancouver region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Management and Response planning for Metro Vancouver Region • Disaster Risk Reduction
<p>Justice Institute of BC</p> <p>Len Goerke, President Email: LGoerke@jibc.ca Ph: 604-528-5908</p> <p>715 McBride Boulevard New Westminster, BC V3L 5T4</p>	<p>Key government partner in emergency training and education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency training and education
<p>Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT)</p> <p>Dr. Aruna Gore, Dean of Academics Email: agore@nvit.ca Ph: Personal Information</p> <p>4155 Belshaw Street Merritt, BC V1K 1R1</p>	<p>Emerging government partner in emergency training and education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Training

Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Key Contacts		
<p>Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP)</p> <p>Cliff McNeil-Smith, Board Chair of CRD Co-Chair REMP Policy Group Email: crdchair@crd.bc.ca PH: 250-475-1775</p> <p>625 Fisgard Street Victoria, BC V8W 1R7</p>	<p>The Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) is an inter-governmental partnership between the Province of British Columbia and the Capital Regional District (CRD) on behalf of its 13 member municipalities and three electoral areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this partnership is to enhance regional emergency management planning activities within the geographical area of the Capital region. • Disaster Risk Reduction
<p>Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR)</p> <p>Tracy Lakeman, Chair Email: ^{Personal Information} Ph: ^{Personal Information}</p> <p>Bill Riggs, CEO Email: ceo@rcmsar.com Ph: 778-352-1781</p> <p>6040 East Sooke Rd. Sooke, BC V9Z 0Z7</p>	<p>Direct operational support on activations and search and rescue activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response • Search and Rescue
<p>The Salvation Army (TSA)</p> <p>Ian Pollard, Divisional Director of Emergency Disaster Services Email: Ian.Pollard@salvationarmy.ca Ph: 778-839-2366</p> <p>34081 Gladys Ave, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2E8</p>	<p>Key NGO support in response and recovery through provision of food, hydration, clothing, emotion and spiritual care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response • Community Recovery

Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Key Contacts		
<p>Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)</p> <p>Trish Mandewo, President Email: tmandewo@coquitlam.ca Ph: (604) 935-8226</p> <p>Richmond Office: Suite 60-10551 Shellbridge Way Richmond, BC V6X 2W9</p>	<p>The UBCM provides a common voice for local governments in the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partner in delivering the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund
<p>United Way BC</p> <p>Kim Winchell, Provincial Director, Community Impact & Investment Email: KimW@uwbc.ca Ph: <small>Personal Information</small></p> <p>4543 Canada Way Burnaby BC V5G 4T4</p>	<p>Key NGO support in response and recovery through wildfire and flood programs that support permanent housing, food assistance, trauma, and mental health support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response • Community Recovery

A Guide to the Pronunciation of Indigenous Communities and Organizations in BC

The Pronunciation Guide offered below is from the *September 2018 Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia*. Please note there may be some variation from this version due to periodic updates that have occurred since then. For changes, please email: IRRinfo@gov.bc.ca.

This Guide contains aids to the pronunciation of communities and organizations listed in the Excel Database "*Guide to Indigenous Organizations and Services in British Columbia*" (Previously known as *The Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia*). The original Pronunciation Guide was created with input from First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, as well as from the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

British Columbia has a vast wealth of First Nations languages and cultures. There are 7 distinct language families, completely unrelated to each other. Within these families there are 34 different First Nations languages and at least 93 different dialects (varieties) of those languages. Besides these 34 living languages, at least three languages which were spoken in British Columbia are now sleeping.¹ All of these languages contain a rich inventory of sounds, many of which are not found in English.

When preparing this Guide, we asked representatives to help us understand how to pronounce the traditional name of their community or organization. The pronunciation equivalents we have developed here are meant as an introductory guide. The final authority on a pronunciation rests with the community. We encourage you to gain a first-hand understanding of how a name is pronounced by speaking directly with, and being guided by, representatives from each community.

Please note that many sounds in First Nations' languages do not occur in English and so cannot be expressed using the English writing system. Additionally, there are often multiple variations of a pronunciation based on dialectal and other differences. The pronunciations represented below come as close as possible to the correct pronunciation, while being restrained to the English alphabet. A few of the letter combinations below are used to represent specific sounds not found in English. These are:

"wh" represents a breathy 'wh' sound that is pronounced with friction in the throat.

"thl" represents a breathy 'l' sound with friction in the mouth, similar to the l in 'athlete'

"ts" at the beginning of a word sounds like the 'ts' in 'cats'

First Nation communities and organizations continue to adopt Indigenous names distinct from anglicized versions or non-indigenous names. You will also find we have included several names that are cross-referenced with traditional or alternative names in brackets that may not appear in the Excel database, but may continue to be used in communities.

For more information about First Nations' languages in British Columbia, please visit the First Peoples' Cultural Council's website (www.fpcc.ca), or the First Peoples' Language Map of B.C. (<http://www.maps.fphlcc.ca/>).

¹ This information is taken from FPCC's paper "Recognizing the Diversity of BC's First Nations Languages"

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Your comments and suggestions for improvement are welcome. Please email:

ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca
Socio-Economic Partnerships Branch
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Name of Organization	Alternate or Previous Name	Pronunciation
?aqam	St. Mary's Band	
?Esdilagh First Nation	Alexandria Indian Band	ess-dey-la
Ahousaht First Nation		a-howz-at
Ahousaht Holistic Centre		a-howz-at
Aitchelitz Band		a-che-leetz
Akisknuk First Nation	Columbia Lake First Nation	a-kissk-nook
Akisknuk Health Resource Centre		a-kissk-nook
Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association		may-tee
Ashcroft and District Métis Association		may-tee
A-Tlegay Fisheries Society		at-le-gay
Ayas Men Men Child & Family Services		ay-es mun mun
BC Métis Association		May-tee
Bonaparte Indian Band		bone-eh-part
Boothroyd Band		booth-roid
Boundary Community Métis Association		Boundary Community Métis Association
Boundary Community Métis Association		may-tee
Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association		may-tee
Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council		carry-er chill-ko-tin
Carrier Sekani Family Services		carry-er sek-an-ee
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council		carry-er sek-an-ee
Cayoose Creek Band		kai-yuse creek
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations		sham-pane and eh-zhee-ack
Chawathil First Nation	formerly Hope Indian Band	cha-wah-thul
Cheam First Nation		chee-am
Chemainus First Nation	see Stz'uminus First Nation	Cha-main-us
Cheslatta Carrier Nation		chess-la-ta
Chilliwack Métis Association		may-tee
Ch'nook Indigenous Business Education		Chi-nook
Chrysalis Society		Kris-Sull-Iss
Columbia Valley Métis Association		may-tee

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Conayt Friendship Society		kon-ate or kun-ate
Conayt Housing		kon-ate or kun-ate
Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre		co-ka-leetz-a
Council of the Haida Nation		hy-dah
Cowichan Tribes		cow-i-chin
Cowichan Valley Métis Nation		cow-i-chin / may-tee
Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society		kwa-nin-cha-tul
Dana Naye Ventures		da-na-nay
Da'naxda'xw First Nation	Tanakteuk Indian Band	da-naw-dawh
Daylu Dena Council	formerly Lower Post First Nation	day-lou den-a
Dene Tsaa Tse K'Nai First Nation	see Prophet River First Nation	de-ne tsah tsay k-nai
Denisigi Services Society		den-ne-se-kai
Ditidaht First Nation	formerly Nitinaht First Nation	dee-tee-dot
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation	formerly Tsawataineuk First Nation	dza-wah-day-noowh
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society		zel-kant
Ehattesht First Nation		ee-hat-a-sut
Elk Valley Métis Association		may-tee
En'owkin Centre	Okanagan Indian Educational Resources Society	en-ow-kin
Esk'etemc		ess-ke-tem
Esquimalt Nation		es-kwai-malt
Fort Nelson Métis Society		may-tee
Fort St. John Métis Society		may-tee
Fraser Valley Métis Association		may-tee
Gitanmaax Band Council		git-n-max
Gitanyow Band Council		git-n-yow
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs' Office		git-n-yow
Gitga'at First Nation	Hartley Bay Band Council	git-gat
Gitksan Watershed Authorities		gicks-san
Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society		gicks-san wet-so-a-den
Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Prince Rupert/Port Edward Society		git-ma-mgai nis-gah
Gitsegukla Band Council		gits-a guk-la
Gitwangak Band Council		git-wan-gawk
Gitxaala Nation	formerly Kitkatla First Nation	git-gath-la
Gitxsan Child and Family Services Society		gicks-san

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Gitxsan Government Commission		gicks-san
Gitxsan Health Society		gicks-san
Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs' Office		gicks-san
Gitxsan Treaty Society		gicks-san
Gitxsan Unlocking Aboriginal Justice		gicks-san
Gitxsan Watershed Authorities		gicks-san
Golden Ears Métis Society		may-tee
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation	Tsulquate Band	gwa-sal-a nawk-wa-dawh
Gwawaenuk Tribe		gwah-way-ee-nook
Gya' Wa' Tlaab Healing Centre Society		geeya-wah-tlawb
Hagwilget Village Council		hag-wil-git
Haida Child and Family Services Society		hy-day gwai
Haida Gwaii Community Futures		hy-day gwai
Haida Gwaii Restorative Justice, c/o Haida Tribal Society		hy-day gwai
Haisla Nation Council	Haisla Nation, Kitamaat Village Council	High-sla
Halalt First Nation		hull-alt
Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper		ha-shilth-sa
Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre		helts-uk
Heiltsuk Kaxla Society		helts-uk kaks-la
Heiltsuk Nation	formerly Bella Bella Indian Band	helts-uk
Heiltsuk Tribal Council		helts-uk
Hesquiaht First Nation		hesh-qwee-at
Hiiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society		he-yay-ya lay-lum
Homalco First Nation		hoe-mall-co
Hulitan Family and Community Services Society		hull-eet-n
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group		hull-kuh-mee-num
Hupacasath First Nation		ho-putch-eh-set
Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation		ho-ay-at
Huu-ay-aht First Nations		ho-ay-at
In-SHUCK-ch Nation		in-shuck-sh
Interior Métis Child and Family Services		may-tee

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Iskut Band Council		isk-cut or Alternate of is-koot
Island Métis Family and Community Services Society		may-tee
K'ómoks First Nation		co-mox
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:ttles7et'h' First Nation	Kyuquot Native Tribe	kai-you-cut / sheh-kluh-szet alternatively kai-you-cut /chek-tluh-set
Kackaamin Family Development Centre Association		ka-kaah-min
Kanaka Bar Indian Band		can-a-ka bar
Kaska Dena Council		kas-ka
Katzie First Nation		kat-zee
Kekinow Native Housing Society		kee-kin-oh
Kekuli Centre		keh-koo-lee
Kelowna Métis Association		may-tee
Kikino Métis Children & Family Services		kee-kin-oh
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society		key-low-nah
Kispiox Band Council		kiss-pea-ox
Kitasoo Band Council	Klemtu Band	ki-ta-soo
Kitkatla First Nation	see Gitxaala Nation	kit-cat-la
Kitselas First Nation		kit-sel-us
Kitselas Treaty and Resource Office		kit-sel-us
Kitsumkalum First Nation		kits-um-kale-um
Kitsumkalum Health Centre		kits-um-kale-um
Kitsumkalum Treaty Office		kits-um-kale-um
Klahoose First Nation		kla-hoose
Kluskus Indian Band	see Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation	looze-k' U z
Knucwentwecw Society		kanuk-when-twah
Kootenay South Métis Society		may-tee
Ksan Historical Village and Museum		Ka-san (also gicks-san?)
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Aboriginal Training Council (KKATC)		te-nawh-ha Kinbasket
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council		te-nawh-ha Kinbasket
Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC)		te-nah-ha alternatively k-too-nah-ha
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Child & Family Services		te-nah-ha / kinbasket

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KUU-US Crisis Line Society		koo-us
Kwadacha Nation	Fort Ware Indian Band	kwa-da-chuh
Kwakiutl Band Council		kwa-gul
Kwakiutl District Council		kwa-gul
Kwakiutl District Council Health (KDC Health)		kwa-gul
Kwantlen First Nation	Fort Langley Band	kwant-len
Kwaw-kwaw-apilt First Nation		kwa-kwa-plit
Kwiakah First Nation		kway-ka
Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation		quick-wa-sut-uh-nook / ha-kwuh-meesh
Kwikwetlem First Nation		kwee-kwet-lum
Kw'umut Lelum Child & Family Services		kwa-mut lay-lum
Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society		lee-kwa-ta
Laichwiltach Family Life Society		lee-kwa-ta
Lake Cowichan First Nation		cow-i-chin
Lalum'utul' Smun'eem Child and Family Services		lay-lum-atul smah-nawm
LÁU,WELNEW Tribal School		lhay-wull-nough
Lax Kw'alaams Band		lacks-qwah-lambs
Laxgalts'ap Village Government		lax-galt-sap
Leq'á:mel First Nation		la-cam-el
Lheidli-T'enneh Band		clayt-clay den-ay
Lheidli-T'enneh Natural Resource Office		clayt-clay den-ay
Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation		looze-k' U z den-ay
Lhtako Dene Nation	Red Bluff Band Office	lah-ta-ko den-ay
Liard First Nation		lee-ard
Lil'wat Nation		lil-watt
Little Shuswap Indian Band		shoo-shwahp
Lower Similkameen Indian Band		si-mil-kuh-meen
Lyackson First Nation		lye-ack-son
Maa-Nulth First Nations		maw-nawlth
Maiyoo Keyoh Society		My-you Kay-yo
M'akola Housing Society		ma-ko-la
Mamalilikulla First Nation	Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band	ma-ma-leelah-kwalah kwe-kwah-sum
Matsqui First Nation		mats-sqwee

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Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC		may-tee
Métis Community Services Society of BC		may-tee
Métis Employment and Training Program		may-tee
Métis Family Services		may-tee
Métis Matters Radio Show		may-tee
Métis Nation BC		may-tee
Métis Nation Columbia River Society		may-tee
Métis Nation of Greater Victoria		may-tee
Métis Women of British Columbia		may-tee
Metlakatla Governing Council		met-la-cat-la
Metlakatla Treaty Office		met-la-cat-la
Mid-Island Métis Nation Association		may-tee
MIKI'SIW Métis Association		may-tee
Moccasin Flat's Métis Society		may-tee
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation		mo-which-it/much-a-lit
Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council		moos-ga-muk zow-wa-dane-nook
Musqueam Indian Band		mus-kwee-um
Nadleh Whut'en Band		nad-lee woo-ten
Nak'azdli Alternate Justice Centre		na-caused-lee
Nak'azdli Band	Necosli Band	na-caused-lee
'Namgis Community Services		nhum-geez
'Namgis First Nation		nhum-geez
'Namgis Health Centre		nhum-geez
Nanoose Te'mexw Treaty Association		na-noose tey-muck
Nat'oot'ten Nation	see Lake Babine Nation	nad-oo-ten
Naut'sa mawt Resources Group, Inc.		nawt-saw-mawt
Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council		nawt-saw-mawt
Nawican Friendship Centre		now-i-kin
Nazko First Nation		nazz-co
Nazko Treaty Office		nazz-co
Nee-Tahi-Buhn Indian Band		knee-tie-boon
Nelson and Area Métis Society		may-tee
Nenqayni Wellness Centre Society		nen-ky-knee
Neskonlith Indian Band		ness-con-lith
New Aiyansh Village Government		new eye-annch

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Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services Society		nezul bay hun-yeah
Nicola Valley & District Métis Society		may-tee
Nicomén Indian Band		ni-kuh-men
NIL/TU,O Child & Family Services Society		neeth-two-wa
Nisga'a Lisims Government		nis-gah liss-ums
Nis'ga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society		nis-gah tsa-miks
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority		nis-gah
Nisga'a Village of Gingolx		nis-gah / gin-gol-lix
Nisga'a Child & Family Services		nis-gah
Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw		nis-gah / git-win-silk
Nitinaht First Nation	see Ditidaht First Nation	dee-tee-dot
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council		ent-la-cap-um
Nlha'7kapmx Child & Family Services		ent-la-cap-um
Nooaitch Indian Band		new-ich
North Cariboo Métis Association		may-tee
North East Métis Association		may-tee
North Fraser Métis Association		may-tee
North Island Métis Nation		may-tee
North West BC Métis Association		may-tee
Northern Shuswap Tribal Council	Northern Secwepemc te Quelmucw	shoo-shwahp
Northwest BC Métis Association		may-tee
N'Quatqua First Nations		neh-qwa-qwa
Nuchatlaht First Nation		new-chat-lat
Nupqu Development Corporation		noop-ku
Nuu-chah-nulth		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Child and Family Services		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation		new-cha-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth NIHB		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council		new-chaw-nulth
Nuxalk Nation	Bella Coola First Nation	new-hawk
Office of the Wet'suwet'en		wet-so-a-den
Okanagan Métis & Aboriginal Housing Society		may-tee
OoknaKane Friendship Centre		ooka-na-cane
Osoyoos Indian Band		oh-soy-use

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Oweekeno Nation	See Wuikinuxv Nation	whee-kin-au
Pacheedaht First Nation		pah-chee-dat
Pauquachin First Nation		paw-kwi-chin
Pauquachin Health Centre		paw-kwi-chin
Penelakut Tribe		pen-el-a-cut
Popkum First Nation	c/o Sto:lo Nation	pop-kwum
Powell River Métis Society		may-tee
Prince George Métis Community Association		may-tee
Prince Rupert & District Metis Community		may-tee
Prophet River First Nation	Dene Tsa'a Tse K'Nai First Nation	de-ne tsah tsay k-nai
Qayqayt First Nation	New Westminster Indian Band	key-kite
Qualicum First Nation		kwai-i-come
Quatsino First Nation		quat-see-know
Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre		qwi-nel till-i-kum
Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum' Culture and Education Centre		ko-whuts-sun swents lay-lum
Qwallayuw Head Start		qkwell-eye-you
Rocky Mountain Métis Association		may-tee
Saik'uz First Nation		sigh-cuz
Sal'i'shan Institute		sal-i-shan
Salmon Arm Métis Association		may-tee
Saulteau First Nation		so-tow
Scia'new First Nation	Beecher Bay First Nation	chee-a-new
Scia'new Treaty Office		chee-a-new
Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society		shwa-come
Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society		shwa-come
Sechelt Indian Band Child & Family Services		see-shelt
Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency		sec-wep-emc
Secwepemc Cultural Education Society		sec-wep-emc
Semiahmoo First Nation		semi-ah-moo
Sexqeltqin Health Centre		se-kell-keen
Shackan Indian Band		shack-n

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shíshálh Nation	Sechelt Indian Band	see-shelt
Shuswap Family Resource and Referral Centre		shoo-shwahp
Shuswap Indian Band		shoo-shwahp
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council		shoo-shwahp
Shxw'whámél First Nation		shwah-ham-ul
Shxwha:y Village	Skway First Nation	shwhy
Simpcw First Nation	North Thompson Indian Band	sim-ka
Siska Indian Band		sis-ka
Skatin Nations		skah-teen
Skawahlook First Nation		skow-look
Skidegate Band Council		skid-eh-get
Skin Tyee Nation		skin-tye-ee
Skowkale First Nation		skow-cale
Skuppah Indian Band		scup-pa
Skwah First Nation		skwah
Skway First Nation	see Shxwha:y Village	sh-why
Slelemw Child Development Centre		sull-ay-mu
Sliammon Development Corporation		sly-am-mon
Snaw-Naw-As First Nation	see Nanoose First Nation	snaw-naw-as
Snaza'ist Discovery Centre		snaw-zay-ist
Snc'c'amala?tn Okanagan Indian Band Early Childhood Education Centre		sun-chich-she-mall-it-ton
Snuneymuxw First Nation		snue-ney-mowck
Snuneymuxw First Nation Health Centre		snue-ney-mowck
Songhees Nation		song-geez
Songhees Treaty Office		song-geez
Soowahlie Indian Band		sue-wall-e
South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association		si-mil-kuh-meen
Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society		stat-lee-um
Splatsin	Spallumcheen Indian Band	spla-cheen
Spuzzum First Nation		spuz-zum
Sqewlets First Nation	Scowlitz First Nation	scow-litz
Squamish Nation		squa-mish
Squamish Ocean Canoe Family		squa-mish
Squiala First Nation		skwai-all-a
Stellat'en First Nation		stull-a-tin

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Stitsma Employment Centre		schtitz-ma
Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Community Development Department and Qwi:Qwelstom		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Health Services		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Society		staw-low
Sto:lo Tribal Council		staw-low
Stó:lo Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association		Staw-low
Sts'ailes	formerly Chehalis Indian Band	sta-ay-liss
Stswecem'c -Xgat'tem First Nation	Canoe Creek Band	St-wet-lem hight-lem
Stu"ate LeLum Secondary School		stu-eight lay-lum
Stz'uminus First Nation	Chemainus First Nation	sha-main-us
Sulsila Lelum Wellness Centre Society		sawl-see-la-lee-lum
Sumas First Nation		sue-mas
Tahltan Band		tall-tan
Tahltan Health and Social Services Authority		tall-tan
Takla Lake First Nation		tack-lah
Taku River Tlingit First Nation		ta-koo-river tling-get
Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation		tah-la-hout
Tansi Friendship Centre Society		tawn-say
Te'mexw Treaty Association		tey-muck
T'exelc Treaty	Williams Lake Indian Band	teh-huwl
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre		till-i-kum lay-lum
T'it'q'et Administration		tilth-kit
Tla'amin Health	Tla'amin Community Health Services	sly-am-mon
Tla'amin Nation		sly-am-mon
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation		klay-o-kwee-at
Tlatlasikwala First Nation	Nuwitti Band	tla-tla-see-kwa-la
Tl'azt'en Nation		tlaz-den
Tl'etingox-T'in Government Office		kleh-deen-ko-teen
Tlowitsis Nation		tlow-eet-sees
Toosey Indian Band		two-zee
Toquaht Nation		tow-kwat
Tri-River Métis Association		may-tee

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Tsartlip First Nation		sart-lip
Tsartlip Health Centre		sart-lip
Tsawout First Nation		say-out
Tsawout Health		say-out
Tsawwassen First Nation		tsa-wah-sen
Tsay Keh Dene Band		say-kay-denay
TseK'hene First Nation	see McLeod Lake Indian Band	tse-kan-ay
Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management		chil-kway-uhk
Tseshahat First Nation		say-shot
Tseshahat Health Clinic		say-shot
Tseshahat Youth Centre		say-shot
Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre of the Cowichan Tribes		say-wool-tun / cow-i-chin
Tseycum First Nation		say-come
Ts'ideldel First Nation	Alexis Creek Indian Band	tsigh-dell-dell
Tsilhqot'in National Government		sill-ko-teen
Tsimshian First Nations Treaty Society		sim-she-an
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation	Pavilion Indian Band	tisk-why-lah
Tsleil-Waututh Nation	Burrard Band	sail-wha-tooth
T'Sou-ke Nation		tse-awk
Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Centre		sow-tun-lay-lum
Tsq'escen'	Canim Lake Band	chess-ken
Two Rivers Métis Society		may-tee
Tzeachten First Nation		chee-ack-ten
Uchucklesaht Tribe		u-chuk-les-at
Ulkatcho First Nations		ul-kat-cho
U'mista Cultural Centre		oo-miss-ta
Usma Nuu-Chah-Nulth Family and Child Services		us-mah new-cha-nulth
United Canadian Métis Nation	Vancouver Métis Citizens Society	may-tee
Vancouver Métis Community Association		may-tee
Vernon & District Métis Association		may-tee
Waceya Métis Society		may-tee
Wachiay Friendship Centre Society		wah-chey
Wazdidadilh Aboriginal Infant & Family Development Program		woss-did-a-duh

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We Wai Kai First Nation		wee-wa-kai
Wei Wai Kum First Nation		wee-wha-come
Wet'suwet'en First Nation		wet-so-a-den
Whe-La-La-U Area Council		we-lala-you
Whispering Pines / Clinton Band - the Pelit'iq't People		pel-tighk
Wilp Si'Satxw Community Healing Centre		wilp-s-sat
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute		wilp will-kosk-wuh
WSÁNE? School Board		wh-say-nuch
Wuikinuxv Nation	Oweekeno Nation	whee-kin-au
Wuikinuxv-Kitasoo-Nuxalk Tribal Council		whee-kin-au; kit-a-soo; new-hawk
Xat'súll First Nation	Soda Creek	hat-sull
Xaxli'p Band	Fountain Band	hawk-leap
Xaxli'p Health Centre		hawk-leap
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government	Nemaiah Band	hon-ay gwi-teen
Xolhemet Society		o-le-met
Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services		yoth-me
Yakweakwioose Band		ya-kweek-we-oos
Yekooche First Nation		yeh-koo-chee
Yinka Déné Language Institute		ying-kaw denay
Yunesit'in Government		you-neh-seh-teen
Yuu?u?i??at? Government	formerly Ucluelet First Nation	u-clew-let

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Financial Overview

BACKGROUND:

- The 2024/25 estimates budget for Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) consists of two voted appropriations:
 - Vote 21 provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Emergency and Disaster Management Operations, Climate Readiness Programs, and Executive and Support Services (including the Minister’s Office and Corporate Services).
 - Vote 22 provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and Financial Assistance. This vote allows for statutory appropriation.

Budget 2024 Resource Summary Table

	2023/24 Restated Estimates	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
In \$ Millions				
Operating Expenses				
Vote 21 - Ministry Operations				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	32,416	39,033	38,633	38,633
Climate Readiness Programs	18,429	28,429	38,429	38,429
Executive and Support Services	13,739	11,585	11,584	11,584
Total Vote 21	64,584	79,047	88,646	88,646
Vote 22 - Emergency and Disaster Management Act				
Emergency and Disaster Management Act	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Financial Assistance	6,240	6,420	6,420	6,420
Total Vote 22	36,240	36,420	36,420	36,420
Total Vote 21 and 22		115,467	125,066	125,066
Capital Expenditures				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	524	548	53	53
Total Capital Expenditures	524	548	53	53

Overview of Budget 2024 Changes in Vote 21:

- EMBC’s base budget increased for 2024/2025 by \$14.463 million over the prior year:
 - \$11.0 million increase to Government transfers to sustain Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness funding, as well as Disaster Risk assessment funding
 - \$5.227 million increase in salaries and benefits 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.

- \$1.764 million decrease in Operating funds primarily due to one time funding expiring for contract services for foundational capacity and Disaster Risk assessment.

Overview of Budget 2024 Changes in Vote 22:

- Nil – statutory spending allows the ministry to exceed the voted appropriation as per the *Emergency Disaster and Management Act (EDMA)* section 10.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR supports 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 OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- See above

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Tanya Scadding
 Director, Financial Management and Reporting
 Financial Operations

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	17/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	13/09/2024
ED	DL	13/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

The mission of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is to lead emergency and disaster risk management, build and foster collaborative relationships and partnerships, advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and support all people in British Columbia to reduce climate and disaster risk. The ministry is responsible for providing cross-ministry coordination to enhance British Columbia's readiness and resilience towards climate and disaster risks and ensuring a comprehensive and interconnected approach to achieve climate and disaster risk reduction.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24 ¹	Estimates 2024/25
VOTED APPROPRIATIONS		
Vote 21 — Ministry Operations.....	64,584	79,047
Vote 22 — <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>	36,420	36,420
OPERATING EXPENSES	101,004	115,467
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	524	548
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2023/24 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2024/25 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

³ A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

⁴ A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2023/24	2024/25 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Core Business				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations.....	32,416	39,524	(491)	39,033
Climate Readiness Programs.....	18,429	38,430	(10,001)	28,429
Executive and Support Services.....	13,739	11,587	(2)	11,585
<i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>	30,000	30,001	(1)	30,000
Financial Assistance.....	6,420	6,420	—	6,420
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	101,004	125,962	(10,495)	115,467
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations.....	524	548	—	548
TOTAL	524	548	—	548

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2023/24	Estimates 2024/25
VOTE 21 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS		
This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Emergency and Disaster Management Operations, Climate Readiness Programs, and Executive and Support Services.		
EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS		
Voted Appropriation		
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations.....	32,416	39,033
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for costs related to emergency and disaster management operations, including legislative and policy development, strategic partnerships and agreements management, and program design and administration. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, individuals, and private sector partners for activities described within this sub-vote.		
CLIMATE READINESS PROGRAMS		
Voted Appropriation		
Climate Readiness Programs.....	18,429	28,429
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for costs related to climate readiness risk management, disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and adaptation, including strategic reviews, policy development, program design and delivery, and training and exercising. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, individuals, and private sector partners for activities described within this sub-vote.		
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Minister's Office.....	714	704
Corporate Services.....	13,025	10,881
	13,739	11,585
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness; and executive direction of the ministry, including the deputy minister's office; general services to support program delivery; and management services for the ministry, including financial operations, human resources management, corporate planning, organizational development, internal communications, information technology management, and facilities management. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, individuals, and private sector partners for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 21 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	64,584	79,047

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2023/24

Estimates
2024/25

VOTE 22 — EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and Financial Assistance.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT

Voted Appropriation

<i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>	30,000	<u>30,000</u>
----------------------------------------------------	--------	---------------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the costs of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from critical incidents; taking emergency measures; and acquiring emergency resources as described in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. This sub-vote allows for statutory appropriation under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other governments, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Voted Appropriation

Financial Assistance.....	6,420	<u>6,420</u>
---------------------------	-------	--------------

Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the provision of financial assistance under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* as prescribed in regulation.

VOTE 22 — EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT	36,420	<u>36,420</u>
--------------------------------------------------------	--------	---------------

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	35,036	40,263
Operating Costs	37,062	35,298
Government Transfers	39,899	50,899
Other Expenses	29	33
Internal Recoveries	(530)	(531)
External Recoveries	(10,492)	(10,495)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>101,004</u>	<u>115,467</u>

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS
(\$000)

VOTE 21 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	32,416	20,559	6	5,222	—	25,787	—	587	1	2,919	—	310	—	—	115
Climate Readiness Programs	18,429	4,534	—	1,151	—	5,685	—	279	1	2,000	—	177	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	13,739	6,946	—	1,787	58	8,791	—	142	99	204	1,952	321	—	—	30
Minister's Office	714	419	—	130	58	607	—	65	—	—	10	22	—	—	—
Corporate Services	13,025	6,527	—	1,657	—	8,184	—	77	99	204	1,942	299	—	—	30
Total	64,584	32,039	6	8,160	58	40,263	—	1,008	101	5,123	1,952	808	—	—	145

VOTE 22 *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*

Description	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
<i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	7,000	—	—	—	—	7,500
Financial Assistance	6,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	36,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	7,000	—	—	—	—	7,500

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
346	—	152	1,417	5,847	780	—	7,111	7,891	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(490)	(491)	39,033
—	—	—	—	2,457	—	—	30,287	30,287	—	—	2	2	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(10,000)	(10,001)	28,429
60	—	111	375	3,294	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	—	(528)	(528)	(1)	(1)	(2)	11,585
—	—	—	—	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	704
60	—	111	375	3,197	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	—	(528)	(528)	(1)	(1)	(2)	10,881
406	—	263	1,792	11,598	780	—	37,398	38,178	—	—	32	32	—	(530)	(530)	(3)	(10,491)	(10,494)	79,047

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses
2,000	7,000	—	—	23,700	120	3,181	3,000	6,301	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	30,000
—	—	—	—	—	—	6,420	—	6,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,420
2,000	7,000	—	—	23,700	120	9,601	3,000	12,721	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	36,420

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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Key Fiscal Requests

BACKGROUND:

Budget 2024 provides:

- Ministry Operations Budget (Vote 21) - \$79.047 million
- Emergency and Disaster Management Act - \$36.420 million
- EMBC's base budget increased for 2024/2025 by \$14.463 million over the prior year.
- Budget 2024 provided EMCR with \$20.366 million in approved contingency access for:
 - Indigenous Engagement Agreements - \$18.000 million
 - Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) - \$0.400 million
 - Service BC Ministry of Citizens Services costs - \$1.789 million
 - Shared Recovery Mandate (Management and Excluded) - \$0.111 million
 - Cost of Living Adjustment (union staff) - \$0.066 million

● Government Financial Information

DISCUSSION:

- As per normal practice, Ministries must seek formal approval on the above noted approved in principle contingency items
 - Formal approval is obtained via the year end TB submission in late February to early March.

Advice/Recommendations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR supports all communities including First Nations equitably.
- The modernized legislation is a product of a co-development process: it reflects this approach and opportunities to advance reconciliation which are consistent with the Minister’s mandate letter direction and the Declaration Act action plan.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR (Policy, Engagement and Legislation Division) engaged extensively with local authorities and First Nations for the Indigenous Engagement Agreements.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- EMCR to seek formal approval for approved in principle contingency items

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- See above

ATTACHMENT(S): Not applicable

PREPARED BY:

Tanya Scadding
Director, Financial Management and Reporting
Financial Operations

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	17/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
EFO	SW	13/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: EMCR Full Time Equivalent

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) was established due to the increasing impacts of emergencies, leading to a broadened mandate encompassing all four pillars of emergency management. To deliver on this mandate, there has been growth in Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees.
- An organizational design project was undertaken to support this growth, resulting in the creation of new divisions - Associate Deputy Minister's Office, Disaster Risk Management, and Partnerships, Engagement & Legislation - and the expansion of Corporate Services, Disaster Recovery, and Regional Operations.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner was relocated outside of EMCR in December 2022, resulting in a slight decrease in FTE; otherwise, the ministry has seen steady increases.
- Since its creation as the Provincial Emergency Program (1996) to becoming a standalone ministry in December 2022, EMCR has managed several large-scale disasters, including the 2017/18 wildfires, 2018 floods, and the 2021 atmospheric river.

DISCUSSION:

- As of October 15, 2024, EMCR had ^{Gover} _{nement} Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, Government Financial Information These FTEs are distributed across six divisions, with Regional Operations being the largest and the Deputy Minister's Office and Associate Deputy Minister's Office the smallest.
- Unionized positions account for 76% of the FTEs, while 24% of positions are excluded from union membership. For a detailed breakdown, refer to the Key Facts and Figures chart.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- In the 2024 Work Environment Survey (WES), 7% of EMCR staff self-identified as Indigenous, higher than the 4% representation in the broader BC Public Service, and the 5.9% of the British Columbia population.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Division	2022 FTE Count	2023 FTE Count	2024 FTE Count October 15, 2024
Corporate Services Division	Government Financial Information		68% Included 32% Excluded
Deputy Ministers Office & Associate Deputy Ministers Office			50% Included 50% Excluded
Disaster Recovery			69% Included 31% Excluded
Disaster Risk Management			70% Included 30% Excluded
Partnerships, Engagement & Legislation			69% Included 31% Excluded
Regional Operations			91% Included 9% Excluded
Total EMCR			76% Included 24% Excluded

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Ben Meek
 SHR Manager
 Communications, Planning, and
 People

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	16/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	16/10/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	15/10/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Overview of Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) is a federal government program designed to assist provinces with the costs of responding to and recovering from a large-scale natural disaster which would otherwise place a significant burden on the provincial economy.
- The federal *Emergency Management Act* requires that an Order-in-Council (OIC) be issued declaring an emergency to be of concern to the Government of Canada to authorize the provision of financial assistance to a province through DFAA.

DISCUSSION:

- The DFAA formula provides for cost-sharing for B.C. once costs exceed \$21M. The cost-sharing threshold is population based as detailed below.

Table 1: BC DFAA Cost-sharing as of January 1, 2024

Expenditure	Cost-Share	
	BC	Canada
First \$22M	100%	0%
Between \$22M and \$43M	50%	50%
Between \$43M and \$107M	25%	75%
Above \$107M	10%	90%

- To be eligible for DFAA:
 - A formal provincial request for federal assistance, with appropriate details defining the nature and period of the disaster (including beginning and end dates), the affected geographical area and a preliminary estimate of response and recovery costs.
 - Once the request is accepted, a federal OIC is developed, informed by consultation between the province and Public Safety Canada, confirming federal agreement with the event details. This OIC also establishes the 5-year limit for provincial submission of the final claim.
- Once DFAA eligibility is confirmed through an OIC there are provisions to request payments when supported by the appropriate documentation including:
 - An **advance payment** (during the initial 12 months after the event) of up to 50% of the projected federal cost share. The quantum of an advance payment is informed by the response cost incurred and the fidelity of cost estimates for planned recovery projects.

- **Interim payments** for up to an additional 10%, to a maximum of 60%, of the projected federal cost share. Interim payment can only be requested once per year.
- Following provincial submission of the final audited claim, the federal auditors review the claim for compliance with DFAA guidelines to determine the **final payment**.
- Provincial governments are responsible for the delivery of disaster financial assistance within their jurisdiction as they see fit.
- DFAA claims are managed by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) on behalf of the Province.
- The DFAA guidelines only define what costs are eligible for federal cost sharing. EMCR works closely with impacted ministries to ensure cost-sharing is maximized.
- Incremental ministry response costs and costs associated with the recovery of provincial infrastructure from DFAA eligible events have historically been charged against the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* statutory spending authority. However, this is not required to secure federal cost-sharing.
- The Province has 11 active DFAA events where recovery work is ongoing. The total response and recovery costs associated with these events are estimated at \$6.5 billion, of which the federal cost-share would be \$5.5 billion, resulting in a net fiscal impact of \$1 billion to the Province. *See Key Facts and Figures below.*
- The current DFAA program has been in effect since 2008 and due to the increase in size and scope of natural disasters impacting Canadians, the program has been modernized to align with the federal Emergency Management (EM) Framework and EM Strategy for Canada which emphasize risk reduction, disaster mitigation and building back better during recovery. The modernized DFAA Guidelines will be in force beginning April 1, 2025.
- The federal terms and conditions for the modernized DFAA program were released to PTs on May 31, 2024. The new program is designed based on the following funding streams:
 - Stream 1 - Enable effective response
 - Stream 2 - Enable timely support for homes and small-scale organizations to meet their needs and restore function and essentials
 - Stream 3 - Enable the timely restoration of public assets and services and accelerate the restoration of infrastructure to a more resilient level
 - Stream 4 - Provide targeted disaster relief to people experiencing disaster impacts and support recovery planning
 - Stream 5 - Accelerate strategic disaster mitigation and disaster risk reduction in affected areas.

- B.C., along with other Provinces, has raised concerns with Public Safety Canada at the ministerial and staff level about the shifting of overall costs under the modernized DFAA program to provinces for events with significant recovery costs.
- The cost-sharing percentages under the modernized program have decreased from up to 90% to 70% for restoration costs under Stream 2 (Homes and Small Businesses) and Stream 3 (Restoring Resilient Infrastructure). Stream 5 (Disaster Mitigation) also is cost shared at 90% for prescribed high-risk areas, and only 50% for federally designated non-high-risk areas.
- The financial implications of the modernized DFAA cannot be viewed in isolation from the full suite of federal disaster risk reduction programs (National Flood Insurance Program and Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Program), which the federal government committed to launching within the next year and B.C. anticipates will further increase proportionate provincial costs.
- B.C. acknowledges that the DFAA program is designed to be a one-size-fits-all arrangement. However, with B.C.'s geographic diversity, a significant portion of expenditures are allocated towards the recovery of uninsurable infrastructure such as repairs to damaged highways and bridges.
- EMCR will be responsible for managing the cost-recovery of the 11 existing DFAA events under the current guidelines, as well as administering new events under the Modernized DFAA Guidelines.

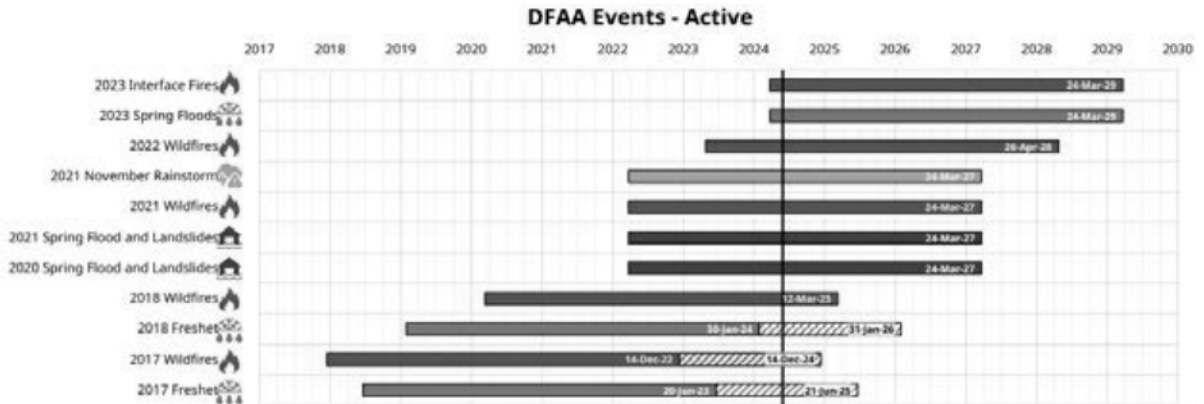
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Costs associated with the disaster response and recovery on First Nations reserve lands are fully reimbursed by Canada under a separate agreement between the province and Indigenous Services Canada.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Consultation is conducted with ministries impacted by natural disasters, as needed.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:



DFAA Event Costs - Active (In Millions)		BC Government			Federal Government			
OIC	Event Name	A Cumulative Costs up to March 31, 2024	B Forecasted Costs (Current & Future Yrs)	C = A + B Total Estimated Cost of Event	D Estimated Federal Cost-Share	E DFAA Payments Received	F = E / D % of Payments Received	G = D - E Estimated Amount Owning
261	2023 Interface Fires	-	382.156	382.156	304.0	-	0 %	304.0
265	2023 Spring Floods	-	75.369	75.369	31.6	4.0	13 %	27.6
252	2022 Wildfires	87.0	1,194	88.155	43.6	12.3	28 %	31.3
241	2021 November Rainstorm	838.1	2,036.193	2,874.275	2,552.8	1,025.6	40 %	1,527.2
239	2021 Wildfires	442.8	47.650	490.445	407.3	207.9	51 %	199.4
242	2021 Spring Flood and Landslides	46.0	1,023.578	1,069.582	928.5	355.3	38 %	573.2
238	2020 Spring Flood and Landslides	58.6	504.434	563.009	473.2	49.5	10 %	423.6
219	2018 Wildfires	179.2	0.200	179.378	130.1	66.0	51 %	64.2
217	2018 Freshet	174.4	68.399	242.793	187.2	106.6	57 %	80.7
211	2017 Wildfires	401.8	0.537	402.385	331.9	191.9	58 %	139.9
212	2017 Freshet	109.9	7.569	117.431	75.4	46.1	61 %	29.3
Total		2,337.7	3,689.754	6,027.453	5,130.0	2,061.3	40 %	3,068.8

ATTACHMENT(S):

PREPARED BY:

Kim Fong
 Director, Financial Recovery
 Business Operations

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	27/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	24/09/2024
EFO	SW	19/09/2024
ED	MM	18/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Ombudsperson Report: Fairness in a Changing Climate

BACKGROUND:

- On October 3, 2023 the Ombudsperson released a report titled “Fairness in a Changing Climate”.
- This report was in response to the wildfire and flood events of 2021 and it asked the question - “Were emergency supports delivered fairly and equitably?”
- In doing this work, the Ombudsperson looked specifically into how the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) provided Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA).
- Some key recommendations include:
 - Support community-led ESS with timely and effective surge support, integrated professional mental health care, and a reliable communication hub for evacuees.
 - Reception centres must be accessible, and ESS supports flexible and responsive.
 - Identify ways to better communicate about the DFA program to those who may need it.
 - Ensure the DFA program has capacity to process applications and appeals in a timely manner.
 - Support capacity and resilience of community-led delivery of emergency supports.
 - Regularly assess availability of insurance as the impacts of climate-related disasters increase.
- EMCR has accepted all 20 recommendations in the report.
- The Ombudsperson has requested an annual reporting of progress on recommendations to be provided in December of each year.
- EMCR provided the Ombudsperson with a letter on December 15, 2023, outlining the completion of recommendations 12, 15 and 16 which had been identified in the Ombudsperson report for immediate implementation. EMCR’s December 2023 letter is provided in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION:

- Corporate Services Division is responsible for tracking the status of the Ministry’s implementation of these recommendations. Information is collected from the responsible branches in the Regional Operations and Disaster Recovery Divisions.
- The implementation status of each recommendation is provided in Attachment 2.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Ombudsperson investigation found that those who are disproportionately impacted by extreme weather often face unfair barriers in accessing the emergency supports they need, including Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, lower-income households, older people, children, and people with physical and mental health needs.
- Most recommendations, and their responses are directly related to First Nations and addressing inequity and cultural safety in ESS and DFA. Of highlight are:
 - Recommendation 1: Improve training, financial and technical support for local authorities and First Nations to transition to the Evacuee Registration and Assistance tool.
 - Recommendation 2: Work with local authorities and First Nations to develop and implement a process to support the collection of socio-demographic data on ESS.
 - Recommendation 3: Work with First Nations, First Nations' Emergency Services Society, Métis Nation British Columbia, the First Nations Health Authority and other Indigenous partners to integrate cultural safety across ESS.
 - Recommendation 16: Apply a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens in reviewing, revising and developing DFA policies and implementation.
 - Recommendation 17: Develop and implement a process to improve the collection of socio-demographic data on DFA to support equitable service delivery.
 - Recommendation 18: Consult broadly with the public on modernization of ESS and DFA as related components of disaster recovery. EMCR consulted broadly through the province, including with First Nations, as outlined in Attachment 2.
 - Recommendation 20: Work with Indigenous governing bodies to advance Indigenous self-determination in emergency management including prioritizing capacity building for Indigenous-led emergency response and recovery and ensuring consistent appropriate funding for Indigenous communities and organizations.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Implementation of various recommendations require consultation and collaboration with other Ministries and jurisdictions. This includes:
 - Ministry of Citizen's Services
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Public Safety Canada

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- None

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment 1: Response to Ombudsperson Jay Chalke December 2023

Attachment 2: Ombudsperson Report Status September 2024

PREPARED BY:

Kathleen Van Ekris
Director, Corporate Planning and
Strategic Priorities
Communications, Planning and
People Branch

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	03/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	26/09/2024
A/ADM DR	EST	25/09/2024
ADM RO	MLM	19/09/2024

December 15th, 2023

Reference: 640367

Jay Chalke
Ombudsperson
Province of British Columbia
Email: *Via* KMorgan@bcombudsperson.ca

Dear Jay Chalke:

Thank you for your correspondence received on November 16th, 2023, outlining your reporting expectations related to your report *Fairness in a Changing Climate: Ensuring disaster supports are accessible, equitable and adaptable*.

This letter provides our initial progress update on the recommendations which called for immediate implementation.

Recommendation 12

Ensure any future contracts initiated by the province for delivery of Emergency Support Services require a comprehensive reporting back to the province and affected First Nations and local authorities, including information about the households that received emergency supports and the amount and nature of the support provided by the third-party contractor.

Progress Update

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness' (EMCR) past contracts for the delivery of Emergency Support Services used the third-party's agreement format. In 2023, the EMCR negotiated additional reporting requirements into these agreements which included details on the services related to opening a reception center, providing transportation, lodging and meals as well as any additional personal services such as hygiene products, and/or products for babies and infants.

Any future agreements will be signed on Provincial templates which outline reporting requirements for service providers including information about the households that received emergency supports and the amount and nature of the support provided by the third-party contractor.

Recommendation 15

Communicate status updates to applicants with pending Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) applications and appeals.

Progress Update

EMCR has updated the public website to direct applicants to the DFA 1-800 number to obtain information on application status. All requests for status updates are responded to within three business days for private applicants and five business days for public applicants.

Similarly, the appeals website has been updated to direct applicants to the DFA email inbox to request a status update at any time. EMCR is in the process of developing a new DFA portal, which will include the functionality for applicants to review the status of their application at all times.

Recommendation 16

Apply a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens in reviewing, revising and developing Disaster Financial Assistance policies.

Progress Update

Identification and discussion of GBA+ and IGBA+ considerations is a required component of submissions to Cabinet to inform policy decisions and submissions to Treasury Board which inform the associated funding decisions.

The Ministry has addressed this recommendation through the introduction of modernized emergency management legislation and will continue to as the associated regulations are updated and the service delivery is modernized

Modernizing our Legislation and Regulations

The public engagement process to inform the development of a new Post-Emergency Financial Assistance regulation is underway. The Ministry has proposed a set of principles to guide the development of the new regulation which include:

- Cultural safety
- Equity
- Transparency and
- Fairness and consistency

As the regulation is developed through 2024, the Ministry will be applying a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens. Furthermore, as policies are updated or new ones are developed to implement the new regulation they will be informed by a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens.

Modernizing our Service Delivery

In addition to this regulatory development work, the Ministry is modernizing service delivery for DFA which will help to better understand and address intersectional disadvantage. This modernization includes a new technology-driven solution to better meet citizen and community needs from a perspective of ease of access, timeliness and outcome

In our service design, EMCR is performing analysis to understand the varied needs of all users through an intersectional GBA+ and IGBA+ perspective including accessibility needs; mental, physiological and cognitive needs; demographics, ethnography, socio-cultural and economic perspectives.

I trust this update will satisfy the initial reporting requirement as outlined in your letter. Should you or your staff have any questions about this response, please contact Alex Chandler, Assistance Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, by phone at 778 698-1542 or via e-mail at alex.chandler@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: Teresa Dobmeier, Associate Deputy Minister
Alex Chandler, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer

Ombudsperson Report Recommendations Status

For Internal Purposes Only

Recommendations are listed by due date.

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
Rec 16: Apply a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens in reviewing, revising, and developing DFA assistance policies.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 15: Communicate status updates to applicants with pending DFA applications and appeals.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 12: Ensure any future contracts initiated by the province for delivery of ESS require a comprehensive reporting back to the province and effected First Nations and local authorities.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 4: Develop a program for more meaningful provincial	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For 2024, the Ministry will be issuing recognition letters for ESS responders after wildfire season (September to November). Local authorities were encouraged to put forward volunteers to be recognized through the National Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award Reviewing reactivation of Provincial Annual Volunteer Recognition Award 	Complete

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
recognition of the important contributions made by local Emergency Support Services volunteers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More extensive recognition program is under consideration. 	
Rec 4: Develop and implement a strategy for improved communications to evacuees about Emergency Support Services, including a centralized communications website for providing information to evacuees	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates have been made to EmergencyInfoBC (EIBC) creating a centralized communications website for providing information to evacuees and the public broadly. • Focus in 2024 will be on provision of additional information about location of reception centres (including via EIBC website), new pathways to access supports (BC Evacuee Helpline, and fully digital access to ESS once this is activated) and use of SMS text. ESS ERA (Evacuee Registration & Assistance) landing page at ess.gov.bc.ca is being updated. 	Complete
Rec 4: Develop and implement effective surge support for large-scale Emergency Support Services responses, including consideration of expanded use of “as and when” employees	05/31/2024	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2024 includes funding for Service BC supports for evacuees: call center agents, staff deployment to communities. • EMCR worked with Service BC to develop a Virtual Reception Center (VRC) with call centre agents able to provide support to evacuees. VRC provided general information to evacuees in north BC in May 2024, and in 2024 will be able to provide ESS support via Interac e-Transfers when activated. • Service BC staff are ready to deploy to in-person reception centres when required and deployed through the 2024 fire season as needed. <p><u>On track</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-service digital pathway for ESS continues to be developed (activation timeline TBD). A Financial risk and control review is being undertaken. 	Complete
Rec 6: Increase daily billet rates and broaden lodging	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation/shelter allowance will replace the billeting rate and enable evacuees to make choices about how to best meet their accommodation needs. The allowance will be accessible by Interact e-Transfer and paper process (as needed by the evacuee). 	Complete

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
options for evacuees, including those with larger households, people with complex health needs and people with pets.			
Rec 7: Implement alternate ways for evacuees to access Emergency Support Services if they are unable to attend a reception centre in person.	05/31/2024	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR worked with Service BC to develop the BC Evacuee Helpline (BCEHL) with call centre agents able to provide support to evacuees including providing support via Interac e-Transfers. The self-service digital pathway was developed and used during 2024 wildfires. 	Complete
Rec 9: Develop and implement a policy that supports multiple options for accessing Emergency Support Services, that do not rely on the use of vouchers, when e-transfer is not available or appropriate.	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross ministry collaboration required to develop appropriate policy to address. Work is underway to initiate. 	At risk
Rec 11: Implement a policy and other supports to assist ESS responders in making fair, consistent and efficient	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised needs assessment as part of digital intake tools, enables more consistent gathering of information related to insurance and ESS. Policy direction does not exclude individuals needing support, who have declared they have insurance. 	Complete

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
determinations of whether insurance is readily and reasonably available in the context of an ESS needs assessment.			
Rec 14: Identify and implement ways in which the DFA program can be better communicated with those who might need it	05/31/2024	DFA comms plan complete. The communications plan includes a roll out plan for when DFA is declared including more actions for proactive communications throughout the 90-day period.	Complete
Rec 19: Develop and implement public communications that reflect the current impacts of insurance on the availability of financial supports for disaster response and recovery.	05/31/2024	DFA comms plan complete. Includes a more robust year-round education program related to the importance of insurance and the evolving state of the DFA program.	Complete
Rec 13: Develop, implement and communicate effective service standards for timely processing of DFA application and appeals.	09/30/2024	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMCR 2024/25 Service plan outlines a target of 60% of complete DFA applications being processed within 90 days. The portal for private was completed Feb 15, 2024, which will provide shorter processing times as only completed applications will initiate the timing cycle. The Public Sector Portal is under development and targeted to launch in December 2024. <p>At Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the development process and timelines of the portal itself, appeals processing is at risk for Sep 30/24 timeline (Apr 2025 current target date for appeals – Phase 4 of portal development). Should a DFA eligible event be declared for the private sector, EMCR will seek to increase appeals staff capacity in the interim to facilitate timely processing of appeals. 	At Risk (Appeals)

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
Rec 15: Implement improved communications with and guidance to applicants throughout the DFA application, decision making and appeals process.	09/30/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Service BC MOU was signed to help provide improved applicant communications and guidance through in-person and call centre access for DFA and appeals. A new Application Portal was developed with a Business Process Workflow that keeps applicants informed throughout the application, decision making and appeals process. 	Complete
Rec 1: Evaluate the adequacy of training, financial and technical support provided to local authorities and First Nations to transition to ERA Tool.	12/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key ESS responder training was streamlined into a one-day course. Course launched course in early May 2024. Fall/winter 2024 EMCR engagement with communities and additional partners helped inform the streamlining of the training and helped EMCR learn about community needs related to Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool. Reference Group of ESS experts (local authority, First Nation) met several times (February to May 2024) to share feedback on ERA updates. 	Complete
Rec 8: Develop and implement a strategy, with the appropriate funding, to further integrate disaster psychosocial first aid, professional mental health care and social work into the delivery of ESS.	12/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR works closely with First Nations Health Authority and other partners on ensuring supports for evacuees in reception centres. Disaster Psychosocial Support (Provincial Health Services Authority) regularly sends staff to reception centres for support, with 3 resource requests filled in May 2024 in northern BC. Psychosocial first aid courses for ESS responders are ongoing. Responsibility for health and some longer-term social services lies outside of EMCR, implementation dependent on coordinating with partners and on funding for partners. EMCR is continuing to work with partners on mental health supports in reception centres. 	On track

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
<p>Rec 18: Consult broadly with the public on modernization of ESS and DFA as related components of disaster recovery</p>	<p>12/31/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of work to support the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies, 25 engagement sessions (in-person and virtual) were completed in late 2023 (and a final session in early 2024) regarding enhancing ESS, sessions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional District of Central Okanagan ○ Columbia Shuswap Regional District ○ Skwllax First Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc ○ City of Vernon ○ City of Penticton and Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen ○ Tsal’alh First Nation, District of Lillooet, and Lillooet Tribal Council ○ Kanaka Bar First Nation and Siska First Nation ○ City of Kamloops and Thompson-Nicola Regional District ○ Peace River Regional District ○ Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Chetwynd ○ Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (including Smithers) ○ Métis Nation BC ○ Tourism Industry Stakeholder Session (BC Hotel Association, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association) ○ Tourism Industry Stakeholder Session (Tourism Industry Association of BC) ○ Northeast Regional Session ○ Northwest Regional Session ○ Southwest Regional Session ○ Vancouver Island Coastal Regional Session ○ Central Regional Session ○ Southeast Regional Session ○ Indigenous Sessions (two sessions) ○ Carrier Sekani Family Services ○ ESS Responder Session ○ NGO Response Partners • A public survey on ESS enhancement was open from January 4 to February 9, 2024. Nearly 2,600 responses were received. • EMCR completed a public engagement on a new Post-Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation and also held Rightsholder sessions on this topic in January. 	<p>Complete</p>

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
<p>Rec 4: Develop a framework that supports flexibility and resilience in local delivery of Emergency Support Services, including a review of cost recovery for Emergency Support Services work by local authority and First Nations staff</p>	<p>05/30/2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Management Booking Portal pilot has been completed in three host communities to enable faster/more efficient commercial accommodation booking by ESS teams. • Findings of the pilot will be used to inform the next phases and direction of this initiative. • We continue to streamline our financial processes and communication to support cost recovery for suppliers and communities. 	<p>On track</p>
<p>Rec 16: Implement GBA+ and IGBA+ DFA policy changes.</p>	<p>05/30/2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be a consideration during regulation development. 	<p>On Track</p>
<p>Rec 19: Develop a policy and process to reassess insurance availability in BC as risks increase with the impacts of climate change and a national flood insurance program is implemented.</p>	<p>06/30/2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work for the development of a new post disaster financial assistance regulation is exploring the concept of “reasonable and readily available” insurance. • EMCR is working with the federal government on the National Flood Insurance program to seek to increase availability of affordable insurance in high-risk flood areas. 	<p>On Track</p>
<p>Rec 17: Develop and implement a process to improve the collection of socio-demographic data on DFA to support</p>	<p>09/30/2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new DFA portal includes backend enhancements that will allow for the collection of additional data including socio-demographic data. To be implemented April 2025. 	<p>On Track</p>

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
equitable service delivery consistent with the requirements of the Anti-Racism Data Act.			
Rec 18: Develop and implement integrated plans and policies to support people who experience long-term displacement due to disasters.	09/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Emergency Accommodation Support (PEAS) Proposal Cabinet Confidences 	On Hold
Rec 3: Integrate cultural safety across the entire ESS System. Includes developing and implementing a process for receiving meaningful and timely feedback about cultural safety in ESS and for response to that feedback.	12/31/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since fall 2023, approximately 500 ESS responders have attended Cultural Safety and Humility (CSH) training offered by EMCR and First Nations Health Authority focused on providing more culturally safe evacuee care in receptions centres. • Enabling evacuees' use of federal Status Cards when evacuees validate their identity to use Interac e-Transfer. This is an improvement to make it easier for Indigenous evacuees to access Evacuee Registration & Assistance (ERA) e-Transfer. • Carried out engagement in fall/winter 2023 to support ESS modernization and identify policy improvement for summer 2024, including meeting (virtually and in-person) with First Nation communities and partner organizations. • Work with First Nations Health Authority to establish a feedback/complaints process to support evacuees has been completed, development of processes to implement has been initiated. 	On Track
Rec 10: Develop and implement a timely, accessible and culturally safe complaints process	12/31/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with First Nations Health Authority to establish a feedback/complaints process to support evacuees has been completed, development of processes to implement has been initiated. 	On track

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
that can be used by people who are trying to or have accessed ESS.			
Rec 2: Develop and implement a process to support collection of socio-demographic data on ESS consistent with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Racism Data Act</i> .	12/31/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet started 	Not Started
Rec 5: Ensure that reception centres are accessible	12/31/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure physical/in-person reception centres are accessible in a systemic way has not yet started, however additional non-reception centre pathways are being developed which would allow evacuees to choose other pathways (phone support, online support). 	Not Started

Ombudsperson Report Recommendations Status

For Internal Purposes Only

Recommendations are listed by due date.

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
Rec 16: Apply a GBA+ and IGBA+ lens in reviewing, revising, and developing DFA assistance policies.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 15: Communicate status updates to applicants with pending DFA applications and appeals.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 12: Ensure any future contracts initiated by the province for delivery of ESS require a comprehensive reporting back to the province and effected First Nations and local authorities.	12/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and reported to Ombudsperson in December 2023. 	Complete
Rec 4: Develop a program for more meaningful provincial	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For 2024, the Ministry will be issuing recognition letters for ESS responders after wildfire season (September to November). Local authorities were encouraged to put forward volunteers to be recognized through the National Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award Reviewing reactivation of Provincial Annual Volunteer Recognition Award 	Complete

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
recognition of the important contributions made by local Emergency Support Services volunteers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More extensive recognition program is under consideration. 	
Rec 4: Develop and implement a strategy for improved communications to evacuees about Emergency Support Services, including a centralized communications website for providing information to evacuees	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates have been made to EmergencyInfoBC (EIBC) creating a centralized communications website for providing information to evacuees and the public broadly. Focus in 2024 will be on provision of additional information about location of reception centres (including via EIBC website), new pathways to access supports (BC Evacuee Helpline, and fully digital access to ESS once this is activated) and use of SMS text. ESS ERA (Evacuee Registration & Assistance) landing page at ess.gov.bc.ca is being updated. 	Complete
Rec 4: Develop and implement effective surge support for large-scale Emergency Support Services responses, including consideration of expanded use of “as and when” employees	05/31/2024	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget 2024 includes funding for Service BC supports for evacuees: call center agents, staff deployment to communities. EMCR worked with Service BC to develop a Virtual Reception Center (VRC) with call centre agents able to provide support to evacuees. VRC provided general information to evacuees in north BC in May 2024, and in 2024 will be able to provide ESS support via Interac e-Transfers when activated. Service BC staff are ready to deploy to in-person reception centres when required and deployed through the 2024 fire season as needed. <p><u>On track</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-service digital pathway for ESS continues to be developed (activation timeline TBD). A Financial risk and control review is being undertaken. 	Complete
Rec 6: Increase daily billet rates and broaden lodging	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation/shelter allowance will replace the billeting rate and enable evacuees to make choices about how to best meet their accommodation needs. The allowance will be accessible by Interact e-Transfer and paper process (as needed by the evacuee). 	Complete

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
options for evacuees, including those with larger households, people with complex health needs and people with pets.			
Rec 7: Implement alternate ways for evacuees to access Emergency Support Services if they are unable to attend a reception centre in person.	05/31/2024	<p><u>Complete</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR worked with Service BC to develop the BC Evacuee Helpline (BCEHL) with call centre agents able to provide support to evacuees including providing support via Interac e-Transfers. The self-service digital pathway was developed and used during 2024 wildfires. 	Complete
Rec 9: Develop and implement a policy that supports multiple options for accessing Emergency Support Services, that do not rely on the use of vouchers, when e-transfer is not available or appropriate.	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross ministry collaboration required to develop appropriate policy to address. Work is underway to initiate. 	At risk
Rec 11: Implement a policy and other supports to assist ESS responders in making fair, consistent and efficient	05/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised needs assessment as part of digital intake tools, enables more consistent gathering of information related to insurance and ESS. Policy direction does not exclude individuals needing support, who have declared they have insurance. 	Complete

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
determinations of whether insurance is readily and reasonably available in the context of an ESS needs assessment.			
Rec 14: Identify and implement ways in which the DFA program can be better communicated with those who might need it	05/31/2024	DFA comms plan complete. The communications plan includes a roll out plan for when DFA is declared including more actions for proactive communications throughout the 90-day period.	Complete
Rec 19: Develop and implement public communications that reflect the current impacts of insurance on the availability of financial supports for disaster response and recovery.	05/31/2024	DFA comms plan complete. Includes a more robust year-round education program related to the importance of insurance and the evolving state of the DFA program.	Complete
Rec 13: Develop, implement and communicate effective service standards for timely processing of DFA application and appeals.	09/30/2024	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMCR 2024/25 Service plan outlines a target of 60% of complete DFA applications being processed within 90 days. The portal for private was completed Feb 15, 2024, which will provide shorter processing times as only completed applications will initiate the timing cycle. The Public Sector Portal is under development and targeted to launch in December 2024. <p>At Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the development process and timelines of the portal itself, appeals processing is at risk for Sep 30/24 timeline (Apr 2025 current target date for appeals – Phase 4 of portal development). Should a DFA eligible event be declared for the private sector, EMCR will seek to increase appeals staff capacity in the interim to facilitate timely processing of appeals. 	At Risk (Appeals)

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Rec 15: Implement improved communications with and guidance to applicants throughout the DFA application, decision making and appeals process.	09/30/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Service BC MOU was signed to help provide improved applicant communications and guidance through in-person and call centre access for DFA and appeals. A new Application Portal was developed with a Business Process Workflow that keeps applicants informed throughout the application, decision making and appeals process. 	Complete
Rec 1: Evaluate the adequacy of training, financial and technical support provided to local authorities and First Nations to transition to ERA Tool.	12/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key ESS responder training was streamlined into a one-day course. Course launched course in early May 2024. Fall/winter 2024 EMCR engagement with communities and additional partners helped inform the streamlining of the training and helped EMCR learn about community needs related to Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool. Reference Group of ESS experts (local authority, First Nation) met several times (February to May 2024) to share feedback on ERA updates. 	Complete
Rec 8: Develop and implement a strategy, with the appropriate funding, to further integrate disaster psychosocial first aid, professional mental health care and social work into the delivery of ESS.	12/31/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR works closely with First Nations Health Authority and other partners on ensuring supports for evacuees in reception centres. Disaster Psychosocial Support (Provincial Health Services Authority) regularly sends staff to reception centres for support, with 3 resource requests filled in May 2024 in northern BC. Psychosocial first aid courses for ESS responders are ongoing. Responsibility for health and some longer-term social services lies outside of EMCR, implementation dependent on coordinating with partners and on funding for partners. EMCR is continuing to work with partners on mental health supports in reception centres. 	On track

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
<p>Rec 18: Consult broadly with the public on modernization of ESS and DFA as related components of disaster recovery</p>	<p>12/31/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of work to support the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies, 25 engagement sessions (in-person and virtual) were completed in late 2023 (and a final session in early 2024) regarding enhancing ESS, sessions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional District of Central Okanagan ○ Columbia Shuswap Regional District ○ Skwlax First Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc ○ City of Vernon ○ City of Penticton and Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen ○ Tsal’alh First Nation, District of Lillooet, and Lillooet Tribal Council ○ Kanaka Bar First Nation and Siska First Nation ○ City of Kamloops and Thompson-Nicola Regional District ○ Peace River Regional District ○ Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Chetwynd ○ Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (including Smithers) ○ Métis Nation BC ○ Tourism Industry Stakeholder Session (BC Hotel Association, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association) ○ Tourism Industry Stakeholder Session (Tourism Industry Association of BC) ○ Northeast Regional Session ○ Northwest Regional Session ○ Southwest Regional Session ○ Vancouver Island Coastal Regional Session ○ Central Regional Session ○ Southeast Regional Session ○ Indigenous Sessions (two sessions) ○ Carrier Sekani Family Services ○ ESS Responder Session ○ NGO Response Partners • A public survey on ESS enhancement was open from January 4 to February 9, 2024. Nearly 2,600 responses were received. • EMCR completed a public engagement on a new Post-Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation and also held Rightsholder sessions on this topic in January. 	<p>Complete</p>

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
Rec 4: Develop a framework that supports flexibility and resilience in local delivery of Emergency Support Services, including a review of cost recovery for Emergency Support Services work by local authority and First Nations staff	05/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Management Booking Portal pilot has been completed in three host communities to enable faster/more efficient commercial accommodation booking by ESS teams. Findings of the pilot will be used to inform the next phases and direction of this initiative. We continue to streamline our financial processes and communication to support cost recovery for suppliers and communities. 	On track
Rec 16: Implement GBA+ and IGBA+ DFA policy changes.	05/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be a consideration during regulation development. 	On Track
Rec 19: Develop a policy and process to reassess insurance availability in BC as risks increase with the impacts of climate change and a national flood insurance program is implemented.	06/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work for the development of a new post disaster financial assistance regulation is exploring the concept of “reasonable and readily available” insurance. EMCR is working with the federal government on the National Flood Insurance program to seek to increase availability of affordable insurance in high-risk flood areas. 	On Track
Rec 17: Develop and implement a process to improve the collection of socio-demographic data on DFA to support	09/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new DFA portal includes backend enhancements that will allow for the collection of additional data including socio-demographic data. To be implemented April 2025. 	On Track

Internal Use Only

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
equitable service delivery consistent with the requirements of the Anti-Racism Data Act.			
Rec 18: Develop and implement integrated plans and policies to support people who experience long-term displacement due to disasters.	09/30/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Emergency Accommodation Support (PEAS) Proposal Cabinet Confidences 	On Hold
Rec 3: Integrate cultural safety across the entire ESS System. Includes developing and implementing a process for receiving meaningful and timely feedback about cultural safety in ESS and for response to that feedback.	12/31/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since fall 2023, approximately 500 ESS responders have attended Cultural Safety and Humility (CSH) training offered by EMCR and First Nations Health Authority focused on providing more culturally safe evacuee care in receptions centres. • Enabling evacuees' use of federal Status Cards when evacuees validate their identity to use Interac e-Transfer. This is an improvement to make it easier for Indigenous evacuees to access Evacuee Registration & Assistance (ERA) e-Transfer. • Carried out engagement in fall/winter 2023 to support ESS modernization and identify policy improvement for summer 2024, including meeting (virtually and in-person) with First Nation communities and partner organizations. • Work with First Nations Health Authority to establish a feedback/complaints process to support evacuees has been completed, development of processes to implement has been initiated. 	On Track
Rec 10: Develop and implement a timely, accessible and culturally safe complaints process	12/31/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with First Nations Health Authority to establish a feedback/complaints process to support evacuees has been completed, development of processes to implement has been initiated. 	On track

Recommendation	Due Date	Notes	Status
that can be used by people who are trying to or have accessed ESS.			
Rec 2: Develop and implement a process to support collection of socio-demographic data on ESS consistent with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Racism Data Act</i> .	12/31/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet started 	Not Started
Rec 5: Ensure that reception centres are accessible	12/31/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure physical/in-person reception centres are accessible in a systemic way has not yet started, however additional non-reception centre pathways are being developed which would allow evacuees to choose other pathways (phone support, online support). 	Not Started

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: The Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) is conducting an examination of the provincial role in the Village of Lytton (VOL) post 2021 fire recovery.

BACKGROUND:

- The OAG examination is not an audit, and their report will present information about the recovery process and include observations about the design and implementation of provincial roles, processes, challenges and or lessons learned. It may also include recommendations.
- In their Examination Plan letter, the OAG identified four ministries with responsibilities for aspects of the VOL's recovery and the OAG's work within each ministry will differ. The Examination Plan letter outlined the responsibilities of each of the four ministries.
- Under the Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework (IDRF) (which has since been replaced with the Disaster Recovery Framework in May 2024), the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) was responsible for coordinating and overseeing provincial-level recovery activities. This includes providing leadership, coordinating ministries involved in recovery activities, developing relationships with key recovery partners, and reviewing, approving and tracking recovery expenditures.
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) has a broad mandate to support municipalities. This can include supporting communities impacted by emergencies in relation to governance, infrastructure, operations, and planning activities while moving from response to recovery. Specific to Lytton, MUNI has supported the VOL with governance and municipal capacity matters (e.g., through support with council-staff relations, bylaw recovery, local elections, and financial contributions).
- The Ministry of Forests (FOR), through the Archaeology Branch, is responsible for the protection and conservation of BC's archaeological resources under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA). This role includes administration of the archaeological permitting process to authorize archaeological studies and, when necessary, alterations to protected sites. As a regulator, the Branch reviews permit applications to ensure proposed actions are appropriate and authorized under the HCA and permit holders are in good standing. For Lytton, the branch created a specific permit for the VOL.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), through the Environmental Protection Division, is responsible for the regulation of remediation of contaminated sites in accordance with the *Environmental Management Act*. Specific to VOL, the division provided guidance to the VOL's administration and its contractors on requirements and standards for removal of contaminated soil, ash, and soot from the VOL. It also received notifications and reports from environmental consultants independently contracted by the VOL.

- The OAG will be providing ministries a DRAFT copy of their Report for review and feedback in ^{Advice/Recommendations}. The OAG will discuss the report with key contacts and provide an opportunity for review and feedback on the accuracy and fairness of the report as it relates to each ministry. The OAG will accept additional evidence or information and make adjustments to the draft report as appropriate.
- The OAG will be providing a final DRAFT to ministries for a formal response and request for written representation ^{Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidential}. Ministries will have five business days to provide their response and representations. The representation from each Deputy Minister and each ministry's key contacts is a written confirmation that, *"to the best of their knowledge, they have provided the OAG with access to information requested as well as information that, in their opinion would significantly affect the examination report."*
- The OAG's public release date for the final report is ^{Advice/Recommendations}. Once the report is released to members of the Legislative Assembly, the report will be available on the OAG website. The Legislative Assembly will refer the report to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts for deliberations.

DISCUSSION:

- Intergovernmental Communications

- To address the reporting concerns, EMCR made the decision to exercise its right (within the funding agreements) to audit the VOL's use of Provincial funding and its procurement practices.
- After a Non-Binding Request for Quote (NRQ) process in June 2023, EMCR hired Lions Gate Risk Management Group (LG) to conduct a review of funding provided to the VOL. The purpose of the review was to determine if VOL's spending of provincial funding was authorized under the terms of the various funding agreements and to determine if contracts awarded to third parties were awarded in a way that was transparent, competitive, and consistent with value for money principles.

Advice/Recommendations

- The OAG has reviewed the LG report and may cite their findings in their Report.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The VOL has been actively engaged with the Lytton First Nation and has contracts with the Lytton First Nation's Economic Development Corporation (LFNEDC), and Archaeology Environment Wildlife Limited Partnership (AEW).
- LFNEDC has been paid an economic development fee of \$203,584 or (5% of the contract value of work invoiced by Matcon between July 1/24 – December 31/24 for the removal of contaminated soil within the VOL and backfilling the excavated properties).
- AEW has a contract for archaeological inspections, investigations and selected screening of excavated sediments within the VOL municipal boundaries as well as project planning and coordination, drafting, mapping and reporting. AEW has been paid \$573,655 for work between July 1/24 – December 31/24.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR, MUNI, FOR and ENV will each be issued a draft report related to their role in supporting emergency recovery and each will have the opportunity for review and feedback

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Under the IDRF, British Columbia followed a community-led approach to disaster recovery, which meant the provincial government supports but does not lead community recovery. Through the new Disaster Recovery Framework, the approach has shifted from 'community-led' to 'community-endorsed' in recognition of the

lessons learned during VOL’s recovery experience. This modernized approach ensures that smaller communities with limited resources receive adequate provincial assistance in developing community-specific options for disaster recovery.

- Advice/Recommendations

As the LG report states; small communities often lack the governance, leadership and emergency management experience to effectively manage large-scale emergency events.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- EMCR has provided VOL with \$44.3 M in funding commitments since June 2021. \$32.2 M has been paid to the VOL while the remaining \$11.1 M will be paid as eligible costs are incurred. The most recent funding agreement expires on December 31, 2024, and stipulates that funding will be transferred to VOL after eligible costs have been paid.
- In February 2022, MUNI provided \$6.2 M to the VOL in Wildfire Response funding to assist with operational and planning activities necessary for the VOL’s recovery. In both March 2022 and March 2023 MMA provided VOL \$2.1M in funding (\$700,000 per year for the six year – 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027) for core operational funding.
- In November 2021 the FOR provided VOL \$1 M to support the Village’s Economic Wildfire Recovery.

Drafted by:
 Jim MacAulay
 Corporate Services

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	26/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	11/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Ministry Workforce Plan: 2023 – 2026

BACKGROUND:

- Within the BC Public Service, every ministry is responsible for developing its own workforce plan. This planning is an accountability of the Head of the BC Public Service Agency (PSA) and the respective Deputy Ministers.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) released its Workforce Plan (the Plan) in September 2023. As a newly established ministry in December 2022, this workforce plan is the first for the organization, designed to guide its workforce development over a three-year period.
- The Workforce Plan is guided by eight pillars, each with specific goals, strategies, and actions; Attraction & Recruitment, Health & Safety, Learning & Development, Leadership Development, Succession & Retention, Reconciliation, Equity & Belonging, and Culture & Engagement.
- The plan also emphasizes five priority areas set out by EMCR Executive; Hiring and Onboarding, Reconciliation and Cultural Safety, Corporate Culture, Learning and Training, and Digital IM/IT.
- EMCR's Workforce Plan is accessible to all BC Public Service employees on the ministry's intranet and has been shared with the PSA for review and alignment with broader government strategies.

DISCUSSION:

- EMCR released its Workforce Plan Year One Report Out in August 2024. The Plan is in its second year, progressing as expected, with ongoing initiatives aligned with the established goals and strategies.
- Moving forward, the plan will continue to prioritize: the development of the Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REDIB) strategy, Cultural Safety and Humility training, monthly learning and development opportunities for all employees and People Leaders, quarterly orientation sessions and the expansion of divisional orientation materials, corporate and ministry engagement and recognition activities
- The Plan is regularly reviewed with monthly updates to the Senior Executive Team. Ministry Executive Directors have been surveyed to identify current workforce strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and strengths to ensure the Plan aligns with the needs of the organization. Feedback from these surveys has been incorporated into the Plan's ongoing development and refinement, helping EMCR stay responsive to emerging workforce challenges and opportunities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Plan includes a dedicated Reconciliation pillar, focused on enhancing employee's collective awareness and understanding of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. This guides EMCR's work towards meaningful reconciliation through; embedding cultural safety and humility into programs,

policies, and services through the operationalization of *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, creating Indigenous 'learning pathways' for all EMCR employees, annual collaboration with the Indigenous Youth Internship Program including Strategic Human Resource guidance, providing facilitated Cultural Safety and Humility training opportunities for EMCR employees.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The PSA leads the cross-government workforce planning process, ensuring alignment with the Corporate Plan, "Where Ideas Work," as well as corporate talent-related strategies, ministry mandates, service plans, business plans, and the established government planning cycle.
- Yearly progress updates are submitted to the PSA.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

EMCR Headcount Growth		
As of March 31, 2022	As of March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024
299	339 (+13% from 2022)	438 (+29% from 2023)

Workforce Demographics Designated Groups - As per WES	2020	2022	2024
Indigenous Peoples	4.4%	9.3%	7%
Persons with Disabilities	N/A	22.5%	29%
Visible Minorities*note 2024 data not available	10.5%	8.9%	N/A
Women	57.9%	59.9%	61%

EMCR Engagement Scores – As per WES		
2020	2022	2024
71	68	70

ATTACHMENT(S):

- EMCR Workforce Plan
- EMCR Year One Report Out – 2023/24

PREPARED BY:

Ben Meek
SHR Manager
Communications, Planning, and
People

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	09/18/2024
A/DM	JLM	09/10/2024
ADM	SW	09/09/2024



Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Workforce Plan

Prepared by
Strategic Human Resources – Corporate Services Division

2023/24 – 2025/26

Territorial Acknowledgement



We gratefully acknowledge and respect that the land on which Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) staff live, work, and gather is the ancestral, and unceded territory of the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia. We recognize the diverse histories and ongoing colonialism that impact these lands and the Indigenous Peoples who have been here since time immemorial. We remain committed to learning from and supporting the resilience, sovereignty, and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and communities across this Province.

This Workforce Plan was created on the unceded territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Esquimalt and Songhees), and W̱ SÁNEĆ (Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Malaht) Peoples, on whose land we are humbled and grateful to reside, work, and visit.

Our work is guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, and the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Deputy Minister & Associate Deputy Minister Message



We are excited to introduce EMCR's first ever ministry Workforce Plan. This Plan outlines the future of our workforce, setting the framework to help us strengthen our most valuable resource: you, our dedicated employees. At the heart of all of this, we strive to ensure our ministry is a place where everyone feels they belong, where they have a voice, and their unique experiences and skillsets are valued.

Today, there are approximately 380 individuals within our ministry – each one of you with your own story and having followed your own path to get here. Wherever and whatever our work is within our ministry, we are united by a shared commitment, not only to deliver the services, programs and policies of government, but to do so in ways that maintain and enhance the trust and confidence of the people of British Columbia.

We recognize the last few years have been an especially difficult time for us to serve the public, while also caring for our families, our communities, and ourselves. Our resiliency as individuals and as public servants has certainly be tested. Along the way, we have learned a great deal together. Our priority now is to draw on those lessons – to shape a sustainable model for how we work effectively while empowering positive experiences. We are honoured to work with you and are energized by what we will continue to accomplish together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Richards".

Tara Richards
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Dobmeier".

Teresa Dobmeier
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

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What is Workforce Planning?



Strategic workforce planning is the purposeful approach to analytic, planning, and forecasting which connects talent management activities to business objectives. Workforce planning positions the ministry to have the right people in the right place at the right time, at the right cost.

Effective workforce planning addresses and builds required capacity through the identification of **workforce needs, gaps and development required to achieve current and future business priorities**. It also provides a framework for identifying workforce strategies, actions, measures, and targets to support ministry priorities.

Workforce planning is a continuous process where we monitor the ministry's human resource health over the long term. Developing capability in this critical business process is another step on the road to a sustainable future for our ministry.

Along with the benefits to the organization, workforce planning also provides employees with **career development opportunities, job security and supports, enhanced engagement, improved work-life balance, and the chance to acquire new skills**.

The goals of workforce planning for the BC Public Service (BCPS) and EMCR are:

- Priorities and services are informed by workforce plans from across the public service.
- BCPS-wide and EMCR-specific strategies, actions, and performance measures are aligned.
- Evidence-based workforce plans use reliable data and well-researched best practices to inform strategies, actions, and performance measures.
- Comprehensive workforce plans support improved business outcomes and continuity.
- Workforce strategies contribute to employee's performance, engagement, and retention.

Alignment with the BC Public Service Corporate Plan & Values

This Plan has been created in alignment with the BCPS Corporate Plan *Where Ideas Work*.

The Corporate Plan is built around three themes outlining the type of Public Service we strive to be for British Columbians:

TRUSTED

A highly professional institution trusted by citizens, elected government and its employees.

TALENTED

An inclusive employer that attracts, develops and retains the people we need to meet the current and future needs and expectations of British Columbians.

MODERN

An organization with the policies, practices and tools needed to effectively and nimbly respond to the evolving needs of the province and its people.

The BC Public Service has one overarching corporate value—**Integrity**—and six core values. These values inform our actions. They outline what is important to us, unite us in the work we do, and shape who we are as a ministry.



Approach

Consultation & Goal Setting

The Strategic Human Resources Branch leads the cross-ministry workforce planning process – a process aligned with the BCPS Corporate Plan and talent-related strategies, commitments, ministry mandates, Service Plans, business plans and in accordance with the established government planning cycle.

The first EMCR Workforce Plan (the Plan) has been developed by analyzing various data sets in collaboration and consultation with executive engagement.

Review of internal demographics

The first step in this approach is to establish clear organizational goals and priorities. By understanding the business strategy and projected growth, EMCR can align workforce planning efforts with the overarching Mission and Vision. This strategic foundation provides the framework for identifying and addressing workforce needs.

Analyse External Environment

Following the review of EMCR internal demographics, an environmental scan was conducted as it is an essential component of workforce planning which involves gathering and analyzing information about the external and internal factors that can impact an organization's workforce. By conducting an internal and external environmental scan, EMCR can gain a better understanding of the current and future state of our workforce, which will guide leadership to make informed decisions about workforce planning and develop strategies to meet our future workforce needs.

Validation & Approval

The Plan is rooted in the detailed analysis of a variety of primary and secondary data sources. To ensure we are inclusive and remain unbiased to different groups of people, a Cultural Safety and Humility and GBA+ lens is applied to our analytical approach. We also conducted a series of consultations; individual sessions with senior executives; assessed labour market conditions and trends; analyzed our current staffing compliment; and conducted a Learning Needs Assessment with Executive.

Ministry Overview



The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is British Columbia's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including **preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation**. Within the ministry there are several provincial topics and services including:

- Emergency Support Services
- Emergency Info BC
- Prepared BC
- Emergency Alerts
- ClimateReadyBC
- Disaster Financial Assistance
- Disaster mitigation programs for communities
- Provincial emergency plans
- Public safety lifeline volunteers
- Policy & Legislation
- Corporate Support Services
- Strategic Partnerships

Vision

A disaster resilient British Columbia.

Mission

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness leads provincial emergency and disaster risk management, builds and fosters collaborative relationships and partnerships, advances reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and supports all people in British Columbia to reduce climate and disaster risk.

Values

Collaboration, Respect and Innovation.

Business Plan on a Page

Engaged people and organizational excellence

Promote an engaging and healthy work environment by upholding culturally safe, equitable, and meaningful approaches to our work where employees thrive and contribute to the success of the organization.

Invest in adaptable systems and ensure the infrastructure, processes, supports and resources are in place to effectively support our organization.

Foster a learning culture and leverage opportunities for innovation and continuous improvement.

Ensure transparency and accuracy in reporting and that decisions integrate risk management practices and are evidence-based.

Modernized and enhanced emergency and disaster risk management delivery

Provide cross-government leadership and collaborate through partnerships to modernize legislation, regulations, and policies.

Define and implement EMCR's key areas of focus to reduce climate and disaster risk, guided by the United Nations Sendai Framework.

Leverage technology to enhance program delivery and public education.

Support program and service delivery enhancements through lessons learned and by promoting a culture of continuous improvement.

Strengthened emergency and disaster risk management relationships and partnerships

Lead cross-ministry coordination to support communities and individuals to strengthen effective disaster risk management and emergency management resiliency.

Engage in equitable and culturally appropriate ways to support the distinct needs of all people.

Continue to establish formal emergency management agreements and build relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, communities, organizations and individuals to strengthen emergency and disaster risk management knowledge and practices across all jurisdictions.

Deliver emergency management services and supports that incorporate cultural safety and humility and are guided by the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and co-develop emergency management legislation through shared leadership with Indigenous Nations and Peoples.

Organizational Context

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness has experienced rapid growth over the past 18 months both in Full Time Equivalent staff, our ministry mandate letter priorities and the need to encompass all four pillars of emergency management due to climate change impacts.

With this growth, EMCR has engaged in an organizational design project that has resulted in the establishment and development of four new divisions: Associate Deputy Minister's office, Disaster Risk Management, Policy & Legislation, and Strategic Partnerships, and the expansion of three others: Corporate Services, Disaster Recovery, and Regional Operations working towards stabilization and modernization of our work and the workforce that supports it.

From the creation of the Provincial Emergency Program in 1996, to the December 2022 announcement of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness as a standalone ministry, the organization has managed response on several large-scale disasters such as the 2017/18 Wildfires, 2018 Floods, 2021 Atmospheric River etc. These events have required our workforce to pivot and remain nimble in the delivery of results and response to the increasing severity and frequency of hazard events.



External Environmental Scan

British Columbia's economy is forecasted to have slow, but steady, growth in 2023, with a 0.4% increase. This growth is much lower than the growth predicted in January 2022, which was 2.7%.

There are several contributing factors, the most prominent of which is The Bank of Canada's decision to increase interest rates. This decision is putting increased pressure on consumers, particularly mortgage holders. In response, consumers are expected to spend less on discretionary services such as travel, restaurant meals and other social activities. Additionally, many consumers who are concerned about the persistent threat of a recession will plan and save more as a precaution.

Despite uncertainty about the economy, from 2022 to 2032, the 2022 BC Labour Market Outlook projects B.C. will have 1,017,000 job openings. According to the Report, as the population and labour force continue to age, employers will need to replace retiring workers, "about 63 percent of job openings will be to replace workers permanently leaving the labour force. The other job openings will be due to expansion." These future job openings will be filled through a variety of labour supply additions:

- Young people (aged 29 or younger) entering the labour force for the first time are expected to be the largest source of new labour supply, expected to fill 47 percent of future job openings.
- New people to Canada will fill 38 percent of the openings, with over 39,000 new immigrants on average each year through the next decade.
- Workers coming from other parts of Canada will fill 8 percent of the jobs.
- Additional supply will come from more people joining or returning to the labour force.
- **More rapid automation** may also help close the gap.

A result of the strong labour market, companies are finding themselves in competition for talent. In early 2021, the phrase “The Great Resignation,” became a popular expression among HR professionals and employers around the world. The phrase is now generally used to describe the mass exodus of employees. At first, experts linked the increased turnover trends to the COVID-19 Pandemic; however, developing research and HR insights show the trend is not going away any time soon. Economists are predicting a sustained rate of high employee turnover and decreased tenure rates, making employee retention one of the most important business initiatives for the coming years.



Beyond these labour market trends, employers across the province are also dealing with the spillover effects of the pandemic. “The Great Re-Evaluation,” is the term now being used to describe the challenges of shifting to remote and more flexible work models. It describes the gap that exists between the lives we’re currently living and our values. Employees aren’t simply resigning, they are re-evaluating the type of work they do, when they want to do it, and what they want out of their careers in general. As a result, there is an increased focus on employee wellbeing and work-life balance. It is becoming imperative for employers to support and accommodate employees as they struggle to balance the demands of work, childcare, schooling, health etc.

Given the unique external challenges we are facing as an employer, the need for a comprehensive strategic plan when it comes to our workforce has never been more important.

Sources (page 38): The Conference Board of Canada, BCPS New Job Survey (2017/18, 2019/2020), BC Stats BC Public Service Exit Survey (2006-2020), University Canada West, Bank of Canada, Forbes, Gallup, Linked Learning.

Adaptability & Resilience



Adaptability and resilience lie at the heart of effective organizational workforce planning. In today's rapidly changing business landscape, EMCR must be agile, resilient, and responsive to emerging trends, technological advancements, evolving mandates, and increasing impacts of climate change in the province. **By embracing adaptability and resilience as a core principle, the organization can ensure workforce planning strategies remain relevant and effective over time.**

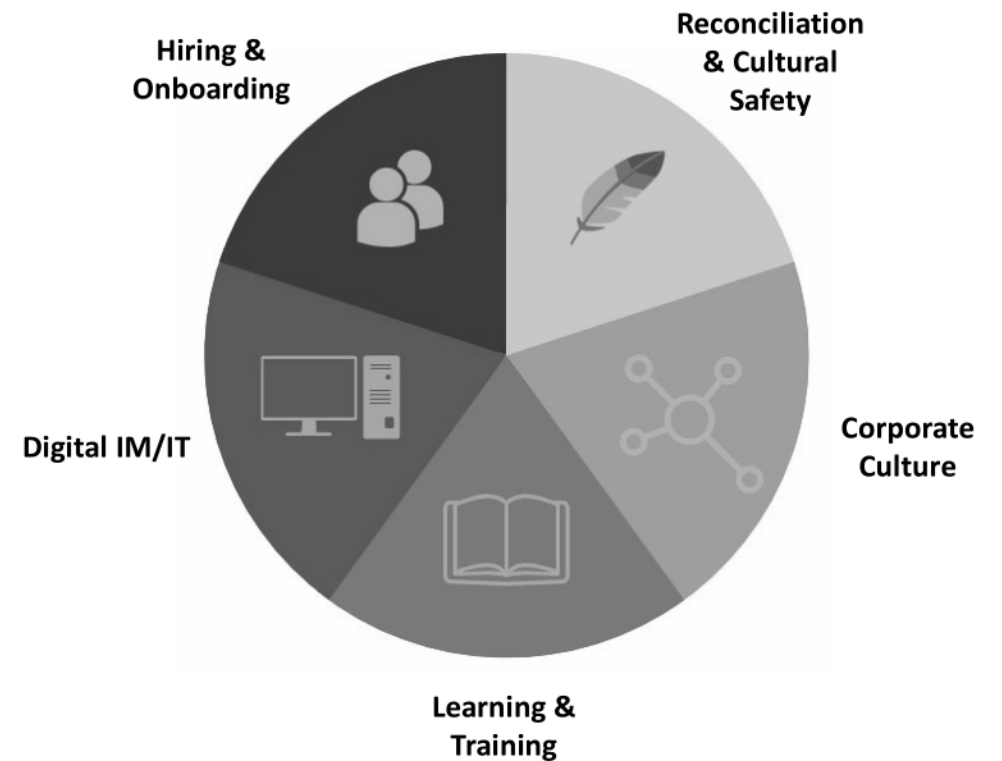
This involves regularly reviewing and updating workforce plans, aligning them with the shifting needs of the organization and the operating environment. An adaptable and resilient approach will allow EMCR to proactively address skill gaps, leverage emerging opportunities, and mitigate potential risks. **By fostering a culture of continuous learning, building resilience, empathy, and embracing change, EMCR can develop a workforce that is not only capable of navigating uncertainties but also poised to thrive in the face of ongoing transformation.** In this dynamic era, adaptability and resilience become competitive advantages, enabling organizations to stay ahead of the curve and secure long-term success.

Ministry Priorities

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness has identified five priority areas which will guide the execution of this Plan: Hiring and Onboarding, Reconciliation and Cultural safety, Digital IM/IT, Learning and Training, and EMCR Culture.

This Plan is focused on the needs of individuals within EMCR, aligning the eight key pillars of workforce planning with these five priorities.

The Plan is designed to support an engaged and skilled workforce by addressing **future staffing needs and skills gaps; promoting diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation practices; expanding learning opportunities; developing future leaders; addressing health and safety; improving succession management; and focusing on organizational excellence and engagement initiatives.**



Areas of Focus

Building upon the insights gathered from executive consultations and the comprehensive Environmental Scan, EMCR faces critical challenges and opportunities in its talent management. To address these challenges, the workforce planning strategy must encompass key areas that will shape the organization's success in the present and future. In order to cultivate a highly effective and resilient workforce, attention must be given to eight pillars: **Equity & Belonging**, **Reconciliation**, **Learning & Development**, **Leadership Development**, **Health & Safety**, **Attraction & Recruitment**, **Succession & Retention**, and **Culture & Engagement**.

In addressing these eight pillars of workforce planning, EMCR will lay a solid foundation for building a dynamic, diverse, and resilient workforce capable of effectively responding to emergencies and disaster events and leading the way in climate readiness.

Through a strategic and comprehensive approach, we will shape a workplace culture that values inclusivity, continuous learning, and leadership excellence, ensuring the ministry's continued success in safeguarding our communities and environment.

These eight workforce planning components are set out by the Public Service Agency (PSA) to ensure consistent approaches are applied across the Public Service.



An implementation plan including timelines can be found in appendix 1.

Equity & Belonging



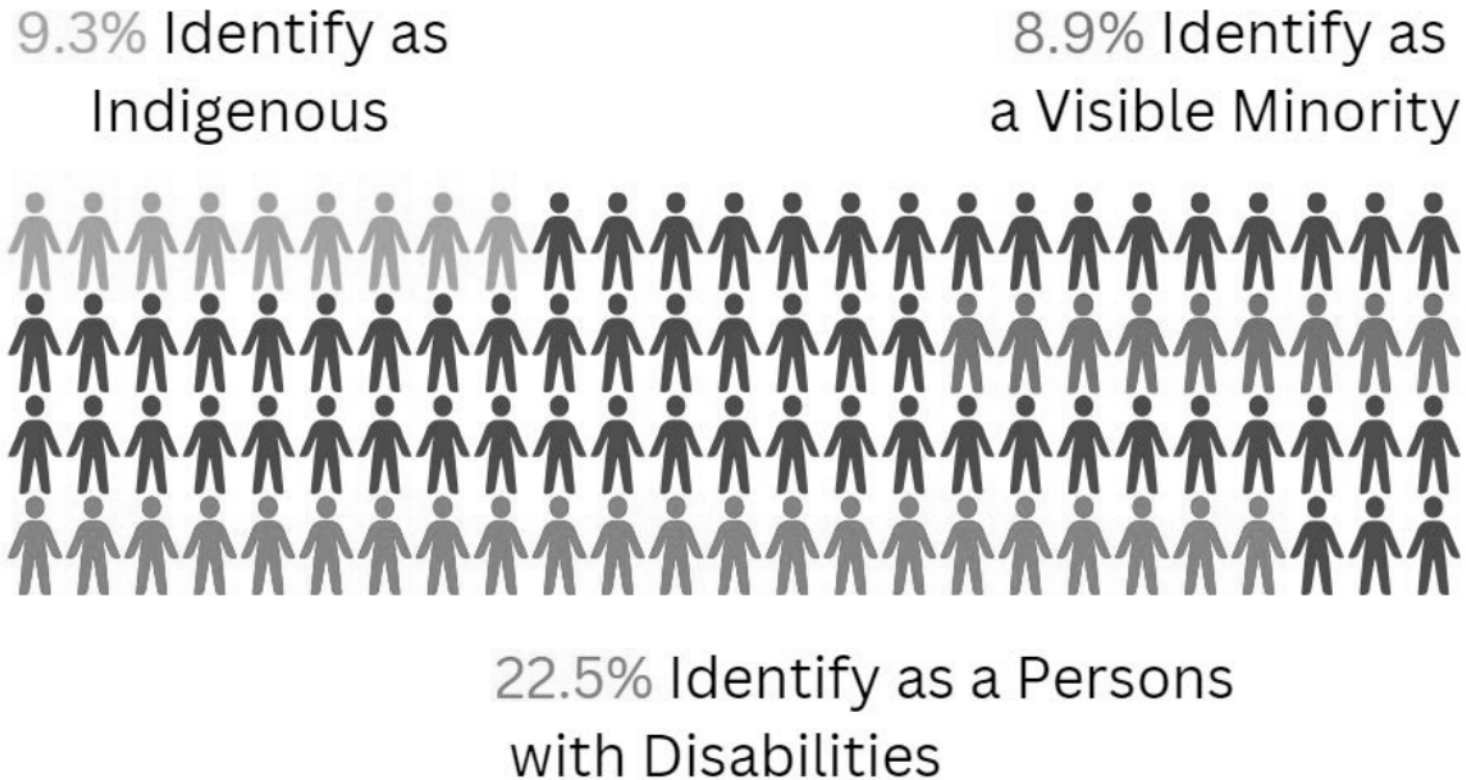
EMCR is committed to reflecting the demographic profiles and values of the citizens it serves. Legislation and BC Public Service policies reflect and support equity and belonging, including the [Standards of Conduct](#) and the [Public Service Act](#), which states part of its purpose is to “recruit and develop a well-qualified and efficient public service that is representative of the diversity of the people of British Columbia.”

Equity and Belonging are foundational to our workplace, to how we show up and feel comfortable and empower everyone to fully participate and contribute to the goals of the organization.

What is currently underway...

- Continue the work of the GBA+ and IGBA+ committees.
- Continue to support the IYIP program.
- Development and implementation of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) strategy for EMCR.
- Learning, Development and Training opportunities and resources including cultural safety and humility training.
- Unpacking [Work Environment Survey](#) (WES) results with a specific focus on equity and belonging related fields.
- Incorporating recruitment and hiring best practices to include the use of gender-neutral language, utilizing [Indigenous Relations Behavioural Competencies](#) (IRBC's) in all Job Profiles and interviews, blind marking on assessments and screening, preference statements, accommodation requests, accessibility considerations and the implementation of a hiring bias checklist.

As a part of the 2022 Work Environment Survey (WES), EMCR staff had the opportunity to disclose personal information on representation of designated equity groups including representation of Women, Indigenous Peoples, Persons with Disabilities and members of Visible Minorities. **9.3% of EMCR staff identified as Indigenous, 22.5% identified as Persons with Disabilities and 8.9% identified as Visible Minorities.**



Equity & Belonging

Goal

Our ministry is reflective of the communities and people of BC that we serve and is an inclusive and accessible workplace.

Strategies

Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in EMCR.

Actions

- Develop and implement a ministry Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) strategy, aligned with the BCPS corporate strategy, that includes metrics and benchmarks as well as defines accountabilities to achieve these goals.
- Support leaders to model inclusive behaviours, remove barriers to accessibility in the workplace and support their teams to complete DEIB learning.
- Engage BIPOC, people with disabilities, and other equity-deserving employees to share experiences and identify opportunities for organizational growth.
- Ensure cultural safety & humility and reconciliation are embedded into EMCR and is established as a mandatory component of employee learning, development, and training.

Reconciliation



Recognizing and honoring the rights, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples is not only a matter of justice and equality but also a strategic imperative for EMCR.

Indigenous reconciliation in the workplace involves actively addressing historical injustices, fostering inclusivity, and creating opportunities for meaningful participation and representation of Indigenous employees. By embracing reconciliation, EMCR is fostering, supporting, and strengthening our workforce's capacity, awareness, empathy, competency, and ability to move forward in a good way and honor diverse perspectives, knowledge, and skills that contribute to innovation, creativity, and success.

What is currently underway...

- Commitment to host at minimum three IYIP's per fiscal year.
- Collaboration with IYIP program for expansion and opportunities.
- Providing all staff learning opportunities centered around reconciliation.
- Celebrating and increasing staff awareness of Indigenous cultural beliefs, practices, language and values through spotlighted information sessions with guest speakers.
- Highlighting the extraordinary work conducted by EMCR staff in the Excellence in Action Awards – *Journey Towards Reconciliation*.
- Implementing mandatory learning focused on reconciliation.
- Making territorial acknowledgements a consistent practice for all EMCR as well as providing training opportunities to improve staff competence and confidence.
- Adding Indigenous Relations Behavioural Competencies requirements in recruitment by including them in job profiles and dedicated interview questions.
- Commitment and action from Executive to lead reconciliation efforts.

Reconciliation

Goal

Our ministry champions, supports, and advances meaningful engagement and reconciliation.

Strategies

- Advance the implementation of the Declaration Act and its Action Plan.
- Enhance employee understanding and knowledge on their journey to meaningful and lasting reconciliation.

Actions

- Action the ministry's commitments within the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#). Including consultation and collaboration with First Nations communities and local authorities as it relates to EDMA implementation.
- Provide ministry staff with cultural safety, humility & reconciliation training and information to support them in the delivery of programs, policies and services and engagement opportunities with Indigenous Peoples and government.
- Continue our support of the [Indigenous Youth Internship Program](#) (IYIP) by base funding positions.
- Continued commitment of territorial acknowledgements, inclusive language, GBA+ processes, consultation, collaboration, and steps toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation by all EMCR staff.

Attraction & Recruitment



Effective talent attraction and recruitment is critical to supporting EMCR priorities by ensuring we have the talent we need at the right time. EMCRs Strategic Human Resources branch collaborates directly with ministry partners and hiring managers to support the recruitment of top talent reflecting the diversity of the province.

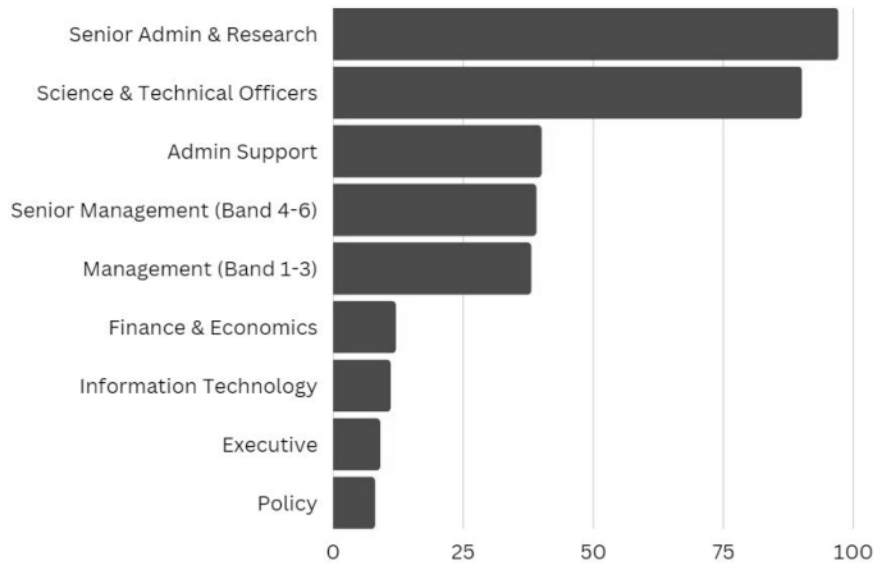
All actions laid out in this Plan aim to enhance the employee experience and attract prospective employees by demonstrating our commitment to their personal and professional growth.

What is currently underway...

- Development and implementation of EMCR Recruitment & Retention Strategy.
- Conducting recruitment and retention activities designed to streamline support, providing advice, recommendations, and best practices.
- Development and implementation of an effective and appropriate salary analysis process for excluded staff.
- Implementation of EMCR Temporary Assignment Guidelines and Expression of Interest (EOI) Framework.
- Recommending EMCR hiring managers complete the Hiring Certification (part 1 and 2) prior to serving as a hiring manager.
- SHR providing quality assurance on all competitions in the ministry to ensure the principle of merit is observed.
- Working with post-secondary Institutions to provide co-op and internship opportunities.
- Implementation of Flexible Work Guidelines.
- TEAMS Program refresh.

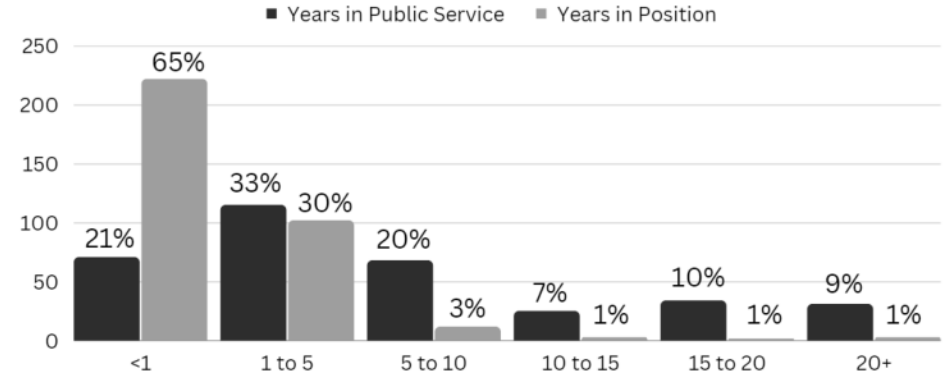
The Senior Administration & Research and Science & Technical Officers workstreams are the most abundant in the ministry, followed by Administrative Support and Senior Management.

EMCR Workstreams

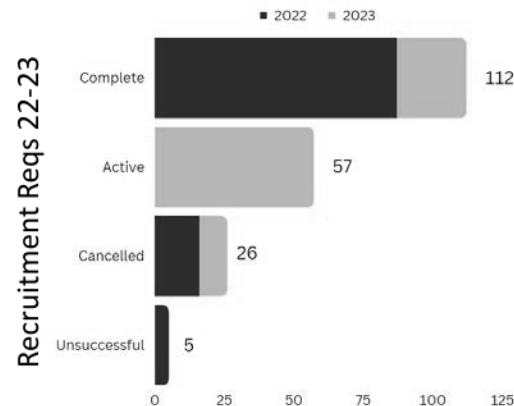


Many of the roles within the ministry require a broad range of experiences and expertise. There will be a need to ensure adequate training opportunities are available to staff to build upon existing skills as well as develop new ones.

EMCR has a new workforce, with 64% of staff in their positions under one year, and 94% of all staff in their positions for less than 5 years. 50% of all EMCR staff have been in the BC Public Service for less than 5 years while only 26% have an estimated service seniority of 10+ years.



To support the rapid growth of the organization, EMCR has run 200 recruitment requisitions since April 2022. Continued recruitment efforts will be necessary as the BC Public Service is seeing increased turnover, resignation, and exit rates.



64 Days
Average competition time for EMCR competitions



Attraction & Recruitment

Goal

Our ministry attracts the right people with the knowledge, skills, abilities and experience needed to deliver results.

Strategies

- Develop a recruitment strategy to ensure our ministry has the skilled workforce it needs now, and into the future.
- Continue to diversify our workforce to represent the people we serve and to harness the benefits of different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

Actions

- Implementation of EMCR Recruitment & Retention Strategy.
- Identify staffing needs based on strategic and divisional plan priorities, Succession Priority Positions & retirement risk positions.
- Encourage the assessment of people-leader skills when hiring into formal leadership positions.
- Continue to build and promote the EMCR employment brand and reputation.
- Identify and promote recruitment efficiencies within the ministry.
- Continue to develop and promote equitable hiring practices that will increase diversity, enhance inclusion and advance reconciliation efforts.
- Develop and implement a ministry Onboarding & Orientation Program.

Retention & Succession

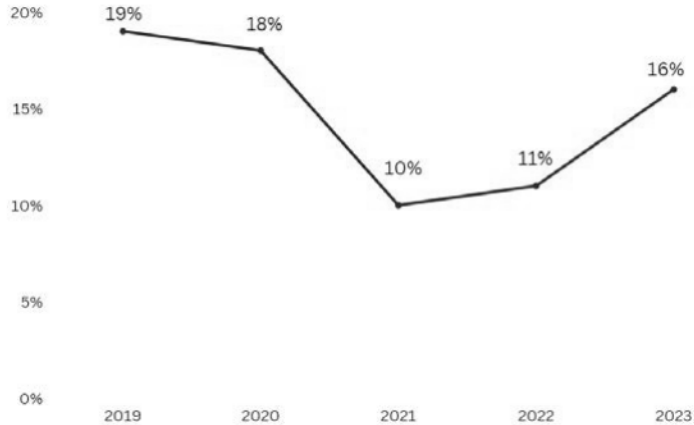


EMCR faces a competitive labour market where current and prospective employees have a variety of opportunities. The BC Public Service is also a place where employees have opportunities to grow and develop in a variety of roles. Succession management is an important business function as it ensures continuity of key functions, focuses on building bench strength for critical positions, and supports knowledge transfer and retention.

What is currently underway...

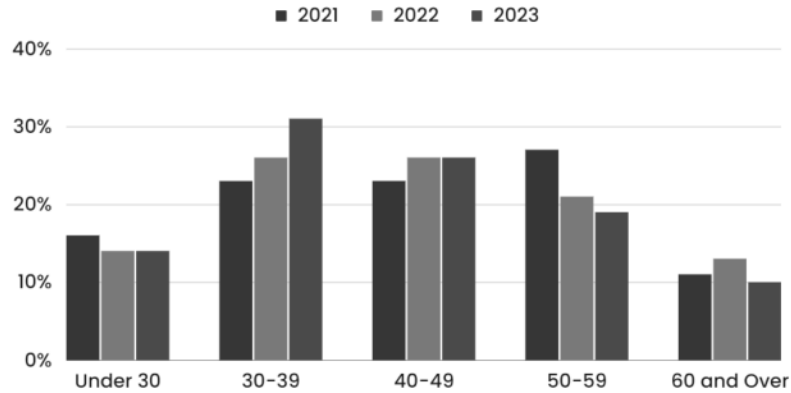
- Development and implementation of EMCR Recruitment & Retention Strategy.
- Identification of Succession Priority Positions (SPPs), and workstreams, and associated action plans.
- Modernization of organizational design and structure, including:
 - Development of job profiles
 - Classification of positions
- Development and implementation of an exit interview process.
- Embracing and empowering a culture of learning, growth and development.
- The development of EMCR wide onboarding and orientation programs.
- Implementation of formal and informal staff recognition and engagement initiatives, including: Excellence in Action, Public Service Week Program, mindfulness moments, ADM open door opportunities and gratitude cards.
- Work Environment Survey (WES) Action Plan.
- Expanding flexible work effectiveness and team supports for hybrid work arrangements.

In fiscal years 18/19 and 19/20, exit rates hovered around 19% and 18%, respectively, for regular employees. This dropped considerably to 10% in fiscal year 2021 during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since then, it has increased gradually and returned to the pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

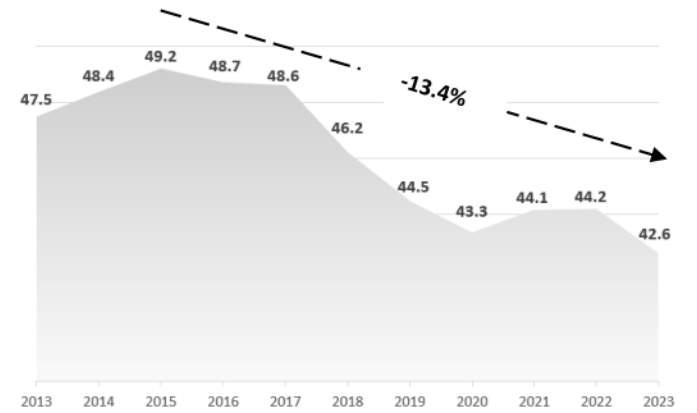
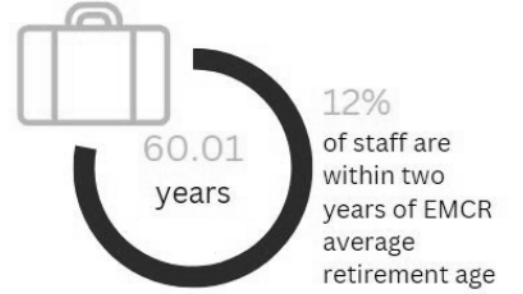


Exit Rate by Fiscal Year

The age profile within EMCR is changing, becoming younger each year. The number of staff over the age of 50 has declined by 10% since 2021, now representing only 29% of the workforce. Staff under the age of 40 now represents 45% of the total workforce. The average age of employees at EMCR has dropped over 13% in the past eight years, from a high of 49.2 in 2015 to an all time low of 42.6 in 2023.



EMCR Age Groups



EMCR Average Age by Fiscal Year

Retention & Succession

Goal

Our ministry ensures employees are supported at every stage of their career.

Strategies

- Develop and implement a succession management strategy to support, maintain, and expand our operations.
- Ensure the ministry has identified Succession Priority Positions with associated action plans.
- Embrace and empower staff to action learning, growth and development.

Actions

- Complete and implement succession plans for each Succession Priority Position.
- Develop and implement a Knowledge Transfer Framework for the ministry in collaboration with the PSA.
- Promote opportunities to develop careers within the ministry through mentorship, developmental assignments, job shadowing and other learning and development opportunities (Formal & Experiential).
- Develop corporate and divisional orientation programs.
- Enhance recognition and engagement initiatives.
- Continue to work on the classification and exclusion of positions.

Health & Safety

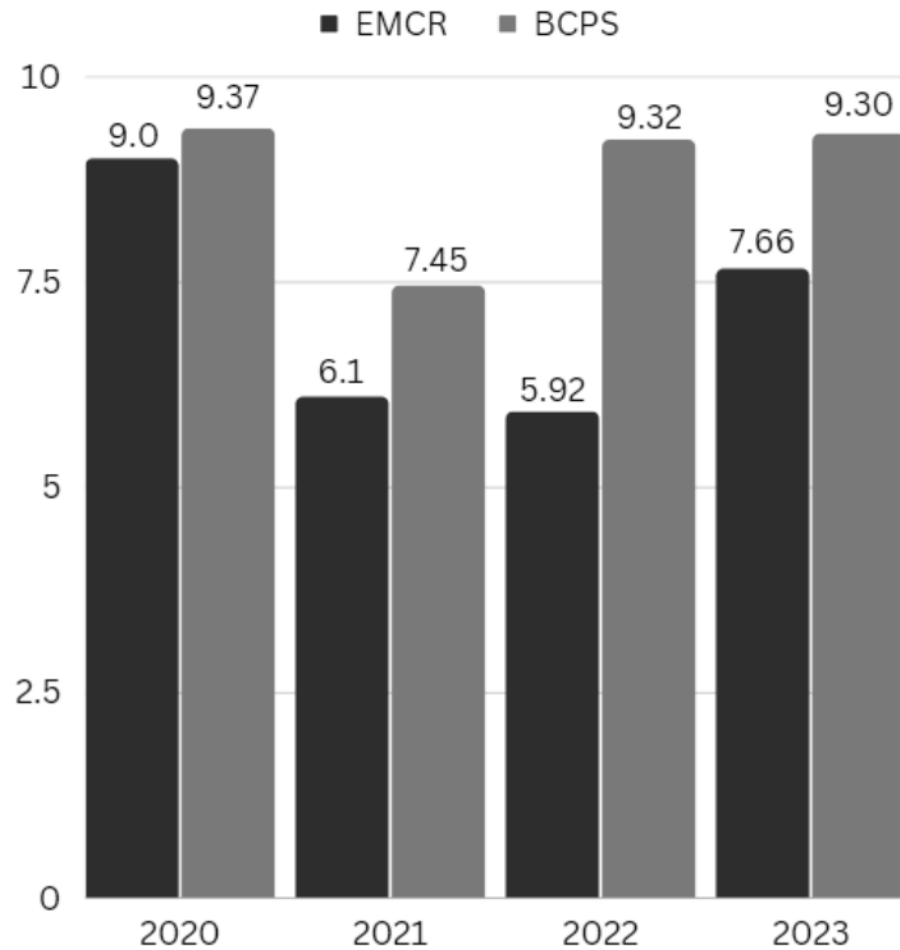


Fostering a safety-oriented culture goes beyond physical well-being and extends to psychological health. The workplace environment, including factors such as workload, job demands, relationships, and support systems which can significantly influence the mental well-being of employees. By prioritizing psychological health and promoting a supportive work environment, EMCR recognizes employee well-being is not limited to physical safety alone.

What is currently underway...

- Development and implementation of the EMCR Health and Wellness committee.
- Collaboration with PSA Health and Safety consultants to begin the development of a ministry wide Health & Safety Strategy.
- Promoting wellness and work-life balance through Mental Health May, Active April, and Work-life Balance presentations as well as offering monthly mindfulness exercises for all staff during work hours.
- Implementing team specific health and safety considerations in all team agreements.
- Flexible work guidelines that focus on staff health and safety.
- Providing deployment support resources.
- Exploring implementation options with the Ministry of Forests to develop in-house Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) resources.
- Leading preparedness initiatives across the province including fire drills, training exercises, ShakeOuts, and emergency alerts.
- Providing [wellness resources](#) on the EMCR intranet.

BCPS & EMCR STIIP days/FTE



EMCR has had a lower STIIP Days per FTE than that BC Public Service average for each of the past four fiscal years. The entire BC Public Service saw a drop in 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic but has risen over the past two years.



WES 2023: 75% of EMCR staff agree with the question: *"I have support at work to balance my work and personal life"*

Health & Safety

Goal

Our ministry creates, implements, and supports initiatives that reduce harm to our employees and foster a workplace that is safe and supportive of physical and mental health.

Strategies

- Develop and implement a ministry wide Health & Safety Strategy.
- Develop and implement a ministry wide Psychological Safety Strategy as a component of the Health & Safety Strategy.
- Leaders will foster and champion a safe, healthy, and engaged workforce.

Actions

- Design and implement a system for all employees to identify and report hazards and issues that they believe could pose a threat to their safety or wellbeing.
- Encourage employees to participate and engage with our safety programs by recognizing and rewarding safe behavior.
- Develop safety metrics in collaboration with the PSA that reflect our current state and identify areas for improvement.
- Participate in and support safety awareness campaigns such as Mental Health and Wellness Month and the Wellness Hub.
- Provide ongoing, engaging health & safety training.
- Explore partnership opportunities with PSA Workplace Health and Safety Consultants.
- Implement a Health & Safety goal for all staff in the Performance Development Platform.

Learning & Development



EMCR is committed to embracing and empowering a learning culture and in doing so acknowledges that learning and development plays a key role in ensuring employees can effectively deliver services to the public and achieve EMCR priorities now and into the future. Increased employee mobility in the BCPS combined with rapid changes in technology and our social environment demonstrates how strategic and aligned investments in learning and development equip employees to best perform in their roles.

What is currently underway...

- The implementation of Learning, Development and Training opportunities:
 - People Leaders Development Series – monthly
 - All Staff Learning sessions – monthly
 - Dedicated ministry seating in targeted PSA courses.
- Implementation of a new Performance Development Platform to support staff development and increase the frequency and efficacy and timeliness of development conversations.
- Conducting all staff awareness sessions on pertinent projects and deliverables.
- Developing onboarding and orientation materials for new staff.
- Identifying EMCR foundational training.
- Indigenous and Reconciliation specific training for all staff.
- Ministry, role, and emergency response specific training.
- Diversity & Inclusion and Cultural Safety Training.
- Regular reporting on BC Public Service mandatory course compliance.

Learning & Development

Goal

Our ministry provides the learning and development resources and opportunities needed to support our employees' personal and professional development.

Strategies

- Support employees to have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) now and into the future.
- Prioritize learning and development as a key ministry objective.

Actions

- Implementation of the EMCR Learning, Development, and Training Strategy.
- Adopt and implement the new Performance Development Platform with consistent prescribed goals targeted at delivering results on ministry strategic priorities as well as individualized goals for all EMCR staff.
- Promote mandatory and recommended training for all employees, that supports their career growth and performance.
- Support people leaders and employees in their ability to have meaningful career development and performance feedback conversations.
- Incorporate learning as a cornerstone component of Team Agreements, divisional onboarding & orientation programs.
- Develop and issue a ministry-wide Learning and Development Needs Assessment and develop a roadmap to address needs identified (see Learning Needs Assessment in appendix 5).

Leadership Development



The role of leaders as catalysts for engagement, innovation, inclusivity, and organizational change is well established. A leader's ability to motivate and inspire has an immediate and direct impact on the services provided to our partners and the peoples of BC.

Achieving our vision of a trusted, talented, and modern organization is dependent on the effectiveness of our existing and future leaders.

What is currently underway...

- Development and implementation of Senior Leader Development Program.
- Providing monthly people leader learning development sessions.
- Providing change management training for executive, people leaders, and change champions within the organization.
- Engaging in the BCPS Senior Leader Review Process.
- Expanding the mandatory and recommended learning requirements for people leaders:
 - Supervising in the BC Public Service
 - HR Foundations for People Leaders
 - Hiring Certification 101

Leadership Development

Goal

Our ministry supports our current and emerging leaders in the development of skills needed to support and empower our employees.

Strategies

- Ensure leadership development priorities are aligned with corporate and ministry priorities.
- Provide all employees with opportunities to develop leadership skills.

Actions

- Identify leadership development needs for current people leaders.
- Continue monthly learning sessions for all ministry people leaders on topics related to supervising and leading within the BC Public Service and EMCR.
- Promote mandatory and recommended training for people leaders that supports their knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Enhance the overall knowledge of HR practices and procedures among our people leaders by promoting the PSA's Supervising in the BC Public Service and HR Foundations for People Leaders.
- Develop and implement Senior Leaders Leadership Development Plans (Bands 4-6).

Culture & Engagement



At EMCR, culture is the sum of our expectations, the policies and rules that shape how we work, the physical experience of the workplace, the relationships we share and, perhaps most of all, our sense of purpose.

What is currently underway...

- Work Environment Survey (WES) and a Mini WES results unpacking and action planning.
- Implementation of employee working groups and committees:
 - Employee Advisory Forum
 - GBA+ and IGBA+
 - Wellness Committee
 - ED Network
- The development and implementation of a formal ministry recognition program:
 - Peer2Peer: Kindness Wells, Recognition cards, and E-Gratitude Cards
 - Excellence in Action Awards
- TEAMS members engagement sessions and the development of a new portal to improve deployment.
- Increased engagement and communication opportunities.
- Weekly EMCR internal newsletters.
- Monthly EMCR All Staff meetings with the Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Minister and monthly SET Open-Door opportunities.
- Active EMCR Social Committee.

Culture & Engagement

Goal

Our ministry connects people with the tools and resources they need to support their well-being and job satisfaction.

Strategies

- Support a workplace environment that reflects our people and supports our values.
- Leaders will support and encourage a safe, healthy, and engaged workforce.
- Prioritize employees' physical health, mental health, and safety by developing, implementing and supporting a ministry-wide strategy.

Actions

- Develop and implement EMCR Culture Commitments including cultivating safe spaces.
- Develop, implement and support a ministry-wide Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program.
- Define and map-out our aspirational workplace environment – who we want to be as a new ministry.
- Promote and celebrate significant cultural events.
- Implement performance development goals for all staff in the Performance Development Platform.

Success Measures

Metrics and Monitoring

Effective workforce plans require ongoing monitoring, so the initiatives outlined are implemented amongst the other priorities of the ministry. The Strategic Human Resources Branch will continue to work in conjunction with the ministry to review and report out on the progress of each initiative set out in this Plan. Updates on progress and success will also be provided periodically throughout the year, as well as reported annually.

Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) have been developed by bundling select performance measures consistent among workforce plan actions to determine overall implementation and engagement characteristics, including:

- Implementation measures
- Percentage of workforce plan actions completed in the proposed timeframe
- Staff engagement of workforce planning actions
- Percentage variance in WES scores

See appendix 2 for the detailed metrics and measures.

Acknowledgements

This Plan is brought to you by the Strategic Human Resources Branch within the Corporate Support Services Division.

We express sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted in this Plan's development. If you have any questions or comments, please email EMBC.HR@gov.bc.ca



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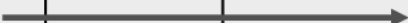

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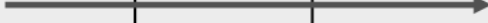





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Appendix 1: Implementation

Equity & Belonging			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Develop a ministry Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) strategy, aligned with the BCPS corporate strategy, that includes metrics and benchmarks as well as defines accountabilities to achieve these goals.			
Support leaders to model inclusive behaviours, remove barriers to accessibility in the workplace and support their teams to complete DEIB learning.			
Engage BIPOC, people with disabilities, and other equity-deserving employees to share experiences and identify opportunities for organizational growth.			
Ensure cultural safety & humility and reconciliation are embedded into EMCR and is established as a mandatory component of employee learning, development, and training.			

Reconciliation			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Action the ministry's commitments within the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Including consultation and collaboration with First Nations communities and local authorities as it relates to EDMA implementation.			
Provide ministry staff with cultural safety, humility & reconciliation training and information to support them in the delivery of programs, policies and services and engagement opportunities with Indigenous Peoples and government.		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Continue current efforts</div> 	
Continued support of the Indigenous Youth Internship Program (IYIP) by base funding positions.			
Continued commitment of territorial acknowledgements, inclusive language, GBA+ processes, consultation, collaboration, and steps toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation by all EMCR staff.			










Design/Plan










Implement



Continue/Monitor

Attraction & Recruitment			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Implement of EMCR Recruitment & Retention Strategy.	 	→	→
Identify staffing needs based on strategic and divisional plan priorities, SPPs, and retirement risk positions.			
Encourage the assessment of people-leader skills when hiring into formal leadership positions.	→	→	→
Continue to build and promote the EMCR employment brand and reputation.	→	→	→
Identify and promote recruitment efficiencies within the ministry.	→	→	→
Continue to develop and promote equitable hiring practices that will increase diversity, enhance inclusion and advance reconciliation efforts.	→	→	→
Develop and implement a ministry Onboarding & Orientation Program.	 	→	→

Retention & Succession			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Complete and activate succession plans for each Succession Priority Position.			
Develop and implement a Knowledge Transfer Framework for the ministry in collaboration with the PSA.			→
Promote opportunities to develop careers within the ministry through mentorship, developmental assignments, job shadowing and other learning and development opportunities.	→	→	→
Develop an orientation program (corporate and divisional).	 	→	→
Enhance recognition and engagement initiatives.	→	→	→
Continue to work on the classification and exclusion of positions.	→	→	→










Design/Plan










Implement



Continue/Monitor

Health & Safety			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Design and implement a system for all employees to identify and report hazards and issues that they believe could pose a threat to their safety or wellbeing.	 	→	
Encourage employees to participate and engage with our safety programs by recognizing and rewarding safe behavior.		→	
Develop safety metrics in collaboration with the PSA that reflect our current state and identify areas for improvement.		→	
Participate in and support safety awareness campaigns such as Mental Health and Wellness Month and the Wellness Hub.		→	
Provide ongoing, engaging health & safety training.		→	
Explore partnership opportunities with PSA Workplace Health & Safety Consultants.	 	→	
Implement a Health & Safety goal for all staff in the Performance Development Platform.	 	→	

Learning & Development			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Implementation of the EMCR Learning, Development, and Training Strategy.	 	→	
Adopt and implement the new Performance Development Platform with consistent prescribed goals targeted at delivering results on ministry strategic priorities as well as individualized goals for all EMCR staff.	 	→	
Promote mandatory and recommended training for all employees, that supports their career growth and performance.		→	
Support people leaders and employees in their ability to have meaningful career development and performance feedback conversations.		→	
Incorporate learning as a cornerstone component of Team Agreements, divisional onboarding & orientation programs.		→	
Develop and issue a ministry-wide Learning and Development Needs Assessment and develop a roadmap to address needs identified.			



Design/Plan



Implement



Continue/Monitor

Leadership Development			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Identify leadership development needs for current people leaders.			
Continue monthly learning sessions for all ministry people leaders on topics related to supervising and leading within the BC Public Service and EMCR.	→		
Promote mandatory and recommended training for people leaders that supports their knowledge, skills, and abilities.	→		
Enhance the overall knowledge of HR practices and procedures among our people leaders by promoting the PSA's Supervising in the BC Public Service and HR Foundations for People Leaders.	→		
Develop and implement Senior Leaders Leadership Development Plans (Bands 4-6).		→	

Culture & Engagement			
Actions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Develop and implement EMCR Culture Commitments including cultivating safe spaces.		→	
Develop, implement and support a ministry-wide Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program.			→
Define and map-out our aspirational workplace environment – who we want to be as a new ministry.			
Promote and celebrate significant cultural events.	→		
Implement performance development goals for all staff in the Performance Development Platform.		→	



Design/Plan



Implement



Continue/Monitor

Appendix 2: Key Performance Indicators

Workforce Planning Component and Evaluation	
Equity & Belonging	% of employees taking diversity, inclusion and reconciliation courses
	Target % of employees using Indigenous Relations Behavioral Competencies in Performance evaluations (Performance Development Platform)
	Engagement figures for BIPOC, peoples with disabilities, and other equity-deserving employees
	% variance in WES scores for Creating An Inclusive Workplace (additional questions added by EMCR)
Reconciliation	% of employees taking core diversity, inclusion and reconciliation courses
	# of IYIP participants onboarded in the ministry
	# of Reconciliation focused training opportunities provided by EMCR & employee participation
	Establish baseline of employee perceptions on their personal reconciliation journey (survey) and then measure progression over time
Attraction & Recruitment	% of successful recruitment requisitions
	% variance in WES score for Staffing Practices
	# of employees hired through IYIP, MITACS, Co-op and Workable
	Avg # of days to fill a position
	% hiring manager certification programs
Learning & Development	Performance Development Platform (PDP) adopted (Y/N)
	Completion rate and # of goals completed in the PDP
	Ministry learning plan in place (Y/N)
	# of courses completed (total and priority ministry skills)
	% variance in WES scores for Professional Development
Leadership Development	# number of participants completing Leadership Development programs
	# of participants completing HR skills learning opportunities
	% variance in WES scores for Executive Level Management
	% variance in WES scores for Supervisory Level Management
	% of leadership positions promoted internally
Succession Management	% succession plans for SPPs
	% variance in ministry turnover & vacancy rates
	Succession plan for key workstreams implemented
Culture & Engagement	% variance in WES score for overall Engagement
	% variance in WES scores for Stress & Workload
	% variance in WES scores for Respectful Environment
	Implementation of a ministry-wide Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program & participation (Y/N)

Appendix 3: Data Considerations

Reporting Perspective

All workforce information is presented from the perspective of the current organizational structure. When calculating both current and historic figures, information for all employees is attributed to the work unit where their position is currently located. To do this, the positions that employees were in at the time in the past were mapped onto the current organizational structure of the ministry. Use of this perspective is recommended to minimize the impact of reorganizations. It allows us to understand our historic workforce and plan for our future needs.

Information Sources and Notes

Data Accession Date – March 31, 2023 unless otherwise stated

System Processing Delays – Data for current fiscal year-to-date information may be incomplete due to system processing periods. Under normal circumstances, it can take up to 3 pay periods for a staffing transaction to be processed in PeopleSoft from when the request was submitted to MyHR. But additional delays may be expected due to a high volume of MyHR service requests.

Demographics – Based on month-end snapshots of PeopleSoft data, sourced from the BCPS Agency’s (BC PSA) DataMart Workforce Cube. It includes regular and auxiliary employees who were active.

Hiring Competitions - Based on internal Strategic Human Resources tracking systems. It identifies those hiring requisitions created in the system during the noted period. It reflects data for all types of hiring requisitions with a posting open date, and for which the work unit and classification can be accurately determined. Succession Priority Positions (SPPs) – Based on data collected via the identification process rolled out in spring 2022 to meet corporate requirements, and in winter 2022 during the Workforce Planning consultation phase.

Short Term Illness and Injury Plan (STIIP) - Based on PeopleSoft data sourced from the BC PSA’s DataMart Warehouse STIIP Cube. It reflects the STIIP usage of those employees with an appointment status of either R (regular) or M (auxiliary employees who have worked more than 1827 hours in 33 pay periods in the same ministry) at the time of STIIP absence date. Note that the PSA is working on creating a leave code for Employment Standards Act Illness and Injury Leave (ESAPII) when this workforce plan is being developed. Therefore, ESAPII entries are not captured in the STIIP figures reported here.

Work Environment Survey Respondent Profile for Self-Selected Demographics - Generated based on information sourced from 2022 Work Environment Survey: Employee Engagement Results by Demographic Groups. It reflects the self-selected identity information for employees in former EMBC who responded to WES 2022 between January 27 – February 18, 2022. Figures for the current state of ministry may differ due to the reorganization in December 2022. While it only reflects former EMBC results, this allows us to explore our workforce representation of designated equity groups across the ministry, including representation of Women, 2SLGBTQ+, Persons with Disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

Definitions

Average Age = the sum of the ages of the employees of interest on the last day of each month during the time period of interest divided by the number of employees of interest on the last day of each month during the same time period of interest.

Average Years in BCPS = the average of the estimated years the employees of interest served in the BCPS. These figures do not consider any breaks of service and should be treated as estimates only.

Average Years in Position = the average of the estimated years the employees of interest served in the current position. Note these figures do not consider any breaks of service and time in other positions, so they should be treated as estimates only.

Exit Rate = Permanent Exits / Average Regular Headcount for the period of interest.

Total posted competitions = the number of hiring requisitions that were created in the RMS during the noted period and were posted prior to the data accession date.

Successful competitions = the number of posted competitions with a status of “Filled” as of the data accession date.

Unsuccessful competitions = the number of posted competitions with a status of “Cancelled” as of the data accession date. = the number of posted competitions with a status other than “Filled” or “Cancelled”, such as “Open”, “Posting Closed” and “On hold”.

Average Time to Hire = the average length of time from the date the hiring request was submitted by the hiring manager until the confirmation letter is sent for data entry.

STIIP days per FTE = Total STIIP days / Average FTEs per pay period during the same period of interest.

Work Environment Survey Demographic Results = Respondent proportion is calculated as the number of employees identified as being in a given group as a percentage of overall survey respondents (not as a percentage of employees who responded to the individual demographic question). Respondent proportions for certain demographics may not sum to 100% due to a) not all survey respondents answering the relevant demographic question, and/or b) rounding.

Classification = This report uses the BC PSA’s recommended classification grouping conventions: high-level Classification Groups contain more granular Job Code Description Groups.

Employee Status = This indicates whether employees are active, on leave (paid or unpaid leave of absence), or on layoff. Please note that employees on layoff are not included in this report, and employees on short-term illness injury plan (STIIP) are coded as “active” in PeopleSoft.

Supervisor Status = An employee will be categorized as a supervisor if they are working in a position that has one or more subordinate positions reporting to it, regardless of whether the subordinate position is encumbered.

Union Status = This indicates which union the employee belongs to or whether they are excluded from any union memberships.

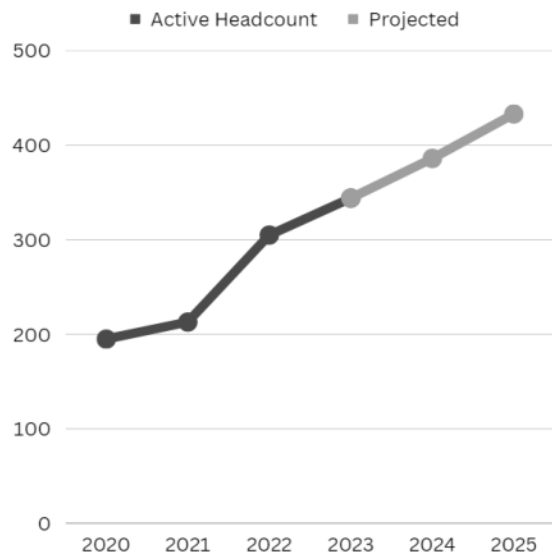
Location (or Community) = Location information is sourced from PeopleSoft and reflects the office location associated with the employee position record. This information is of variable quality and the accuracy depends on how diligent the work unit has been in keeping it up-to-date via AskMyHR.

Succession Priority Positions (SPPs) = positions that pose an unacceptable risk to the business if unencumbered or left unencumbered and where the position is or would be hard to fill if vacated.

Appendix 4: Workforce Data

Having a thorough understanding of the current and future workforce is critical to understanding strengths, challenges and opportunities, and to creating strategies to address gaps. Sound analytics of internal demographic datasets is a key foundation of this report. By viewing data through many different layers and slices, certain commonalities come to light which inform the objectives and strategies of this Plan.

EMCR has seen significant growth as a ministry, with a 64% increase in headcount over the past 5 years, and a 12.3% increase in the past year. These increases are expected to progress into the future as our ministry grows.



EMCR Headcount Figures

EMCR's active headcount was 344 staff as of March 2023. Of those staff, 77% were regular and 33% were auxiliary. The average years in position was 1.5 with an average years in the BC Public Service of 7.4.



There are 145 supervisors of EMCRs 344 active staff, representing 42% of the total workforce. The current supervisor-to-employee ratio is 2.4.



In the 2023 Work Environment Survey (MiniWES), Supervisory-Level Management scored 80, making it EMCR's second highest driver, increasing 2 full points from 2022.

Appendix 5: Learning Needs Assessment

As a part of the executive consultation process, a Learning Needs Assessment was distributed to leaders across the organization.

The following topics were identified as areas to focus on moving forward.



Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Workforce Plan 2023/24 – 2025/26

Year One Report Out

Prepared by

Strategic Human Resources – Corporate Services Division



Purpose

- Progress update for year one of the EMCR Workforce Plan
- Highlight accomplishments as they relate to the 8 Workforce Planning Pillars
- Showcase key metrics and statistics for each pillar

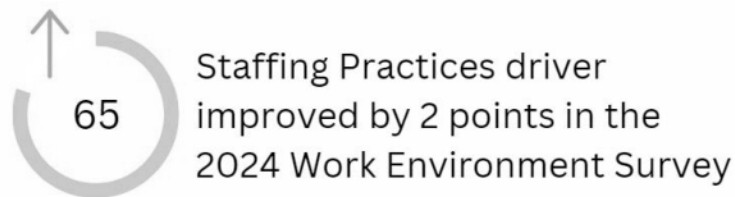
Attraction & Recruitment

Key Accomplishments

Significantly enhanced and expanded internal recruitment practices through:

- Leveraging public engagement opportunities such specialized media plans, attendance at career fairs, and inclusive hiring practices to attract and retain qualified talent
- Annual participation in equity internship employment programs such as IYIP, Co-op, Work-Able*, PICS, and Legislative Internship Program
- Increasing geographically disperse job postings and flexible work opportunities where feasible
- Advance accessibility by revising job profiles and expanding equivalency criteria to minimize applicant barriers
- Establishment of an EMCR cultural safety & humility statement for all job postings

* Efforts underway for fiscal year 24/25



July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Succession & Retention



Key Accomplishments

- Identification of Succession Priority Positions (SPPs), and difficult to recruit/retain workstreams
- Identifying career paths and development for EMCR employees within work units and divisions
- Implementation of the Senior Leadership Development Program
- Implementation of formal Onboarding and Orientation Program
- Regular facilitation of exit interviews
- Formal and informal employee recognition and engagement initiatives
- Expanding flexible work options where operationally feasible
- Creation of net new EMCR job profiles that align with expanding ministry mandate
- Reclassification of outdated job profiles to reflect operational needs
- Continued modernization of organizational design and structure
- Commitment to creating a culture of continuous learning, growth and development

Q: I have seen improvements in my current workplace since the last Work Environment Survey.

37% Agree



Organizational Satisfaction score improved by 4 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Continue to celebrate our success in the Job Suitability driver score in the 2024 Work Environment Survey

Internal Promotions*
123

EMCR 23/24 Retention Rate
91%

Successful Classifications Completed
~30

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

*Permanent and TAs

Key Accomplishments

Commitment to championing and advancing meaningful reconciliation and engagement through:

- Embed cultural safety and humility into programs, policies, and services through the operationalization and implementation of EDMA
- Creation Indigenous 'learning pathways' for all EMCR employees through the Indigenous Policy and Partnerships hub
- Annual collaboration with the Indigenous Youth Internship Program (IYIP), including:
 - Commitment to employ a minimum of three IYIPs per year
 - Provide Strategic Human Resource guidance and support to IYIP Team ensuring the continued success and implementation of the program
- Promotion of learning opportunities for employees and People Leaders, including:
 - "Cultivating Safe Spaces in Governance" led by Elaine Alec
 - Cultural Safety and Humility Training in PREOCs
 - UNDRIP and the Declaration Act training
 - Identifying recommended course offerings to support reconciliation initiatives



Respectful Environment score improved by 1 point in the 2024 Work Environment Survey

Equity & Belonging

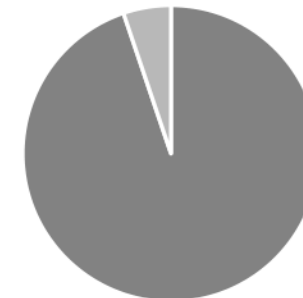
Key Accomplishments

- Development of the EMCR Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REDIB) strategy:
 - championing diversity as our strength
 - actively embracing anti-racism and anti-hate
 - identify and remove barriers to allow for full and equitable participation in the workplace
 - supporting, championing, and advancing meaningful reconciliation and engagement
 - promoting a work environment of trust and respect where everyone has a sense of belonging
- Learning, Development and Training opportunities for all employees:
 - Cultural safety and humility training
 - Accessibility
 - People Leader Training on Inclusive Hiring
 - Unconscious Bias
 - Building a Respectful and Inclusive Workplace
 - Ethics
 - Promoting a speak up culture
- Providing EMCR employees with accessibility training and resources
- Creation and implementation of EMCR GBA+ Champions employee working group



Respectful Environment score improved by 1 point in the 2024 Work Environment Survey

Diversity & Inclusion Essentials



96% Compliant

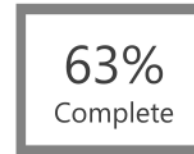
Key Accomplishments

Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being Campaigns for all employees through:

- Learning opportunities for employees, People Leaders, and Executive
- Leverage and promotion of BCPS mental health and wellness resources and training
- Incorporating health and safety requirements for People Leaders in the Onboarding and Orientation program
- Deployment resources for EMCR employees and CORE members
- Active participation in Occupational Health and Safety Committee meetings
- Creation of a Health and Well being goal in the Performance Development Platform for all EMCR employees



Stress & Workload driver score improved by 5 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



EMCR People Leaders are compliant with MOU 25: Orientation to Psychological Health & Safety

Learning & Development



Key Accomplishments

Embracing and empowering a culture of learning, growth and development through:

- Implementation of the EMCR Learning, Development & Training Strategy.
- Providing Learning, Development and Training opportunities:
 - People Leaders Development Series – monthly
 - All-Staff Learning and Development sessions – monthly
 - Ad-hoc training for EMCR employees and People Leaders as available
- Onboarding of the new Performance Development Platform (PDP) including:
 - People Leaders training opportunities
 - All staff learning sessions
 - Dedicated training for divisions and branches within EMCR
- Incorporating learning as a cornerstone component of team agreements, divisional onboarding & orientation programs
- Designated time in employee calendars for learning and development
- Conducting quarterly Welcome to EMCR sessions for new employees



Professional Development driver score improved by 1 point in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Empowerment driver improved by 3 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey

Average Active Goals in the PDP
2.28

As of June 30, 2024

Leadership Development

Key Accomplishments

- Implementation of a Senior Leader Development Program
- Monthly People Leaders Development Series on topics related to supervising and leading within the BC Public Service
- Participating in the BCPS Senior Leader Review Process
- PROSCI Change Management training for leaders in EMCR
- Establishment and Implementation of the EMCR Executive Directors Table
- Implementation of hiring and onboarding resources for People Leaders to support with onboarding new and returning EMCR employees
- Focused recruitment training and development for People Leaders
- Expansion of mandatory and recommended learning requirements for People Leaders



Executive-Level Management improved by 6 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Continue to celebrate our success in the Job Suitability driver score in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Culture & Engagement



Key Accomplishments

- Implementation of the Onboarding and Orientation program including virtual 'Welcome to EMCR' sessions to support new employees to feel connected to the ministry
- Creation and implementation of employee engagement working groups and committees
- Distribution of bi-weekly EMCR internal newsletters
- Monthly EMCR All Staff meetings facilitated by executive
- EMCR recognition programs including the second annual Excellence in Action Awards
- Development of EMCR Mentorship and Buddy programs
- Facilitated an Inclusive Public Service Week that included 10 virtual events with focus on cross-regional engagement around the province
- EMCR Executive Team has established a culture working group
- Implemented program specific knowledge exchange
- Implementation of the Executive Directors Table
- Work Environment Survey unpacking and action planning across all divisions



Vision, Mission & Goals score improved by 12 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Teamwork score improved by 2 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey



Employee Engagement score improved by 2 points in the 2024 Work Environment Survey

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Coordinated Operation Response in Emergencies (CORE) Team

BACKGROUND:

- The Coordinated Operation Response in Emergencies (CORE) Team, formerly known as Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS), is a BC Public Service (BCPS) program that maintains a roster of skilled employees from various ministries to support Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC), Provincial Emergency Coordination Centres (PECC), and wildfire response efforts.
- CORE Team members serve as a resource for filling response and recovery roles during emergencies and disasters in British Columbia and are activated as surge support when internal resources are exhausted or specific skills are needed. The program supports both BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).
- In 2024, TEAMS was rebranded as CORE Team through a redesign project involving the Premier's Office, Citizen Services, Public Service Agency, EMCR, and BCWS. Members from these organizations have formed a cross-ministry governance team to determine the future direction of CORE. This redesign also introduced new tools for BCWS and EMCR to recruit, manage member profiles, and deploy members based on operational need.
- Information on CORE can be found on the BCPS public-facing internet site, including an overview of the program, details on how BCPS employees can become members, and pathways to both the BCWS and EMCR CORE intranet pages.

DISCUSSION:

- The CORE Team redesign project is ongoing and is being evaluated in real-time for improvements to enhance its effectiveness.
- In 2024, a minimum viable product Talent Cloud tool was released to streamline deployment of CORE Team members. Subsequent improvements have been identified by users as required to refine its functionality.
- There are currently 254 active CORE members, with 316 candidates in the enrollment process. Once the intake process is complete and should all the prospective members become active, the program is forecasted to have over 570 active members.
- To build situational awareness and increased engagement, the Strategic Human Resources branch hosts monthly CORE All Roster Engagement meetings to share updates, program news, training information, and answer member questions.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The CORE Team plays a vital role in supporting communities across the province, including Indigenous communities, by providing response and recovery efforts to emergencies and disasters. By integrating skilled personnel who are trained to work collaboratively with local Indigenous leaders and organizations, the CORE Team enhances support for these communities during crises.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Premier’s Office
- Public Service Agency
- Ministry of Citizen Services and
- Ministry of Forests - BC Wildfire Services

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Ongoing collaboration with the cross-ministry governance team is required to determine the future direction of CORE Team.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Active Core Members		
2023	2024	2024 (Forecasted)
~288	254	570

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Aaron Mercer
 SHR Manager, CORE/Surge
 Communications, Planning and
 People

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	18/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	13/09/2024
ED	CF	13/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Overview of the Public Education Unit (PreparedBC)

BACKGROUND:

- Public education has a critical role to play in emergency management, particularly in raising awareness and influencing preparedness behaviours, while also supporting the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness's (EMCR) core function as British Columbia's coordinating agency for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities by highlighting and raising awareness.
- The Public Education Unit's guiding principle, or mission, is: "to increase preparedness throughout British Columbia by providing accurate, meaningful, and relevant emergency preparedness information, and support Indigenous communities, local authorities, and our partners in their preparedness efforts and actions."
- In 2014, both the *BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (Renteria)* and the *Catastrophic Earthquake Report* (BC Auditor General), strongly recommended the creation of a centralized and trusted emergency preparedness program under the auspices of the provincial government.
- Specifically, government was asked to:
 - Create and disseminate consistent preparedness messaging and materials
 - Work with school age children to build a culture of preparedness, while leveraging their family and friend networks to elicit change
 - Focus on not only raising awareness but changing behaviours so emergency preparedness becomes second nature
 - Use social media to engage citizens
 - Focus on tying preparedness to relevant hazards
 - Seek partnerships to support the delivery of preparedness initiatives
- This call to action gave rise to PreparedBC – British Columbia's official emergency preparedness program. Since its launch in 2015, the program has delivered five core programs in direct response to the 2014 recommendations. An Ipsos survey was also completed in 2017 to establish a baseline of personal preparedness in British Columbia, from which improvements can be measured.

DISCUSSION:

- The Public Education 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.
- 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:**

The Public Education Unit has developed 17 guides that address B.C.'s hazards and highlight steps people can take to get prepared, which are all [available for free online or in hardcopy](#). There are also guides that specifically target small business owners and tourism operators. The guides are continually assessed to incorporate feedback and ensure PreparedBC's content is effective, inclusive and accessible. Recent additions to the library include the Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide and the Winter Weather Preparedness Guide. Many guides are translated into multiple languages.
- **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 2024, 22 communities hosted a High Ground Hike for their community members.
- **Annual campaigns PreparedBC leads or supports:**

Tsunami Preparedness Week (April), Emergency Preparedness Week (May) and ShakeOut earthquake drill organized by the BC Earthquake Alliance (October).
- **Outreach, engagements and presentations:**

The Public Education Unit provides support to communities in each of the five EMCR regions by giving presentations, attending events and hosting tradeshow booths, often alongside regional staff. Additionally, preparedness presentations or webinars are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Earthquake Early Warning (EEW):**

The EEW system was launched in B.C. in May 2024. The system was installed and is operated by Natural Resources Canada, but EMCR is responsible for public education and awareness. Work is ongoing 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:**

PreparedBC is heavily focussed on engaging with the public online. This is supported by X, Facebook, Instagram and the EMCR corporate website. The online interactive home emergency planner and EMCR blog were launched in May 2024 and are managed by the Public Education Unit.
- **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.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Public education content and materials are developed in partnership with Indigenous organizations such as First Nations Emergency Services Society, First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Health Authority.
- All public education materials are available to Indigenous communities (digital and hardcopy) for free.
- The Master of Disaster program includes Indigenous traditional knowledge and stories to help teach young people about preparedness and the link between nature and emergencies.
- Public Education Officers attend public events and tradeshow hosted by Indigenous communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- See Attachment 1 - Public Education Annual Report - 2023_FINAL

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1 - Public Education Annual Report - 2023_FINAL

PREPARED BY:

Lisa Barrett,
Manager, Public Education

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	16/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	16/10/2024
ADM	SW	16/10/2024

Public Education Annual Report 2023



A year in review

2023 marks a year of growth for the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness's (EMCR) Public Education Team, also known as Prepared BC. With a strong base and recognizable brand, the team is able to confidently adapt and support EMCR through changing hazard seasons and at every phase of emergency management. The team expanded its reach and increased engagement through an updated social media strategy, strengthening existing partnerships and increasing attendance at in-person events. This report reflects on the successes of Prepared BC and outlines exciting opportunities for 2024.

Prepared BC Guiding Principle

"Increase resilience throughout British Columbia by providing accurate, meaningful, and relevant emergency preparedness information, and support Indigenous communities, local authorities, and our partners in their preparedness efforts and actions."

01 Social Media

14,000 engagements (likes, shares, comments)

↑ 43%

5,000 new followers

3 contests with 1,953 participants



Launched Prepared BC Instagram

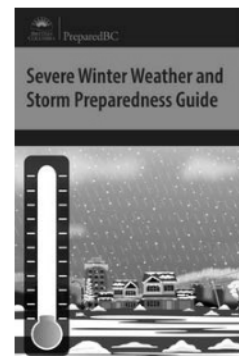
02 Preparedness Guides

148,077 guides distributed

estimated print cost: \$65,000

109 communities received Prepared BC materials

↑ 43%



Launched severe winter weather and storm preparedness guide

2 additional guides translated into 5 languages

03 Web

361,049 page views at PreparedBC.ca

68% of total EMCR web traffic

1,929 page views on social media toolkits

Updated to improve accessibility



Top webpage

118,100 guide downloads

↑ 21%

04 Events and Webinars



15 webinars

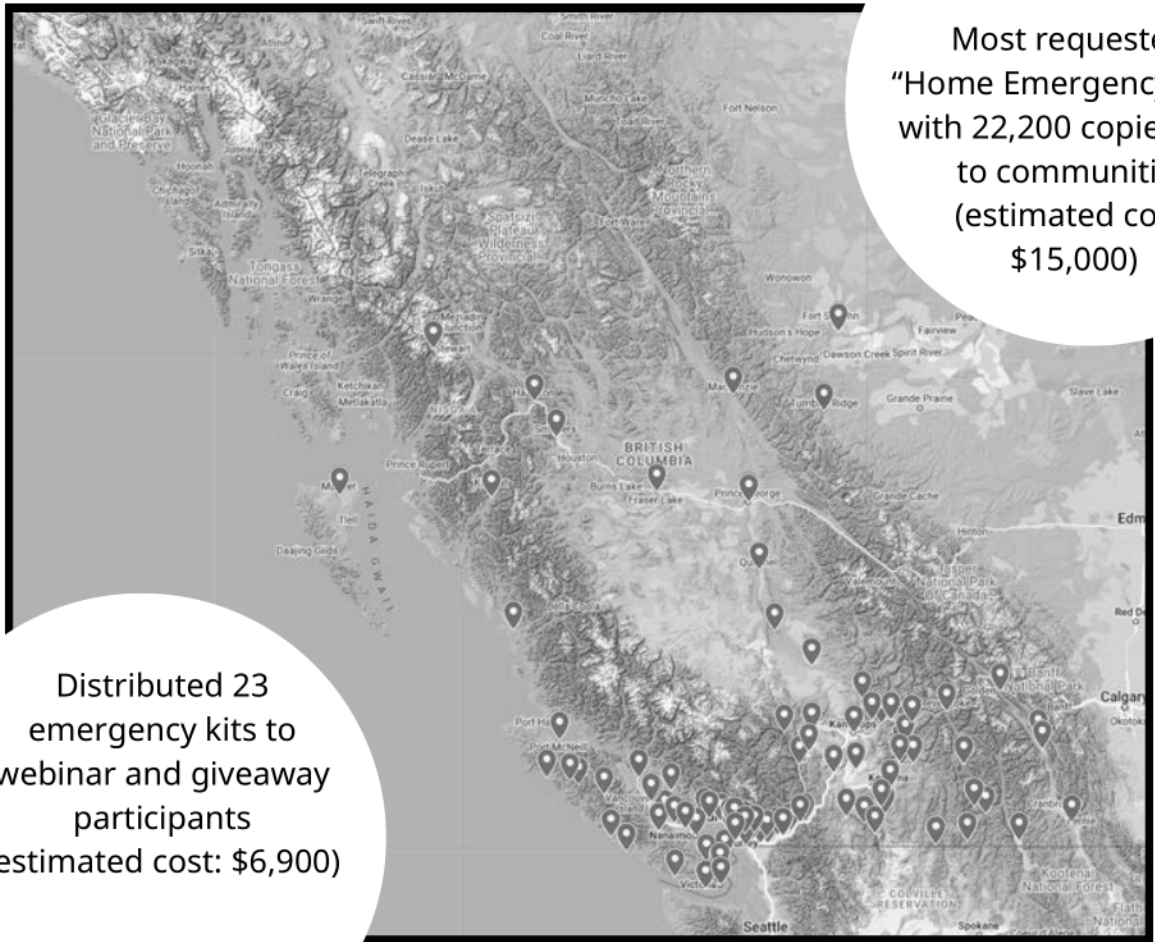
12 in-person events

2,521 people engaged



Distribution of Prepared BC Guides and Emergency Kits

-  Emergency Kit
-  Prepared BC Guides




Education Programs

The Public Education Team leads annual campaigns, programs and promotional weeks, and also supports the cycle of seasonal hazards with preparedness messaging and resources. The focus is not only on raising awareness of the importance of being prepared, but also on changing behaviours so preparedness actions become second nature.




Wildfire social media
June - September

- 1,500 new followers
- 296 social media posts
- 11,300 downloads of Wildfire Preparedness Guide




May 17 - 13

- 2 webinars
- 707 participants
- 67 social media posts
- 582 new followers



April 9 - 15

- 15 community events
- 351 resource downloads
- 281 participants in "know your zone" contest



October 19

- Formed cross-government Working Group with 12 ministries participating
- 57 toolkit downloads

New Initiatives in 2023



Regional Assignments

All Public Education Officers have been assigned to provide public education and outreach support to each of the EMCR Regions.



Earthquake Early Warning

Worked with Natural Resources Canada to launch a public education campaign to raise awareness of the Canadian Earthquake Early Warning System launch in April 2024.

Looking Forward to 2024

- Work with GCPE to launch an educational ad campaign about earthquake early warning
- Host High Ground Hike in 20 communities
- Launch wildfire insurance education campaign with FireSmart
- Develop blog with ClimateReadyBC team
- Implement in-person outreach strategy and attend at least 15 events
- Act as subject matter expert as PSA takes lead for government-wide ShakeOut plans
- Build regional relationships to reach 50 new communities
- Update Earthquake and Tsunami Guide & Apartments and Condos Guide



Master of Disaster Program

In 2023

- Attended 3 events, reaching nearly 300 educators
- 21,274 products distributed (159% increase)
 - Estimated print cost \$35,000
- 671 orders (321 within BC, 350 outside BC)

Planning for 2024

- Working to increase the number of schools and educational organizations delivering Master of Disaster
- Analyzing user data to inform program improvements

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, All-Hazard Plan

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) leads and coordinates the cross-government work to strengthen the Province's ability to prepare for emergencies and disasters to protect British Columbians.
- The Emergency Management and Disaster Act (EDMA) introduced new statutory rules for a province-wide emergency management plan, referred to in EDMA as the 'Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan' (CEMP).
- The CEMP is the emergency plan for government that includes:
 - All-Hazard Plan (AHP): overall provincial operations, governance, and responsibilities
 - Hazard specific plans as assigned to Lead Ministries through the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation (EDMR)
 - Support and functional annexes, such as communication, evacuation, or resource management
- EDMA mandates certain requirements for the CEMP, including that it must:
 - apply throughout BC;
 - be developed, implemented and maintained in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) and in consultation and coordination with local authorities;
 - include the emergency management plans developed by Lead Ministers; and
 - be made public by the provincial administrator when it is complete.
- EDMA also sets out requirements for Lead Minister plans and requires that all ministers take emergency measures identified in the CEMP.
- Lead Ministry emergency management plans for assigned hazards are required to:
 - Be based on available risk assessments;
 - Incorporate Indigenous knowledge, if available;
 - Promote cultural safety;
 - Consider intersectional disadvantage;
 - Outline roles, powers and duties;
 - Include measures across all four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;
 - Include requirements for emergency resources and procedures for emergency systems; and
 - Outline training and exercising requirements.

- The current AHP was published in 2012 and outlines the framework for emergency and disasters in B.C. to coordinate provincial integrated response. It does not include mitigation, preparedness, or recovery.
- EMCR has been assigned as the lead ministry for earthquake, tsunami, and volcano hazards, and as a co-lead for the extreme temperature hazard.

DISCUSSION:

- As part of the EDMA implementation, EMCR is updating the All-Hazard Plan by Spring 2025 as a first step to update the CEMP and meet EDMA requirements.
- The updated AHP will modernize, clarify, and define important themes across hazards and phases of emergency management, such as roles and responsibilities, communication, and coordination.
- It will also outline provincial measures applicable across hazards to build cohesiveness across emergency management practices and support lead ministers in meeting emergency management planning obligations under EDMA.
- The AHP will continue to be updated over the next 4-5 years to incorporate ongoing feedback and improvements identified by EMCR, IGBs, local authorities and other partners, and/or future regulatory requirements under EDMA.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EDMA requires the CEMP be developed, implemented, and maintained in consultation and cooperation with IGBs. EMCR has been engaging with IGBs and local authorities since April 2024 on the All-Hazard Plan development.
- Engagement with IGBs for the AHP is built on a distinctions-based approach. It will include discussions and development of content alongside First Nations to ensure an integrated and inclusive approach that meets the spirit and intent of the EDMA and Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The EDMA defines and governs emergency management planning requirements for all ministries.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- First draft of updated All-Hazard Plan to be shared with partners: winter 2025
- Consultation, cooperation and coordination: winter 2025
- Final updated All-Hazard Plan published: spring 2025

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

Prepared by:

Sarah Thompson
Director, Provincial Emergency
Management Planning and
Government Continuity
Disaster Risk Management

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	05/11/2024
ADM	KF	05/11/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA)

BACKGROUND:

- The DCRRA is a previous joint mandate of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) to lead the development of a climate and disaster risk and resilience assessment. A provincial assessment will be completed in Winter 2025 and will be followed by regional assessments.
- The intended outcomes of the provincial assessment are to
 - (I) assess risk and resilience in a way that can inform a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy, and investments in disaster and climate risk reduction and management in B.C., and
 - (II) provide a framework of information, analysis tools and guidance for use by ministries, local authorities and other regulated entities to meet risk assessment requirements under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA).
- The DCRRA will support the Province to meet risk assessment obligations under EDMA and the *Climate Change Accountability Act*.
- EDMA will require regulated entities to undertake risk assessments that consider equity, climate change, and use the best available local and Indigenous knowledge. The DCRRA will support regulated entities to meet these requirements with data and a scalable risk assessment methodology.
- The provincial DCRRA assesses six hazards, including extreme heat, water scarcity and drought, wildfire, coastal and riverine flooding, earthquake, and a multi-hazard event. Priority hazards for the regional assessments are still to be determined.
- The Province will make data, analysis and other products from the DCRRA available through ClimateReadyBC; an online platform designed to provide guidance on disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports.
- The DCRRA is being developed in collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations, taking a distinctions-based approach, and through engagement with government, industry, critical infrastructure owners, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other key partners.
- The DCRRA aligns with the United Nations Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and is building on the 2019 provincial climate risk assessment by including local and Indigenous knowledge, equity-focused analysis, and outputs that provide value to communities.

DISCUSSION:

- The provincial assessment is on track for completion and public release in early 2025. The key deliverables are:
 - Geospatial analysis and dashboard on ClimateReadyBC, including spatial information on hazards, assets, and population exposure distribution.
The dashboard is intended to support regulated entities to conduct risk assessments by providing geospatial data in a consistent format that is accessible in one place.
 - The final report will include hazard and value assessments, insights from geospatial analyses, extreme event scenarios to support understanding of hazards, change in likelihood of hazard events with climate change, disproportionate impacts on equity-deserving groups, as well as case studies.
- Further in-depth regional assessments will begin in 2025. Regional assessments will include increased scope for additional hazards, to be determined through engagement on regional priorities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Province is committed to developing the provincial and regional assessments in collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations. EMCR is working with Indigenous peoples taking a distinctions-based approach that aligns with the B.C. First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- A First Nations' Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk was established to collaborate on the development of the DCRRA and related initiatives. The Committee consists of Rights and Title holder representatives who have experience and expertise in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and risk assessment. The Committee has met regularly throughout the DCRRA process and continues to be engaged in providing input on draft products.
- Engagement with First Nations and Indigenous organizations on the DCRRA and related initiatives occurred in April 2024. First Nations are also being engaged in beta testing the DCRRA geospatial analysis dashboard before its public release in early 2025.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The following ministries are engaged in DCRRA through the ED Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk and the ADM and DMC DREM committees: AF, CITZ, EDUC, EMCR, EMLI, ENV, FIN, FOR, GCPE, HLTH, HOUS, IRR, JEDI, LBR, MUNI, PREM, PSFS, PSSG, SDPR, TACS, TRAN, WLRS.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Release of geospatial analysis dashboard to Ministries and external professionals (beta-version, password protected) – Fall 2024
- Final provincial report review and approvals – Fall 2024

- Approval for public release of provincial assessment report – Winter 2025
- Further development of the methodology prior to regional assessments – Fall/Winter 2024/25

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Advice/Recommendations

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Lotz
Policy Analyst
Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	01/10/2024
ADM/EFO	SW	26/09/2024
ADM	KF	23/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy for B.C.

BACKGROUND:

- B.C. adopted the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2018. While the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) aligns with key principles of Sendai, the Province has yet to holistically implement the UN framework.
- In December 2022, EMCR received a mandate to develop a disaster and climate risk reduction plan that is informed by the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and “assesses risk priorities and systematically coordinate and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.”
- EMCR's 2024/24-2026/27 Service Plan established a target to complete and publish the plan in fiscal 2025/26, following the delivery of the DCRRA in 2024/25. In 2024, EMCR Senior Executive Team (SET) determined that a risk reduction *strategy* is needed instead of a plan to establish a strategic framework for government action.
- The Strategic Initiatives Branch (SIB) is developing a Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (ENV). First Nations and local governments are expected to be key partners in this work. The DCRRS is currently in Phase I: Building Understanding and Evidence.
- The DCRRA will not rank hazards or prioritize risks for B.C. but will instead consolidate information on five priority hazards, outline possible extreme event scenarios, and provide qualitative assessments of how each hazard poses risks to identified values.

DISCUSSION:

- Disaster risks are a significant area of concern for the public. Focus groups funded by EMCR in early 2024 found that citizens view disasters as ‘the new normal’ in B.C.; believe government is failing to keep up with the scale and pace of increasing risk; and have a strong desire to see more proactive planning, investment, and communication.
- Under EDMA, regulated entities will be required to conduct risk assessments and develop emergency management plans. While EDMA represents a significant change in emergency management, regulated entities have raised serious concerns about their ability to meet the new legislative requirements without additional resources.
- B.C. has made important investments in risk reduction (e.g., moving to year-round Wildfire Service, launching the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Fund). However, the scope and scale of risks in B.C. far outweighs the resources available to address them. As such, effective and evidence-based prioritization of investments is crucial.
- Currently, provincial actions on disaster and climate risk reduction are fragmented and often hazard-specific, making it difficult for decision-makers to prioritize key areas for government investment. Strategies and plans have been developed but not funded, which is both inefficient and degrading trust with First Nations and partners.

- There is a clear opportunity for the DCRRS to play a role in setting cross-government priorities and coordinating action on disaster and climate risk reduction, while also advancing implementation of EDMA and the Sendai Framework.

Advice/Recommendations

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately affected by disasters due to the history and ongoing legacies of colonization, dispossession, and systemic discrimination.
- SIB has initiated collaboration on the DCRRS with the First Nations Committee on Disaster and Climate Risk (“the First Nations Committee”), in alignment with the *Declaration Act* and EMCR’s mandate to establish Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management.
- The First Nations Committee was established in early 2024 to collaborate with EMCR on provincial disaster and climate risk reduction initiatives. It includes representation from 14 diverse First Nations Rights and Title Holders from across B.C. Members are experts in emergency management, climate adaptation, and land stewardship.
- EMCR anticipates developing a consultation and cooperation plan in collaboration with the First Nations Committee to guide the Province’s approach to involving Rights and Title Holders and Indigenous organizations in the development of the DCRRS.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR has conducted internal engagement interviews with over 130 staff from across government to understand what work is being done across government and identify key gaps and opportunities for the DCRRS. Findings will be synthesized in Fall 2024.
- ENV has a mandate to work with EMCR on the development of the DCRRS and has been an engaged and active partner with one FTE dedicated to this work.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

Advice/Recommendations

- EMCR has engaged Cabinet Operations and Treasury Board Staff who have agreed to offer support in navigating decision-making processes and timelines.

PREPARED BY:

Emma Squires
Senior Policy Analyst
Strategic Initiatives

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	27/09/2024
ADM	KF	26/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: The Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program

BACKGROUND:

- The Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program was announced by the Province on June 18, 2024. The DRIF program supports First Nations and local governments in British Columbia to enhance their capacity to withstand and adapt to natural and climate-driven hazards such as droughts, erosion, extreme temperatures, storms, floods, landslides, and tsunamis. Wildfire risk reduction projects are funded through the Ministry of Forests and, therefore, are not eligible under the DRIF program.
- First Nations, local governments, and other organizations have provided substantial feedback related to funding program design through several government engagement processes, including the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, development of the BC Flood Strategy and the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, EMCR Partnerships Tables, and reviews of other federal and provincial funding programs. Common themes emerged from these engagements, including the need for accessible, stable, long-term all-hazard disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation funding that reduces the application and project management burden.
- The program is designed to break down barriers to funding at all stages in the program from development of an evergreen expression of interest (EOI) to project implementation and reporting. It is also the first funding program that allows a verbal expression of interest to make the program more accessible to First Nations and small local governments.
- Funding is allocated through two streams:
 - **Stream 1:** Foundational and Non-Structural Projects for activities that support proponents to improve their understanding of risks, risk reduction strategies, and take non-structural actions to reduce those risks such as land-use planning, engagement, or equipment. Stream 1 can fund up to 100% of project costs up to \$400,000 per partner applicant.
 - **Stream 2:** Structural projects for infrastructure construction, replacement, or upgrades, including nature-based solutions. Stream 2 can cover up to 100% of eligible costs, with a maximum contribution of \$5 million per partner applicant, with a total cap of \$15 million per EOI for Stream 2.
- The program area will review EOIs submitted by September 15th for funding in 2024/25. EOIs submitted after this date will be considered in a future year.

DISCUSSION:

- DRIF adds a long-term stable funding source to the suite of time-limited funding programs provided by the federal and provincial governments, responding to the need for funding communities can rely on and plan for. While EMCR manages a

number of federal-provincial cost share programs and the federal government has historically provided time-limited funding programs, these programs have not been topped up and no federal announcements have been made for their replacement.

- EMCR's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) had its last intake for the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) stream on October 4, 2024. There are no future intakes scheduled for this program and it is anticipated that the remaining funding allocated to this stream will be committed through this intake. The DRR-CA program funds similar projects to DRIF and had two intakes per year. The average intake has funded \$43.7 million in projects.
- Funding for the DRIF Program was included in budget 2023, with \$15 million in 2024/25 and \$25 million in 2025/26 and beyond.

Government Financial Information

- Eligible EOIs that are not recommended for funding this year will be considered in future years. Each community can have up to three active EOIs in each stream at any given time and must prioritize their requests. It is anticipated that the spring cut-off will have fewer new EOIs.
- The program team and the IT department have received capital funding for Government Financial Information to develop an IT system to support the necessary functionality for financial, contract, and project management. This system will integrate with other ministry systems such as the Disaster Financial Assistance program, to support reporting out on ministry investments and expenditures.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- First Nations in BC are eligible to apply to the DRIF program.
- All projects must include engagement with local First Nations communities and organizations before full proposal development and throughout the project. This is mandatory to ensure that concerns related to downstream project impacts, equity denied populations, and reconciliation are appropriately raised and addressed.

Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- For EOI and full proposal reviews, subject matter experts (SMEs) from EMCR and other ministries are involved. This includes SMEs from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and others as relevant to project reviews. During these reviews, SMEs can identify potential projects that they support or that they have concerns about.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- EOIs will be reviewed for eligibility and then marked by an internal technical committee who will provide recommendations for the 2024/25 funding year. After interregnum, these projects will be presented to ADMs, the Deputy Minister of EMCR will approve the final package, and the successful EOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- A similar project selection process will occur for fiscal year 25/26. The program team anticipates that the DRIF program will have cutoff dates for future years in the spring and fall.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 and onward
\$15 million	\$25 million	\$25 million	\$25 million

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Britney Irvine
 Senior Technical Officer
 Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation
 Programs

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	04/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	03/10/2024
CFO	DL	27/09/2024
ADM	MC	26/09/2024
ADM	KF	25/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

BACKGROUND:

- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams that support First Nations and local governments to prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is provided by the Province and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).
- Since its establishment in 2017, the Province has committed \$369 million to the CEPF.
- The CEPF offers six funding streams, including the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) stream, and five preparedness streams.
- The DRR-CA stream supports applicants to reduce risks from disasters due to natural hazards and climate change through foundational (e.g., flood mapping, risk assessments, planning), non-structural (e.g., bylaw development, community education, temporary mitigation structures), and structural projects (e.g., dike construction, creek daylighting, wetland restoration).
- The DRR-CA funding stream can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$150,000 per applicant for foundational and non-structural projects, and \$5M for small-scale structural projects.
- There are five CEPF preparedness streams: Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training; Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training; Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training; Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning; and Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training.
- The CEPF preparedness streams can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$40,000.

DISCUSSION:

- To date, the CEPF has approved approximately \$280.5 million of the total \$369 million for approximately 2,100 projects. CEPF has a total of \$87.9 million remaining across all streams.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- UBCM can use up to 5% of the total \$369 million for administration, approximately \$18.4 million. Currently, it is projected that UBCM will only use \$4.4 million, leaving \$14 million to be redistributed to future intakes.

- Advice/Recommendations

-

- The next scheduled CEPF intakes are:
 - Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training stream: October 18, 2024
 - Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training stream: November 1, 2024
 - Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training: January 31, 2025
 - Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training: February 28, 2025
 - Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning: April 25, 2025

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) in B.C. are eligible to apply to all CEPF streams, and all projects must include engagement with impacted and affected parties, including First Nations, local governments, and equity-denied populations. to be eligible.

- Intergovernmental Communications

-

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- For application reviews, subject matter experts (SMEs) from EMCR and other ministries are involved. This includes SMEs from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and others as relevant to

project reviews. During these reviews, SMEs can identify potential projects that they support or that they have concerns about.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Advice/Recommendations

-

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

ATTACHMENT(S):
N/A

PREPARED BY:

Britney Irvine
Senior Technical
Officer
Disaster Mitigation
and Adaptation
Programs

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
CFO	DL	27/09/2024
ADM	MC	26/09/2024
ADM	KF	26/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Funding Programs

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supports First Nations and local governments to advance disaster risk reduction through several funding programs, including provincial programs and federal/provincial cost shared programs.
- A 2019 Public Safety of Canada study found that for every \$1 invested in disaster mitigation, \$7 to \$10 can be avoided in post-disaster recovery costs.
- Since 2017, the Province has provided approximately \$468 million in provincial funding to First Nations and local governments for more than 2,200 disaster preparedness and mitigation projects through funding programs administered through EMCR's Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Programs (DMAP) team. These programs are:

1. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams that support First Nations and local governments to prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is provided by the Province and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).
- The CEPF offers six funding streams, including the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) stream, and five preparedness streams.
- Since its establishment in 2017, the Province has committed \$369 million to the CEPF.
- Government Financial Information
- Advice/Recommendations
- See Appendix 1 for more information on funding limits, and upcoming intake dates, and Appendix 2 for a financial breakdown by stream. For more information see the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Transition Note.

2. Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation Program (partnership with Housing, Infrastructure & Communities Canada)

- The Adaptation Resilience & Disaster Mitigation Program (ARDM) is a sub stream of the larger federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), which is managed through an agreement between the Ministry of

- Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC). ARDM falls under two different ICIP streams, the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS ARDM) and the Green Infrastructure Stream (Green ARDM).
- ARDM supports projects that increase structural and/or natural capacity to reduce or negate the effects of flooding. Maximum project cost is \$10 million for a single applicant, or \$20 million for a regional application.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- No future intakes are scheduled and all funds for this program have been disbursed. The DMAP team will continue to manage the active projects to completion.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

3. National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) – Partnership with Public Safety Canada

- The National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) was established in 2016 to provide funding for flood mitigation projects including non-structural mitigation (flood risk assessments, flood mapping, and mitigation planning) and small-scale structural mitigation (upgrading existing diking structures to improve resilience).

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- There are no future intakes for this program. The DMAP team will continue to manage the active projects to completion.

4. EMCR's Disaster Mitigation Program Grants

- The DMAP has \$6.94 million in its base budget to fund disaster mitigation projects, including grants to First Nations and local governments. Disaster mitigation projects are also funded through ad-hoc grants and year-end funding.
- Since 2017, the program has funded 32 projects totaling approximately \$120.1 million in provincial funding through ad hoc grants and year end funding. 24 projects have completed, and 8 are in progress. See Appendix 2 for a financial breakdown.
- Funded projects include flood mapping, structural flood mitigation (dikes, pump stations, etc.), seismic projects (micro zonation mapping, and

earthquake early warning), and avalanche risk assessments.
Advice/Recommendations

5. Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program

- Through Budget 2023, the Province increased EMCR's base budget for mitigation and preparedness by \$5 million for 2023/24, \$15 million for 2024/25, and \$25 million for 2025/26 onwards to support First Nations and local government projects that strengthen defences against natural and climate-driven hazards, such as floods, drought, extreme heat, and landslides. For more information see the Disaster Resilience & Innovation Funding Program Transition Note.

Government Financial Information

- EMCR also provides high level input to our federal funding partners who administer programs without provincial contributions, including the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and the Natural Infrastructure Fund.
- DMAF funds large-scale mitigation projects. Projects must have a minimum of \$1 million in total eligible costs to be considered for funding, with no cap.
- There are no future intakes scheduled for the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund or the Natural Infrastructure Fund, and no other federal disaster mitigation funding programs currently active or announced.

DISCUSSION:

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- There is currently no federal commitment to renew the NDMP, ARDM, or DMAF programs. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

See the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Transition Note for more information.

- There remains a significant need for stable, long-term, and easily accessible disaster mitigation and adaptation funding for First Nations and local governments that supports projects of all scales, and communities both before and after a disaster event.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Since 2017, EMCR's disaster mitigation programs have funded 135 First Nations communities for 485 projects totalling \$97.5 million, of which \$60.8 million is provincial funds.
- When it began, CEPF was only open to Treaty First Nations, but in fiscal year 2019/20, CEPF was opened to all First Nations in BC.
- First Nations were eligible applicants under the ARDM, and NDMP programs.
- First Nations are eligible applicants under the DRIF program.
- All approved projects must include engagement with impacted and affected parties, including First Nations, local governments, and equity-denied populations.
- Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- During program development and proposal reviews, subject matter experts (SMEs) from EMCR and other ministries are involved. This includes SMEs from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and others.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

Advice/Recommendations

-
-
- The need for federal funding programs that support medium and large-scale disaster mitigation projects in British Columbia is well-documented. Intergovernmental Communications
Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

Additional federal funding for disaster mitigation is essential to meet BC's needs.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Appendix 1 provides a summary of total commitments to date by funding program since 2017.
- Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of total investments by stream.

PREPARED BY:

Robyn Johansen
Funding Program Manager
Disaster Risk Management Branch

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/10/2024
A/CFO	SM	09/10/2024
ADM	KF	09/10/2024

Appendix 1 – Active Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Programs

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) program

Eligible Applicants: All First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) and local governments (municipalities and regional districts) in BC are eligible to apply.

CEPF programs	Eligible projects	Max amount	Next Intake
Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation	Risk mapping, risk assessments, planning, non-structural projects, small-scale structural projects.	\$150,000 - \$5M max	Closed
Emergency Operations Centers Equipment and Training	Purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs, EOC training and exercises.	\$40,000 max	February 28, 2025
Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training	Volunteer recruitment, retention, and training, including in-house training, purchase of ESS equipment.	\$40,000 max	January 31, 2025
Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training	Cultural safety & humility training, adapting emergency management tools to be inclusive of Indigenous peoples, activities related to providing assistance to Indigenous communities during emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, & recovery.	\$40,000 max	November 1, 2024
Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning	Public notification and evacuation route planning.	\$40,000 max	April 25, 2025
Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training	Purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.	\$40,000 max	October 18, 2024

The Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program

Eligible applicants: All First Nations and local governments in BC are eligible to apply.

General Overview	Eligible projects	Max amount	Next Intake
Funding for projects that strengthen defences against natural and climate-driven hazards, such as: floods, drought, extreme heat, and landslides.	Risk mapping, risk assessments, planning, non-structural projects, natural infrastructure projects, small-scale structural projects.	\$400,000 - \$5M, \$15M max for regional applicants	Spring 2025, TBD

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness

BACKGROUND:

- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) identifies EMCR as the lead ministry responsible for creating risk assessments and emergency management plans for earthquakes.
- In 2014, the Office of the Auditor General released the Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014), and the Province released the BC Earthquake Consultation Report (2014), both of which identified shortcomings in BC's earthquake preparedness.
- In 2015, EMCR published the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP). The IRP was updated in 2022 with the Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS).
- In 2016, EMCR established a multi-year exercise program to improve preparedness for complex emergency events that require a multi-jurisdictional response and also conducted BC's first, full-scale earthquake exercise.
- In 2023, EMCR conducted Exercise Coastal Response, a large-scale, provincial exercise that included over 1,500 participants and 50 agencies exercising capabilities to improve disaster preparedness and response to a catastrophic earthquake event.
- PreparedBC, EMCR's public education program, is responsible for sharing earthquake preparedness information through regular social media posts and campaigns, information at public events and booths, and webinars. PreparedBC partners with the BC Earthquake Alliance every October to encourage participation in ShakeOutBC – an annual earthquake preparedness drill for individuals, communities, schools, and organizations.
- During response to provincially significant emergencies, EMCR leads cross-government coordination of emergency response through the following:
 - Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee (M-DEC)
 - Deputy Ministers' Emergency Committee (DM-EC)
 - Assistant Deputy Ministers' Emergency Committee (ADM-EC)
- Senior Officials are equipped with communication tools and procedures to ensure situational awareness and decision-making in the immediate aftermath of an event, to support continuity of government and critical services. These tools and systems are exercised annually.
- Core Policy 16 outlines Business Continuity Management requirements and practices for Ministries to plan for the resumption of critical government services and functions in emergencies and business disruptions.

- Every ministry has identified the critical services they provide and has business continuity plans in place. Each Ministry has a Ministry Operations Centre (MOC), which would activate to support their ministries should business continuity plans be overwhelmed. In a catastrophic earthquake, all MOCs would activate to support government continuity.

DISCUSSION:

- EMCR enhances catastrophic earthquake preparedness in collaboration with partners through the ongoing development of plans, training, exercising, public education, agreements, and measures in seismic mitigation.
- The Province has a Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS) that details how the Province will lead and coordinate immediately following a catastrophic earthquake and articulates the roles and responsibilities of emergency management partners.
- EMCR's 2023 to 2028 exercise program will continue with a variety of activities to improve provincial disaster preparedness leading up to the 2028 Exercise Coastal Response.
- EMCR maintains a surge capacity of staff from across the public service as members of the Coordinated Operation Response in Emergencies (CORE) team. These staff are trained in foundation level provincial Emergency Management (EM) and offer both staff capacity for emergency operation centres and subject matter expertise in their fields.
- The Province is a committed partner to Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) national Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system. EMCR's role is to coordinate public alerting, support public education and actions people need to take to protect themselves through EEW.
- In a catastrophic event, and on recommendation from EMCR, the Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee (M-DEC) may be activated to coordinate provincial response.
- Chaired by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, M-DEC facilitates high-level information sharing and decision-making, provides high-level policy decisions and strategic direction, authorizes extraordinary activities, and ensures the full support of all ministries, crown corporations and agencies as part of an integrated government response.
- The EDMA outlines new requirements for risk assessments, emergency management plans, and business continuity plans for hazard-lead ministries.
- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) will be delivered in early 2025 and will examine provincial risks resulting from a major earthquake scenario, among other hazards. The DCRRA will inform an updated earthquake plan, Core Policy 16, and the next catastrophic exercise to meet EDMA requirements.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EDMA requires risk assessments and emergency management plans to be developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs).

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All ministries have roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic event, detailed in PEIRS.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A

PREPARED BY:

Sarah Thompson
Director, Provincial Emergency
Management Planning and
Government Continuity
Disaster Risk Management

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
ADM	KF	26/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Provincial Disaster Preparedness

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) leads and coordinates Provincial Disaster Preparedness through planning, training, and exercising and continuity of government to support readiness for emergencies and disasters.
- EMCR also provides support to First Nations, local authorities, and other agencies by creating publicly available tools, templates, and guidance to guide preparedness efforts across the province.
- The *Emergency Management and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) outlines new measures to enhance preparedness for lead Ministers and future regulated entities, including new requirements for emergency management plans that:
 - Are created in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs), and in consultation and coordination with local authorities;
 - Are based on a risk assessment;
 - Include actions across all four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery);
 - Outline roles, responsibilities, emergency resources and procedures for engaging emergency systems;
 - Outline plans to train on and exercise the plan;
 - Consider disproportionate impacts of emergencies to people, animals, places, or things, particularly those who may experience intersectional disadvantage; and,
 - Promote cultural safety.
- EDMA also requires regulated entities to prepare business continuity plans.
- Within EMCR, the Disaster Preparedness Branch in the Disaster Risk Management Division oversees three programs to advance, lead, and coordinate provincial preparedness activities and implement EDMA priorities and outcomes: Provincial Planning, Training and Exercising, and Provincial Business Continuity.

DISCUSSION:

- As part of the EDMA implementation, EMCR is updating the All-Hazard Plan (AHP) as a first step to update the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and working with ministries responsible for hazard-specific risk assessments, emergency management plans and business continuity plans.
- The updated AHP will modernize, clarify, and define important themes across hazards and phases of emergency management, such as roles and responsibilities, communication, and coordination to enhance all-of-government preparedness. It will

also support lead Ministers in meeting emergency management planning obligations under the EDMA.

- EMCR provides leadership and guidance for emergency management training and standards and works closely with technical training institutions and emergency management training providers to build provincial capacity for emergency response and recovery operations.
- Within the contracted services from post-secondary service providers, local authorities and First Nations communities can access training, consisting of emergency management, emergency support services, and search and rescue training. During the 2023/24 fiscal year this amounted to over 225 courses, reaching more than 8,500 participants.
- EMCR's exercise program supports all-of-government preparedness for complex emergency events, testing provincial capabilities based on known hazards, risks and vulnerabilities. In 2023, Exercise Coastal Response, a large-scale, provincial catastrophic preparedness exercise included over 1,500 participants and 50 agencies exercising capabilities to improve catastrophic preparedness and response.
- The 2023 to 2028 exercise program will continue with a variety of activities to improve provincial disaster preparedness leading up to the 2028 Exercise Coastal Response.
- EMCR manages the Provincial Business Continuity Program to support ministries' alignment to Core Policy and EDMA requirements, providing leadership, coordination, and guidance to ministry Business Continuity Advisors to reduce risk to critical government services and ensure continuity of operations in emergencies and other disruptions.
- EMCR also regularly conducts after action reviews to incorporate lessons learned from exercises and disasters into emergency management programs, policies, and plans.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EDMA requires the CEMP be developed, implemented, and maintained in consultation and cooperation with IGBs.
- Engagement with IGBs for the AHP is built on a distinctions-based approach and will include discussions and development of content alongside Indigenous peoples.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All ministries have preparedness obligations outlined under the EDMA. EMCR coordinates Provincial preparedness activities in partnership with them.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Sarah Thompson
Director, Provincial Emergency
Management Planning and
Government Continuity
Disaster Risk Management

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
ADM	KF	26/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Climate Adaptation & Disaster Risk Focus Group Finding - Public perceptions of disaster and climate risks

BACKGROUND:

- In early 2024, EMCR partnered with GCPE to refresh our understanding of public perceptions of disasters and climate change and how we can most effectively communicate with the public on these issues. This refresh was to inform upcoming communications related to the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and the Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Strategy (DCRRS).
- A series of 10 focus groups were held across five regions of the province, including rural and urban areas. Participants were recruited to represent a mix of ages (23-75), genders and socioeconomic backgrounds. In total, 76 people were engaged as participants.

DISCUSSION:

- Summary results of the GCPE/EMCR qualitative research is included in Appendix 1.
- Key learnings include:
 - There is a high degree of awareness and concern regarding natural disaster risks in B.C. Every participant had first-hand experience with some level of impact from extreme weather events in recent years, and feelings of anxiety and fear were frequently reported. When prompted, most people implicitly understood that climate change is a primary driver of this increase.
 - Participants believe that governments are failing to keep up with the scale and pace of change and to adequately prepare for/reduce risks. They expressed a strong desire for governments to be more proactive in planning, investing, and communication related to risk reduction and preparedness.
 - People understand that managing disaster risks is a shared responsibility and want to feel a sense of agency from doing their part to be prepared themselves. However, people are currently overwhelmed with other aspects of life (e.g., cost of living) and need governments to make it easier and more accessible for them to take action to reduce risk.
 - People value transparency and 'straight talk' about immediate concerns, problems, and actions. Many participants referenced the handling of the COVID crisis as good example of government keeping residents informed during crises, including the daily public briefings from a trusted apolitical subject matter expert.
- The above learnings suggest there is a window of opportunity to increase public trust through open and honest communication of risks and by clearly demonstrating what

actions Government is taking to address risks. Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations

- Longer term, the DCRRS should consider how to harness this public ethos of individual preparedness to advance overall resilience in B.C. It should also consider how we can build trust with the public by improving Government communications before, during, and after emergencies, and how information can be centralized and/or made more accessible to different audiences.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- N/A

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- GCPE

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- None

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Appendix 1: Summary of Focus Group Findings

PREPARED BY:

Emma Squires
Senior Policy Analyst
Strategic Initiatives

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	04/10/2024
A/ADM	AM	03/10/2024

Climate Adaptation & Disaster Risks Research Summary

May 22, 2024

*Summary results of GCPE/EMCR Qualitative Research
In-person and online focus groups conducted March 5-14, 2024*

Methodology

Five pairs of English language focus groups (10 in total) were held with local residents from:

- Langley/Abbotsford – March 5th, 2024 (in-person)
- Richmond/Delta – March 6th, 2024 (in-person)
- Northeast – March 7th, 2024 (online)
- Kamloops – March 13th, 2024 (in-person)
- Vernon – March 14th, 2024 (in-person)

Recruitment screened for Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents who had been living in B.C. for at least the past 12 months. A mix of ages (23-75), genders and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Each pair of groups per location was separated by gender. The final composition included 37 men and 39 women from Abbotsford, Langley, Mission, Richmond, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Tumbler Ridge, Kamloops and Vernon.

Research was designed by EMCR and GCPE, with fieldwork and reporting by Stratcom, and moderation by Suzanne Hawkes.

Executive Summary

1. People have high awareness and concern regarding natural disaster risks
2. Climate change is implicit backdrop to conversations of natural disasters and extreme weather
3. Most people have little or no knowledge of current government actions to mitigate and prepare for climate-fueled extreme weather events
4. Disaster risks provoke anxiety, stress and fear, but many are overwhelmed with other aspects of life (e.g., cost of living, housing) so don't have the mental and emotional bandwidth to engage on these issues
5. Most people do not feel their households, their communities, or government are well prepared for disasters

Executive Summary (cont'd)

6. People are likely to disengage on issues of disaster risk if they feel overwhelmed and don't see a way to contribute productively
7. People see disaster risks as shared responsibility and want to do their part
8. Having a plan and sense of agency allows most people to translate negative feelings into productive actions
9. There is strong support for more proactive government planning, investment, and communication to raise awareness and readiness
10. During emergencies, people most want to hear from front-line workers and subject-matter experts (e.g. firefighters, doctors)
11. People want to see concrete signs that governments are prepared for emergencies

AWARENESS

1. People have high awareness and concern regarding natural disaster risks

Most believe natural disasters are the 'new normal' for British Columbians, with every individual having experienced some level of impact from extreme weather events

"I think living in BC, we're kind of the Bermuda triangle attached to a lot of these things [disaster risks]. We have forest fires, we have earthquake risk, we just had a flood literally right here [...]"

Seeing all that right here, it is not like something you just are hearing about. It is all very apparent in front of our faces [...]. So, I think that we don't really have any choice but to acknowledge that this is right in front of us."

- Woman, Abbotsford

2. Climate change is implicit backdrop to conversations of natural disasters and extreme weather

It is not often mentioned explicitly, or needed to inform discussions, but when prompted majority describe climate change as the 'umbrella' issue or driver of extreme weather events they're experiencing

"Well, it looks to me that the bulk of those things [natural disasters] ...are a result of climate change in the world, right? And it's a manmade event. It is controllable. We don't seem to be doing much about it."
- **Man, Richmond**

"Fires weren't as bad 10 years ago as they are now. I mean we've had a couple of summers the last few years where you don't see the sun because of the smoke and that never used to happen."
- **Woman, Richmond**

"I think it is going to be in general the new normal, but I'm hoping for some good years."
- **Woman, Kamloops**

3. Most people have little or no knowledge of current government actions to mitigate and prepare for climate-fueled extreme weather events

In the absence of knowing what governments are planning and doing, people are skeptical government is prepared or keeping up with the pace of change

"If I had a job, and my job was whatever it is, and I got worse every year, I'd be fired. So, what are we doing? Why aren't we getting better at fighting fires? And I know climate change is getting worse, but we should have things in place. We always get firefighters from out of the country. Why don't we get them sooner before the fires become a real big issue?"

- Man, Kamloops

"Seriously, this [snowstorms] has happened every year. It's getting worse. Can we build some plans to make this not an emergency when it happens? So, that doesn't inspire a ton of confidence."

- Woman, Abbotsford

"I don't think [people around] this table largely know what Richmond has planned."

- Man, Richmond

ATTITUDE

4. Disaster risks provoke anxiety, stress and fear, but many are overwhelmed with other aspects of life (e.g., cost of living, housing) so don't have the mental and emotional bandwidth to engage on these issues

"I think it's hard to juggle that [being prepared for disasters] when you have more immediate pressing survival needs."

- Woman, Abbotsford

"Some just don't have the money to be ready, like to have the extra food on hand. They're more worried about having food to eat that week".

- Man, Dawson Creek

5. Most people do not feel their households, their communities, or government are well prepared for disasters

This is compounded by the the widespread perception that climate impacts are now 'the new normal' in B.C., so government shouldn't be surprised

"That summer where they had a bunch of seniors who passed away of the heat stroke...we can't get enough ambulances. And I heard that in some other areas of B.C., they only have one..."

- Man, Richmond

"I don't know them [neighbours] well enough to know, like, if they would be prepared if something came up."

- Woman, Dawson Creek

6. People are likely to disengage on issues of disaster risk if they feel overwhelmed and don't see a way to contribute productively

They identify other unhealthy responses to risks as panicking, blaming, obsessing (e.g., on social media), or turning inward/away from others

"If there's nothing that can really be done about it, sometimes ignorance is bliss. I can't deal with it. Why stress?"

- Woman, Dawson Creek

"I think feeding into too much of what social media or media says [is unhealthy]. They will show you the worst of the worst."

- Woman, Vernon

"But I struggle to see how that's [pro-social, solidary response] possible. We're so easily divided and we're so individualized by the way we are all working the grind and trying to survive. We don't know our neighbours. And so, pulling together with your neighbors is really hard."

- Woman Abbotsford

ACTION

7. People see disaster risks as shared responsibility and want to do their part

People identify healthy responses to risks as preparation, research, self-care, and looking out for one another

“Primarily, it starts with us, individually...” “...you have to be responsible for you and your family”
- **Women, Kamloops**

“For me, it’s getting prepared [...] or preparing your family, making sure we have stockpiles of water or different things. To me, that’s healthy coping – not being obsessed about it but being real.”
- **Woman, Kamloops**

“I think everyone has to be responsible. Government’s responsible, we’re responsible, especially for those of us in, high fire areas. There’s preventative stuff that you can do as well.”
- **Woman, Dawson Creek**

8. Having a plan and sense of agency allows most people to translate negative feelings into productive actions

People emphasize the importance of actionable tasks, physical and mental preparation, and working together as important means of coping with anxiety around disaster risks. Planning and preparation provides a sense of purpose and control

I like to figure out what I have control of because if I'm stressed, overwhelmed, or anxious, I need to take action. Some people get paralyzed, I just need to do something.

- Woman, Abbotsford

"Knowing that there is a solution or a contingency plan or something like that, that gives you that sense of, oh, okay, I have ... something that can alleviate that anxiety, that fear, knowing that there may be a solution as long as we were to do A and B"

- Man, Abbotsford

9. There is strong support for more proactive government planning, investment, and communication to raise awareness and readiness

People want government to tell them in plain language:

- What governments have done/are doing so far
- Specific action plans are for different scenarios (e.g., where to get info)
- Actions each person should take for different scenarios, both in preparation and during

"Now, if we have a big enough earthquake that we lose -service, internet, all of that stuff, what do we do? Does anybody know? Does the government know? Where do we go for information?"

- Woman, Richmond

"It comes down to education [...] like training people to survive and make some community plan where people get together and say, 'okay, if that happens, here [is how] you can survive for a week; here [is] what you can do, here[s] where you can get water, where you can get food [...] And I think that would save a lot of money to the government as well, to try to do programs like that where people learn, instead of having to rescue people left and right and being a total mess."

- Man, Fort Nelson

10. During emergencies, people most want to hear from front-line workers and subject-matter experts (e.g. firefighters, doctors)

They value transparency and 'straight talk' that speaks to immediate concerns, problems and actions. Many highlight handling of the COVID crisis, incl. daily briefings, as good example of government informing residents during crises

"I really care about the emergency response coordinator professional, not some politician who's trying to make us all feel better."

- Man, Abbotsford

- Dr. Bonnie Henry consistently came up as a positive example of an effective emergency communication messenger during the initial year of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Desired attributes for a leader 'in charge' during disasters, people emphasize strength, calmness, decisiveness, expertise and empathy

11. People want to see concrete signs that governments are prepared for emergencies

People mentioned ideas like

- Designated community hubs for preparation, training and local assembly points
- More regular emergency drills
- Affordable emergency kits
- Stronger infrastructure e.g., evacuation routes

“Well, I live in a townhouse, so we're all pretty plumped together. So, we will usually have a meeting every, I think twice a year when we come up with plans and discussions of what to do in case of emergencies essentially.”

- Woman, Vernon

“I know that there's a spot in our neighborhood where we get together and it's called, I think, a muster point or a muster spot where the community gets together.”

- Woman, Dawson Creek

“Well, the people that can't afford to pay for emergency kits for their homes would benefit greater from more funding for their immediate needs to be met than they would for their five- or three-day disaster kits.”

- Woman, Abbotsford

Final takeaways:

1. People have a good understanding of the risks, and want to do their part to help prepare themselves, their families, and their communities
2. People want government to be an active, open, and competent partner in helping them prepare (e.g., providing resources, knowledge, training) and in responding in times of crisis—**but** they do not expect government to do everything
3. In the absence of active support, preparation and communication, people assume government is unprepared or, worse, actively undermining their ability to prepare themselves and protect their communities from the next disaster
4. We have a window of opportunity and receptive public to build resilience by providing supports that prime for healthy, productive community responses
5. People want this leadership from government, and will be active partners in making BC safer, stronger, more and better prepared

Thank you



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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

Visit at: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>



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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* Legislation Overview

BACKGROUND:

- B.C.'s new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) was introduced on October 3, 2023, as Bill 31 – 2023. It received royal assent on November 8, 2023.
- Replacing the former *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) with the EDMA marked a transition away from emergency response-focused legislation to a more comprehensive legislative framework that encompasses all four phases of emergency management. The EDMA also takes cues from the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Abbott-Chapman Report that made recommendations following the 2017 flood and wildfire seasons.
- The EDMA was developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations to promote alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Action 1.10 in the Declaration Act Action Plan included a government commitment to “co-develop modernized emergency management legislation...with First Nations.”

DISCUSSION:

- Although the EDMA did not substantially add to the emergency powers held by governments (at the provincial or local level), its introduction in the context of increasingly severe emergencies affecting people across B.C., and in the context of the federal government’s use of powers under Canada’s *Emergencies Act* in relation to the 2022 convoy protests led some to view the legislation as a consolidation and solidification of the Province’s powers, or a signal of government intent to exercise control over individuals or groups.
- Examples include:
 - Rural residents suggesting that the EDMA removed the decision-making powers of local governments.
 - **Facts:** There was no shift in the relative decision-making roles of the Province and local governments in moving from the EPA to the EDMA, and local governments remain empowered to declare states of local emergency and to use emergency powers pursuant to those states of local emergency. Most states of emergency in the province are declared by local governments, and most evacuations occur pursuant to those states of local emergency.
 - **Response:** Senior ministry officials corresponded with one organized group of rural residents to address their concerns. Guidance materials published by the ministry have presented clear information about local government authority.

- Criticism of the maximum penalties associated with offences under the EDMA.
 - **Facts:** The maximum fines of \$100,000 for individuals and \$1,000,000 for corporations did increase from the blanket \$10,000 maximum under the EPA, but are in line with other modern statutes in B.C. There was no increase in the maximum prison term of one year.
 - **Response:** Direct responses to many individuals who emailed the ministry provided clarification on these points.
- Misinformation around penalties.
 - **Facts:** Maximum penalties were characterized as being the default penalties when, in practice, in the relatively rare circumstances that penalties are imposed, they generally come in the form of \$2,300 violation tickets issued under the *Offence Act*.
 - **Response:** Direct responses to many individuals who emailed the ministry clarified that violation tickets provide for penalty options well below the maximum fines allowed by the EDMA.
- Misinformation around offences.
 - **Facts:** Some local governments raised concerns that their staff would be subject to penalties under the EDMA for continuing practices such as issuing permits allowing residents to temporarily re-enter evacuation areas; in fact, this practice does not contravene the EDMA. In general, most conceivable examples of non-compliance with the EDMA on the part of a local government would fail to rise to the level of an offence, given the way the offence provisions are drafted.
 - **Response:** Written and verbal correspondence with local governments provided clarification on these points.
- Allegations that the Province intends to undermine the independence of volunteer groups like ground search and rescue providers.
 - **Facts:** The EDMA provides liability protection and employment protection for “public safety providers.” It also authorizes the Province to establish standards, protocols, and procedures for volunteers that respond to critical incidents or emergencies.
 - **Response:** Regional Operations has worked to authorize the majority of ground search and rescue groups as public safety providers. Regional Operations is also working with the BC Search and Rescue Association to create an Advisory Committee to develop, review, and establish standards, protocols, and procedures for ground search and rescue groups.
- While criticism in the forms described above was common in late 2023 and early 2024, it has effectively subsided. The introduction of the EDMA also led to local government capacity concerns. These have generally cited:
 - Legislative mandates for engaging with Indigenous governing bodies. (Many local governments have said that they support the idea of engaging with First Nations but view the legislative requirement as an incremental pressure on capacity and resources.)

- **Response:** Government has committed up to \$36 million in capacity funding over two years for local governments and First Nations under the ministry's Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program.
- Requirements to prepare risk assessments and business continuity plans (in addition to emergency management plans).
 - **Facts:** Under the EPA, local government “emergency plans” were required to include components generally analogous to risk assessments and business continuity plans. However, the EDMA speaks to these requirements more clearly and—particularly in the case of risk assessments—speaks to methodology and content requirements.
 - **Response:** Ministry presentations have attempted to draw the links to the EPA requirements while suggesting that local governments should be able to build on their existing emergency plans to align with EDMA requirements. However, local government awareness of the former EPA requirements is generally limited.
- Limitations inherent in the regional district model, and concerns that regional districts are required to perform emergency management work in relation to large land bases with limited human resources and capacities to raise revenues.
 - **Facts:** As drafted, the EDMA authorizes regional districts to exercise powers and requires them to perform duties under the EDMA in relation to all areas within their jurisdictional boundaries, including Crown lands. Generally, many “duties” under the EDMA arise after a power is exercised. As local governments have discretion when it comes to the exercise of powers, they maintain a degree of control over which duties arise. However, subject to the regulations, regional districts have risk assessment and planning duties in relation to the entirety of their jurisdictional areas.
 - **Response:** The government made a written commitment to make regulations to establish a minimum geographic scope for regional district risk assessment and planning requirements. EMCR has consulted and continues to discuss potential approaches with representatives of regional districts.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- As above.
- Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Implementation of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act

BACKGROUND:

- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) received royal assent on November 8, 2023. The former *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) was repealed on the same day.
- Implementation of EDMA is being phased in. Powers and tools to support emergency response and recovery were available to the Province and local authorities immediately, while other aspects of the EDMA, such as requirements for various entities to prepare risk assessments, emergency management plans, and business continuity plans, come into effect as regulations are made in phases.
- EMCR is supporting local authorities and First Nations with information, guidance, and templates, and has provided financial support through the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP).
- EMCR is also leading work on the development of a provincial scale Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) (i.e., the emergency management plan for the government) to support EDMA implementation.

DISCUSSION:

- Key EDMA implementation activities are outlined below. This is in addition to ongoing implementation support provided by divisions across EMCR to answer questions from local authorities, First Nations, and other partners.
 - Regulation development:
 - Initial regulations made under the EDMA have completed the legislative framework for civil liability and employment protections for certain volunteers, prescribed various technical rules and definitions, and have brought provincial government risk assessment, emergency management planning, and business continuity planning obligations into effect.
 - Refer to the “*Emergency and Disaster Management Act Regulations*” note in this binder for detailed information on EDMA regulations.
 - Development of information, guidance and templates: EMCR has developed various products, such as:
 - three plain language videos covering: an overview of the EDMA, risk assessments, and the new concept of the recovery period;
 - a series of recorded webinars (ministry presentations hosted by the BC Association of Emergency Managers);
 - four “factsheets” on: Indigenous engagement requirements, phased implementation of the EDMA, multijurisdictional emergency management organizations, and the definition of “emergency;”

- seven longer-form guidance documents on: Indigenous engagement requirements, states of local emergency, local recovery periods, EDMA response and recovery powers, post-event reporting requirements, evacuations, and managing temporary access to evacuated areas, and
- forms and templates to support local authorities with states of local emergency, local recovery periods, post-event reporting, evacuations, and managing temporary access to evacuated areas.
- As the risk assessment and planning features of the EDMA are brought into effect through regulations, guidance and templates for risk assessments and emergency management plans will also be developed.
- Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program:
 - The Province has committed up to \$36 million in capacity funding over two years for local governments and First Nations under the IERFP.
 - This program provides funding to local authorities and First Nations for the implementation of EDMA requirements for local authorities to consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies.
- Risk assessments and emergency management plans:
 - The DCRRA is being developed in alignment with the risk assessment requirements set out in the EDMA and will contribute to the development of risk assessment tools and guidance for regulated entities, including provincial ministries and local authorities.
 - The first stage of updating the CEMP is the refresh of the all-hazards plan, which will contribute to the development of emergency management plan tools and guidance for regulated entities, including provincial ministries and local authorities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- To help develop relationships, in summer 2024, EMCR hosted four forums on Indigenous engagement requirements with local authorities and First Nations. The forums were received positively.
- EMCR will consult and cooperate with First Nations on all regulations needed to support the phased implementation of the EDMA and on the DCRRA and CEMP.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All government ministries with hazard responsibilities under EDMA regulations have been consulted prior to making those regulations.
- EMCR has established the cross-government Executive Director Committee for Disaster and Climate Risk and the staff-level Emergency Management Planning Cross Ministry Working Group to support development of the DCRRA and CEMP.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- NA

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Emergency and Disaster Management Act Regulations

BACKGROUND:

- On November 8, 2023, the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) received royal assent, repealing and replacing the former *Emergency Program Act*. While many powers and duties set out in the EDMA are in force, some components of the statute require regulations to be effective.
- On November 15, 2023, the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation (EDMR) was made under the EDMA. This regulation was made shortly after the EDMA received royal assent to avoid a gap in liability protection and to give effect to employment protection for certain volunteers.
- On July 8, 2024, the EDMR was amended. These amendments brought into effect requirements for identified government ministers to prepare hazard-specific risk assessments and emergency management plans and brought into force various other rules for provincial government planning.
- Other regulations under the EDMA are anticipated to be phased in over time.

DISCUSSION:

- Regulations currently under development, targeting 2025 completion:
 - Local authority emergency management: This regulation will bring in risk assessment and planning requirements for municipalities and regional districts, set a scope for regional district risk assessment and planning, and will provide rules related to the establishment of multijurisdictional emergency management organizations.
 - Post-emergency financial assistance: This regulation will establish new rules for financial assistance following non-insurable losses experienced from an eligible emergency. It will also establish rules for compensation for damages resulting from provincial or local exercises of emergency powers.
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

- Regulations targeting 2026 completion:
 - Critical infrastructure emergency management: This regulation will define “critical infrastructure” for the purposes of the EDMA. It will also bring risk assessment and planning obligations into effect for in-scope critical infrastructure owners. Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
 - Compliance and enforcement: This regulation will detail rules for compliance and enforcement, such as cost recoveries.
- Broad engagement on regulations for local authority emergency management and post-emergency financial assistance was conducted between October 2023 and January 2024. A What We Heard Report was released summarizing feedback related to regulations for local authority emergency management. Cabinet Confidences
Cabinet Confidences
- In summer 2024, EMCR established the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) in partnership with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). UBCM executive appointed 10 local government representatives (two from each area association, representing seven regional districts and three municipalities) and one co-chair. Initial discussions have focused on regulations for local authorities but will expand to cover other regulations.
- The EDMA contemplates other regulations, such as those setting out planning obligations for public sector agencies. However, these regulations are not within current priority regulation development plans.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EDMA and the EDMR were developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations. To uphold the Province’s obligation to ensure its laws are aligned with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, EMCR has stated that it will continue to consult and cooperate with First Nations when developing future regulations. Policy proposals on regulations for local authorities have been shared with technical teams representing the First Nations Leadership Council and the member nations of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- All government ministries with hazard responsibilities under the EDMR were consulted ahead of prescribing those responsibilities. EMCR will continue to engage with affected ministries as needed during the development of future regulations.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- EMCR will continue development of regulations for local authorities and post-emergency financial assistance. This will include sharing consultation drafts (under confidentiality agreements) with interested representatives of First Nations governments and the LGAC.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Implementation of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA)

BACKGROUND:

- The 2023 *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) includes guiding principles and Indigenous Engagement Requirements (IER) that promote relationship building across jurisdictions to enhance cooperation with Indigenous peoples and support Indigenous input into emergency management.
- The implementation of EDMA is being phased through transitional provisions that support the shift from the *Emergency Program Act* to the EDMA. This phased approach allows time to develop tools to support regulated entities in advance of future regulations.
- The IER include engagement processes such as consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB), and activities to support the incorporation of Indigenous knowledges and cultural safety across emergency management practices.
- EMCR provided additional support by publishing the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance document (see Attachment 1), hosting IER Forums in July 2024, and providing funding under the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP).

DISCUSSION:

- Currently under EDMA:
 - the Minister must consult and cooperate with the Nisga'a Nation and First Nations under Modern Treaties prior to exercising land or property-based emergency powers such as evacuations and travel restrictions that will affect an area, or the people in an area that is within Nisga'a lands or treaty lands of a Treaty First Nation (see Attachment 2 for powers), and
 - local authorities must make reasonable efforts to reach agreement with an IGB on the areas where the local authority must consult and cooperate with the IGBs prior to exercising certain powers during the response and recovery phases.
- The EDMA refers to IGB which is defined as an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The purpose of reaching agreement as described in the EDMA, is to confirm the geographic boundary for the purposes of consultation and cooperation, and to learn which entity Indigenous peoples authorize to act on their behalf (e.g., tribal council, chief and council, or other entity).
- The concept of consultation and cooperation with an IGB helps to ensure that First Nations Peoples have an input into decision-making by the Province and local authorities, while decisions around the use of certain emergency powers remain with the Province and local authorities.

- Obligations to consult and cooperate with IGB, other than the Nisga'a Nation and Modern Treaty Nations, in relation to certain response and recovery actions do not have legal effect until the requirement to reach agreement on geographic areas for consultation and cooperation is brought into force through regulation or areas are described in provincial emergency plans.
- While not all IER are legally in effect right now, EMCR has been encouraging local governments to uphold the intent of the legislation by engaging with First Nations through existing relationships until agreements are reached.
- Through engagement with recipients, including IER forums held in July, recipients shared feedback on the IERFP, and highlighted that additional resources would be helpful to support implementation of IER including further guidance on Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety, and direction on which First Nations that local authorities should engage with.
- The IERFP is a flexible funding program offers funding to First Nations and local authorities, where recipients can choose one or more eligible activities related to the suite of IER, including reaching agreement on areas to be included in emergency management plans, relationship building, and activities to support collaborative emergency management plans, learning about Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety. In September, the ministry informed recipients that a second year of funding is available.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EDMA requires consultation and cooperation with IGB in all four phases of emergency management in alignment with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED: N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1 – Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance
- Attachment 2 – Summary of Minister's Powers and Obligations for Consultation and Cooperation

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Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance

Emergency and Disaster Management Act

September 4, 2024





About this Document

This document provides interim guidance and interpretation for regulated entities (including municipalities, regional districts, and prescribed critical infrastructure owners and public sector agencies) and Indigenous governing bodies. The information in this document is for convenience and guidance and is not legal advice or a replacement for the legislation or independent legal advice.

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Introduction and Background

In 2018, the Government of British Columbia (the Province) took a significant step towards modernizing emergency management by adopting the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework). This framework was developed in 2015 and outlines international best practices for managing the risk of disaster. That same year, the Province underscored its commitment to work with Indigenous Peoples in the spirit of respect and collaboration by introducing the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*, a set of draft principles designed to guide the daily work of provincial government employees.

Then, in 2019, the Province passed the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act). The Declaration Act affirms application of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)* to the laws of British Columbia (B.C.). Among other things, the Declaration Act also mandates the Province to bring provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration and defines the term Indigenous governing body (IGB).

In 2019, the same year that the Declaration Act came into force, the Province began working to modernize B.C.'s emergency management legislation with an aim to incorporate key components of emergency management that were absent from

the former Emergency Program Act. These changes included an acknowledgement of the linkage between climate change and increasingly frequent emergencies, all four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery) and recognition of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Province also developed a broad external engagement approach over multiple phases to ensure feedback was considered and prioritized in drafting new legislation. During this time, Emergency Management B.C. (now the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness) conducted 172 meetings, webinars and teleconferences with partners and stakeholders, and received 239 written submissions. This included five regional Indigenous engagement sessions reflecting the perspectives of approximately 80 Indigenous participants from 61 First Nations communities. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee was a key contact point with local government elected officials and senior staff. Feedback informed the *What We Heard Summary Brief* which was released on August 31, 2020.

In March 2022, the [2022-2027 Declaration Act Action Plan](#) committed the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to collaboratively develop modernized emergency management legislation in consultation and cooperation with First Nations. The process included frequent

discussions with technical teams representing the First Nations Leadership Council, member Nations of the Alliance of B.C. Modern Treaty Nations and several First Nations. Indigenous leadership organizations and service providers also contributed to policy conversations. After the consultation and cooperation process had been initiated, B.C.'s Declaration Act Secretariat released the [Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), and the principles in this document informed the ongoing engagement process.

EMCR recognizes that relationships and partnerships already exist between critical infrastructure owners, local authorities, the public sector, First Nations and Treaty Nations. The Emergency and Disaster Management Act (the EDMA), which received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023, promotes relationship building as an imperative that flows from the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world contained in the UN Declaration. The EDMA also encourages multijurisdictional collaboration in the face of complex disaster risks and emergencies.

The EDMA includes guiding principles that promote relationship building across jurisdictions and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledges and cultural safety across emergency management practices. The Indigenous engagement requirements are designed to enhance cooperation with Indigenous Peoples and support Indigenous input into emergency management. This will help to

improve outcomes and address disproportionate impacts for Indigenous Peoples.

The intent is to uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples – including the rights of First Nations and Treaty Nations – to make laws in relation to emergency management, provide policy improvements that reflect lived experience of First Nations during emergency events and enhance the emergency management outcomes for the safety of all. The legislation is also designed to recognize the unique relationship between the Province and the Modern Treaty Nations, which are the Nations that have entered into modern final agreements (treaties) with the Province and Canada. Modern Treaty Nations have the rights, powers, duties and obligations of local authorities for the purposes of emergency management in respect of their treaty lands.



Guiding Principles of Emergency Management in the EDMA

Effective emergency management in British Columbia requires that the government, regulated entities, IGBs and other parties engaged in emergency management, in their relationships:

- Acknowledge and respect the authority of each party
- Work towards harmonization and coordination of emergency measures, plans, policies and programs
- Foster collaborative approaches to matters of mutual interest

Effective emergency management in British Columbia is based on the following principles:

- Practicing emergency and disaster risk reduction, including by working proactively to prevent the creation of new risks, to reduce existing and future risks and to increase resilience
- Investing in the measures necessary to reduce the risk of an emergency occurring and to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of society and the resilience of the environment to emergencies and any related adverse effects
- Recognizing the relationship between a changing climate and emergency management, including recognizing that a changing climate contributes to the increased occurrence and adverse effects of some hazards and emergencies
- Promoting cultural safety in emergency management, including by incorporating relevant actions in emergency management plans, policies and programs
- Recognizing that the inherent right of self-government of Indigenous Peoples includes authority to make laws in relation to emergency management
- Recognizing the importance of Indigenous advice, input and stewardship activities in emergency management

Scope of Guideline and Phasing-In of Requirements

The implementation of the EDMA is being phased through transitional provisions that support the shift from the Emergency Program Act to the EDMA. This phased approach allows time to develop tools to support regulated entities in advance of future regulations. These guidelines are ‘interim’ because, while the EDMA has received Royal Assent, some of the Indigenous engagement requirements do not come into effect until regulations are made. For example, the requirement to include Indigenous knowledge in risk assessment and emergency management plans does not come into effect until regulations are made. Additional detail is provided in Table 1.

This guidance document is intended to support emergency management practitioners with understanding and implementing the Indigenous engagement requirements included in the Act. This document will be updated as new tools, guidance, and regulations come into effect. For details on what is required, refer to the Act.

In this version of the guidance document, the following information is provided:

- Summary of the EDMA Indigenous engagement requirements and background for why the Indigenous engagement requirements are in place
- Who regulated entities must engage with and when
- Description of Indigenous knowledge and incorporating cultural safety in emergency management

- Key terms intended to provide a common understanding of the language used in the EDMA (note that many terms used throughout this document are legally defined within the Act. For terms that are not legally defined in the Act, a glossary, “Appendix A: Additional Key Terms,” has been included in this document to provide additional context)
- Principles of consultation and cooperation and examples of them in action
- Contacts to help determine who to talk to and how to start these critical conversations.

For a list of key components that are now in effect and key components (grouped by topic) that will become functional after regulations are made, see the fact sheet *When Does B.C.'s New Emergency Management Legislation Come Into Effect?*. The key aspects of the EDMA related to the Indigenous engagement requirements that are in effect now can be found in the table on the next page.

Table 1: Key aspects of the EDMA related to the Indigenous engagement requirements in effect

Component of the Act	Reference in the Act
Definitions, including definitions of “emergency”, “security threats” and “critical incident”	Section 1(1)
Guiding principles for emergency management, including the concept of emergency management phases (mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery)	Sections 2 and 3
Power to enter into different types of agreements with IGBs	Part 3
Power to enter into emergency measures agreements	Division 4 of Part 2
Requirements for local authorities to begin work to reach agreement with IGBs on the areas to be described in the local authorities’ emergency management plans, for the purposes of consultation and cooperation during the response and recovery phases	Section 179(7)
For the response and recovery phases, consultation and cooperation will be required once agreements on areas have been reached and when either the Province or a local authority plans to use certain response or recovery powers. The EDMA response and recovery powers includes a list of the response and recovery powers that require consultation and cooperation prior to issuing an order or emergency instrument.	Section 90 and 120 respectively
Power to enter into a multijurisdictional emergency management organization	Section 21
Reporting requirements (e.g., following the use of response or recovery powers, following states of provincial or local emergency, or on spending beyond the base budget of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness)	Sections 10 and 24 Division 8 of Part 5 and Division 8 of Part 6
Requirement for the minister to initiate a review of the EDMA and regulations within five years of the EDMA receiving Royal Assent	Section 174
Response and recovery powers that may be exercised by the minister, the provincial administrator, the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) and local authorities including municipalities, regional districts, and Modern Treaty Nations (See: the EDMA response and recovery powers)	Divisions 3-7 of Part 5 and Divisions 3-7 of Part 6

Definitions in the EDMA

Regulated Entity means a B.C. Cabinet Minister, public sector agency, a local authority, a Modern Treaty Nation or a critical infrastructure owner.

Government Minister means a member of the Executive Council charged by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council with the administration of an enactment or the ministry of that Minister.

Lead Minister means government ministers assigned responsibility for specific hazards.

Public Sector Agency means a government organization within the meaning of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act that will be prescribed in regulation.

Local Authority means a municipality, a regional district, the Nisga'a Nation and/or a treaty First Nation (unless otherwise noted).

Critical Infrastructure Owner means a person who possesses, occupies, controls the use of or has the right to control the use of critical infrastructure, or subject to the regulations, a person who has an estate or interest, whether legal or equitable, in critical infrastructure.

Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) means the Lieutenant Governor (LG of B.C. represents the King at the provincial level in Canada and is the legal head of state in B.C. The LGIC refers to the LG acting on and with the advice of the Executive Council of Cabinet. In the Act, the powers and duties of the LGIC include regulation-making authority.

Provincial Administrator means the designated government administrator for the Act. The powers of the provincial administrator can be delegated. Under the former Emergency Program Act, the provincial administrator was known as the "director."

Indigenous Governing Body, as defined in the Declaration Act, means an entity that is authorized* to act on behalf of Indigenous Peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982).

*The notion of "authorized" in the definition of IGBs must be read as a form of "authorization" pursuant to Indigenous legal processes, traditions, and standards, consistent with the UN Declaration, that are undertaken as part of Nations expressing, rebuilding, and implementing their governance systems. Given this definition, it is for Indigenous Peoples — not the Province — to determine what entity constitutes an IGB. This has to be determined by Indigenous Peoples as part of their internal work, including the processes and mechanisms they use in establishing the authorization for that entity.)

EMCR anticipates that the approach to implementing the Indigenous engagement requirements will become further refined through collaboration on regulations, engagement on policies and practices with Indigenous Peoples and partners and the legislated five-year review of the EDMA.

In addition to the five-year review, the Act offers other touchpoints to assess the implementation of the Indigenous engagement requirements. For example, post-event reporting requirements provide for transparency, and offer an opportunity to review how consultation and cooperation are being implemented. The annual meetings with IGBs who have entered into agreements with the Province under the EDMA allow for an annual review of the relationships. In addition, future Multijurisdictional Emergency Management Organization (MJEMO) meetings, partnership table meetings and seasonal readiness meetings offer an opportunity to assess processes.

In some regions where relationships between jurisdictions are in an early stage of development, more time and support may be needed. EMCR is committed to supporting these important discussions and helping to grow trust-based relationships.



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Key roles in the Emergency and Disaster Management Act

The EDMA acknowledges the following roles across the phases of emergency management.

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

- Provides oversight, leadership, and coordination of activities and implementation of the EDMA.
- Prepares, maintains, and implements the new Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), in consultation and cooperation with IGBs and with the inclusion of measures to promote cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge, where available.
- Makes information public on potential emergencies.
- Can exercise statutory response and recovery powers and must report accordingly.
- Must consult and coordinate with local authorities.

Lead Ministers (Provincial Ministries)

- Following regulation development, prepare risk assessments and emergency management plans for hazards, in consultation and cooperation with IGBs and with inclusion of measures to promote cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge, where available.
- Take measures outlined in the CEMP.
- Following regulation development, prepare a business continuity plan.
- Regulations will include the assignment of hazards to provincial ministries.
- Must consult and coordinate with local authorities.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

Under the former Emergency Program Act, there was a provincial “All-Hazard Plan” that was the basis for the response to the danger, or risk, posed by all types of hazards in British Columbia. The All-Hazard Plan will be replaced by the CEMP.

The CEMP is the emergency management plan for the Government of British Columbia and includes all the plans provided by lead ministers that are assigned responsibility for specific hazards. It applies across the province. Under the EDMA, the provincial administrator (or another staff member authorized to perform their duties) within EMCR is the keeper and overseer of the CEMP. They must prepare, maintain, implement, review and revise the CEMP. They must also make prescribed information available to the public in relation to potential emergencies. This information will be added through regulation and can include information relating to hazards, risks and vulnerabilities.

The provincial administrator (or representative) is also required to prepare, maintain and implement one or more area-based emergency management plans that includes descriptions of Modern Treaty areas and areas agreed to with IGBs for the purposes of consultation and cooperation related to response and recovery actions. Regional districts and municipalities are required to contribute to this area-based plan by submitting an outline of the areas that have been agreed to during the implementation of the transitional requirements.

Public Sector Agencies

- Following regulation development and in consultation and cooperation with IGBs:
 - Prepare and maintain a risk assessment with respect to prescribed types of hazards.
 - Prepare, maintain, and implement an emergency management plan with inclusion of measures to promote cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge, where available.
 - Prepare and maintain a business continuity plan.

Municipalities and Regional Districts

- Following regulation development, prepare risk assessments for hazards in the area within their jurisdiction, and emergency management plans, in consultation and cooperation with IGBs and with inclusion of measures to promote cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge, where available.
- Following regulation development, prepare a business continuity plan.
- Can exercise statutory response and recovery powers and must consult and cooperate with IGBs when doing so.
- Prepare and submit post-event reports — see the [guide for Post-Event Reporting by Local Authorities Under the EDMA](#).
- Must consult and coordinate with other local authorities (see section on Consult and Coordinate).

Indigenous governing bodies — First Nations

- Facilitate the exercise of inherent rights of First Nations including law-making authority in relation to emergency management.
- Take actions, in reliance on this inherent right, in relation to emergency management.
- May choose to enter into agreements with the Province or local authorities, some of which may include other parties. First Nations' laws may be recognized through the implementation of agreements such as coordination agreements.

Modern Treaty Nations

- Exercise inherent right of self-government as treaty-based authorities in relation to emergencies, including power to make laws and to take actions in reliance on this inherent authority. Can exercise statutory response and recovery powers.
- Have a dual role in the EDMA as they are a "local authority" and have similar rights and powers to other local authorities, though some duties and obligations are different. They are also an IGB and are entitled to consultation and cooperation and may choose to enter into agreements in a similar manner as other IGBs.
- May choose to prepare risk assessments and emergency management plans, as described in, and governed by, the EDMA and its regulations.

Critical Infrastructure Owners

- Following regulation development, prepare risk assessments with respect to the hazards that may affect the critical infrastructure.
- In consultation and cooperation with IGBs, prepare emergency management plans, with inclusion of measures to promote cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge where available.
- Following regulation development, prepare a business continuity plan.

Note: Critical Infrastructure will be defined in regulations made under the new statute.

Volunteers/Volunteer Organizations

- If the provincial administrator is of the opinion that there is a need for volunteers for a specialized measure, volunteer organizations may be invited to apply to be authorized as public safety providers.
- Volunteers may be required by regulation to take training to incorporate cultural safety and intersectionality in their role in emergency management.

Modern Treaty Nations have a dual role in the EDMA as they are a "local authority" and have similar rights and powers to other local authorities, though some duties and obligations are different. They are also an IGB and are entitled to consultation and cooperation and may choose to enter into agreements in a similar manner as other IGBs.

Engagement Terminology in The Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Within the EDMA, there are three forms of engagement: **consult and cooperate**, **engage and cooperate**, and **consult and coordinate**. The following sections provide a high-level explanation of these forms of engagement and why they are different.

A Note on Distinctions-Based Approach:

A distinctions-based approach means there will be circumstances in British Columbia where First Nations are engaged, but Inuit and Métis are not. This is particularly with respect to processes, matters, projects, or initiatives that relate to or have implications for the land, water, or air in British Columbia, or associated jurisdiction related to land, water, or air in British Columbia.

In implementing the Declaration Act, the Province must consider the diversity of the Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia, particularly their distinct languages, cultures, customs, practices, rights, legal traditions, institutions, governance structures, relationships to territories and knowledge systems. The Province is required to take a distinctions-based approach in all relations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This requirement has a legal foundation in:

- the Constitution Act (1982)
- the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration),
- the Declaration Act,
- treaties
- the respective and distinct laws, legal systems, and systems of governance of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

A distinctions-based approach, and appropriate respect for Indigenous laws and jurisdictions, means that the scope of rights enjoyed by an Indigenous People is contextual and that the Province's relations and dealings with First Nations, Inuit and Métis will be conducted in a manner that is appropriate for the specific context, recognizing and respecting the distinct and different rights, laws, legal systems, and systems of governance of each. (See B.C.'s [distinctions-based approach primer](#))

Consult And Cooperate Explained

The UN Declaration: Summary, Context, And Application

Within the EDMA, the UN Declaration concept of “consult and cooperate” is applied to certain emergency management actions. The following sections on mitigation, preparation, response and recovery provide additional information on which specific powers require consultation and cooperation. A list of response and recovery powers available to all parties authorized to exercise those powers under the Act, and related consultation and cooperation requirements, can be found in [the EDMA response and recovery powers](#).

The UN Declaration in its preamble encourages and emphasizes the importance that states implement the UN Declaration in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples. It is important to first recognize the distinct laws, legal systems and systems of governance of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration affirms Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination and, in exercising this right, the right to autonomy or self-government (Articles 3-4). Flowing from the inherent and human right to self-determination, Indigenous Peoples have the [collective] right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions (Article 5). Indigenous Peoples also have rights to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use (Article 26).

In the UN Declaration, states are required to consult and cooperate with Indigenous Peoples to obtain their **free, prior and informed consent**, “before adopting or implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them” (Article 19). “Free” means there is no coercion, manipulation or intimidation and there is no pressure for IGBs to agree. “Prior” means that consent is sought in advance of a decision, with sufficient and appropriate respect for Indigenous decision-making processes. “Informed” means that necessary information is provided through a participatory process of consultation. “Consent” is a concrete expression of the right to self-determination, and an affirmation of Indigenous laws, jurisdiction and decision-making. In the context of emergency response and recovery, where the imminent safety of all is the priority, efforts to obtain consent should not compromise safety and may not be possible in all cases (see p. 25).

The Declaration Act and recent amendments to the EDMA represent important first steps towards implementing these aspects of the United Nations Declaration into B.C. law.

First Nations, as territorial title and rights-holders and pre-existing sovereign societies that used and occupied lands and resources prior to contact, have their own laws, legal systems and systems of governance that apply to those lands, resources, and territories.

Those laws, legal systems, and systems of governance have not and cannot be unilaterally displaced. To clarify and enable the exercise of the inherent right of self-government by the IGB in responding to or recovering from an emergency, the EDMA allows for agreements including coordination agreements between jurisdictions.

In implementing the Act, free, prior and informed consent is the objective, and the Province and regulated entities are expected to make reasonable efforts to achieve it, and reflect it in their approach when consulting and cooperating. In addition, consent is specifically required under the EDMA in defined circumstances, including in the contemplation of sharing any confidential

Indigenous knowledge, the application of an emergency instrument to an IGB or certain actions in relation to Modern Treaty lands, title land or reserve land. Consent may also be required under a shared decision-making agreement (decision-making agreement or statutory power agreement) entered into under section 6 or 7 of the Declaration Act.

Consultation and cooperation are a central requirement of the EDMA. While formal agreements are not a prerequisite for implementing consultation and cooperation under the Act, negotiations and agreement-making can enhance, specify processes related to, and/or adapt, these base requirements.

First Nations, as territorial title and rights-holders and pre-existing sovereign societies that used and occupied lands and resources prior to contact, have their own laws, legal systems and systems of governance that apply to those lands, resources, and territories.

General Guidelines for Operationalizing Consultation and Cooperation

The following is a list of guiding principles and examples for regulated entities to operationalize consultation and cooperation with IGBs.

→ **Undertake preparatory work prior to reaching out to First Nations.**

Learning about the history, culture, demographics, governance and territory of the First Nation you are partnering with shows respect and will enhance relationships between regulated entities and First Nations by fostering a deeper understanding of the cultural context for doing business.

- For example, many regional districts have reviewed First Nations' websites that provide information on history, culture, demographics, governance and territory and First Nations have taken steps to make information about their Nations available to regional districts and municipalities.
- A local authority could access funding under the [UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training](#) stream to train their emergency management and emergency operations centre (EOC) team in advance of reaching out to IGBs.

→ **Consider the distinct rights of the Indigenous Peoples with whom you are engaging.**

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples all have rights recognized and affirmed by s. 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). Further to the "[Note on the distinctions-based approach](#)" (page 15), the approach to engaging First Nations is different than the approach to engaging Inuit or Métis. Where the EDMA requires consultation and cooperation with each IGB whose traditional territory or treaty area are engaged, this will not include Inuit or Métis because they do not have land-based rights in the province. However, it is appropriate to consider Inuit and Métis in connection with local knowledge, cultural safety and intersectional disadvantage in the development of risk assessments and emergency management plans.

- For example, it is appropriate to include Inuit and Métis Peoples where cultural considerations, anti-Indigenous racism, specific customs and intergenerational trauma may impact evacuee care and supports.

In considering distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples, it is also important to recognize the unique rights, powers, responsibilities and law-making authorities of the Modern Treaty Nations, which are the First Nations that have entered into modern final agreements (treaties) with the Province and Canada. Currently these are the Nisga'a Nation, Tsawwassen Nation, Tla'amin Nation and the Maa-nulth Nations (the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe and Yuułu?i?ath). Treaties identify treaty lands owned and governed by each Modern Treaty Nation. Modern Treaty Nations have the rights, powers, duties and obligations of local authorities for the purposes of emergency management in respect of their treaty lands. Beyond their treaty lands, Modern Treaty Nations still have various treaty rights comparable to the Aboriginal rights of other IGBs.

Intersectional Disadvantage

Intersectional disadvantage is defined as the intersection of social categorizations of persons or classes of persons, including race, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age and ability, in ways that may result in overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage or disproportionate adverse effects.

→ To support the implementation of the engagement requirements in EDMA, engage early with IGBs to co-determine consultation and cooperation planning, frequency, and approaches, including timelines and process.

There is no single, prescriptive approach for this. Where mechanisms and processes for engagement are not in place, they should be jointly determined. Seek to engage in dialogue with the IGB to discuss how the work may affect them, and whether and how they wish to be involved. The intent of the legislation is to encourage and enable conversations and enhance relationships between First Nations and regulated entities through consultation and cooperation. It is recognised that an IGB may or may not engage or may require time to coordinate internally before participating in consultation and cooperation with regulated entities. There is no obligation for IGBs to participate in consultation and cooperation, but they must be given the opportunity to engage.

Information-sharing with IGBs can take various forms (e.g., meetings, workshops, or correspondence) based on established or recommended processes.

This may include:

- clear milestones and associated timelines and key documents
- guidance from First Nations on how to respect protocols, traditions, governance processes, laws, and jurisdiction
- the mechanisms for engagement
- anticipated timelines
- accountabilities and roles and responsibilities
- the need to engage any technical or consulting support
- resourcing for the process.

Provide ample time for IGBs to consider information and respond and be prepared to adapt or change proposals in response to input from Indigenous Peoples. Acknowledge the capacity variations and limitations and integrate appropriate timelines reflecting these factors.

- For example, a municipality, regional district, and neighbouring First Nation could commit to attend annual spring readiness meetings to discuss engagement processes for the upcoming freshet or wildfire seasons. Notes from that meeting could be circulated to all partners to validate the agreed upon approach.
- For example, an IGB and municipality may choose to draft an agreement to clearly outline consultation and cooperation processes across the phases of emergency management.

→ **Strive to ensure consistency and coherence throughout the process. Include continuity in who is representing your organization and messages that are shared.**

Ensure mechanisms are in place to deal with challenges that may arise.

- For example, a communication protocol could be established between an IGB and a regional district with clear instructions about who to contact during an emergency event and if challenges arise.

→ **Provide for a range of potential consultation and cooperation mechanisms.**

It should never be presumed (or imposed) that IGBs will all choose to be involved in the same way or at all. Do not impose modes of involvement; instead, be responsive to the priorities and preferred approaches of the IGBs you work with.

- For example, a regional district could ask an IGB how (or if) they wish to be consulted if a regional district plans to use emergency powers that could affect the IGB. It is a wise practice to establish a back-up method for communication in the case that the primary method for communication is impacted by the emergency event.

→ **Ensure that discussions and materials are accurate, complete and include providing options, discussing challenges and issues and all other material that supports meaningful two-way dialogue.**

Clear, open, and transparent communications at every stage of the process contribute to mutually acceptable, commonly understood and well-informed outcomes. Proactively seek the views of IGBs in terms of other worldviews, values and options that should be considered. Remain open: listen and apply inputs into successive drafts of documents and options.

- For example, ensure that Indigenous knowledge and IGB contributions to local authority emergency management plans are validated by the IGB before the plan is finalized and published.

→ **Apply anti-racist, anti-colonial, trauma-informed, gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) and cultural safety lenses to consultation and cooperation plans, materials and sessions.**

Create an environment for safe truth-telling and perspective-sharing (e.g., offering space and support for reflection following difficult conversations). Recognize the First Nations territory where all work is taking place.

Update emergency management documents with inclusive language — developing literacy with language that more accurately reflects Indigenous people demonstrates commitment to reconciliation. Avoid use of the possessive (such as “our First Nations”) and the term “stakeholder,” and be intentional when using terms such as “partner.”

- For example, a local authority could proactively reference Indigenous style guides when drafting emergency management materials or plans and working closely with IGBs to confirm or validate the wording and the approach.
- The Province offers further guidance on [inclusive language and terms](#).

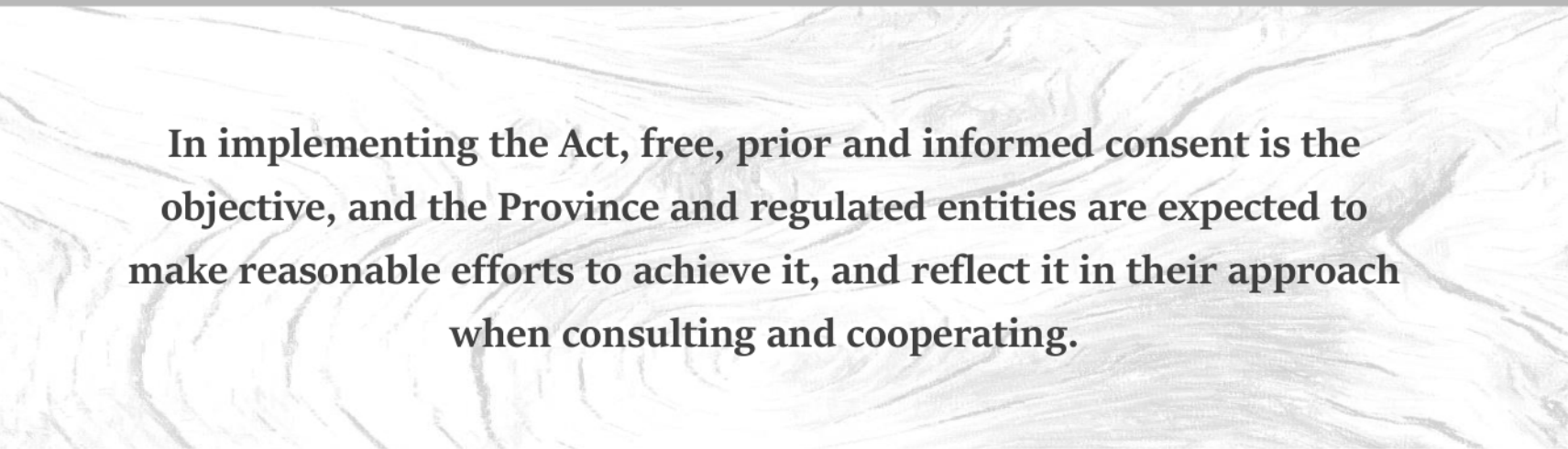
→ **Synthesize and report back the results of consultation and cooperation and those who participated in the engagement process, in accordance with a transparent and co-developed methodology.**

Describe the ways in which consultation and cooperation has informed the decisions needing to be made. When results of engagement are not incorporated, the reasons for this should be clearly conveyed to the IGB involved, with the opportunity for dialogue, discussion and problem-solving. For post-event reporting see [the Local emergency response operations](#) webpage. For example, a local authority EOC situation report could include the outcome of engagement conversations with an IGB. When engagement results are not incorporated, the local authority EOC could phone the IGB to provide context as to why they had to go in a different direction.

→ **Undertake a process of debriefing following the engagement, to support ongoing learning and improvement.**

Co-develop and implement processes to document lessons learned (e.g., debriefing sessions, surveys).

- For example, a local authority and an IGB may participate in a joint After-Action Review (AARs) to reflect on and adjust engagement processes for future emergency events.



In implementing the Act, free, prior and informed consent is the objective, and the Province and regulated entities are expected to make reasonable efforts to achieve it, and reflect it in their approach when consulting and cooperating.

Engage and Cooperate Explained

In the context of emergency response and recovery activities, where the imminent safety of all is the priority, efforts to obtain consent should not compromise safety and may not be possible in all cases. There may be limited circumstances when using specific powers following the declaration of a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) where it is not practicable for the Province or local authorities to consult and cooperate and seek consent from IGBs prior to taking action due to issues of imminent risk of loss of life, risk of injury to individuals or animals or imminent risk of significant loss or damage to property. In this case, the local authority must “engage and cooperate” with IGBs as soon as reasonably practicable after the emergency action is taken.

These circumstances are expected to be exceptional, and the following must take place:

- 1.) The local authority must update the IGB on emergency response actions that were taken within the agreed upon area for consultation and cooperation (engage).
- 2.) The regulated entity and IGB are to collaborate on next steps to continue responding to the emergency event, if required (cooperate).
- 3.) The local authority must provide reasons why they believed consultation and cooperation was “not practicable” after

specific powers are used in the response or recovery phase. This information must be included in the report to the provincial administrator.

Consult and Coordinate Explained

“Consultation and coordination” are the combined terms used in the EDMA to refer to engagement between regulated entities and local authorities when developing risk assessments and emergency management plans. The provincial administrator must consult and coordinate with local authorities when preparing the CEMP and emergency management plans. Local authorities must also consult and coordinate with other local authorities during evacuation and re-entry planning. Once regulations are in effect, local authorities must consult and coordinate with other local authorities, and with each local authority that has jurisdiction over an area that is adjacent to an area within the jurisdiction of the local authority, when preparing a risk assessment and an emergency management plan.

More information on reporting requirements and a reporting template can be found in the [the Local emergency response operations webpage](#). A list of response and recovery powers available under the Act, including consultation and cooperation requirements, can be found in the EDMA response and recovery powers.

Identifying Areas for Consultation and Cooperation in Response and Recovery

Under the EDMA, municipalities, and regional districts are now required to make reasonable efforts to reach agreement with IGBs on the geographic area over which consultation and cooperation must take place before exercising certain response and recovery powers. The agreed-upon areas must be described in emergency management plans prepared by the Province and the local authority. Partners have the flexibility to choose how agreement on areas for consultation and cooperation is captured; there is no obligation to have a formal written agreement, though written documentation is prudent.

For example, a verbal agreement can be made, with subsequent written confirmation from the IGB, but parties may find that a formal agreement is useful to document and communicate the areas that will be included in emergency management plans for the purpose of consultation and. Agreements may also be helpful to confirm the details of how the consultation and cooperation requirements will be met (e.g., who, how, when and what).

The purpose of reaching an agreement is to:

- Confirm the geographic boundary for the purposes of consultation and cooperation in the response and recovery phases. This should reflect the traditional territory or treaty area that overlaps with the geographic area of the local authority's jurisdiction.
- Identify and specify the IGB whose traditional territory or treaty area is described. For example, if a Tribal Council or other organization has been authorized to represent one or more First Nations, the agreement would reflect this.

A local authority that enters into such an agreement must provide to the provincial administrator a description of the area and the IGB specified.

In addition, a local authority and an IGB may outline agreed-upon processes for consultation and cooperation under the EDMA. Note that geographic boundaries and IGBs may change over time as First Nations adapt their own laws and implement their inherent jurisdiction.

Municipalities and regional districts should begin by engaging with First Nations or IGBs that they are currently working with, and First Nations that are known to have traditional territories that overlap the geographic area of local authority's jurisdiction. Once agreement has been reached, this information must be submitted to the Province through regional EMCR offices.

When Consultation and Cooperation is Required — By Role and Phase

Consultation and Cooperation — Mitigation and Preparation Phases

The EDMA includes more comprehensive emergency preparedness requirements for regulated entities. For government ministries, public sector agencies, local authorities and critical infrastructure owners, requirements to prepare, review and revise risk assessments and emergency management plans, and detail on what is required, will be phased as regulations are made. When these regulations are made, each of these entities will be required to consult and cooperate with the IGBs who have agreed to work with them as part of their work to prepare, review or revise these documents and take into consideration available Indigenous knowledge and the information shared during consultation and cooperation.

Local authorities must consult and cooperate with each IGB whose traditional territory or treaty area overlaps with the geographic area of the local authority's jurisdiction. Also, regional districts and municipalities must consult and cooperate with Modern Treaty Nations if their treaty settlement lands are adjacent to an area within the jurisdiction of the local authority.

The EDMA defines Modern Treaty Nations as local authorities in relation to their treaty lands. The EDMA

An example of positive relationship building in the preparation and mitigation phase:

In an interior region of the province, multiple First Nations and a municipality have established a close relationship for fire services, so they leveraged that relationship and started to meet regularly to discuss emergency management. The meetings started out monthly, but later occurred more frequently when the partners saw the cross-jurisdictional impacts of significant emergency events. The meeting invitations grew to also include key partners from the surrounding regional districts, provincial ministry leads and other emergency services. The meetings focused on response, preparation, and mitigation, while also increasing fire department and EOC capacity.

There is no single decision-making authority within the group; rather, they are working towards a fire services agreement and a separate EOC resource sharing agreement. Training opportunities are shared among all participating jurisdictions to maximize participation and further build relationships. The group also works together to navigate difficult policies and processes, efficiently coordinating emergency management activities (i.e., reimbursement, grant applications and wildfire risk reduction projects). As a result, this group has collaborated successfully on preparedness and mitigation initiatives making them all more resilient and better prepared to respond to and recover from emergency events.

does not require Modern Treaty Nations to complete risk assessments or emergency management plans but will allow the minister to request that these best practices for emergency management be followed.

Indigenous knowledge, if available, must be incorporated into the risk assessment and emergency management plan. Further information on Indigenous knowledge requirements is provided in this document, and more detailed guidance and protection mechanisms are under review and development. Once regulations are in effect and regulated entities are preparing emergency management plans, all regulated entities must coordinate their plans with any plans of a Modern Treaty Nation or other IGB consulted to ensure that the plans can be implemented, and emergency measures can be taken in an integrated fashion.

The EDMA gives the minister the ability to order regulated entities to take certain measures for the purposes of mitigation or preparation. If those orders relate to either taking emergency measures or obtaining or upgrading infrastructure, facilities, equipment and related components, the minister must consult and cooperate with potentially impacted IGBs before making the order.

Provincial Administrator

The EDMA places requirements on the provincial administrator, the designated government administrator for the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, to prepare, maintain and implement a provincial CEMP and one or more emergency management plans. When preparing these plans, the provincial administrator must consult and cooperate with IGBs in accordance with any regulations.

Regulations may be made to require the provincial administrator to make reasonable efforts to reach agreement with IGBs regarding areas for consultation and cooperation. However, if agreements have already been reached between local authorities and IGBs, the parameters in those agreements will apply to consultation and cooperation required of the Province and no further agreements will be necessary. The requirement for the Province to seek agreement will be phased in to avoid overlap with efforts to reach agreements at the local level. This process must include each IGB that acts on behalf of First Nations or the Treaty Nation whose traditional territory or treaty area includes an area in the emergency management plan. Areas agreed upon by the provincial administrator or local authorities and the relevant IGB must be described in provincial and local authority emergency management plans.

Whenever a local authority reaches agreement with an IGB concerning areas for consultation and cooperation, the details of that agreement must be shared with the Province. While the relevant areas and IGBs must be described in provincial and local authority emergency management plans, how agreement on these matters is resolved will not be prescribed. However, best practice is to confirm agreement in writing.

Consultation and Cooperation — Response and Recovery

The Province

The Minister of EMCR must consult and cooperate with IGBs if the Minister intends to recommend a regulation, and during declared states of provincial emergency or recovery, before making orders related to actions described in the [EDMA response and recovery powers](#). If the minister intends to make an order and that order will affect an area or the people in an area described in an emergency management plan, they must consult and cooperate with the potentially impacted IGB specified in the plan or agreement. If the order will affect an area, or the people in an area that includes Nisga'a lands or treaty lands, the minister must give notice of the intended action and must not take the action without the consent of the relevant Modern Treaty Nation. In both instances, this includes consideration of comments received from a Modern Treaty Nation or other IGB.

Within five business days of the Province exercising a response or recovery power under the legislation, the minister must provide a report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Further, if consultation and cooperation was required in relation to the power exercised, but due to an imminent risk of loss of life or risk of injury to individuals or animals, or risk of significant loss or damage to property, the Province exercised the power without consulting relevant IGBs, the report must provide reasons for that decision.

Within 120 days of the expiry or cancellation of a state of provincial emergency or provincial recovery period, the provincial administrator must prepare a report describing the nature of the emergency and the response or recovery powers exercised. Within five business days of receiving the report, the minister must provide a copy to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The EDMA defines Modern Treaty Nations as local authorities in relation to their treaty lands. However, sections of the EDMA that give the minister the ability to order a local authority to take certain actions, approve extensions of local states of emergency or cancel local emergency orders will not apply.

An example of positive relationship building during the response phase:

In 2017 and 2018 a municipality and a First Nation within EMCR's Central Region Office hosted evacuees impacted by wildfires and floods. However, the two communities had limited coordination and communication with each other. During a debrief, the communities identified that improved coordination was needed.

Learning from their past experiences, during the 2021 wildfire season when asked to be host communities again, the same municipality and First Nation alongside the regional district and EMCR senior leadership met at the beginning of the event to coordinate their emergency response and evacuee care efforts. Those meetings continued for the duration of wildfire season. Following the wildfire season, the group continued to meet on a bi-weekly basis and began to focus on preparedness and mitigation for future events. The parties developed a terms of reference for their meetings which outlined best practices and helped ensure the forum provided space for open communication.

Though no formal agreement is in place, the relationships built around this table supported all jurisdictions in more effective emergency management.

Local Authorities

During the response and recovery phases, consultation, and cooperation with IGBs is required when a municipality or regional district plans to use certain powers available under the Act. Municipalities and regional districts must also consult and cooperate when issuing alerts that evacuations of an area may be required, or when permitting evacuated people to return to evacuated areas. For additional information on these powers and when consultation and cooperation is required, reference the EDMA response and recovery powers.

If an action would affect an area that is within modern treaty lands, the local authority must notify and obtain the consent of the Modern Treaty Nation before exercising any response or recovery power for which consultation and cooperation is required. This includes consideration for any comments received from the Modern Treaty Nations.

If the head of a local authority believes that consultation and cooperation requirements cannot be met prior to exercising a response power due to an imminent risk of loss of life or risk of injury to individuals or animals, or risk of significant loss or damage to property, the response power may be exercised, and the local authority must instead engage and cooperate with IGBs after the power is exercised, as soon as reasonably practicable. Note that this exception is not available for the exercise of recovery powers. If consultation and cooperation are not met before a relevant response power was exercised, a report from the local authority must summarize the reasons for why the requirements could not be met in their post-event report.

An example of positive relationship building during the recovery phase:

The Atmospheric River Event in 2021 created a situation where response and recovery efforts worked in conjunction. In the Southwest Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC), First Nations' liaisons coordinated the initial response and resources for communities that had been impacted. Soon after, the provincial recovery team was connected to the impacted First Nations. Consultation and cooperation with Chief and Council was the first step in establishing a decision matrix that included Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and cultural safety. There was a lack of capacity within communities, so a Community Recovery Manager position was created to organize support efforts. Under the direction of the designated Community Recovery Manager, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and private sector representatives were brought in to provide consultation and technical expertise. The coordinated effort, led by First Nations, supported their vision for improved resiliency and prevention of future catastrophic events.

Cultural Safety in Emergency Management



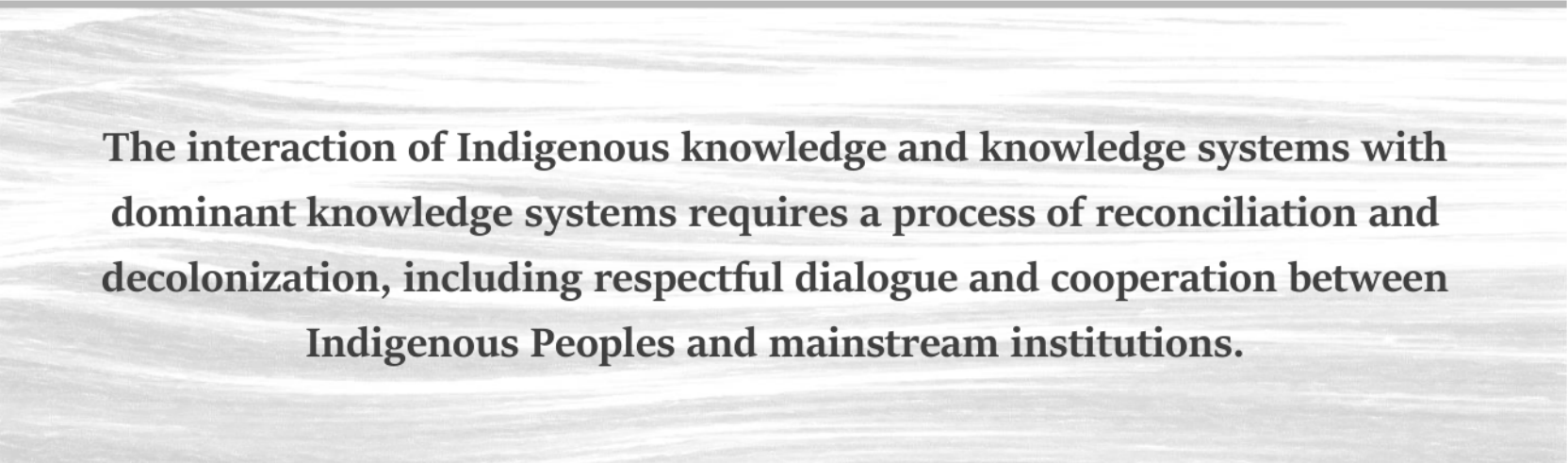
Cultural safety is an outcome based on respectful engagement that recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in emergency management. Culturally safe environments are free of racism and discrimination.

Under the EDMA, once regulations are made, there will be new requirements to incorporate cultural safety practices and mitigate intersectional disadvantage in emergency management. The preparation of risk assessments must identify the groups that may experience intersectional disadvantage and the additional risks they might encounter, and emergency management plans must promote cultural safety and include actions to mitigate identified risks.

Key Elements of Cultural Safety

- ➔ Learning about the history, culture, demographics, governance and territory of the First Nation you are partnering with shows respect and will enhance relationships between regulated entities and First Nations by fostering a deeper understanding of the cultural context for doing business.
- ➔ Risk assessments must include the assessment of the potential consequences for persons or property, or for objects or sites of heritage value. If an emergency occurs, give special consideration to:
 - individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage
 - vulnerable individuals, animals, places, or things

- Emergency management plans must include measures to promote cultural safety and measures to mitigate any adverse effects of an emergency on individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage, and vulnerable individuals, animals, places, or things.
- Regulated entities need to be sensitive to environmental factors such as the types of structures in which people reside or work, and other considerations like age, disability, socioeconomic status or susceptibility to discrimination in relation to factors like racialized status, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- The following is recommended:
 - Prioritize relationship building, practice open listening and curiosity and engage respectfully.
 - Seek regular and proactive feedback from partners and those receiving emergency services.
 - Remember that cultural safety is defined by those receiving services, not those providing the service.
 - Plan for systemic increases in cultural competencies and cultural intelligence within the organization.
- More guidance is coming soon. Please subscribe to the [Modernized emergency management legislation](#) website.



The interaction of Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems with dominant knowledge systems requires a process of reconciliation and decolonization, including respectful dialogue and cooperation between Indigenous Peoples and mainstream institutions.

Indigenous Knowledge in Emergency Management

For the purposes of emergency management in the Province, “Indigenous knowledge” was intentionally left undefined in the EDMA to allow room for interpretation. Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, have developed effective ways to protect and support their people and communities, and emergency managers can incorporate these methods into the planning and risk assessment processes.

In the Canadian context, Indigenous knowledge refers to the traditional ways of knowing, beliefs, values, laws and practices of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. This knowledge has been developed and transmitted over generations through storytelling, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. Indigenous knowledge encompasses various topics, including land-based knowledge such as natural resource management, agriculture, health and healing, the environment, as well as social and cultural traditions. It is based on a deep understanding of the relationships between humans and the natural world, as well as scientific and evidence-based approaches, and is rooted in a holistic and interconnected worldview.

DRIPA represents a historic shift by “recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper

management of the environment.” There is growing recognition in emergency management of the importance of Indigenous knowledge. For example, as noted above, the Sendai Framework calls for a people-centred approach and to use Indigenous knowledge to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessments.

The interaction of Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems with dominant knowledge systems requires a process of reconciliation and decolonization, including respectful dialogue and cooperation between Indigenous Peoples and mainstream institutions. This can help acknowledge the value of Indigenous knowledge and ensure that it is protected and respected into the future.¹

In the context of the EDMA, Indigenous knowledge is land-based and refers to the traditional ways of knowing, beliefs, values, laws and practices of First Nations who have traditional territory in B.C. and does not include Inuit and Métis. Métis and Inuit Peoples are Indigenous Peoples in Canada and also have Indigenous knowledge, but they do not have traditional territory in B.C. For example, from a disaster management perspective, First Nations’ Indigenous knowledge of the land-based, geographic features, access, limitations of critical infrastructure, location of safe zones and community demographics in their traditional territory are

¹Rep’rep’skan (Morris Prosser) and Janna Wale

relevant to the safety of all. Indigenous knowledge holders often combine teachings passed down from ancestors with information acquired through their own experiences on the land, to provide wisdom and guidance for wellness and resilience during response and recovery.

Land-based Indigenous knowledge of First Nations can be applied to identify hazards and place the hazards within a culturally relevant context, explain the hazards in relation to what is at risk, monitor and evaluate ongoing activities and provide specific information about risk exposures and inform effective coping activities to reduce land-based risk. Indigenous knowledge in a broader social context can be applied to communicate information, monitor and evaluate ongoing activities and establish and maintain culturally appropriate emergency support services.

In the EDMA, once regulations are made, regulated entities will be required to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into their risk assessments and emergency management plans, where available. It's important to recognize that Indigenous knowledge is owned by the First Nation or Indigenous knowledge keeper who holds that knowledge. It is their choice to share it, and if none is shared, regulated entities may continue to develop their plans and risk assessments. It should be noted that risk assessments and emergency management plans are not static, and that if materials are being revised and Indigenous knowledge is received as part of that revision, it can be incorporated then.

If Indigenous knowledge is provided to regulated entities, the EDMA makes it clear that it must be treated as confidential and may only be disclosed:

- With the written consent of the owner of the information
- If it is already publicly available
- If necessary for performance of a power or duty under the EDMA as they relate to the purpose for which the Indigenous knowledge was provided
- For purposes of obtaining legal advice
- By order of a court. Written notice must be provided by the IGB of the people providing that knowledge. The EDMA allows for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations respecting the obtaining and incorporating of Indigenous knowledge

The sharing of Indigenous knowledge requires mutual trust to be built over time and must include an agile approach to ensure the cultural safety of systems, policies, organizations and relationships. The workload associated with ensuring emergency management plans include Indigenous knowledge must not be placed solely on First Nations. Regulated entities can start by conducting their own reviews using available resources. Additional guidance is under development.

Additional resources to provide guidance to regulated entities on the protection and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in the planning phases of emergency management.

- [UN Words into Action Using Traditional and Indigenous Knowledges for Disaster Risk Reduction website](#)
- [B.C. Ministry Indigenous Ways of Knowing website](#)
- [Declaration Act / DRIPA website](#)
- More guidance on Indigenous knowledge is coming soon. Please subscribe to the [Modernized emergency management legislation website](#).

Conclusion

EMCR would like to thank the numerous partners who contributed to the development of the modernized legislation and who offered thoughtful insight and spirited discussion about how these new provisions might look in an operational context.

This guidance document is offered as a starting point, and by no means is it meant to be static or replace the advice and preferences of IGBs that might surface through the collaboration process. It is expected that with each emergency event we develop further understanding of each others' needs, expand our toolkit of wise practices and seek innovative ways to collaborate across jurisdictions thereby ultimately building safer, more inclusive emergency management programs. While EDMA is to be reviewed after five years, our intent is to review this document annually ahead of each freshet season.

We look forward to working with you and learning from your experiences so we can continue stewarding a product that facilitates the sharing of collaborative emergency management practices.

Support Resources

Questions regarding the modernized emergency management legislation can be emailed to ModernizeEM@gov.bc.ca. Email your comments and questions on the Indigenous engagement requirements to: EMCR.IndigenousPeoplesPolicy@gov.bc.ca.

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regional offices are available to support and serve First Nations and local authorities across B.C. Regional offices can be contacted through the following phone numbers and email addresses.

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Regional Contacts

Northwest Region

Suite 1B-3215 Eby St
Terrace, B.C.
V8G 2X8
Tel: 250-615-4800
Fax: 250-615-4817
Email: EMCR.NWEAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Northeast Region

3235 Westwood Drive
Prince George, B.C.
V2N 1S4
Tel: 250-612-4172
Fax: 250-612-4171
Email: EMCR.NEAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Southwest Region

14292 Green Timbers Way
Surrey, B.C.
V3T 0J4
Tel: 604-586-4390
Fax: 604-586-4334
Email: EMCR.SWEAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Vancouver Island – Central Coast Region

Block A – Suite 200
2261 Keating Cross Road
Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A5
Tel: 250-952-5848
Fax: 250-952-4304
Email: EMCR.VIRAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Central Region

Unit 45 – 450 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 1Y4
Tel: 250-371-5240
Fax: 250-371-5246
Email: EMCR.CTLAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Southeast Region

101-222 Victoria St
Nelson, B.C.
V1L 4K3
Tel: 250-354-5904
Fax: 250-354-6561
Email: EMCR.SEAAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Links and Resources

- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Management](#)
- [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [2022-2027 Declaration Act Action Plan](#)
- [B.C. Ministry Indigenous Ways of Knowing website](#)
- [Inclusive language and terms - Province of British Columbia](#)
- [Interim Approach to Implement the Requirements of Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [Local emergency response operations - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- [UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training](#)
- [Modernized emergency management legislation - Province of British Columbia](#)



Stay up to Date on the Changes

Subscribe to updates on the Modernized Emergency Management Legislation B.C. webpage.

Appendix A: Additional Key Terms Not Defined in the Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Aboriginal Peoples is a collective term for all Indigenous Peoples of Canada. The term carries specific legal meaning as it is used in section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982), where it means the Indian, Métis and Inuit Peoples of Canada. Section 35 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

Anti-racism is a practice of actively identifying, challenging, preventing, eliminating and changing the values, structures, policies, programs, practices and behaviours that perpetuate racism. It is more than just being “not racist” but involves taking action to create conditions of inclusion, equality and justice.

Cultural awareness is knowing your own preferences and biases and acknowledging the commonalities and distinctions between cultures. It involves developing an understanding and respect for the way culture shapes the principles, values and world views of others.

Cultural competency is about building an understanding of other cultures and developing practical skills for interacting in respectful ways with people who are different from us. Cultural competency does not require us to become experts in other cultures, but we are responsible for reducing the number of assumptions we make about people based on our biases – whether intentional or not.

Cultural humility is a process of self-reflection to understand personal and systemic biases and to develop and maintain respectful processes and relationships based on mutual trust. Cultural humility involves humbly acknowledging oneself as a learner when it comes to understanding another’s experience. Cultural sensitivity grows when we start to see the influences of our own culture and acknowledge that we have biases. With cultural awareness and sensitivity comes a responsibility to act respectfully.

A **distinctions-based approach** means that the Province's work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights, laws and governments. Indigenous Peoples' rights are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). However, not all rights are uniform or the same among or between all Indigenous Peoples. A distinctions-based approach may require that the Province's relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes. A distinctions-based approach also must recognize Modern Treaty Nations as distinct groups. Modern treaties are constitutionally protected agreements and represent a distinct expression of reconciliation and a solemn commitment by the parties to it. In the *Shared Priorities Framework*, B.C. committed to ensuring that the Province's relationships with Modern Treaty Nations are distinct and reflect the established rights of Modern Treaty Nations.

First Nation is a term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian" (an Indian Act term). Although Indian is a term used in federal legislation and in the Constitution Act (1982) it is considered by many to be outdated and offensive, and the term "First Nation" is generally preferred. Although the term First Nation is widely used, there is no single legal definition that is applicable in all contexts. Among its uses, the term "First Nations Peoples" refers to the Indian Peoples of Canada (status and non-status) and excludes Inuit and Métis. Some Indian bands have also adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community.

Métis is the term that refers to distinctive Peoples who, in addition to their mixed Indian/Inuit and European ancestry, developed their own customs and recognizable group identity separate from their Indian or Inuit and European forebears. Métis people are Aboriginal people within the meaning of section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982) and, for the purposes of section 35 rights, a Métis community is understood as a group of Métis with distinctive collective identity, living together in the same geographic area and sharing a common way of life.

The Métis Homeland, as defined by the Métis National Council, does not extend into B.C. west of the Rocky Mountains. While Métis individuals have settled and live in B.C., there has been no court decision applicable to B.C. that has confirmed the existence of any identifiable historic Métis community or Métis homeland in B.C.

Treaty First Nation is a First Nation that is a party to a final agreement; or the government, as constituted under the final agreement and constitution, of such a first nation. The term “Treaty First Nation” as defined in legislation does not include the Nisga’a Nation.

Modern Treaty Nation is a First Nation in B.C. who has entered into a comprehensive final agreement (treaty) with Canada and the Province. The modern treaties are constitutionally protected and are long-term government-to-government agreements that identify, define and implement a range of rights and obligations, including in relation to emergencies. All the modern treaties came into effect in the 21st century. The first modern treaty was the Nisga’a Final Agreement, which was negotiated outside of the B.C. Treaty Commission process and has unique terms. Since then, final agreements have been entered into or are being negotiated through the process facilitated by the B.C. Treaty Commission, including the existing treaties with the Tsawwassen First Nation, Maa-nulth Nations and Tla’amin Nation. Modernized emergency management legislation recognizes the unique role of Modern Treaty Nations in respect of emergency management.

Historic Treaty Nation is a First Nation who has rights under a historic treaty. In Canada, historic treaties refer to agreements between the Crown and First Nations entered into between 1701 and 1923. These are Treaty No. 8 in northeastern part of the province (1899) and the 14 Douglas Treaties on Vancouver Island (1850-1854), which included transfer of land in exchange for reserve lands, benefits and rights such as hunting and fishing. Rights under historic treaties are protected under section 35(1) of the Constitution Act (1982).

Treaty Lands (sometimes called Treaty Settlement Lands) are pursuant to the terms of a modern treaty or “final agreement” and are lands that a Treaty Nation owns in fee simple and has jurisdiction over. Federal and provincial laws apply concurrently with Treaty Nation laws.

Attachment 2: Summary of Minister’s Powers and Obligations for Consultation and Cooperation

This table summarizes the minister’s powers during declared state of provincial emergency or declared provincial recovery period, and identifies when consultation and cooperation is required. This is outlined in the publicly available document titled Response and Recovery Powers.

	Description of Power	Power Available During		Consultation and Cooperation Required
		<i>Declared State of Emergency</i>	<i>Declared Recovery Period</i>	
1	<p>Require a public sector agency, municipality, regional district, or critical infrastructure owner to take one or more of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide information • consult and coordinate • take one or more emergency measures • provide resources or the use of land • comply with directions 	Anytime - Not Restricted to Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period		✓
2	<p>In circumstances where a person who is authorized to exercise response or recovery powers is unable to adequately respond or recover, require a municipality or regional district to take one of the following actions either within its own jurisdiction or within another jurisdiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take one or more emergency measures • provide resources or the use of land • comply with directions 	Anytime - Not Restricted to Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period		✓
3	Do all acts and implement all procedures necessary to respond to an emergency	✓		

4	Require a person to provide information	✓		
5	Identify essential goods, services, property, or facilities and, in relation to those things, do any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish price controls • ration or provide for their distribution or use • provide for their restoration 	✓		
6	Identify essential goods, services, property, or facilities and, in relation to those things, prohibit or limit seizures or evictions	✓		
7	Authorize or require a qualified person to provide a service or give assistance	✓		
8	Provide for the provision and maintenance of necessities	✓		
9	Appropriate, use, or control the use of goods	✓		✓
10	Use or control the use of land	✓		✓
11	Authorize entry into structures or onto land to take emergency measures	✓		✓
12	Prohibit entry into structures or onto land so that emergency measures can be taken	✓		✓
13	Authorize or require alterations, removal, or demolition of trees, crops, structures, or landscapes	✓		✓

14	Authorize or require the construction, alteration, removal, or demolition of works	✓		✓
15	Require structures to be assessed for damage	✓		
16	Require the evacuation of persons or authorize the evacuation of persons or animals.	✓		✓
17	Authorize the removal of goods	✓		✓
18	Control or prohibit travel	✓		✓
19	Control or prohibit business activities	✓		
20	Control or prohibit events	✓		
21	Require a person to stop doing an activity, or put limits or conditions on doing an activity	✓		

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP) Year 2 Funding

BACKGROUND:

- In December 2023, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) announced the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP).
- A total of \$36M is being offered over two years (2023/24 – 2024/25) through the IERFP to First Nations and local authorities in BC to support implementation of the Indigenous engagement requirements (IER) under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA).
- Funding is intended to:
 - support relationship-building across jurisdictions through consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies;
 - ensure the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety across emergency management practices;
 - support policy improvements that reflect the lived experience of Indigenous peoples; and
 - address the disproportionate effects on Indigenous Peoples during emergency events.
- Through 2024, EMCR supported First Nations and local authorities in this work by publishing the *Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance* document in June and hosted a series of engagement forums in July 2024.

DISCUSSION:

- The IERFP was developed to be flexible, allowing funding recipients to choose from a suite of eligible activities that focus on general readiness to meet consultation and cooperation requirements, including reaching agreement on areas to be included in emergency management plans, implementation of cultural safety and integration of Indigenous knowledge in emergency management plans, and relationship building.
- The ministry has had extensive engagement with recipients throughout Year 1 of the funding program, and over 200 participants attended regional IER forums in July 2024.
- IERFP recipients have appreciated that the program was not application based, that there is flexibility in choice of eligible activities, and there is ability to pool funds with other recipients.
- Recipients commonly noted the March 31, 2025, timeline for spending Year 1 funding was challenging, and that additional resources to support IER implementation would be helpful, specifically:
 - guidance on reaching agreement,
 - what Indigenous governing bodies to work with, and
 - how to incorporate cultural safety Indigenous knowledge into emergency management.

- The approach to offering Year 2 funding will be responsive to recipients' request for additional funds, and an extension of time to use Year 1 funds.
- For IERFP Year 2, First Nations will each be eligible to receive \$45,500 and local authorities between \$42,000 and \$65,000.^{Advice/Recommendations}

Advice/Recommendations

- All eligible recipients will be offered funding for Year 2 regardless of whether they accepted Year 1 funding.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The IERFP is an innovative program that helps to build deeper collaboration, consensus, and new ways of working together with Indigenous peoples. IERFP implementation and engagement strategies are mindful of administrative capacity needs and equitable approaches for sharing information.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED: N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- This fall, EMCR will begin coordinating agreement requirements for Year 2, ensuring those recipients that are interested in Year 2 funding have agreements signed by March 31, 2025.
- EMCR is developing additional IER guidance materials that is responsive to feedback provided by IERFP recipients.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- In each of two years, the IERFP provides \$45,500 to First Nations and funding amounts between \$40,000 and \$65,000 to local authorities.
- For Year 1, a total of ^{Intergovernmental Communications} Intergovernmental Communications
- Information about the IERFP, including the Program Guide, is available online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/financial/ierfp> .

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Miller
Manager, Indigenous Peoples Policy Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	17/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
ADM	MC	15/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

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

BACKGROUND:

- In November 2019, the Province enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the Declaration Act).
- The Declaration Act Action Plan is a five-year, cross-government action plan which was released March 2022 and guides the Province's work to implement the Declaration Act.
- The following actions for the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) are:
 - co-develop modernized emergency management legislation with First Nations (action 1.10), and
 - support work led by the Ministry of Forests to integrate traditional practices and cultural uses of fire into wildfire prevention and land management practices and support the reintroduction of strategized burning (action 2.11).
- The province reports on progress made to implement the Declaration Act through an annual reporting cycle.
 - Annual reports are developed in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous partners and publicly released by June 30.
 - Internal to government bi-annual mid-term reports are completed to provide progress updates Cabinet and to inform the content of the public annual reports.

DISCUSSION:

- In November 2023, the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) was enacted, and implementation is taking place through a phased approach as regulations come into effect.
- Development of EDMA was informed by a distinctions-based approach to engagement with the First Nations Leadership Council, Modern Treaty Nations, and First Nation Rights and Title holders on the development of EDMA. EMCR also engaged 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.
- Key policy changes are being introduced using a phased approach with recovery and response-related consultation and cooperation requirements in effect immediately.
- Policy changes include affirmation of Indigenous peoples as decision-makers, not stakeholders, requiring consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies through all stages of emergency management, and requiring consideration of Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety into emergency management plans.
- Regulations under development will clarify new requirements for regulated entities, including provincial ministries, local authorities, and critical infrastructure operators.
- In the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act 2023-24 Annual Report,

the ministry's progress on action 1.10 is characterized as a reaching a high level of implementation, having notable complexity and some challenges, and notable engagement.

- While natural resource stewardship, including topics such as cultural burning, are often raised with ministry staff through phases of emergency management, Action 2.11 legislatively falls within the Ministry of Forests' (MOF) and BC Wildfire Service's (BCWS) mandate. For purposes of this reporting, EMCR collaborates with MOF and BCWS to align key messages.
- By September 18, 2024, EMCR will complete contributions to the biannual Declaration Act Action Plan Report, which will inform the next Cabinet Status Update.
- Reporting on action 1.10 in the upcoming biannual report includes but is not limited to:
 - Progress on EDMA regulation development
 - Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program
 - Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance
 - Disaster Recovery Framework
 - Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding Program
 - BC's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Declaration Act establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.
- The Declaration Act aims to create a path forward that respects the human rights of Indigenous Peoples while introducing better transparency and predictability in the work we do together.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Declaration Act Secretariat, impacted.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Miller
Manager, Indigenous Peoples Policy
Partnership, Engagement and
Legislation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	09/17/2024
Associate DM	TD	09/17/2024
ADM	MC	15/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: An overview of support provided by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to BC First Nations communities.

BACKGROUND:

- On April 1st, 2017, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) entered into a ten-year \$30 million bilateral service agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to deliver emergency management services to First Nations on reserve lands.
- Under the bilateral agreement, EMCR provides the same coordination and support services to BC First Nations that are provided to local authorities, leveraging the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) headquarters and the six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres and regional offices in Surrey, Kamloops, Nelson, Terrace, Prince George, and Victoria.
- To strengthen overall service delivery to First Nations communities, EMCR also maintains partnership agreements with Indigenous led organizations including the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT).
- EMCR works directly with First Nations through Nation-based agreements such as the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA) with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) that provides community capacity support and focuses on Indigenous-led emergency management.
- EMCR also provides direct funding to First Nations through several provincial funding programs including the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) Program, and the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP).

DISCUSSION:

- Although the bilateral agreement is set to expire in 2027, BC First Nations and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) have expressed an urgent need to replace the multilateral agreement with one that better serves the unique needs of BC First Nations. Negotiations commenced in 2024 between ISC, FNLC and EMCR and are anticipated to conclude in 2025.
- Each partnership agreement between EMCR and Indigenous-led organizations such as FNHA, FNESS, and NVIT involves the development of an annual workplan with linkages to mutual goals and objectives and joint priorities to strengthen community centric and culturally safe approaches to emergency management.
- As of September 2024, First Nations have accessed \$56 million through CEPF.
- In June 2024, the Province announced the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program which will provide additional funding for First Nations to withstand and adapt to hazards.
 - The development of DRIF directly addresses feedback from BC First Nations about the need for stable, long-term, and direct provincial disaster risk reduction funding underpinned by a government-to-government approach.

- Under BC's *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, EMCR is supporting Nation based approaches through the IERFP. Under IERFP, First Nations have the flexibility to determine the best use of funds to support capacity building in their communities.
- From 2023/24 – 2024/25, EMCR will provide \$20 million to First Nations through IERFP.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR incorporates and supports Indigenous-centric approaches to emergency management by leveraging relationships and partnerships with Indigenous governing bodies and Indigenous organizations such as FNHA and FNESS to support culturally appropriate and safe approaches that align with the spirit and intent of the TRC Calls to Action, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDRIPA), the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and BC's new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR works closely with other provincial ministries and partners to support emergency management in First Nations Communities.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Lauryn Rohde
A/Manager
Partnerships, Engagement, and
Legislation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	17/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
ADM	MC	15/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: T̓silhqot̓'in National Government Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement

BACKGROUND:

- The T̓silhqot̓'in National Government (TNG) is comprised of six First Nations: Tl'etinqox (Anaham), T̓sideldel (Alexis Creek), Yunešit'in (Stone), Tl'esqox (Toosey), ʔEsdilagh (Alexandria), and Xenigwet'in (Nemiah).
- TNG, BC, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) are currently implementing BC's only Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA). The original TNG CEMA was signed in 2018 and renewed in 2022 for an additional five years.
- The purpose of the CEMA is to support collaboration on T̓silhqot̓'in emergency management planning and preparedness, training, capacity development and provide a forum to share information and partner on solutions related to emergency events.
- TNG, BC, and Canada are also implementing the Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement which focuses on T̓silhqot̓'in self-determination for TNG priorities (education, children & families, economic development, natural resources and health) and commits the parties to work together towards seamless and effective emergency management in the region.

DISCUSSION:

- The CEMA has strengthened government-to-government and nation-to-nation relationships through shared governance structures, work plans, communication protocols, and funding solutions.
- In June 2023, the province confirmed funding of \$1M to support implementation of the renewed CEMA and \$5M to support feasibility studies related to development of emergency management infrastructure.
- A nation-led emergency centre is a key priority for the T̓silhqot̓'in and was identified in the T̓silhqot̓'in's 2017 *The Fires Awakened Us* report, and in the 2018 Chapman-Abbott report.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- In summer of 2023 and 2024, T̓silhqot̓'in readied culturally safe evacuee accommodation at Riske Creek, with temporary lodgings available for up to 100 members and other Indigenous peoples in the event of an evacuation.
- In April 2024, TNG declared a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) for all six of their communities in response to a toxic drug crisis.
- In July 2024, a valley-blocking landslide occurred on Chilcotin River between Hanceville and Farwell Canyon. Intergovernmental Communications
- Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental Communications

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Implementation of the renewed CEMA is improving the relationship between government and Indigenous peoples as the proposed outcomes focus on Indigenous community-led emergency management, Indigenous self-determination, and community resilience.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, impacted.
- BC Wildfire Service, impacted.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Intergovernmental Communications

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- From 2017 to 2022, the province contributed \$280K and Canada contributed \$1.3M to support implementation of the original CEMA.
- In July 2022, Canada committed to provide \$250K per year for five years to support implementation of the renewed CEMA.
- In 2023, the province provided \$1M to support implementation of the renewed CEMA and \$5M for feasibility studies for the proposed emergency management centre.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Devon Ramsay
Executive Director
Partnerships, Engagement &
Legislation Division

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	27/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	24/09/2024
EFO (if applicable)	SW	18/09/2024
ADM	MC	16/09/2024

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM), Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP), Multi-jurisdictional Emergency Management Organizations (MJEMO), and Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC)

BACKGROUND:

- EMCR manages formal and informal partnerships with different orders of governments that strengthen local, regional and provincial collaboration in emergency management.
- Regional partnerships address multi-jurisdictional, emergency management planning needs by outlining in advance of a regional disaster how communities will work together to collaboratively coordinate emergency management activities.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) supports regional partnerships including establishment of MJEMOs between two or more of any governments: local authority, provincial government, and/or Indigenous governing body.

DISCUSSION:

- The Province has established two regional emergency management partnerships with local government: IPREM (2009) with the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD), and REMP (2016) with the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Each regional partnership is directed by a steering committee and policy group, equally made up of senior-level decision makers from local governments within the region and from the Province and are funded through equal contributions by the Province and regional districts.
- Each regional partnership develops an annual business plan that identifies projects with strong linkages to local emergency management program goals and objectives, EMCR's priorities and initiatives, and demonstrates value to the respective region.
- MJEMOs are enabled by EDMA, with the intent to support cross-jurisdictional emergency management collaboration between any combination of the Province, local governments, and Indigenous governing bodies.
- EMCR is developing policy and guidance documents to support the development of new MJEMOs, in collaboration with local government representatives pursuant to the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.
- EMCR's partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is coordinated through the IDCBC; this Council provides an integrated approach to disaster-related human consequence initiatives and enhances the level of services delivered in BC.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Tsawwassen First Nation is a Modern Treaty Nation and financially contributes towards IPREM, and some other First Nations are engaged in project work on an ad-hoc basis.

- There are currently three Indigenous communities listed as Ex-Officio members on the REMP Steering Committee. The partnership recognizes the importance of collaborating with Indigenous peoples, however Indigenous communities are not yet signatories to the agreement.
- Indigenous governing bodies are able to participate in MJEMOs.
- First Nations' Emergency Services Society, First Nations Health Authority, and Indigenous Services Canada are all members of the IDCBC and positioned to coordinate response and recovery activities in support of Indigenous communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- 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 Health
- REMP:
 - Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
 - Ministry of Housing
 - Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- 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

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: None

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The Province's financial contribution to IPREM is \$176,000 in 2024/25, which is matched by the Metro Vancouver Regional District on behalf of its member jurisdictions.
- The Province's financial contribution to REMP is \$125,000 in 2024/25, which is matched by the Capital Regional District on behalf of its member jurisdictions.

ATTACHMENT(S): NA

PREPARED BY:

Samantha Watkins
Director, Partnerships
Partnerships and Reconciliation
Initiatives

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	17/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	17/09/2024
EFO	SAW	11/09/2024
ADM	MC	08/09/2024

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Cabinet Confidences

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Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Implementation of the 2021 Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council commitment letters regarding Lytton Wildfire Recovery.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2021, the Lytton Creek Complex wildfires resulted in significant structural impacts to the Lytton First Nation and the Village of Lytton.
- In July 2021, the Province and Canada signed commitment letters to Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) who represent Lytton First Nation, Oregon Jack Creek Band, Boothroyd Indian Band, and Skuppah Indian Band (Attachment 1).
- The letters signal provincial and federal commitment to address infrastructure needs resulting from damages sustained during the 2021 wildfires and to work closely in partnership to build back better.
- A tripartite Leadership Implementation Table and Coordination Task Force were established to support implementation of the Commitment Letters.
- In July 2021, Canada provided \$2M and the Province provided \$100K to NNTC to begin implementation of the actions in the Commitment Letters.
- On June 28, 2023, the *Land and Resource Decision Making Agreement (LRDMA)* was signed between the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR) and NNTC to advance reconciliation, and to establish processes for land and resource decision-making that advance shared decision-making and implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* enables the province to enter into agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.

DISCUSSION:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is working with IRR, the Ministry of Health, and other natural resource ministries to implement the Commitment Letters in a coordinated manner.
- In June 2023, the NNTC Leadership table endorsed the NNTC Priorities and Deliverables 5-Year Plan.
- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
-
- Provincial and federal governments are also reviewing existing programs that may align with some of the financial asks.
- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- The LRDMA commits to seek mandate for a decision-making pilot, pursuant to section 7 or section 6 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*,

with an initial priority on emergency management. The parties are not actively discussing this now.
Intergovernmental Communications

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The work undertaken by the Province with the Leadership Implementation Table and Task Force is part of BC's commitment to working with NNTC in a government-to-government relationship and is premised on the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, impacted.
- Ministry of Health, impacted.
- Indigenous Services Canada, impacted.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- In the July 2021 Canada provided \$2M and the Province provided \$100K to NNTC to begin implementation of the actions in the Commitment Letters.
- In March 2024, EMCR and IRR provided \$400K to NNTC to support implementation of Commitment Letter priorities with a focus on developing governance capacity.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1 – July 2021 Commitment Letters

PREPARED BY:

Jessica Miller
Manager, Indigenous Peoples Policy
Partnerships, Agreements and
Reconciliation Initiatives

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	03/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	03/10/2024
ADM	MC	08/09/2024

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications



Ref. 52992

July 11, 2021

Matthew Pasco
Tribal Chair
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Dear Chief Matthew Pasco:

This is a follow up to the July 10, 2021, letter from British Columbia and Canada outlining commitments to, and next steps with, Indigenous leadership regarding wildfire recovery and rail safety. As we have discussed and in acknowledgement of the specific impacts of the Lytton fire on the Lytton First Nation, we offer this letter to guide the next steps with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and the Lytton First Nation regarding recovery from the devastating fire.

We agree that our 2017 Political Accord on Advancing Recognition, Reconciliation, and Implementation of Title and Rights provides us with the appropriate framework for the next steps outlined below. As per the 2017 Accord, the foundation of the government-to-government relationship between British Columbia and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between British Columbia and NNTC, including the implementation of the actions in this letter, will be based on this foundation.

In addition, as per the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between British Columbia and NNTC including the implementation of the actions outline in this letter.

.../2

Ref. 52992

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Together through this letter we confirm the following:

1. British Columbia and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of this letter and ensuring progress is being made for the Lytton First Nation on recovery from the Lytton fire. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, Minister Farnworth, and Minister Rankin. The table will be established upon confirmation of this letter and will meet on a mutually agreeable frequency.
2. British Columbia and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of British Columbia. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing workplans for each of the commitments in the July 10, 2021 letter and this letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and longterm deliverables. The task force will begin work by July 13, 2021 and will provide regular updates to the leadership implementation table.
3. British Columbia will provide NNTC initial funding \$100,000 to begin implementation of the actions in this letter. British Columbia acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada regarding funding of these needs.
4. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that enhanced health supports, including mental health supports, are amongst the urgent needs for those members of NNTC affected by the fires. British Columbia and the NNTC will work with the First Nations Health Authority to develop a plan, including funding, that builds on the current and ongoing supports. The parties will develop the plan by July 20, 2021.
5. British Columbia and NNTC recommit to the full implementation of their Political Accord, and specifically all the commitments in section 6. The Parties mutually appoint Dr. Roshan Danesh, QC to facilitate the full implementation of section 6, including making recommendations to the leadership implementation table by September 30, 2021 on recommendations that include clear structures and processes between the parties for dealing with future emergencies.
6. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place between them, and

that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of this letter.

.../3

Ref. 52992


- 3 -

7. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada in the implementation of this letter.

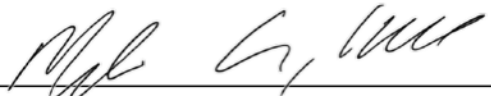
In addition to the commitments of the July 10, 2021 letter, we confirm our mutual understandings of the actions outlined above by signing below.

Chief Douglas McIntyre
Skuppah First Nation


Chief Mike Campbell
Boothroyd First Nation




Chief Matthew Pasco
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Chair

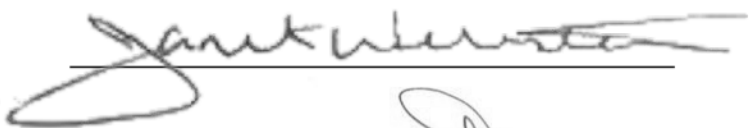



Chief Janet Webster
Lytton First Nation





Murray Rankin, QC
Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation





Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public
Safety and Solicitor
General

CC: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Indigenous Services

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

.../4

Ref. 52992

- 4 -

Christine Massey, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Tara Richards, Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General



July 11, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office
1632 St. Georges Road
Box 430
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

nlakapamux@nntc.ca

Dear Chiefs:

We are writing on behalf of the Government of Canada, following the letter sent to the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) on July 10, 2021 (the Letter) and subsequent discussions held between Chief Pasco, on behalf of the NNTC, and Minister Miller.

We have reviewed the nine proposed commitments that you have sent for the Government of Canada and the NNTC, following the commitments in the Letter. We agree with the nature and direction of these proposed commitments, and, for some, have some further refinement that we are proposing. If you agree with these refinements, we can consider these commitments of the Government of Canada and the NNTC.

1. The foundation of the Nation-to-Nation relationship between Canada and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between Canada and NNTC, including the implementation of the Letter, will be based on this foundation.
2. The standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between Canada and NNTC including the implementation of the Letter.

.../2

The Government of Canada agrees and shares these first two commitments.

3. Canada and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Letter. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, and Minister Marc Miller. The table will be established on July 11, 2021 and will touch base daily until decided otherwise by the table.

4. Canada and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of Canada. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing work plans for each of the commitments in the Letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work on July 11, 2021 and meet on a daily basis until directed otherwise by the leadership implementation table.

For the proposed third and fourth commitments, the Government of Canada agrees with setting up a leadership implementation table, led by either Minister Miller or Minister Bennett. The Government of Canada will appoint three representatives to be members of the task force to develop work plans for each commitment, as well as looking into the various MOUs or agreements with the goal of streamlining and ensuring progress and action. The work of the task force will be watched closely by the Minister to ensure progress and regular check-in. The first meeting with the NNTC and the Minister will be held the week of July 12, 2021, followed by the meeting of the task force.

5. Canada will provide NNTC initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation in immediate preliminary recovery needs. Canada acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation.

For the proposed fifth commitment, the Government of Canada agrees to provide initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation and other affected NNTC member First Nations in preliminary recovery needs and Canada recognizes that more will be required to build back better.

.../3

6. Canada and NNTC recognize that the damage resulting from the fires is creating a deepening humanitarian crisis for communities of the NNTC, including in particular interim housing needs, and will develop a plan and funding for interim housing for all affected individuals and families by Friday July 16, 2021.

In regards to the sixth proposed commitment, the Government of Canada is committed to supporting those who have lost their homes following the devastating fires, by funding interim housing as a temporary measure. The Government of Canada proposes to meet with the NNTC and community representatives on July 12, 2021 to discuss needs, details and the process to develop a plan. Canada will work with the First Nation's Recovery Manager or other designated representative(s) to support a damage assessment, which needs to be undertaken to develop the plan and needed funding for interim housing. The Government of Canada commits to work closely with the affected First Nations and the NNTC to develop the process by Wednesday July 14, 2021, with the plan to follow the damage assessment, respecting the lead of the First Nation.

7. Canada and NNTC will work to complete a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021 to guide the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws in their relationship.

For the seventh proposed commitment, the Government of Canada welcomes the opportunity to work with the NNTC on the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws. Canada, lead by CIRNAC in support of Minister Bennett, will work collaboratively with NNTC to develop a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021. To launch the work, an introductory meeting can be set up as soon as possible to discuss NNTC's vision, develop a work plan in order to determine the amount of support funding required, and to discuss the scheduling of future meetings.

8. Canada and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of cooperation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of the Letter.

.../4

The Government of Canada agrees with the proposed eighth commitment. The Leadership table and task force referenced above, as well as the investments we have committed to are important demonstrations of how we will work together to implement the Letter.

9. Canada and NNTC will coordinate with British Columbia in the implementation of this side letter.

The Government of Canada agrees with the ninth proposed commitment. The coordination on the implementation of these commitments will include the Government of Canada, NNTC and British Columbia.

As noted in the Letter, the Government of Canada is committed to strengthening the important relationship with the NNTC and moving forward together along the shared path to reconciliation. The commitments above, with Canada's responses, are important steps in building a path forward together.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and would be available to discuss the next steps on these commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP
Indigenous Services Canada

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP
Crown-Indigenous Relations

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Multilateral negotiations between the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

BACKGROUND:

- EMCR is implementing a 10-year, \$30M (\$3M per year) bilateral agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to deliver emergency management services on First Nations reserve land. The agreement expires in March 2027.
- BC First Nation Chiefs have signalled the need for a new multilateral agreement that better serves the emergency management needs of First Nations communities.
- In 2022, Minister Farnworth provided approval for EMCR staff to participate in negotiations for a multilateral emergency management agreement.
- Following preliminary discussions, negotiations began in spring 2024 and a main table was convened that included EMCR, ISC, and the FNLC.
- Negotiations have unfolded in accordance with three phases of work put forward in resolutions approved by Chiefs.
- Phase 1 focused on 4 priority areas for immediate action and concluded with a letter sent from Minister Ma to ISC and FNLC in September 2024 summarizing EMCR's contributions as well as EMCR's commitment to continued dialogue in Phases 2 and 3 (Attachment 1).
- Phases 2 and 3 of the negotiations have not started but it is expected they will focus on the development of a rights-based framework and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction for emergency management in their communities.

DISCUSSION:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR incorporates and supports Indigenous-centric approaches to emergency management by leveraging relationships and partnerships with Indigenous governing bodies and Indigenous organizations to support culturally appropriate and safe approaches that align with the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- EMCR provides regular updates to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation staff on the negotiations.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- NA

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment 1 – EMCR Minister’s Letter to FNLC and ISC

PREPARED BY:

Andrew Komlodi
Assistant Negotiator
Partnerships, Engagement, and
Legislation

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	18/09/2024
Associate DM	TD	18/09/2024
ADM	MC	16/09/2024



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

August 30th, 2024

Reference: 641872

To: First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Dear Partners,

I am writing to convey my appreciation for our collective efforts to advance emergency management priorities for First Nations communities, and to express the commitment of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to ongoing discussions with FNLC and ISC for a multilateral emergency management agreement.

I want to thank you for your ongoing work in Phase 1 to identify immediate actions that will improve emergency management capacity and outcomes for First Nations communities in relation to the following:

- Priority 1:*** Core funding from ISC to Bands to support capacity, mitigation and preparedness;
- Priority 2:*** Community Emergency Preparedness Funding directly to First Nations;
- Priority 3:*** Predictable, substantial, and timely funding for First Nations Emergency Services Society and Nations to support response and recovery; and
- Priority 4:*** Expansion of bilateral to a multilateral emergency management agreement.

I would like to recognize that significant progress is being made in relation to these Phase 1 priorities. For example, by launching the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding Program (DRIF), funding for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation projects will be provided directly to First Nations by the Province and not through a third party. EMCR has also taken steps to streamline our response claims process, in part to address concerns about predictability, and to support timely reimbursement of response costs.

The existing bilateral agreement between ISC and EMCR was signed in 2017, before the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) came into effect. Furthering the commitments outlined in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, EDMA recognizes the principle that “the inherent right of self-government of Indigenous peoples includes authority to make laws in relation to emergency management.”. Building on this recognition, EMCR is committed to collaborating on how the bilateral agreement can be updated through a new multilateral agreement.

.../2

People across British Columbia are experiencing unprecedented challenges from disasters tied to the escalating severity of the climate crisis. As a result, the demand for EMCR's emergency management services and programs has expanded considerably. EMCR strives to ensure that all communities we serve, including First Nations communities via the bilateral agreement, receive equivalent emergency management services that are responsive to the increased frequency of emergencies. The scale and cost of these expanded services are not accounted for in the current bilateral agreement.

EMCR is prepared to discuss ways to continue delivering emergency management services for First Nations communities under a new multilateral agreement, and we are also open to exploring options for transitioning responsibility. Developing an efficient and effective model for the delivery of emergency management services is a priority for EMCR in continued multilateral discussions. Regardless of the service delivery model that ultimately takes shape, it is our view that all services delivered on-reserve should be funded in full by the federal government.

As you know, the Province is heading into an election and during the interregnum period, EMCR staff are unable to participate in continued discussions with you regarding a multilateral agreement. However, once a new cabinet is sworn in, EMCR staff will rejoin discussions and coordinate the participation of other government agencies or ministries, as required. Building on our collaborative accomplishments to date, an important next step for multilateral discussions is to co-develop a scope of work or term sheet for the next phase of negotiations that expands on the goals put forward by FNLC for Phases 2 and 3 including *a high-level overarching rights-based framework, and full recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over emergency management services*.

EMCR staff will take the time afforded by the interregnum period to consider what the scope for negotiations could entail. I invite FNLC and ISC to consider what the scope for negotiations should entail from your perspectives, so that our organizations may resume tripartite discussions prepared to pursue consensus on a scope for Phases 2 and 3. Depending on the content of the co-developed scope, EMCR may need to obtain Cabinet and/or Treasury Board mandates for Phase 2 and 3 negotiations.

Please rest assured that despite the necessity to pause EMCR's involvement in discussions during the interregnum, EMCR will remain fully engaged with First Nations communities across all four pillars of emergency management throughout this period, including in response to any emergency events that may occur.

Thank you again for your leadership to date and for your continued efforts to improve emergency management governance and outcomes for First Nations communities in British Columbia. Our work together through Phase 1 has been productive and we look forward to building on this early momentum to strengthen community resilience.

It is my ardent hope that ongoing collaborative discussions amongst our representatives after the upcoming provincial election will lead to an improved jurisdictional approach to emergency management for First Nations communities in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bowinn".

Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Doug Caul, Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Monica Cox, Assistant Deputy Minister, Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation
Carol McClintock, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships and Negotiations

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Village of Lytton and Nlaka'pamux territory post 2021 wildfire recovery.

BACKGROUND:

- The June 2021 Lytton Creek wildfire caused catastrophic loss of public and private infrastructure across Nlaka'pamux territory including Lytton First Nation (LFN), the Village of Lytton (VOL) and the surrounding Thomson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD).
- The VOL, with a population of approximately 275 residents, serves as a hub for an additional 4,500 individuals residing in the surrounding rural area.
- Approximately 90% of the VOL was destroyed including 124 residences, the town hall, police station, ambulance station, public library, and other vital infrastructure. Additional structures in the TNRD were lost.
- LFN experienced substantial losses, including approximately 45 residences on IR18 and five commercial properties including the Band Office. Many residents remain evacuated. Some Nlaka'pamux members, including LFN, have returned to interim housing funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
- The Nlaka'pamux Nation is made up of 16 Indigenous communities spanning the Fraser, Thompson, and Nicola Rivers region. The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) is a governing entity which currently represents interests of Boothroyd Indian Band, Lytton First Nation, Oregon Jack Creek Band, and Skuppah Indian Band.

DISCUSSION:

- Provincial funding supported the restoration of essential infrastructure and services within the VOL such as water treatment and sewer infrastructure, municipal services and staffing, debris removal, soil remediation, and necessary archaeology work. The objective was to prepare properties for a ready state for the rebuilding phase.
- Several key milestones in the rebuilding process have been achieved. Notably, the VOL has been reviewing and issuing applications for building permits. Approximately 15 homes on the way to being permitted for rebuild and 5 nearing completion.
- The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) continues to provide housing supports and financial assistance to help with expenses related to repair or rebuild for those who lost their primary residence. Further, the CRC is offering personalized recovery supports to residents. CRC provides monthly housing of \$1,300 plus a food stipend. In addition, CRC is offering Case Management supports for all evacuees to support them with their individual recovery.
- In May 2024, EMCR provided VOL with financial procurement direction and sought to ensure that documentation is in place to verify past and ongoing expenditures in order to protect the Province's fiscal responsibility and interests of taxpayers.
- Please refer to the Ministry note regarding the Auditor General's audit of the

Province's participation in the recovery of VOL for further information.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

Conservation of Heritage Sites; Interests of an Indigenous People

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- On July 11, 2021, British Columbia and Canada issued letters of commitment to NNTC, detailing expectations concerning wildfire recovery and rail safety. These commitments included establishing an Implementation Coordination Task Force. The Province remains actively involved in the Task Force and on related Working Groups.
- Throughout 2023, EMCR continued to work with partner agencies such as Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC, First Nations Health Authority, Interior Health Authority, Canadian Red Cross, non-profits, and other Provincial Ministries. Together, efforts focus on identifying and addressing unmet needs in a manner that confronts systemic issues.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministries of Municipal Affairs, Forests (through the Archaeology Branch), and Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- EMCR has provided VOL with \$44.3 M in funding commitments since June 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- n/a

PREPARED BY:

David Rice
Director, Community Recovery
Recovery, Policy, and Planning

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
EFO/ADM	SW	27/09/2024
A/ADM	EST	27/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: City of Merritt disaster recovery from 2021 Atmospheric River and historical flooding events

BACKGROUND:

- The City of Merritt (the City) is located within the Thompson Nicola Regional District in the Southern Interior region at the confluence of the Coldwater and Nicola Rivers. The City falls within the traditional territories of the Nlaka'pamux (Thompson), the Secwepemc (Shuswap), and the Syilx (Okanagan) Nations.
- In November 2021, an Atmospheric River (AR) impacted the Coldwater River watershed and the City, resulting in widespread overland flooding due to various dike failures. Hundreds of homes and businesses were impacted with more than 7,000 residents evacuated and widespread damage to municipal infrastructure.
- Initial response of the AR event focused on the Coldwater River. However, the Nicola River also has a history of flood-related challenges as recently as 2017 and 2018 freshet, causing recurring flooding issues in the City.

DISCUSSION:

- EMCR is actively supporting Merritt's recovery efforts after the 2021 atmospheric river event through a holistic and community-led approach to recovery.
- Over \$59M has been committed to the City and residents through provincial recovery programs and one-time funding. (See Key Facts and Figures below.)
- Through the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) public program, the Province verbally approved an estimated additional \$46.5M - in principle - for the City to repair or relocate the two dikes that were damaged.
 - An expansion of the footprint of the infrastructure is required to rebuild the dikes to prevailing codes. This will necessitate land acquisition which cannot be funded through the DFA program. This land acquisition will likely involve City property and private residences. The land acquisition is estimated to cost \$21.8M.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Environment

- Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
- Ministry of Forests

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Over \$59 million has been committed to the City and residents of Merritt through provincial recovery programs and one-time funding.

EMCR	\$7.8 million	Direct financial support to homeowners, tenants, small businesses, charitable organization, and farms through DFA
	\$4.5 million	Flood mitigation projects through Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), including \$4m for two dikes on the Coldwater River
	\$13.2 million	21 infrastructure projects approved through DFA
	\$329,000	Flood mitigation studies
MUNI	\$24.3 million	Interim Flood Support Funding inclusive of \$11.75 million for interim housing for flood impacted residents
ENV	\$9.3 million	Fir Avenue bank stabilization

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Danya Leduc
 Manager,
 Community Recovery

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	02/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
CFO	DL	27/09/2024
A/ADM	EST	27/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: 2023 Wildfire Recovery

BACKGROUND:

- The 2023 wildfire season was the most devastating in BC's history, with more than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned from 2,256 fires.
- Structure losses were experienced in nine Regional Districts, eight First Nations and two local governments.
- Countless communities have experienced land-based impacts including impacts to infrastructure, economic activities, as well as cultural and traditional activities.

DISCUSSION:

- Provincial recovery efforts have spanned all sectors of recovery, including engagement/coordination, housing, health, mental health, social, environment, and economy.

Engagement/Coordination

- EMCR established a Standing Committee on Community Recovery comprised of Ministry staff responsible for enabling work in the key pillars of community recovery. The committee met regularly to identify community recovery needs and address resourcing accordingly.
- EMCR funded Community Recovery Managers who established sector-specific recovery tables to address community needs. These meetings have been attended by Provincial and Federal ministries and non-governmental organization partners.
- EMCR provided project and contract administrative support to communities that had limited capacity to obtain necessary quotes and estimates for rebuilding lost structures.
- EMCR continues to play a supportive role beyond funding and collaborates with First Nations and local authorities, as well as maintaining direct contact with Provincial ministries and community partners as necessary in areas including land-based recovery, riparian area regulations, and weather and slope monitoring.

Housing

- EMCR's 2023 Wildfire Surge team partnered with First Nations and local authorities to ensure appropriate supports were established to address housing and infrastructure losses.
- EMCR advocated for assistance with debris removal to assist affected residents, securing various forms of support. This support included administrative assistance, physical labour, equipment, and funding.

Environment

- EMCR worked with communities to identify and address areas of environmental degradation, water contamination, soil stability, and impacts to food security such as traditional hunting, harvesting, and gathering.
- EMCR coordinated with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) on the development of land-based recovery tables across communities.
- EMCR coordinated a one-year pilot project for weather and slope monitoring in specific wildfire-affected areas. The 'Slope Manager' program provides accurate and advanced data for communities to make informed decisions on land-based risks and evacuation alerts and orders.

Social

- EMCR connected community partners for socio-economic development and health supports, ensuring the appropriate supports are in place within each community.
- In addition to funding community recovery managers, EMCR funded the recruitment of subject matter experts for community engagement sessions.

Economy

- Economic recovery tables were established to find suitable means to address losses in communities.
- EMCR coordinated meetings between communities and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District to progress economic development initiatives, corridor and transportation improvements, and communication strategies.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- EMCR facilitated conversations between First Nations, partner Ministries, and Indigenous Services Canada to engage in recovery and mitigation efforts.
- EMCR continues to identify grants and private funding for projects identified, such as debris removal, that may help assist in their recovery journey.
- EMCR supported impact First Nations with identifying and quantify cultural structure loss, community infrastructure, and food security losses. Recovery teams have also assisted in completing funding requests through Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance, ISC, and Indigenous food security and food sovereignty funding opportunities provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and administered through the New Relationship Trust.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Health

- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
- (Federal) Fisheries and Oceans Canada

SUMMARY/NEXT STEPS

- Continue to address emerging needs such as identifying housing barriers, debris removal, permit processing, and streamlining processes.
- Continue to make recommendations on identified gaps, challenges and barriers to improve recovery strategies and processes.
- Establish land-based recovery tables to discuss Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessments, rehabilitation needs, and mitigation strategies.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Information provided through the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Regional Districts confirm that as of March 6, 2024, 614 residential structures have been confirmed as either destroyed (507) or partially damaged (107) from the wildfire 2023 event.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada estimates that the Okanagan and Shuswap area wildfires caused \$720M in insured damage.
- As of September 27, 2024, the Disaster Recovery Division has approved 15 Disaster Recovery Expenditure Authorization Forms (DREAFs) for a total of \$2.006M since the DREAF policy came into effect in November 2023.
- The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) had 5 DREAFs approved for a total of \$1.316M. This funding was used to hire additional staff dedicated to wildfire recovery efforts including cultural coordinators, public information officers, administrative support, planning section chiefs, recovery planners, economic planners and coordinators, and environmental officers.
- The CSRD had 8 DREAFs approved for a total of \$537K. Funding is to support hiring additional staff for recovery efforts, Indigenous engagement, cultural coordination, public information, and development services.
- The Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) had 2 DREAFs approved for a total of \$153K. Funding provided to support water testing in debris impacted areas and to hire dedicated staff for recovery.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Appendix A – Central and Southeast Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview
- Appendix B – Northeast Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview
- Appendix C – Southwest Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview
- Appendix D – Northwest Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview

PREPARED BY:

Matt Antwright
Director, Community Recovery
Wildfire Surge Operations
Disaster Recovery Division

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	03/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
A/ADM	EST	27/09/2024

Appendix A: Central and Southeast Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview

Key Figures

- The Central Region recorded 388 wildfires with 201,385 hectares burned. The Southeast Region recorded 295 wildfires with 44,014 hectares burned.
- Wildfires in the Central Region impacted five First Nations and seven local authorities.
- Wildfires in the Central Region resulted in evacuation orders and alerts which affected over 50,000 people. There was significant loss to infrastructure, impacts to businesses, and damage to the natural environment and public infrastructure.
- Wildfires in the Southeast Region impacted one First Nation. This resulted in an evacuation order which displaced seventeen residents and damaged the land.

Recovery Activities

Engagement

- In the Southeast Region, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supported Aq'am First Nation. In the Central Region, EMCR supported the following communities: Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB); Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw (Skwlāx); Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS); Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), and the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO [Westbank First Nation; District of Lake Country; City of Kelowna, and the City of West Kelowna]).
- EMCR supported recovery efforts throughout the region by organizing both in-person meetings and remote support. EMCR funded Recovery Managers who established sector-specific recovery tables to address community needs. These meetings have been attended by Provincial and Federal ministries and NGO partners.
- Long-term community and environmental recovery tasks and policy areas, such as land-based recovery, riparian area regulations, and weather and slope monitoring, are interconnected with community safety, reforestation, and rebuilding within protected areas. As a result, EMCR continues to play a supportive role beyond funding. This includes collaborating with First Nations and local authorities, as well as maintaining direct contact with Provincial ministries and community partners as necessary.
- EMCR provided project and contract administrative support to communities that had limited capacity to obtain necessary quotes and estimates for rebuilding lost structures.
- Recovery efforts have spanned all sectors of recovery including housing, health and mental health, social, environment, and economy.

Housing

- EMCR's 2023 Wildfire Surge team partnered with First Nations and local authorities to ensure appropriate supports were established to address housing and infrastructure losses.
- EMCR supported Skwlāx in their coordination efforts through a housing recovery table with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for the construction of 34 temporary homes.
- EMCR advocated for assistance with debris removal to assist affected residents, securing various forms of support. This support included administrative assistance from the North Shuswap Disaster Relief Society; physical labour, equipment, and a total spend of \$46,500 from Samaritan's Purse Canada. Additionally, the CSRD provided \$30,000 for debris disposal and transfer station fees. A significant amount of debris has already been removed, with 72 lots completely cleared and 107 partially cleared.
- 445 private structures were destroyed in the RDCO. This includes 235 residential structures (primary and secondary), 26 non-residential structures and 184 structures at the Lake Okanagan Resort (LOR).
- Within the RDCO, 184 out of 217 accommodation units at LOR were destroyed in the 2023 McDougall Creek Wildfire. The owner, responsible for utilities (e.g., water, wastewater, and electrical), has a history of non-compliance and is unable to restore the utilities. Consequently, the 33 remaining units are uninhabitable.
- 10 homes were destroyed in the RDOS. Six homes were destroyed in Aq'am. One home was destroyed in LSIB. EMCR coordinated with ISC to provide homes for LSIB and Aq'am families that were unable to find housing.

Environment

- The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) announced updated guidance to the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) to make the rebuilding process in riparian areas easier. The new guidance allows eligible residents to clean up debris without requiring a Qualified Environmental Professional or a Riparian Development Permit. The RDCO opted not to implement the new guidance, and discussions continue between the Regional District and WLRS.
- EMCR worked with communities to identify and address areas of environmental degradation, water contamination, soil stability, and impacts to food security such as traditional hunting, harvesting, and gathering.
- EMCR coordinated with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) on the development of land-based recovery tables across communities to support land-based recovery efforts.
- After the release of the Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis (PWNHRA) reports, EMCR assisted the CSRD in conducting in-person and virtual community engagement sessions. These sessions were aimed at explaining and clarifying the

findings of the reports to residents affected by wildfires. The goal was to foster transparent communication and address concerns from the residents.

- EMCR coordinated a one-year pilot project for Weather and Slope Monitoring for wildfire-affected areas. The Slope Manager program provides accurate and advanced data for communities to make informed decisions on land-based risks and evacuation alerts and orders.

Social

- EMCR connected community partners for socio-economic development and health supports, ensuring the appropriate supports are in place within each community.
- 12,213 recipients received Emergency Support Services (ESS) within the Central and Southeast Regions. No extensions of ESS were granted past October 2023.
- Working with the CSRD Community Recovery Manager, EMCR supported the transition from ESS to social supports for 17 households in the CSRD.
- In addition to funding CRMs, EMCR funded the recruitment of subject matter experts for community engagement sessions, as well as covered associated CSRD expenses. This was deemed necessary due to the limited capacity of the Regional District staff to contribute to community engagement.
- EMCR supported Skwlāx to draft a Letter of Commitment (LOC) with FOR as the sole signatory. EMCR actively participates in LOC meetings to develop the plan. Skwlāx's key challenges are the community's request for a hunting moratorium and increased regulations and collaboration with Indigenous communities over mushroom harvesting on traditional territory.

Economy

- Economic recovery tables have been established to find suitable means to address losses in both Skwlāx and the CSRD due to travel restrictions within the area.
- EMCR provided funding support to the CSRD and Skwlāx business communities for a series of community-based engagement events. Additionally, EMCR coordinated meetings between the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), CSRD, Skwlāx and the Shuswap Economic Development Society to progress economic development initiatives, corridor and transportation improvements, and communication strategies.
- JEDI and Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) attended discussions with RDCO to find a path forward on the Lake Okanagan Resort (LOR) challenges. Issues remain outstanding due to complexity of private lot ownership, multiple strata corporations, and privately owned water sources and septic fields that require repair and upgrades.

Appendix B: Northeast Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview

Key Figures

- The 2023 wildfire season burned approximately 2.3 million hectares in the Northeast Region of British Columbia, with over 50 holdover fires continuing into 2024. There were 247 fires in the Cariboo Fire Centre, including five fires of note and 672 fires in the Prince George Fire Centre, including 24 fires of note.
- Wildfires in the Northeast Region impacted 10 First Nations, four municipalities and three regional districts. First Nations are engaged with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for on-reserve, recovery supports. However, several First Nations were not aware of recovery supports available through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) as it relates to the six sectors.
- The wildfires led to the destruction of more than 75 structures across the Northeast Region.
- EMCR's 2023 Wildfire Recovery Surge team has five active files and is monitoring seven files.

Recovery Activities

Housing

- EMCR worked with local governments and First Nations to secure interim housing and social supports for residents displaced from wildfires. EMCR extended ESS to January 2024.

Health and Mental Health

- Since 2017, several northern communities have been re-impacted by wildfires and triggered by evacuation alerts and orders, resulting in heightened anxiety and stress. Supports from Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), First Nations Health Authority and Northern Health programs have been shared with communities as they navigate recovery and prepare for future hazard seasons.
- EMCR facilitated a conversation between the Ministry of Health, HEMBC, FNHA and Northern Health to discuss the ongoing challenges of disasters and mental health. Acute needs, such as smoke inhalation, were identified.

Environment

- EMCR facilitated conversations between the Ministry of Forests and impacted First Nations and local governments to ensure critical information was shared and incorporated into recovery plans. FOR ensured communities had access to subject matter experts.

- EMCR facilitated conversations between the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Northern Health on impacts to water quality and riparian habitat.
- EMCR facilitated connections between local governments and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to ensure drought impacts are understood and proactively addressed through existing funding programs, such as the 2023 Wildfire and Drought Recovery Initiative.

Economy

- There have been significant disruptions to the forestry industry in Northern BC. To date, the total economic impact to the forestry industry is unknown as the Office of the Chief Forester has not yet calculated the impacts of the 2023 wildfires on forests and timber supply.
- Ongoing disruptions to business operations during wildfire events is a main impact to the regional economy. EMCR meets regularly with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI). JEDI has connected to all community representatives to identify economic recovery funding opportunities.
- The cost and availability of insurance for remote, recreation properties remain an unmet need as most remote crown land tenure losses were uninsured.
- EMCR regularly engages with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, as well as NGOs such as the Northern Development Trust, Community Futures, and Northern BC Tourism Association to ensure specific business challenges and recovery opportunities are known across all organizations.

Social

- Over 190 individuals received Emergency Support Services (ESS) in the region.

Appendix C: Southwest Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview

Key Figures

- The 2023 wildfire season led to more than 38,000 hectares burned in the Southwest Region of British Columbia resulting from four major wildfires of note.
- The wildfires led to the destruction of more than 70 structures across the region.
- Wildfires in the Southwest Region impacted three First Nations and six local authorities who were impacted by closures of critical roads.

Recovery Activities

Engagement

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) collaborated with affected First Nations and local authorities in the region to determine unmet needs within the community.
- Given that individual Disaster Finance Assistance is not applicable to wildfire events, the Province faced constraints in offering direct support for certain unaddressed needs such as debris removal and reconstruction.
- EMCR has stepped in to bridge the gap by linking First Nations and local authorities with pertinent Ministry contacts and governmental supports. Additionally, EMCR staff engaged Federal and non-governmental organizations to explore available aids.
- EMCR coordinates and participates in weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and ad-hoc recovery gatherings tailored to address community-identified needs and capacities.
- These meetings, whether general or sector-specific (like economic or land-based recovery), included attendance from Ministries, the Government of Canada, and NGO partners.
- Some of the needs and policy areas identified, such as land-based recovery and riparian area regulations, are longer-term and linked to reforestation and rebuilding within protected areas. EMCR therefore has transitioned to a supportive role, with Regional Districts and First Nations in direct contact with ministries and organizations as needed.

Housing

- EMCR collaborated with impacted communities to advocate for enhanced accessibility to the one-time housing benefit (\$5,000) from the Canadian Red Cross, streamlining processes for temporary housing support. Efforts included clarifying acceptable forms of identification and utilizing housing loss data verified through Regional Districts and Provincial channels (e.g., ESS). The Canadian Red Cross have announced a continued program of support for primary residents impacted.
- In response to identified barriers in debris removal within riparian areas, EMCR has facilitated discussions between the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), resulting in updated

guidance allowing affected residents to conduct cleanup activities without engaging a Qualified Environmental Professional or obtaining a Riparian Development Permit.

- Further guidance has been released by WLRS that intends to streamline the rebuild process in riparian areas. WLRS is in direct contact with impacted residents on the support available to them.
- Following the dissemination of Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis (PWNHRA) reports, EMCR organized virtual town hall meetings to explain the findings for residents impacted by specific wildfires, facilitating transparent communication and addressing questions.
- Regional Districts implemented supportive measures such as reduced building permit costs for wildfire-affected properties (SLRD), waived scrap-metal tipping fees until August 2024, and reimbursed residents for Hazardous Material Surveys (SLRD).

Social

- Over 206 individuals received Emergency Support Services (ESS) in the region. No extensions of ESS were granted past October 2023.
- Funding was allocated through Expenditure Authorization Forms (EAFs) to hire Community Recovery Managers in the SLRD, and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) based on needs identified (see Annex B). The FVRD Community Recovery Manager contract ended in March. The SLRD Community Recovery Manager continues to facilitate resident contact with provincial partners to progress debris clean up and rebuild of impacted properties.
- EMCR facilitated funding for Critical Incident Stress Management debriefs and directly reached out to impacted residents to assess recovery status and connect them with necessary supports where required.

Environment

- Water quality assessments at Gun Lake, a drinking water source, were conducted in September 2023 and March 2024, indicating no immediate health risks. EMCR supported the Ministry of Forests (FOR) in establishing local, land-based recovery tables and facilitated progress in reforestation and riparian area replanting.
- Land recovery tables have been established to support in land rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

Economy

- Given the absence of a singular Provincial fund for businesses impacted by wildfires, EMCR facilitated connections between JEDI, community groups, and local NGOs to foster economic recovery initiatives.

Appendix D: Northwest Region 2023 Wildfire Recovery Overview

Key Figures

- The 2023 wildfire season burned approximately 175,000 hectares in the Northwest Region, with 17 holdover fires continuing into 2024. There were 277 fires in the Northwest Fire Centre, including seven fires of note.
- In the Northwest Region, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) engaged with 10 First Nations and three Regional Districts impacted by wildfires. First Nations were engaged with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for on-reserve, recovery supports. However, some First Nations communities were not aware of recovery supports available through EMCR as it relates to the six sectors.
- The wildfires destroyed more than 35 structures across the Northwest Region.
- EMCR's 2023 Wildfire Surge team has two active files and is monitoring 11 files.

Recovery Activities

Housing

- EMCR worked with First Nations and local authorities to secure interim housing and social supports for residents displaced from wildfires, which ISC supported. EMCR extended Emergency Support Services (ESS) to January 2024.
- The Canadian Red Cross issued a one-time grant of \$5,000 to support temporary housing. EMCR worked with impacted communities to ensure all residents received timely information of this grant. Three households received this support. A second round of Canadian Red Cross funding to those residents is currently underway to address remaining unmet needs.

Health and Mental Health

- Since 2017, several northern communities have been re-impacted by wildfires, triggered by evacuation alerts and orders, resulting in heightened anxiety and stress. Supports from Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and Northern Health programs have been shared with communities as they navigate recovery and prepare for future hazard seasons.
- EMCR facilitated a virtual conversation between the Ministry of Health, HEMBC, FNHA and Northern Health to discuss the ongoing challenges of disasters and mental health. Acute needs, such as smoke inhalation and lack of staff capacity were identified.

Environment

- EMCR facilitated conversations between the Ministry of Forests and impacted First Nations and local authorities to ensure critical information is shared, and that communities have access to subject matter experts.
- EMCR facilitated conversations between the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Northern Health on impacts to water quality and riparian habitat.
- EMCR facilitated conversations with both First Nations and Regional Districts and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to ensure wildfire impacts are understood and proactively addressed through existing funding programs, such as the 2023 Wildfire and Drought Recovery Initiative.

Economy

- There have been significant disruptions to the forestry industry in northern BC. To date, the total economic impact to the forestry industry is unknown as the Office of the Chief Forester has not yet calculated the impacts of the 2023 wildfires on forests and timber supply.
- Ongoing disruptions to business operations during wildfire events is an impact to the regional economy. EMCR meets regularly with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI). JEDI has connected to all community representatives to identify economic recovery funding opportunities.
- EMCR has confirmed that all losses to two natural resource sector businesses were insured. The rebuild and repair process is ongoing with operations returning to normal.
- The cost and availability of insurance for remote, recreation properties remain an unmet need as most remote Crown land tenure losses were uninsured.
- EMCR regularly engages with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport as well as non-government organizations such as the Northern Development Trust, Community Futures, and Northern BC Tourism Association to ensure specific business challenges and recovery opportunities are known across all organizations.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Village of Cache Creek Disaster Recovery

BACKGROUND:

- The Village of Cache Creek (VCC) is a community situated at the junction of the Bonaparte River and Cache Creek. It serves as an essential transportation hub and is home to approximately 1,000 residents. The Village has limited funding available due to their small tax base.
- Over the last decade Cache Creek has experienced recurring floods and wildfires that have adversely affected the community, changed the environment and increased the effects of naturally occurring disasters
- In addition to the May 2023 freshet flooding event, severe flooding occurred in 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2020.

DISCUSSION:

- Recovery efforts are ongoing with the majority of Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness's (EMCR) support being focused in three areas:
 - Chairing the Cache Creek Culvert upgrade table.
 - Coordinating with the Village's community recovery manager and engineering consultant on project plans and assisting with funding programs such as Disaster Financial Assistance, (DFA) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) and the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program.
 - Holding bi-weekly check-ins between the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and senior recovery leadership to continue discussions and support where needed on the larger more complex aspects of the VCC recovery plan.
- VCC has made progress on several public infrastructure files. There are 25 project applications with the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) public side (10 pending, 11 approved, and four complete). Additionally, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) bridge replacement project along Hwy 97 is underway.
- 21 DFA private applications were filed (11 small business, nine homeowners and one farm). To date, 10 have been paid, four were withdrawn, two are pending, and three have been adjudicated as ineligible.
- VCC's long-term recovery and resiliency plan is complete. Due to the increasing complexity of the situation and VCC's limited corporate capacity, ongoing additional support from multiple Ministries is required to help enhance VCC's staff capacity and provide subject matter expertise. Further, EMCR has hired a project manager with recovery experience to support the overall effort.

- Along with the Highway 97 bridge replacement project the following considerations will shape the ongoing Recovery and Mitigation plan:
 - Planning to address erosion along Cache Creek;
 - Developing climate resiliency sub-work plans for both private residential and commercial property along waterway;
 - Enhancing municipal and provincial infrastructure;
 - Addressing associated archaeological and environmental concerns; and
 - Including housing, social, health, and economic considerations.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Consultation with the local Indigenous governing bodies from the Bonaparte and Ashcroft Indian Band have been ongoing by the Village.
- \$19,000 in First Nation capacity funding has been approved for VCC by EMCR.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, Innovation
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
- Ministry of Forests

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Activity	Value
Response and recovery costs	Approved up to \$944,000
DFA Public Applications	\$946,506 (as of September 10, 2024)
DFA Private Applications	\$126,041 (as of September 10, 2024)
CEPF	Approved up to \$300,000

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

David Rice
 Director, Community Recovery
 Recovery, Policy, and Planning

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	03/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	02/10/2024
CFO	DL	27/09/2024
A/ADM	EST	27/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Public Safety Canada's proposed national flood insurance program

BACKGROUND:

- The 2024 federal budget committed Public Safety Canada (PSC) to stand up a low-cost national flood insurance program (FIP) within the next year. The proposed program will consist of a federally backstopped reinsurance product delivered through a subsidiary of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), as well as a subsidy funded by the provinces and territories (PTs) to keep premiums for high-risk properties affordable.
- The intent is that FIP will make flood insurance available, adequate and affordable and replace DFAA reimbursement for floods. PSC anticipates phasing out the FIP after 20 years following investments in flood risk reduction which PSC expects will enable the private market to offer affordable flood insurance to all properties.
- In March 2024, PSC convened a task force (TF) – co-chaired by Jennifer McGuire, ADM EMCR with industry and other provinces & territories (PTs) – to inform the design of the FIP. B.C. has been represented by staff from FIN, WLRS and the BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA). The TF is not a decision-making body; PSC indicated that future decisions on FIP design will involve formal federal and PT decision-making processes.
- A public report summarizing the findings of the engagement will be submitted in late fall 2024 to the Deputy Minister of PSC and President of CMHC, following two rounds of review with TF members in August and September. PSC offered to include a dissenting opinions annex to document where TF members (particularly PTs) disagree with aspects of the report.
- As of October 4th, the report has not been made available for review.

DISCUSSION:

- EMCR's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program covers a portion of homeowner repair costs arising from catastrophic events such as flooding where insurance is not available, adequate or affordable.
- From 2017 to 2023, DFA paid approximately \$45 million to homeowners for damages resulting from floods. Compensation is limited to essential contents and structural components using standard industry rates.
- Currently DFAA (the federal/provincial cost sharing arrangement following a large-scale natural disaster) reimburses up to 90% of costs to B.C. for eligible events. However, cost sharing will be reduced in April 2025 when new DFAA terms and conditions come into effect.
- Federal engagement with B.C. on the suite of programs related to disaster risk reduction – including the FIP, the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements

(DFAA) and the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) – is disjointed, creating and heightening concerns about achieving disaster risk reduction goals and potential downloading of costs to the PTs.

- The province has significant concerns with the proposed FIP. The program has many complex, unresolved issues, an unrealistic time frame for implementation, and potential expectations of PT funding and legislative support that may be inconsistent with provincial interests.
- On September 20, 2024, a letter was sent to the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, outlining B.C.'s concerns with the program. The letter recognizes that B.C. will be in interregnum and will not be able to actively engage until sometime in November. During this time, B.C. requests that that PSC share its responses and resolutions to our concerns with Deputy Minister Tara Richards so that the province is fully informed and prepared to engage on the FIP post interregnum.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- On-reserve properties often face higher home insurance costs. However, the FIP will not apply to properties on reserve but will apply to off-reserve residences of Indigenous peoples. The TF did not have representation from Indigenous peoples. It included members from Indigenous Services Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Finance (and the B.C. Financial Services Authority)
- Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- n/a

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- n/a

ATTACHMENT(S):

- n/a

PREPARED BY:

Carreen Unguran
Executive Director
Recovery, Policy, and Planning

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	01/10/2024
A/ADM	EST	25/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program Overview

BACKGROUND:

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is a provincial program administered by Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) that provides financial assistance to private persons and local government bodies that suffer uninsurable losses from eligible disasters.
- There are two types of DFA events:
 - DFA Private (impacting private persons) and
 - DFA Public (impacted local government bodies).An event can be declared as either one or both depending on the circumstances of the eligible disaster.
- A DFA Private event supports individuals (i.e. homeowners and tenants), small businesses, farms, and charitable organizations recover essential items only. The program supports the repair and restoration of essential structures such as damaged homes, small businesses, and working farms up to a maximum of \$400,000.
- A DFA Public event supports local government bodies and First Nations communities on reserve with reimbursement for repair of essential public infrastructure. This includes items such as road, dike, and bridge repairs. There is no maximum reimbursement amount.
- The 2021 Atmospheric River event remains the single largest DFA event in program history with DFA Public supporting a total of 52 communities in their recovery. An additional 2,300 private sector applications have been processed and paid out.

DISCUSSION:

- There are currently two active DFA Private events with a total of 12 private claims: 2023 Freshet (1 claim) and Savona (11 claims as of October 4, 2024). The deadline to submit applications for Savona DFA is October 14, 2024 (it is anticipated that more applications will be submitted before this deadline).
- There are currently 10 active DFA Public events. In total, these events represent 161 recovery projects pending approval, and 154 recovery projects approved and under construction. 972 projects (75%) have been completed/closed.
- The 2021 Atmospheric River event remains the single largest DFA event in program history with 26 communities still in the process of recovery. These communities have 93 projects pending approval and 71 projects approved and under construction. In total, 251 projects (60%) have been closed.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The DFA program is administered to First Nations communities on reserve through a bi-lateral agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
- ISC reimburses 100% of recovery costs for Indigenous people living on reserve.

- The DFA program is currently supporting 20 First Nations communities in their recovery.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- N/A

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- Under the Federal government’s modernized Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) Guidelines set to be introduced in Spring 2025, five new funding streams will be introduced.
- Two of these funding streams are pertinent to the administration of DFA Private and Public.
 - Funding Stream 2: Homes and Small Business – will reimburse provinces at 70% to support the restoration of essential needs for individuals, small businesses, and charitable organizations.
 - Funding Stream 3: Restoring Resilient Infrastructure – will reimburse provinces at 70% to support the restoration of public infrastructure that is more resilient to future disasters. This will enable communities to build back better, an option not currently available under the current program, at a lower cost recovery amount (currently 80% for pre-Atmospheric River and 90% for post-Atmospheric River eligible events).

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Across the 10 currently active DFA Public events, nearly \$40 million has been paid out since 2017. The 2021 Atmospheric River event makes up over \$11.4 million of this amount.
- EMCR has committed to spend an additional \$41 million to support communities going through the process of recovery. The 2021 Atmospheric River event makes up over \$24.5 million of this amount.
- Over \$52 million has been paid out to support private sector applicants since 2017. The 2021 Atmospheric River event accounted for over \$34 million of this amount.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- September 2024 DFA Update – Monthly Minister’s Report

PREPARED BY:

Brady Yano
Manager, DFA Public
Recovery Funding Branch

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	10/10/2024
A/ADM	EST	08/10/2024
ED	AT	08/10/2024

October 2024 Disaster Financial Assistance Update

Monthly Minister's Report



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

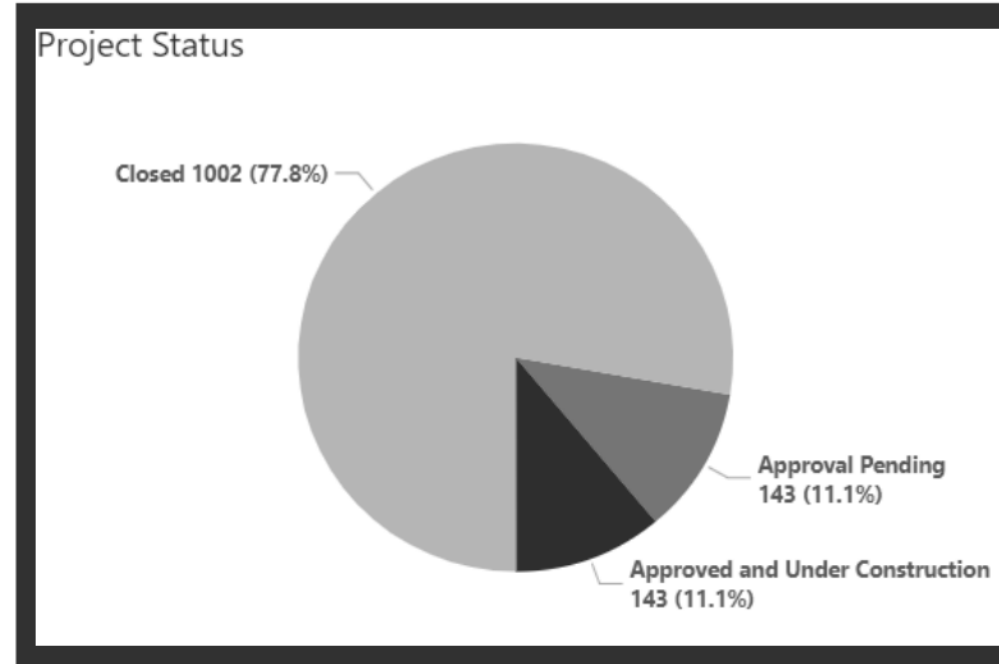
Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Minister with an overview of the key activities and outputs delivered by the Disaster Financial Assistance program in October 2024.
- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Breakdowns of public sector projects by status
 - Internal policy updates
 - Public sector trends
 - Breakdowns of all active private sector files

Public Sector Snapshot

10 open DFA events

- 25 projects closed (paid out or withdrawn)
- 1 new project opened
- 4 community applications closed
- Over \$2.6M paid out to 7 communities



Project Status By Event

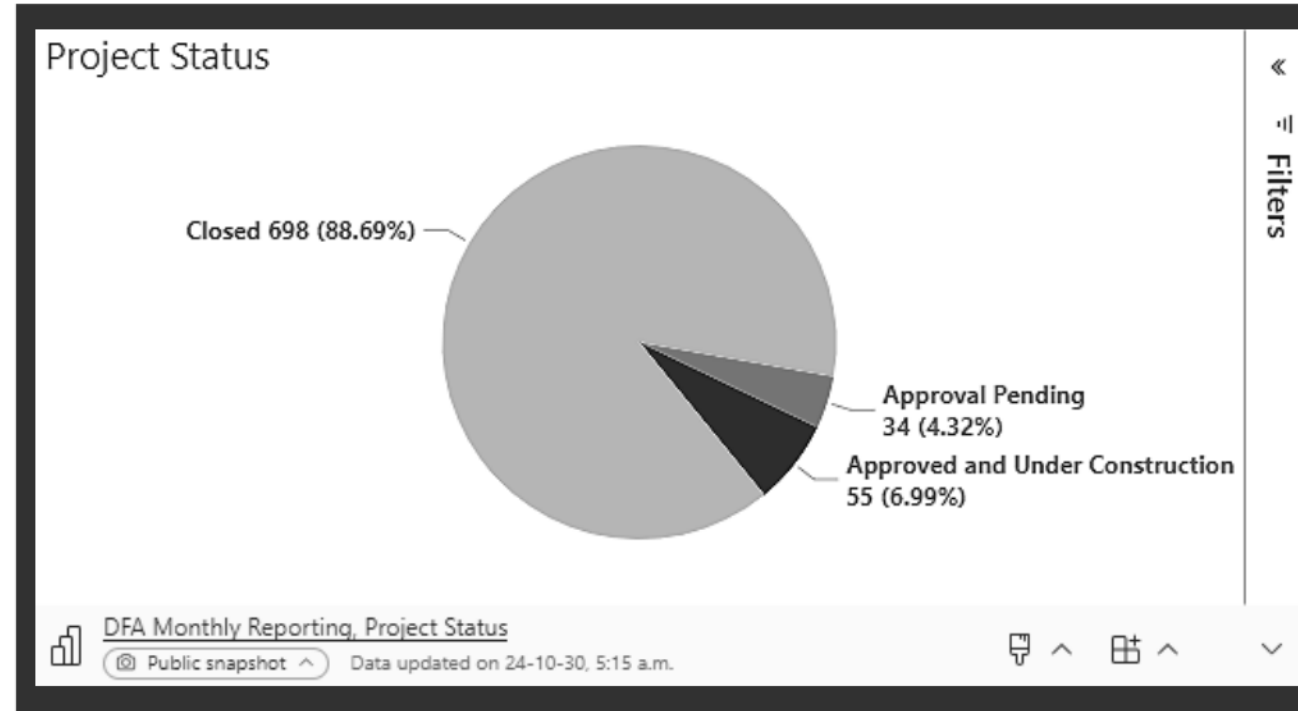
● Approval Pending ● Approved and Under Construction ● Closed



Public Sector – Pre-2021 Atmospheric River

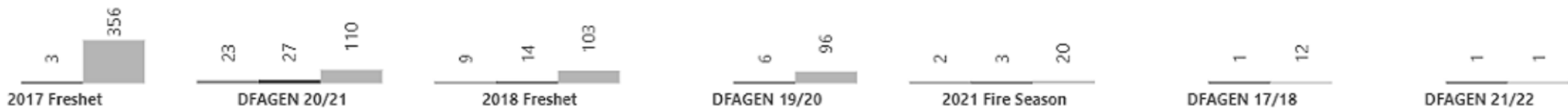
7 open DFA events

- **34** projects pending approval
 - **15** in First Nation communities
 - **9** in Chetwynd
 - **5** in Williams Lake
 - **3** in Cache Creek
 - **2** in Grand Forks



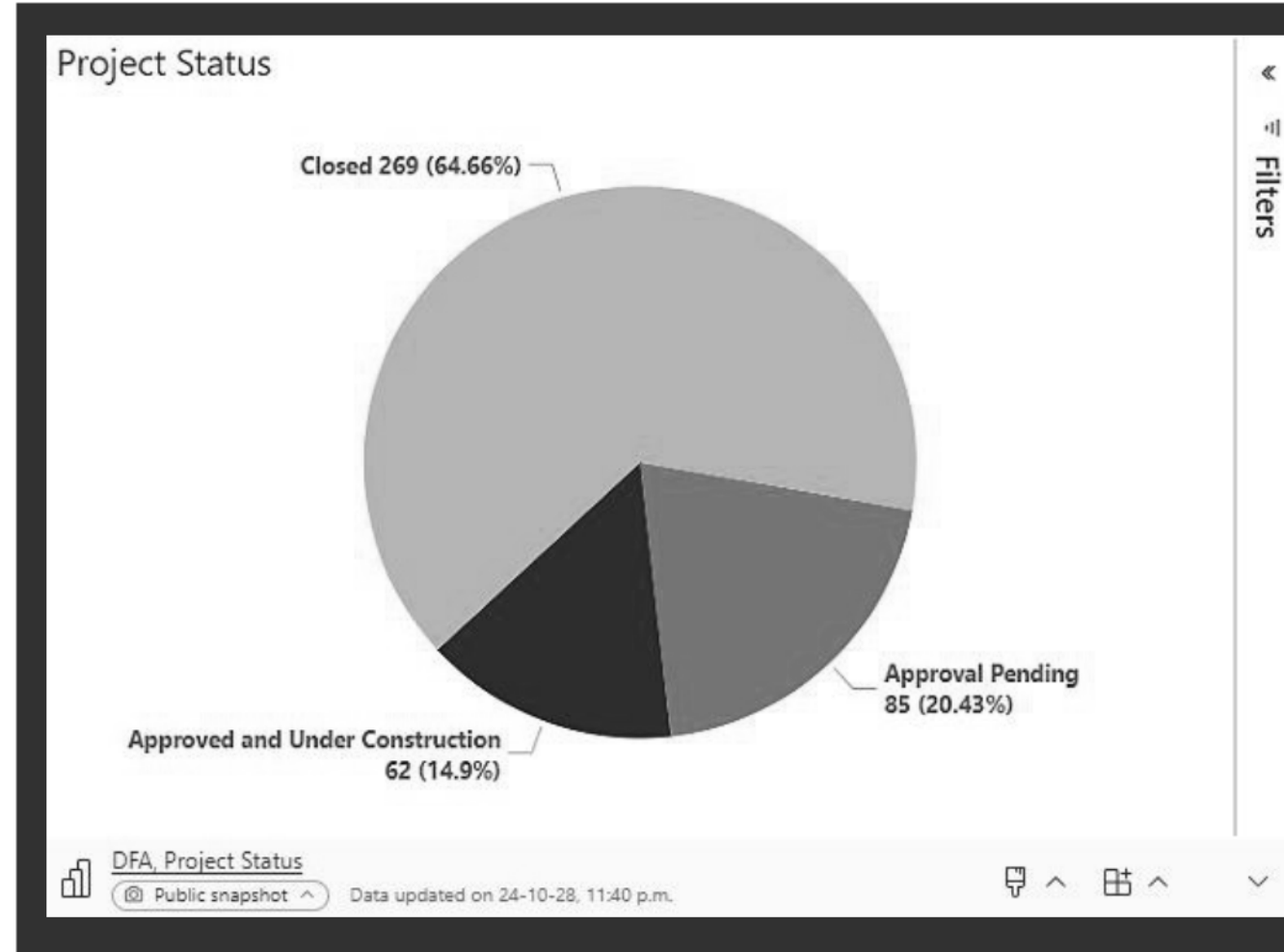
Project Status By Event

● Approval Pending ● Approved and Under Construction ● Closed



Public Sector – 2021 Atmospheric River

- **4** new projects approved totalling up to **\$195k**
- **11** projects paid out including:
 - **\$2.4M** to the City of Merritt
 - **\$137k** to the City of Delta
 - **\$93k** to the City of Chilliwack
 - **\$3k** to the District of Sooke



Public Sector – Post-2021 Atmospheric River

2 open DFA events

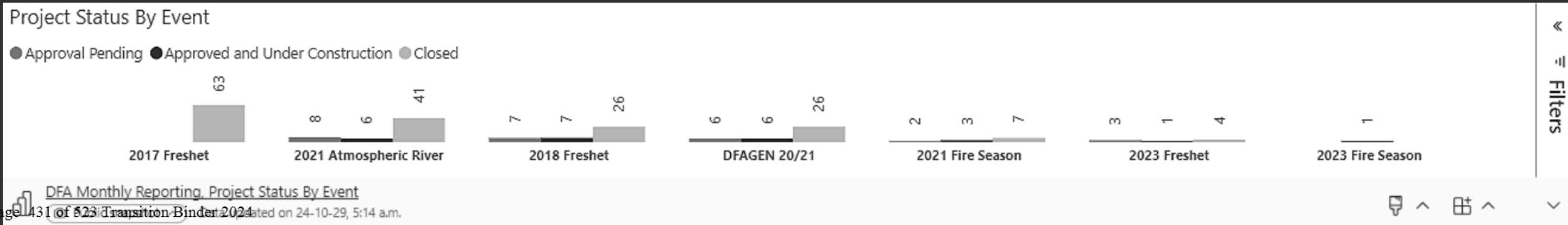
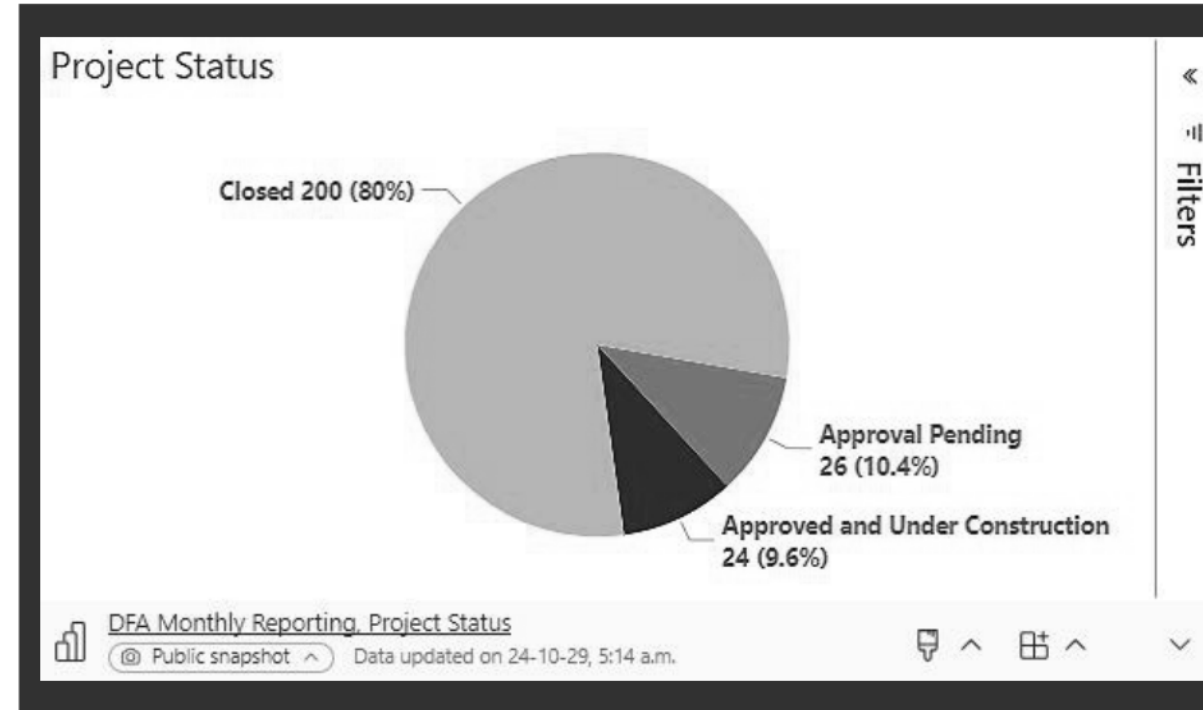
- 2023 Fire Season
 - 1 new project approved for up to **\$51k** for the Regional District of Central Okanagan
 - 1 project paid out totalling **\$35k** for the City of West Kelowna



Public Sector – Indigenous Communities

7 open DFA events

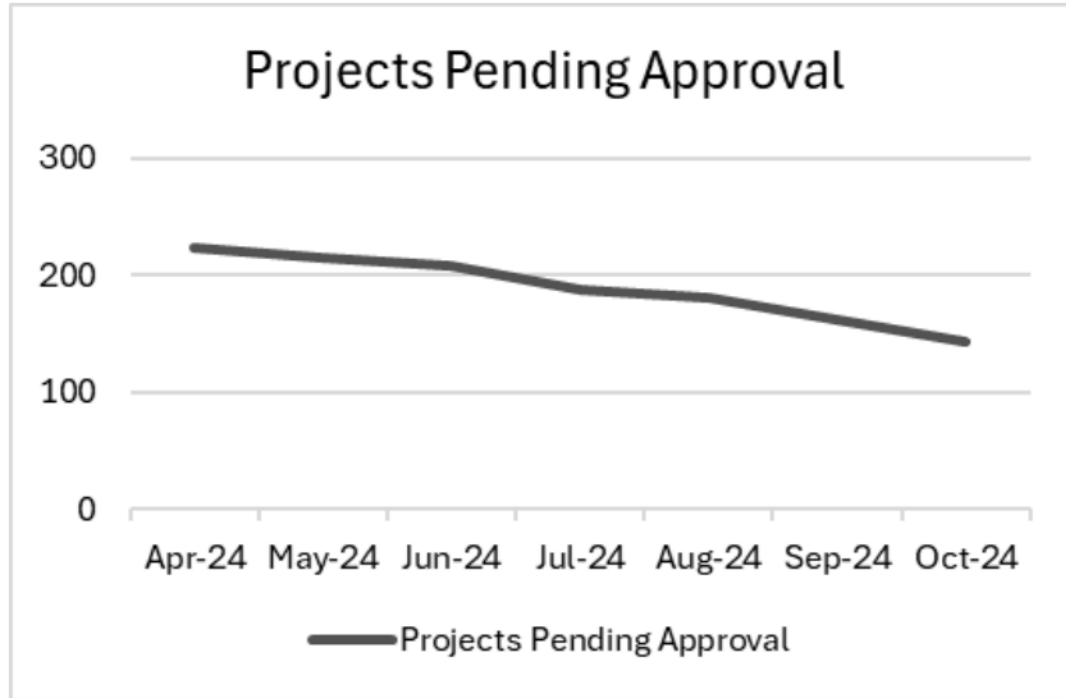
- 2018 Freshet
 - 7 projects pending approval
- DFAGEN 20/21
 - 6 projects pending approval
- 2021 Atmospheric River
 - 8 projects pending approval
- 2023 Freshet
 - 1 project pending approval
- 2023 Fire Season
 - 1 project pending approval



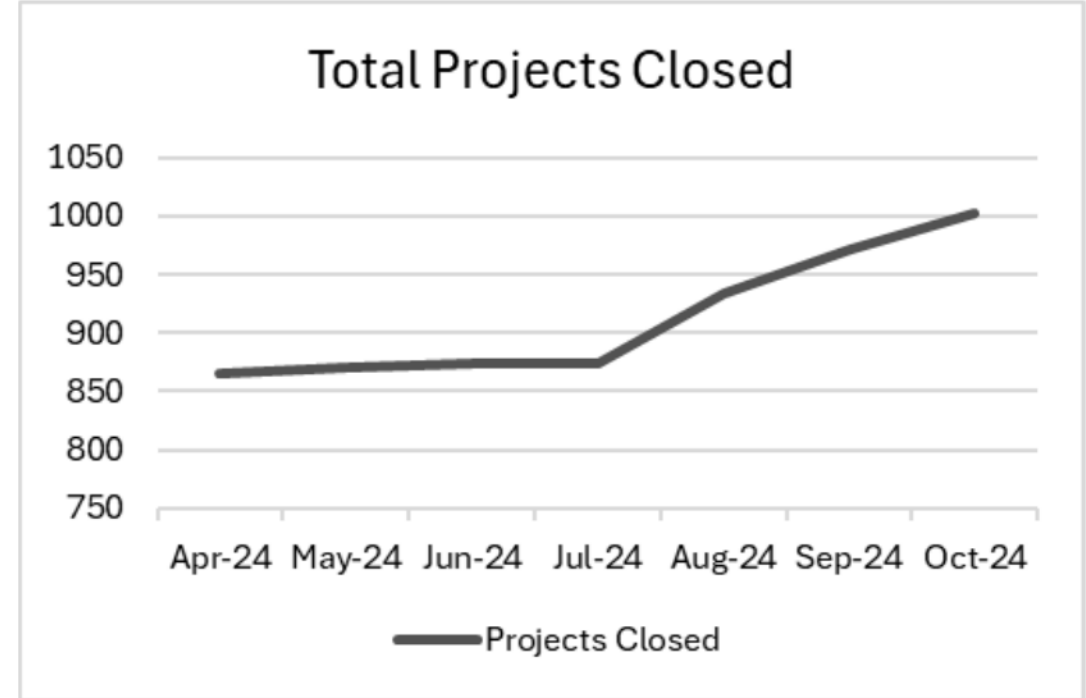
Public Sector Files with Community Recovery Team

- Public Sector Stalled Projects Policy (DR.03) has been approved and is currently in practice.
- To-date, 65 projects have been referred to Community Recovery under policy DR.03
- **18 projects** are currently being supported by Community Recovery

Public Sector Trends



- **12%** reduction in projects pending approval since last month
- **36%** reduction in projects pending approval since April 2024



- **3%** increase in projects closed since last month
- **16%** increase in projects closed since April 2024

Private Sector

Pre-Savona

- **1** active case for 2023 Freshet re-opened after 21-day letter – Field Manager to submit report for adjudication.
- **6** 2021 Atmospheric River appeal turnovers
 - **4** adjudicated, with payments completed and files closed
 - **2** under review

Updates:

- Currently providing support to trainers through knowledge sharing, comprehensive checklists, and targeted training programs materials.

Savona

- Event closed (October 14th)
- **16** Homeowner applications received
 - **5** files paid and closed
 - **3** claims initiated/in review
 - **6** files assigned to evaluator
 - **2** not eligible

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan (SRWFMP) and Transboundary Flood Initiative (TFI)

BACKGROUND:

- The Sumas Prairie was created in the early 1920s by draining Sumas Lake, which was a main source of sustenance for local First Nations.
- On November 16, 2021 (i.e.: the Atmospheric River event) overflow from the Sumas and Nooksack Rivers refilled the lake, forcing the evacuation of 1,100 homes in Abbotsford and resulting in approximately 630,000 animals perishing.
- Following the Atmospheric River event of 2021, the Province of BC, represented by EMCR and WLRS, participates in two tables to develop flood mitigation measures for the Sumas Prairie to prevent or lessen impacts from future flooding events:
 - In 2023, the Province entered into a collaborative framework with Semá:th, Matsqui and Leq'á:mel First Nations, the City of Abbotsford and the City of Chilliwack to develop the SRWFMP.
 - In 2023, the Province collaborated with Washington State (WA) and local and First Nation governments from both sides of the border on the TFI to develop solutions to address flood risk and ecosystem restoration in the Sumas and Nooksack River watersheds.
- In WA, the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process, which began in 2017, provides the framework for achieving the integrated floodplain management goals for the Lower Nooksack River and its floodplain. The TFI works to integrate and align the outcomes of FLIP and SRWFMP.
- Federal government participation has been limited at both tables. The Province would like to see the federal government engaged, strongly supporting funding solutions, and following through on their commitments around this area. SRWFMP Leadership sent a letter on July 2, 2024 to six federal ministers, including the Honourable Harjit Sajjan expressing these sentiments.
- The Province continues its cross-ministry engagement at both tables as well as providing administrative and financial support at the SRWFMP. Ministries of Agriculture and Food, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat are active participants in these tables.

DISCUSSION:

Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan (SRWFMP)

- First Nations have expressed interest in expanding the scope to include “fish first” through water quality and fish and aquatic habitat considerations broader than improvements in water quality that will accompany flood mitigation measures and to the Chilliwack and Fraser Rivers.
- Nations have raised concerns about not receiving compensation for the loss of Sumas Lake (1924), when the lakebed was sold to private interests. EMCR is meeting with MIRR to explore other avenues for these discussions, which are outside the plan's scope.

- Co-management of a hydraulic model (between local governments and First Nations) has been a persistent topic at all tables. The Province is planning to be the custodian of the hydraulic model to help resolve this issue. Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

Transboundary Flood Initiative (TFI)

- The SRWFMP needs to understand the magnitude of floodwaters from Nooksack overflows to model options in the Sumas Prairie and determine the feasible range of mitigation measures to propose.
- Intergovernmental Communications
Intergovernmental Communications is the legal protections in place for fish species at risk and Tribal rights – particularly the risk of contaminated flood waters impacting Lummi Nations’ fishing sites downstream of the flow split.
- WA-based parties often point to “historic” flows heading north, the previous function of Sumas Lake, and the “transfer” of risk versus sharing of risk.
- The FLIP process is exploring options on managing the Nooksack River, including how to “widen the funnel” where it typically overflows at Everson, broadening the room for the Nooksack River to flow where it has become constrained by development over time, including alignment of a bridge.
- Another option is an “overflow corridor” (which includes ring dikes around several WA communities) for directing flood water into the Sumas watershed in B.C. and has raised concerns for the City of Abbotsford.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Semá:th, Matsqui and Leq’á:mel First Nations all have interest due to the historical impacts that resulted from the draining of Sumas Lake as well as having reserve lands that could be impacted by future flooding events.
- The collaborative approach of the SRWFMP table and the process being undertaken aligns with DRIPA and all parties have acknowledged that the principles have been incorporated into the project.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

SRWFMP – Decisions Required

- Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications
- January 2025 represents a critical deadline for the City of Abbotsford to have a conceptual plan presented to leadership.
- BC’s SRWFMP partners are recommending that the collaborative process should jointly undertake public engagement in late November, 2024. Pressure is being

generated from the B.C. Agriculture Council, B.C. Dairy, farmers, and other community members to make more information publicly accessible.

TFI – Next Steps

- A TFI leadership virtual meeting is anticipated in early 2025. This meeting will focus on discussing the TFI Technical Status Report, which presents an overview of opportunities for cross-border flood mitigation strategies, and providing direction on next steps

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- To date, SFN has received the following funding to support their work with the SRWFMP:
 - Three grants from EMCR:
 - § One grant (\$600K) assigned specifically for technical expertise (Ebbwater)
 - § Two grants (\$2.483M & \$400K respectively) that are open to interpretation from SFN on how they use it.
 - IFP funding
 - § \$200K from WLRS in FY 2022/2023 (used for SFN staff to attend meetings)
 - § 100K from WLRS in FY 2023/2024 (assigned for biological expertise and the collection of Indigenous knowledge)
 - \$150K from CEPF for Risk assessment (assessment has not yet started, anticipated in Oct/Nov 2024).
- To date, the CoA has received the following funding to support their work with the SRWFMP:
 - One grant for \$500K from EMCR for technical expertise (KWL)
 - § The grant has been fully expended and CoA is now paying their technical experts out of pocket. This is direct result of the division of work between KWL and Ebbwater (with KWL taking on the majority of the workload).
 - Phase 2 Hydrological Modelling contributions (work is underway)
 - § 150K from CEPF
 - § \$150K from EMCR (JV from MOTI)
- To date, Leq'á:mel has received the following funding to support their work with the SRWFMP:
 - \$1.2M from EMCR to support the goals of:
 - § A holistic watershed health approach in Leq'á:mel Territory, grounded in a recognition of Leq'á:mel rights, title and interests and governing authority
 - § An increase in Leq'á:mel Lands Governance Capacity to offset time, effort and other costs required for participation in this project, to ensure existing LFN priorities and obligations are met
 - § The initiation of multiple collaborative planning tables (e.g. Hatzic, Sumas, Nicomen) with relevant stakeholders, rights holders and jurisdictions, promoting a holistic and integrated view of the Fraser

- River outflow, and identifying a path forward to complete necessary projects, actions, authorizations, monitoring and reporting related to Atmospheric River recovery and response
- § Creating pathways for collaboration and a shared effort by engaging LFN members, residents, stakeholders and neighbours (Fraser Valley Regional District, CoA, City of Mission, other First Nations) and Provincial and Federal agencies on relevant watershed projects
 - § Innovative (i.e. climate-informed, ecosystem management-based) holistic, multi-jurisdictional approaches to developing and completing watershed recovery projects in the Sumas, Hatzic and Nicomen areas
 - § Increased safety and resiliency for LFN communities and all residents located in these watersheds and associated floodplains and longer term climate resilience planning
 - § Demonstrated progress of recovery work occurring within LFN territory, expressed by active and productive multi-agency working groups, tables and task forces, and project results
 - \$150K from EMCR for technical expertise
 - \$100K from WLRs' Indigenous Funding Program (IFP) (\$50K in FY22/23, \$50K in FY 23/24) for attending meetings
- To date, MFN has received the following funding to support their work with the SRWFMP:
 - \$50K from WLRs IFP in FY22/23
 - The City of Abbotsford has received several major investments from the Province to support post-Atmospheric River recovery.
 - Building on the \$3.2M announced in April 2023, to help protect people, communities and farmland in the Sumas Prairie from future flood events, the Province committed an additional \$76.6M in February 2024 to support critical capacity upgrades to the Barrowtown pump station in Abbotsford. Upgrades to the Barrowtown Pump Station will increase its capacity and resilience to flooding.
 - With this latest investment, the Province has committed over \$220M to support Abbotsford's recovery. This includes funding for infrastructure repair projects, including:
 - the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program has received 118 private sector applications in the Abbotsford (Sumas Prairie) area. Funding has been approved for homeowners, tenants, small businesses, charitable organization, and farms (\$13.4M);
 - a new well and water-treatment system to ensure reliable, resilient water service for more than 165,000 people in the Sumas Prairie (\$60M);
 - through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, support for interim housing for people and other initial costs related to flood recovery (\$6.9M);
 - 28 infrastructure projects approved through DFA such as repairs to the Lakemount Bridge and Sumas dike (\$12.5M); and
 - through the Ministry of Environment's Flood Debris Management Secretariat, support projects in Clayborn Creek, the Sumas River and canal, and the Vedder Canal to remove sediment, repair riverbanks and provide erosion protection (\$41M).

ATTACHMENT(S):

- N/A

PREPARED BY:

Carreen Unguran
Executive Director
Recovery, Policy, and Planning
Disaster Recovery

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	10/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	10/10/2024
CFO	DL	01/10/2024
A/ADM	EST	26/09/2024

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: October 17, 2024
PREPARED FOR: Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
TOPIC: Chilcotin Landslide – Ministry Response and Recovery

KEY POINTS:

- On July 31, 2024, a significant landslide occurred, blocking the Chilcotin River.
- The volume of water backing up created a serious downstream flood risk; the magnitude of impact depended on how quickly the water breached the site and resulting flood.
- On August 5, 2024, the water overtopped the blockage.
- While the breach resulted in minimal public safety risk, the resulting condition blocked fish migration, impacted archaeological sites, and swept debris and sediment downstream.
- As fish are tied to First Nations' rights and food security, First Nations were equally concerned with impacts to migrating salmon and the protection of archaeological/ancestral remains.
- Current policy does not consider salmon/fish recovery as an emergency, so WLRS stepped in to lead emergency response to establish fish passage for migrating salmon and steelhead until this there was a cross-ministry emergency and recovery actions coordination table.
- By August 24, natural fish passage had been restored.
- While cross-Ministry collaboration occurred, the emergency response and early-recovery actions identified gaps in capacity and understanding of respective roles.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is conducting an internal After-Action Review to identify lessons learned.

BACKGROUND:

Roles and Responsibilities

- Under the *Emergency Disaster Mitigation Act* (EDMA), as of 2024 the Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is responsible for landslides, drought, flood and dam failures. Further work is needed to establish operational policy and subject matter experts.
- Led by WLRS, the initial emergency response focused on the flood potential and public safety, with support from the Ministry of Forests (FOR).
- After the water breached the slide site, the Emergency Operations Center was stood down.
- WLRS established a senior leadership fisheries team with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and then created BC-DFO collaborations local First Nations.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) initiated provincial engagement with First Nations on several related matters.
- Approximately a week later, WLRS and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) decided to establish a cross-ministry emergency and recovery coordination team, focused on fish, debris management, archaeology, and indigenous engagement.

The Landslide

- The Chilcotin landslide was approximately 28km upstream from the Chilcotin and Fraser River confluence. It was roughly 30m deep, 600m wide and >800m in length.
- The landslide completely blocked water flow, forming a roughly 11km lake behind it. With so much water, a full breach could result in extensive downstream flooding and damage.
- Both dam failure and flooding response have been refined and improved over the years.

Fish Passage - Salmon, Steelhead, and Resident Freshwater Fish

- Unable to foster a single, collaborative space, two Emergency Salmon Task Force (ESTF) tables were set up by BC and DFO, one with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) and the other with Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) and Esk'etemc.
- To determine levels of fish passage, turbidity monitors were installed below the slide in the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers, and a sonar system was installed above the slide site.
- Fish passage through the slide site began on August 24, which is approximately two weeks late. It is believed that high turbidity levels from the slide and high temperatures in the Fraser River caused salmon to naturally hold in the lower Fraser River and delay migration.
- DFO and BC drafted potential action scenarios, based on projected levels of fish passage, which included options for salmon enhancement and physical transportation of fish.
- As the river system settled (slumping, further breaches) salmon began successfully migrating to their natal streams, and no physical intervention was necessary. As of September 23, 38,000 sockeye reached their natal streams, representing 71% of the run expected by October 15.

Archaeology and Fish

- Conservation of Heritage Sites; Interests of an Indigenous People
- The FOR Archaeology Branch leads collaborations with First Nations.
- On-the-ground fish actions are implemented in accordance with Archaeological direction.

Debris

- The breach related flood resulted in significant natural debris moving downstream from the incident location and through the Fraser River and debris traps were deployed.
- Remaining debris may also mitigate drought impacts on fish (e.g., shade and holding pools).
- ENV is leading a debris team, in partnership with WLRS. A reconnaissance flight will occur late September and First Nations will be engaged on decisions regarding debris removal.

DISCUSSION:

- The implementation of EDMA has resulted in the need to redefine process and clarity as to roles and responsibilities for responding to natural hazard events.
- In 2024, WLRS was assigned responsibility for landslides without any additional resourcing. Under the EDMA, once emergency response is complete and public safety is no longer threatened, ENV is responsible to lead cross Ministry disaster recovery.
- There is a debate whether emergency actions for salmon/fish fit under the definition of disaster recovery and can access resources. WLRS is working to improve the inclusion of salmon and fish values with other ministry-led response and recovery efforts.
- In past years, there have been significant cumulative impacts on Chilcotin River salmon/fish and their habitats, including unprecedented wildfires in the area, an Atmospheric River Event, the Big Bar Landslide, extreme drought, and now the Chilcotin River landslide.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

- Interests of an Indigenous People
- Food security is a key concern for First Nations. EMCR is leading the 2024 food security response (e.g. providing salmon to Nations whose fishing periods were impacted).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- There will be ongoing external resourcing asks for fish habitat and water quality restoration.



NEXT STEPS:

- WLRS will continue to work with First Nations and DFO to ensure there is continued monitoring of salmon and fish migration over the next 3 months and intervene if necessary.
- The Chilcotin River Watershed is dynamic and unstable, with continued landslide risk and increased concerns over how spring 2025 freshet may further destabilize the area.
- While respective Ministries continue to take action based on their respective authorities, there remains a gap in provincial preparedness and response coordination that needs addressing.

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REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	Oct 8, 2024
CFO/EFO (if required)		
ADM	JM	Sept 27, 2024
ED	JD	Sept 27, 2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Statutory authorities – emergency and recovery powers

BACKGROUND:

- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) includes a range of powers that can be used to respond to or recover from an emergency.
- In general, these powers can only be accessed by the entity (the Province or local authority) that has declared a state of emergency or a recovery period.
- The ministry has published a [Response and Recovery Powers](#) guidance document (attached) that summarizes all of the emergency powers available under the EDMA.

DISCUSSION:

- The powers in the EDMA are largely the same as the powers that existed under the former *Emergency Program Act* (EPA), which was repealed in 2023.
- In general, it is good practice to only declare a state of emergency if the entity making that declaration intends to use emergency powers. If staff recommend that a state of provincial emergency be declared, the recommendation will generally be accompanied by draft ministerial orders to implement emergency powers as recommended and appropriate.
- The EPA did not provide for recovery periods. The EDMA includes the concept of a recovery period, which is an extendable 90-day period that can be declared after a state of emergency. After a state of emergency, there is no requirement that a recovery period be declared. No recovery periods have been declared in the approximately one-year period since the EDMA became law.¹
- During a recovery period, the entity that declared the recovery period has access to a limited range of emergency powers. In general, the powers available during recovery periods are less rights-limiting than those available during a state of emergency. Powers can only be used if they are necessary to support recovery from an emergency. To declare a provincial recovery period, the Lieutenant Governor in Council must make an Order in Council. To declare a local recovery period, a local authority must obtain written approval from the minister.
- Powers are given effect through “emergency instruments.” Most often, these are orders (e.g., ministerial orders). The contravention of an emergency instrument is an offence. Offences do not automatically result in penalties. The EDMA establishes maximum penalties of imprisonment for terms up to one year and fines up to \$100,000 (for individuals) or \$1,000,000 (for corporations). However, if penalties are pursued, they are generally imposed by way of violation tickets issued under the *Offence Act*, with tickets for the contravention of an emergency instrument carrying a penalty of \$2,300 (a fine of \$2,000 and a victim surcharge of \$300). There was no change to the ticket amount in the transition from the EPA to the EDMA.

¹ As of the time of writing. The EDMA came into force on November 8, 2023. While there have been numerous states of local emergency since the EDMA became law, there have been no states of provincial emergency.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are certain emergency powers (generally, those with the potential to affect land or personal property, such as the power to require evacuations) for which consultation with Indigenous governing bodies is required before they are used. The powers that require consultation are enumerated within the Response and Recovery Powers guidance document.
- During a state of emergency, if there is an imminent risk of loss of life or risk of injury to individuals or animals, or risk of significant loss or damage to property, the EDMA consultation obligation does not apply. Instead, the person who exercised the power (the minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, or the local authority) must engage and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies as soon as reasonably practicable after exercising the power.
- The EDMA recognizes that the inherent right of self-government of Indigenous peoples includes authority to make laws in relation to emergency management.
- While most First Nations that take actions to respond to or recover from emergencies affecting their communities do so in accordance with their own laws, the Nisga'a Nation and the Treaty First Nations (collectively, the Modern Treaty Nations) are local authorities under the EDMA, and may cite EDMA authorities in declaring states of local emergency and issuing emergency instruments in a manner similar to municipalities and regional districts.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- The minister often confers with other ministers (e.g., the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship) and the Premier as appropriate when considering the use of emergency powers, though the decision-making authority under the EDMA is held by the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council (depending on the emergency power).

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

ATTACHMENT:

- Response and Recovery Powers guidance document

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	07/10/2024
A/ADM, RO	KD	04/10/2024
ADM, PELD	MC	04/10/2024

Response and Recovery Powers

Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Issued: February 2024

This document provides an overview of powers available under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (the Act) during emergency response and recovery.

The powers described in this document apply only to states of emergency or recovery periods declared under the Act, which received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023. For states of emergency declared under the former Emergency Program Act, the powers provided under the Emergency Program Act continue to apply.

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Who Is Authorized to Exercise Response and Recovery Powers?

Response and recovery powers may be exercised by:

- the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (the minister),
- the provincial administrator (i.e., a person within the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness designated by the minister to administer the Act),
- the Lieutenant Governor in Council (i.e., the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia acting with the advice of Cabinet), and
- local authorities (i.e., municipalities, regional districts, and Modern Treaty Nations).

First Nations Peoples, as represented by Indigenous governing bodies, are also decision-makers in emergency management. First Nations Peoples have a rights-based authority

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to practice emergency management. This document provides information on powers provided by the Act, as opposed to rights-based authorities.

How Can Response and Recovery Powers Be Exercised?

Generally, the minister may exercise their powers through orders. The powers of the Lieutenant Governor in Council can be exercised through orders or regulations, depending on a power.

The powers available to local authorities during a declared state of local emergency or declared local recovery period must be exercised through emergency instruments. An emergency instrument means an order if made by the following individuals:

- for a municipality, the mayor or an individual assigned by bylaw of the municipal council to act in the capacity of mayor in the mayor's absence,
- for an unincorporated area in a regional district, the chair of the board of the regional district, or, in the chair's absence, a vice chair,
- for a Modern Treaty Nation, the individual elected or appointed as the head of the Modern Treaty Nation under the final agreement and constitution of the Modern Treaty Nation,
- if any person referred to above is unable or unavailable to act, the person's deputy or another person who is authorized to act in the person's capacity in the person's absence,
- an individual designated by a local authority to act on behalf of the local authority, such as a member of the local authority's emergency management organization or an employee of a member of the multijurisdictional emergency management organization. For more information on multijurisdictional emergency management organizations, see the **Multijurisdictional Emergency Management Organization Factsheet** on the [Modernized emergency management legislation webpage](#).

An emergency instrument that is made by a person or entity other than an individual (e.g., a municipal council, a board of the regional district, an entity designated by a Modern Treaty Nation to act on behalf of the Modern Treaty Nation) means a bylaw, resolution, law or other type of legal instrument.

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Certain powers available to local authorities cannot be exercised by the individuals referred to in the list above or by any person or entity designated by a local authority to act on behalf of the local authority and may only be exercised by a governing body of a local authority, such as a municipal council, a board of the regional district or the government of a Modern Treaty Nation. These powers include the powers to adopt a bylaw to borrow money to pay response or recovery expenses (see row 30 in the Table **Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period** below). Additionally, they include the powers described in rows 3, 5, 7-14, and 17-20 of the Table during a local recovery period.

For more information on the process for declaring a state of local emergency, and the requirements for designating persons or entities to act on behalf of a local authority, see the **Guide for Declaring a State of Local Emergency in British Columbia** on the [Local government emergency operations](#) webpage. For more information on the process for transitioning to a local recovery period, see **the Decision Guide for Transition to Local Recovery Period**.

Response and Recovery Powers Available at Any Time

Powers described below are available only to the minister and can be exercised at any time (i.e., these powers are not restricted to a declared state of emergency or declared recovery period).

Requiring Entities to Take Certain Actions

The minister may require a public sector agency, municipality, regional district, or critical infrastructure owner to take one or more of the following actions, if the minister is satisfied that an order is necessary to respond to or recover from an emergency:

- provide specific information to the provincial administrator,
- consult and coordinate with a person with respect to assessing an emergency and the emergency measures to be taken,
- take one or more emergency measures,
- provide emergency resources or the use of land,
- comply with directions of the provincial administrator with respect to any of the matters described above.

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Requiring Municipalities or Regional Districts to Support Others

In circumstances where a person who is authorized to exercise response or recovery powers is unable to adequately respond to or recover from an emergency, the minister may require a municipality or a regional district to take one of the following actions either within its own jurisdiction or within another person's jurisdiction:

- take one or more emergency measures,
- provide emergency resources or the use of land,
- comply with directions of the provincial administrator with respect to any of the matters described above.

Note: Under the Act, the jurisdiction of a regional district consists of any electoral areas within the regional district.

Response and Recovery Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period

Unless otherwise indicated in the table below, powers held by a provincial decision-maker (the minister, the provincial administrator, or the Lieutenant Governor in Council) require a provincially-declared state of emergency or recovery period, as applicable, to be in place. Powers held by a non-provincial decision-maker (a municipality, regional district, or Modern Treaty Nation) require a locally-declared state of emergency or recovery period, as applicable, to be in place.

Note: While municipalities, regional districts and Modern Treaty Nations are all local authorities, the powers available to each differ in some cases. For clarity, the table below refers to each of these entities separately, rather than using the collective term "local authority".

The minister, municipalities and regional districts are required to consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies before taking certain actions related to land or property during a declared state of emergency or declared recovery period. The table below identifies each power where consultation and cooperation is required before the minister, a municipality or a regional district makes an order or an emergency instrument.

In the instances where the table below indicates that consultation and cooperation is required before the Lieutenant Governor in Council can make a regulation, it is the

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minister who must consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies if the minister intends to recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to exercise those powers by making a regulation.

Municipalities and regional districts are required to make reasonable efforts to reach agreement respecting areas to be described in their emergency management plans for the purposes of consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies during the response and recovery phases. These agreements should be made with each Indigenous governing body that acts on behalf of First Nations Peoples whose traditional territory or treaty area includes an area within the jurisdiction of the municipality or regional district.

For more information related to consultation and cooperation, see the **Interim Guidance on Indigenous Engagement Requirements** on the [Modernized emergency management legislation](#) webpage.

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (1/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
1	Do all acts and implement all procedures necessary to respond to an emergency	Minister	✓		
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓		
2	Require a person to provide information	Minister	✓		
3	Identify essential goods, services, property, or facilities and, in relation to those things, do any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ establish price controls ■ ration or provide for their distribution or use ■ provide for their restoration Example: Preventing increases in prices for food and bottled water in situations where supply chains have been interrupted.	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
4	Identify essential goods, services, property, or facilities and, in relation to those things, prohibit or limit seizures or evictions	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓		
5	Authorize a qualified person to provide a service or give assistance Example: Authorizing tow truck drivers to clear vehicles that may be legally parked, but that are impeding access to areas where emergency measures need to be taken.	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (2/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
6	Require a qualified person to provide a service or give assistance Example: Requiring construction crews to remove debris after an earthquake.	Minister	✓		
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓		
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓		
7	Provide for the provision and maintenance of necessities	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
8	Appropriate, use, or control the use of goods	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
9	Use or control the use of land Example: Requiring a landowner to allow access to their land for the purposes of emergency response, such as hosting a staging area for response personnel or equipment.	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (3/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
10	Authorize entry into structures or onto land to take emergency measures	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
11	Prohibit entry into structures or onto land by any person Example: During a declared recovery period, preventing re-entry by evacuees into an area that is not yet safe for habitation.	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
12	Authorize or require alterations, removal, or demolition of trees, crops, structures, or landscapes	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (4/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
13	Authorize or require the construction, alteration, removal, or demolition of works	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
14	Require structures to be assessed for damage Example: Requiring an inspection for potential earthquake damage to the foundation of a residential apartment building.	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
15	Require the evacuation of persons or authorize the evacuation of persons or animals	Minister ¹	✓		✓
		Provincial administrator (with respect to areas not in the jurisdiction of a local authority)	✓		✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓		✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓		

¹ Unless the minister directs otherwise, powers 15 and 16 can also be exercised by the provincial administrator for areas not within the jurisdiction of a local authority.

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (5/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
16	Authorize the removal of goods Example: Authorizing the removal of abandoned vehicles from a highway or road to allow emergency vehicle access.	Minister ¹	✓		✓
		Provincial administrator (with respect to areas not in the jurisdiction of a local authority)	✓		✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓		✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓		
17	Control or prohibit travel on certain roads for specific purposes or times of day. Example: Restricting travel on certain roads for specific purposes or times of day.	Minister	✓		✓
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	✓
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	✓
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
18	Control or prohibit business activities	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	

¹ Unless the minister directs otherwise, powers 15 and 16 can also be exercised by the provincial administrator for areas not within the jurisdiction of a local authority.

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (6/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
19	Control or prohibit events Example: Restricting gatherings during a disease outbreak.	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
20	Require a person to stop doing an activity, or put limits or conditions on doing an activity Example: Requiring backcountry workers to pause operations in an area at wildfire risk.	Minister	✓		
		Lieutenant Governor in Council		✓	
		Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	
		Modern Treaty Nations	✓	✓	
21	Assume control over one or more fire services and designate the fire commissioner to exercise authority over those services	Minister responsible for the Fire Services Act	✓		
22	Make exemptions from requirements under enactments ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
23	Modify requirements under enactments ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	

² A regulation made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council during a state of provincial or local emergency may continue to have effect into a recovery period. However, regulations authorized by powers 22 through 29 must be made during a state of emergency: they cannot be made during a recovery period.

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (7/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
24	Establish limits on how enactments apply ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
25	Establish powers or duties that replace or add to those in an enactment ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
26	Establish terms and conditions in relation to things done using powers 22 through 25 ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
27	Authorize issuers of licences, permits, or other authorizations made under enactments to modify, add, or remove limits or conditions, or the term, of the licences, permits, or other authorizations ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
28	Suspend or change (without shortening) time periods under enactments ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	

² A regulation made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council during a state of provincial or local emergency may continue to have effect into a recovery period. However, regulations authorized by powers 22 through 29 must be made during a state of emergency: they cannot be made during a recovery period.

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Powers Available During Declared State of Emergency or Declared Recovery Period (8/8)

	Description of Power	Power Available To	Power Available During:		Consultation and Cooperation Required Before Making Order, Regulation, or Emergency Instrument
			Declared State of Emergency	Declared Recovery Period	
29	Provide that a failure to comply with a regulation made using powers 22 through 28 is to be treated as a failure to comply with the enactment modified using those powers ²	Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of provincial emergency)	✓	✓	
		Lieutenant Governor in Council (during state of local emergency)	✓	✓	
30	Adopt a bylaw to borrow money to pay response or recovery expenses	Municipalities and Regional Districts	✓	✓	

² A regulation made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council during a state of provincial or local emergency may continue to have effect into a recovery period. However, regulations authorized by powers 22 through 29 must be made during a state of emergency: they cannot be made during a recovery period.

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Need more info?

Online: gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact

Email: modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca

References: Emergency and Disaster Management Act, sections 1 “critical infrastructure owner”, “emergency”, “emergency instrument”, “emergency management organization”, “emergency measure”, “emergency resources”, “head”, “Indigenous governing body”, “local authority”, “municipality”, “Nisga'a Nation”, “participating authority”, “provincial administrator”, “public sector agency”, “recovery power”, “regional district”, “response power”, 19, 68, 69, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 83, 84, 86, 89, 90, 107, 108, 109, 110, 113, 118, 119, 120

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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Emergency Support Services (ESS)

BACKGROUND:

- Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a provincial program delivered by Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) and Local Authorities to meet the basic and immediate needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters ranging from single housefires to larger events such as wildfire and floods on a needs basis.
- The ESS Program is funded by the Province through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR). EMCR also provides program guidance, training, and mentoring to promote consistency of support.

DISCUSSION:

- To meet the service objectives mandated by the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA), ESS operates under EMCR Policy 5.03: Evacuee Living Assistance.
- ESS is typically provided for a period of 72-hours based on a needs assessment by an IGB or Local Authority ESS responder. Extensions beyond 72-hours may be granted on a case-by-case basis to a maximum of three months.
- ESS supports include food, accommodation, clothing, incidentals, and transportation and are provided by Interac e-Transfer using the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool or by referral to local businesses.
- ESS can be accessed by attending an in-person reception centre operated by IGB or Local Authority ESS teams. For larger-scale events (such as wildfires), additional support pathways may be enabled, including online self-serve and the BC Evacuee Helpline where evacuees can receive supports via Interac e-Transfer.
- The ESS Program works with a broad network of existing resources and expert organizations to deliver well-being, mental health and cultural support.
- In fall 2023, BC Ombudsperson report 'Fairness in a Changing Climate', was released and included recommendations for ESS based on 2021 events. These recommendations included surge support for large-scale responses and alternate pathways to ESS, beyond reception centres.
- Following the 2023 wildfire season, the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies was established. Task Force ESS recommendations delivered in April 2024 included to:
 - Consolidate and improve accessibility to ESS training so that responders can be trained quickly and effectively to deliver support in a culturally safe, trauma-informed manner.
 - Further develop ERA-enabled pathways to improve timely access to supports for evacuees during large-scale evacuations, and reduce congestion at in-person reception centres, including virtual and digital options

- Review rates and make more support available through Interac e-Transfer so that evacuees can decide how to best meet their needs, based on the principle that evacuees are experts in their own needs.
- As a result, the ESS team expanded its modernizations efforts, which resulted in the implementation of program enhancements for the 2024 wildfire season
- The Emergency Management Booking Portal (EMBP) was a pilot project between EMCR and the BC Hotel Association (BCHA) and is supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) in the communities of Prince George, Kamloops and Kelowna for the 2024 wildfire season.
 - The purpose of the EMBP is to help ESS responders and commercial accommodation operators better coordinate and track commercial accommodation availability for evacuee placement, as well as to streamline administration of booking commercial accommodation.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- ESS applies the Draft Principles that guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples to deliver supports to Indigenous Peoples in a way that is consistent with the right to self-determination and to stay consistent with the principle of engagement and co-development of new work impacting Indigenous Peoples.
- EMCR supports communities by funding positions for Community Navigators and First Nation Community Navigators who can connect evacuees with supports. First Nations partners were consulted on the policy development and policy updates.
- EMCR also encourages the establishment of Cultural Activity Locations through funding and training, where evacuees can gather and access cultural care services like connection with an elder, as well as traditional foods and medicine.
- ESS will be implementing a process in 2024 to regularly engage with Indigenous partners and communities.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- ESS will be implementing a process in 2024 to regularly engage with Local Authorities and ESS Teams.

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

ESS Support

- The number of events in the table below is determined by issuance of a task number. The number of evacuees served by ESS is estimated based on the best available information; however, local authorities and First Nation Governments are not required to report this level of detail to EMCR.

ESS Supports As of September 19, 2024			
Fiscal Year	ESS Events by Fiscal Year	Estimated # of people impacted¹	ESS Costs² (In millions)
2017/18	Not available	62,464 ³	\$19.4
2018/19	471	10,813	\$7.4
2019/20	490	1,920	\$1.0
2020/21	495	3,647	\$1.9
2021/22	518	34,609 ⁴	\$22.9
2022/23	449	4,152	\$11.9
2023/24	722	49,430	\$16.8
2024/25 (to August 2024)	287	7,400	\$9.5
Total	3,432	174,435	\$90.8

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - ESS Grants

The funding supports eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide ESS through volunteer recruitment, retention and training, including in-house training, and the purchase of ESS equipment. The grants are administered through Union of BC Municipalities.

Intake	Sum of Approved Funds (in millions)	Number of Projects
Intake 1 – 2017/18	\$1.977	84
Intake 2 – 2018/19	\$0.905	33
Intake 3 – 2019/20	\$2.501	96
Intake 4 – 2020/21	\$1.675	51
Intake 5 – 2021/22	\$1.924	54
Intake 6 – 2022/23	\$2.189	63
Intake 7 – 2023/24	\$4.112	109
TOTAL	\$15.283	490

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

¹ Evacuation order estimates does not include populations supported by ESS that were not under evacuation order (e.g., apartment fires).

² Some costs related to hotel bookings and group lodging contracts are not captured.

³ Reflects intensity of wildfire season, includes evacuation of Williams Lake.

⁴ Includes November 2021 Atmospheric River (Merritt & Abbotsford) and wildfires (Lytton & Lytton First Nation), reflects increased reliance/competition on hotels due to COVID-19.

PREPARED BY:

Brittany Decker
Executive Director
Emergency Support Services

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	04/10/2024
CFO	DL	02/10/2024
ADM	MLM	24/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: 2024 Hazard Season Summary

BACKGROUND:

- Seasonal hazards in British Columbia have regional variation but can be generalized as:
 - Spring Freshet - March to July
 - Wildfires and Drought - May to September
 - Fall and Winter Storms (including Atmospheric River events) - September to March
- Other emergencies, including environmental spills and seismic events, etc., can happen at any time.
- EMCR hosts weekly calls with Emergency Management partners (Indigenous and Local Governments, Ministries and Agencies) throughout the year to share information on the current hazard situation. These calls are supplemented by regional or sub-regional calls for impacted communities to support decision making.
- During the period from March to September, EMCR hosts calls with Members of the Legislative Assembly, Mayors and Chairs, and First Nation Chiefs beginning on a monthly cadence and shifting to bi-weekly or weekly depending on event intensity. Calls provide information from subject matter experts and an opportunity to ask questions.

DISCUSSION:

- The 2024 hazard activity has been primarily focused on wildfire and drought. Lower than average snowpacks resulted in minimal freshet impacts.
 - In 2024, 49 Evacuation Orders were issued, impacting 7,400 people and 105 Evacuation Alerts were issued.
 - For comparison, in 2023, 208 Evacuation Orders were issued that impacted 48,900 people and 386 Evacuation Alerts were issued.
- On July 22nd, the town of Jasper, Alberta was impacted by wildfire, closing highways to the south and east.
 - This forced the approximately 25,000 evacuees to evacuate west into BC through Valemount.
 - EMCR staff worked with counterparts in Alberta to support evacuees transitioning them through BC back into Alberta to receive supports.
- On July 31st, there was a significant landslide that blocked the Chilcotin River.
 - A cross-ministry response, led by Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), was initiated and supported by EMCR (Provincial Emergency Coordination Center and Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre's (PREOC) in the North East, Central and South West regions).
 - The dam, created by the slide, breached on August 5th with significant impacts along on Chilcotin River and debris within the Fraser. The Fraser River debris trap was activated and functioned as expected.

- Evacuation Orders (6) and Alerts (3) were issues to protect public safety along the river banks,

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The governments of Canada and British Columbia have a 10-year, \$29.6 million bilateral Emergency Management Service Agreement to enhance the delivery of emergency management support services to on-reserve First Nations communities in British Columbia. This agreement enables all First Nations communities on reserves to receive emergency management support comparable to what is currently provided to other local authorities.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

2024 Regional Wildfire Summary

Region	SOLE/BCR	Orders			Alerts		
		#	Properties	Population	#	Properties	Population
CTL	9	13	219	405	27	1981	4443
NEA	17	18	2715	5330	39	4567	8677
NWE	1	1	2	0	9	720	776
SEA	8	17	1208	1680	28	4173	5394
SWE	1	--	--	--	2	19	16
VIC	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	36	49	4144	7415	105	11460	19306

2024 Chilcotin Landslide Summary

Chilcotin Landslide Event					
Region	SOLE /BCR	Orders		Alerts	
		#	Properties	#	Properties
CTL / NEA	2	6	12	3	5

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

PREPARED BY:

Ian Cunnings
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Regional Operations

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	03/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	03/10/2024
ADM	MLM	25/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Preparedness Response Posture

BACKGROUND:

- Preparedness for emergencies requires an understanding of disaster risk and is a shared responsibility across the whole of society.
- British Columbia's *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) requires that local authorities (LAs) must prepare local emergency plans, maintain an emergency management organization and direct their own emergency response.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation* assigns responsibility for hazard-specific risk assessments, emergency management plans and business continuity plans to identified ministries.
- Under the regulation, EMCR is assigned responsibility for earthquake, tsunami, volcanic, and extreme temperature (in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Housing) risk assessments and emergency management plans.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) maintains 24/7 staffing and engagement with partners and communities to ensure year-round emergency response capability anywhere in BC.
- EMCR's emergency response operations are conducted:
 - At the provincial level, through its Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC), which is active 24/7.
 - At the regional level, through its Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) located in our regional offices, which are active year-round.
- The PECC and all PREOCs can expand their structures and capacity rapidly to ensure adequate response to major emergencies (with this expansion including the capability to incorporate and integrate staff from other ministries and emergency management partners).

DISCUSSION:

Flood Readiness

- Flooding in BC is typically driven by freshet snowmelt (during the spring and early summer), heavy precipitation (during fall or winter) or ocean storm surge (in coastal areas). Roles and responsibilities for flood preparedness and response are outlined in the Provincial Flood Emergency Plan.
- The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship's (WLRS) River Forecast Centre (RFC) analyses snowpack and river flows, and issues Flood Warnings, Watches, and Advisories for current and upcoming flood conditions and risk.
- The Province, Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB), and LAs also use local floodplain mapping to refine RFC flood risk predictions and inform flood readiness activities.
- EMCR deploys flood control assets (e.g., sandbags, gabion baskets) in consultation with communities to ensure response readiness for areas of imminent flood threat.

Wildfire Readiness

- The Ministry of Forests (FOR) through BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) predicts wildfire risk and maintains readiness for wildfire response (on crown land and in partnership with IGBs and LAs)
- As the Province's lead coordinating agency for emergency management activities, EMCR works closely with the BCWS in all aspects of provincial wildfire readiness.

Extreme Temperature Readiness

- IGBs' and LAs' respond to extreme temperature events in their area. EMCR supports including funding of communities' emergency warming and cooling locations.
- Following the 2021 heat dome event, the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee was established, led by the Ministry of Health.
- In 2022, the 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).
- In 2023, the HEAT Committee developed readiness and response recommendations to reduce the impacts of extreme winter weather on unhoused populations.

Drought Readiness

- Roles and responsibilities for drought and water scarcity response are outlined in the BC Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan.
- EMCR supports IGBs and LAs with drought response through various means, including the transportation of potable water and provision of water for fire suppression.

Seismic (Earthquake and Tsunami) Readiness

- EMCR is responsible for maintaining the:
 - Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy, which details the roles, responsibilities and integration of the province and its partners in responding to a catastrophic earthquake.
 - The Catastrophic Emergency Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC) Concept of Operations, which details how initial response and recovery operations of all provincial emergency management partners will be integrated into a single operational structure following a catastrophic event.
- EMCR maintains 24/7 readiness to launch the Provincial Emergency Notification System to alert communities, EMCR's partners and the public of a tsunami event, including via intrusive BC Emergency Alert to radio, TV, and cellular devices.
- The Province is supporting Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) national Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system, with EMCR providing general public education about the EEW system and crisis communications during EEW alerts.

Briefing of Elected Officials

- EMCR provides situational awareness regarding emergency event hazard levels, impacts and response activities to elected officials' groups across the province.

- This information is provided in separate, targeted meetings held with Members of the Legislated Assembly, local authority mayors and regional district chairpersons, and First Nations Chiefs.
- These updates are typically provided on a monthly cadence during the spring, escalating to bi-weekly or weekly during the summer dependent on the severity of events, and address freshet flooding, drought, extreme heat, wildfire and other hazards.
- Updates are provided at these meetings by EMCR, the BCWS, RFC and other relevant provincial ministry experts, as required.

EMCR PECC & PREOC Structures

- PECC and PREOC operations are conducted under the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS) which is based upon the Incident Command System (ICS), which ensures:
 - Use of a standardized, flexible terminology, organizational structure and chain-of-command that are shared by most Canadian emergency management agencies.
 - Establishment of systematic, predictable and documented operational processes, including resource request and financial approval processes.
- The PECC's primary role comprises:
 - Leading and coordinating EMCR's provincial emergency response operations.
 - Supporting the PREOCs' regional emergency response operations.
 - Supporting the response operations of other Provincial emergency response activities when requested by an appropriate ministry or agency.
- The PECC's primary services include:
 - Providing leadership, management, direction and decision-making to EMCR's provincial emergency response activities.
 - Providing accurate and factual emergency event information to the public.
 - Providing a primary point of contact and coordination for EMCR's partner emergency management ministries, agencies and organizations.
 - Collecting, managing, displaying, and disseminating emergency event information within the provincial emergency management environment.
 - Operationalizing provincial response plans and conducting event-specific advance planning for provincial emergency response activities.
 - Acquiring and allocating resources required for provincial emergency response activities, including personnel, equipment, services, and facilities.
 - Monitoring and documenting its financial actions, and ensuring these actions are conducted in accordance with provincial emergency management policy.
 - Maintaining critical public safety operations 24/7/365 through a contact centre, the issuance of intrusive BC Emergency Alerts, and the sharing of information directly to the public via the EmergencyInfoBC platforms.
 - Ensuring policy, legal, risk management and other subject matter expert advice is available to support provincial emergency response activities.

- The PREOCs’ primary role comprises:
 - Dissemination and coordinating regional hazard information (e.g. weather warnings) and emergency response activities between various emergency management partners including LA, IGB, Ministries, agencies and NGO.
 - Supporting the impacted LA, IGB or host communities in support of regional emergency response operations and support for evacuees.
- The PREOCs’ primary services include:
 - Providing a primary regional point of contact and coordination for EMCR’s partner emergency management organizations including LA, IGB, Ministries, agencies and NGOs.
 - Collecting, managing, and disseminating regional hazard and emergency event information to emergency management partners.
 - Sharing regional hazard information, coordinating preparation activities and coordination of other regional emergency response activities which includes distribution of flood protection assets before an event and coordinating BCWS evacuation recommendations to LA or IGB during wildfire season or events.
 - Acquiring, allocating and approving resources required for emergency response activities from within the region, including personnel, equipment, services, and authorize financial reimbursement.
- In addition to the internal chains of command, governance of the PECC and PREOC is provided by the leadership structures of the EMCR Senior Executive Team and Regional Operations Division.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous Peoples across BC have historically been disproportionately impacted by climate change and the impacts of emergency events and disasters.
- Under EDMA, hazard-specific risk assessments and emergency management plans drafted by the Province must be developed in consultation and cooperation with affected Indigenous Governing Bodies.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Lead Ministries identified in BC Order in Council 435/2024 are required to prepare hazard specific risk assessments and emergency management plans. (see Attachment 1).

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Attachment 1: Lead Ministries by Hazard (Identified in BC Order in Council 435/2024)

PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	04/10/2024
ADM	MLM	24/09/2024

**LEAD MINISTRIES BY HAZARD TYPE AS IDENTIFIED IN BC EMERGENCY DISASTER
MANAGEMENT REGULATION ORDER IN COUNCIL 435/2024 (AUGUST 2024)**

HAZARDS	LEAD MINISTER/MINISTRY <i>ASSOCIATED PROVINCIAL ACT</i>
Accidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicle incidents relating to provincial public highways 	Transportation & Infrastructure <i>Transportation Act</i>
Atmospheric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme temperature <i>Except extreme temperature related to housing or public health</i> 	Emergency Mgmt & Climate Readiness <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>
Atmospheric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme temperature as it relates to housing 	Housing <i>Assistance to Shelter Act</i>
Atmospheric: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme temperature as it relates to public health 	Health <i>Public Health Act¹</i>
Civil Unrest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riots Public disorder 	Public Safety & Solicitor General <i>Police Act²</i>
Diseases & Epidemics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal diseases and Epidemics 	Agriculture & Food <i>Animal Health Act</i>
Diseases & Epidemics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human diseases 	Health <i>Public Health Act¹</i>
Diseases & Epidemics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant diseases Pest infestations 	Agriculture & Food <i>Plant Protection Act³</i>
Explosions and Emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosions <i>Except gas explosions or leaks or mine explosions</i> 	Public Safety & Solicitor General <i>Fire Safety Act</i>
Explosions and Emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas explosions or leaks relating to gas wells, refineries or power generation facilities Gas explosions or leaks relating to pipelines 	Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation <i>Energy Resource Activities Act⁴</i>
Explosions and Emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine explosions 	Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation <i>Mines Act</i>
Fires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires <i>Except wildfires or interface fires</i> 	Public Safety & Solicitor General <i>Fire Safety Act</i>
Fires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfires and interface fires. 	Forests <i>Wildfire Act⁵</i>
Flooding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverine flooding Flooding caused by ice jams and debris flows Coastal flooding (including sea level rise) <i>Except flooding caused by ice jams and debris flows that affects provincial public highways.</i> 	Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship <i>Dike Maintenance Act</i>

*Lead Minister/Ministry is identified in BC OIC 435/2024 by the minister responsible for the administration of the applicable Act, or portion of the applicable Act

**LEAD MINISTRIES BY HAZARD TYPE AS IDENTIFIED IN BC EMERGENCY DISASTER
MANAGEMENT REGULATION ORDER IN COUNCIL 435/2024 (AUGUST 2024)**

Geologic (Seismic): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquakes • Tsunamis • Volcanic eruptions (including ash falls, mud flows, pyroclastic flows and lava flows) 	Emergency Mgmt & Climate Readiness <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>
Geologic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslides <i>Except landslides that affect provincial public highways</i> 	Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship <i>Land Act</i>
Geologic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslides, avalanches, debris flows and debris avalanches that affect provincial public highways 	Transportation & Infrastructure <i>Transportation Act</i>
Hazardous Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous spills (on site or on a transport route) 	Environment & Climate Change Strategy <i>Environmental Management Act (Part 7)</i>
Hazardous Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation • Infectious materials or biohazards 	Health <i>Public Health Act¹</i>
Hydrologic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice jams that affect provincial public highways 	Transportation & Infrastructure <i>Transportation Act</i>
Hydrologic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam incidents and failure (including foundations and abutments) 	Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship <i>Water Sustainability Act</i>
Hydrologic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought and water scarcity 	Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship <i>Water Sustainability Act</i>
Power Outages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical power outages or overloads 	Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation <i>Hydro and Power Authority Act</i>
Terrorism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism (hostile acts against state, war) 	Public Safety & Solicitor General <i>Police Act²</i>

¹ Other than sections 3, 4 and 66 of the **Public Health Act** as those provisions relate to mental health and addictions

² Other than Part 7.1 of the **Police Act**

³ Other than provisions of the **Plant Protection Act** as they relate to the treatment of the Spongy Moth

⁴ Other than Division 2 of Part 2 of the **Energy Resource Activities Act**

⁵ Other than as the **Wildfire Act** relates to: a) the collection of public money (as defined in the Financial Administration Act) other than a fine, or b) the administration of deposits and securities payable)

*Lead Minister/Ministry is identified in BC OIC 435/2024 by the minister responsible for the administration of the applicable Act, or portion of the applicable Act

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Public Alerting

BACKGROUND:

- During life-threatening emergency incidents, Public Alerts provides information and immediate actions which citizens and visitors can take to increase the likelihood of saving lives.
- The new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, requires provincial government, public sector agencies municipalities, regional districts, Nisga'a Nation, and treaty First Nations to have a system "to give warnings or notices to the public if an emergency is present".
- Under the National Public Alerting System, and agreement with Pelmorex signed in 2011, EMCR is the Province's Authorized Government Agency for all broadcast intrusive alerts in the province.
- The province, through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), sends Public Alerts at the request of a Local Authority, Indigenous Governing Body (IGB), partner agency or the province, for wildfires, floods, extreme heat emergencies and tsunamis.
- Public Alerts and partner agency alerts are sent using the National Public Alerting System, known as the public-facing brand of Alert Ready.
- Public Alerts are normally sent as a broadcast intrusive alert, immediately interrupting television and radio broadcasts, and activating compatible wireless devices in the alert boundary. A broadcast intrusive public alert is sent for an imminent threat to public life or safety and is sent through radio, television and/or wireless devices.
- The Canadian Radio-TV and Telecommunications Commission mandates that all radio, television, and cellular providers transmit Broadcast Intrusive alerts.
- For tsunamis, the province uses the Provincial Emergency Notification System to alert local governments, key partner agencies, and media outlets by phone, email, and fax. Through this system, a broadcast intrusive B.C. Emergency Alert can also be sent for tsunami warnings using Alert Ready.
- The Federal government through Environment and Climate Change Canada is the authorized issuer of Broadcast Intrusive alerts for extreme weather events such as storm surge and severe thunderstorms.
- The Federal government through Natural Resources Canada launched its Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system in April 2024 (publicly announced in September 2024). These are automated broadcast intrusive alerts that will direct public in impacted areas to drop, cover, and hold on and may provide seconds to tens-of-seconds warning.
 - The EEW will issue alerts for earthquakes with a magnitude greater than 5 and an intensity level higher than IV — approximately the magnitude where injury or damage is likely to occur. People may receive an alert but might not feel the shaking or only feel a light shake or vice versa, people may feel shaking but may not receive an alert.

- Many IGBs and Local Authorities in the province, and across Canada, have adopted subscription-based, non-broadcast intrusive alert products (e.g., Alertable, Voyent). Many of these systems include applications for mobile devices which receive and re-broadcast Public Alerts. These local level solutions are often used for sending localized warnings and notifications relevant to the local jurisdiction's subscribers.
- IGBs and Local Authorities may also use sirens and go door-to-door as part of local alerting and notification systems.

DISCUSSION:

- Current priorities include:
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations

- Continuation of the development of a clear lexicon to support the text to speech function in Alert Ready
- Exploration of a hybrid alerting model which would enable Local Authorities and Indigenous Governing Bodies to send their own alerts utilizing the provincial system. The pilot is expected to be developed and rolled out in 2025.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- B.C.'s Public Alerting program aligns with the *Draft Principles that guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous People* recognizing and supporting indigenous self-government by ensuring that partners are consulted, there is open, cooperative, collaborative engagement with honest, fair and impartial processes.
- With the hybrid alerting model pilot, the province will work collaboratively with indigenous and federal partners to achieve the goal of enabling effective program governance and service delivery, increase autonomy and self-determination through improved decision-making and speed of action to send alerts to their jurisdictions without having to go through province.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Public Alerting has regular cyclical engagement with internal and external partners.
- Ministries with lead minister responsibilities in accordance with Order in Council 435/2024 where administration of an Act, or portion of an Act, set out in column 1 of the Schedule is designated as a lead minister.
- GCPE
- Private sector partners:
 - Pelmorex

- Broadcasters
- Wireless communications companies
- Other jurisdictions include:
 - Federal partners
 - Department of National Defence and Joint Task Force Pacific
 - Public Safety Canada
 - Indigenous Services Canada
 - Health Canada
 - National Resources Canada
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Municipalities and regional and electoral districts

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Alerts issued in 2024 (January 1-Oct 3, 2024)
 - 7 B.C. emergency alerts were issued for wildfire.
 - 5 B.C. Emergency Alerts were issued for the Chilcotin Landslide/Flooding event.
 - 1 RCMP issued Amber Alert
 - 1 test alert was issued on May 8, 2024.

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A

PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	04/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	04/10/2024
ADM	MLM	24/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Extreme Heat & Cold Preparedness and Response

BACKGROUND:

- EMCR supports Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB) and Local Authorities' (LA) response to extreme temperature events.
- In 2023, EMCR developed a policy 'Extreme Weather Emergency Task Number Eligibility', that outlines emergency support available for heat and cold related emergencies, including through the funding of communities' emergency warming and cooling locations.
- These supports are available when warnings are issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) or when criteria are met as outlined in a community extreme weather plan.
- Following the 2021 heat dome event, the BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee was established, led by the Ministry of Health, to support planning and response efforts related to the public health impacts of significant heat events in British Columbia.
- On June 07, 2022, following a Death Review Panel, the BC Coroners Service released their report Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021.
- The priorities identified evolved into the creation and implementation of a two-tier Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) for the province. The BC HARS was rolled out in June 2022 with the two tiers as Heat Warning and Extreme Heat Emergency.
- The Report also recommended the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) be the lead agency coordinating government response to non-health related impacts of extreme heat events; issue intrusive emergency alerts during Extreme Heat Emergencies; and distribute a Prepared BC Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide.

DISCUSSION:

- The BC HARS was rapidly operationalized for summer 2022 to ensure clear identification and coordination of public health actions and messaging intended to reduce heat-related illness and mortality during Heat Warnings and Extreme Heat Emergencies.
- Following further consultation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB), Local Authorities and other heat response partners, the BC HARS was updated and once again operationalized for 2023.
- The BC HEAT Committee now meets year-round to ensure that the severity, duration and potential impacts of extreme temperature events are monitored, and that provincial response efforts to these events are appropriately coordinated.
- In 2023, the HEAT Committee developed readiness and response recommendations to reduce the impacts of extreme winter weather on unhoused populations.

- EMCR has developed emergency alerting procedures for an Extreme Heat Emergency and, on the advice of the BC HEAT Committee, will issue an intrusive emergency alert for such an event.
- Prepared BC, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, developed The Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide and Severe Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide in multiple languages.
- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) supports First Nations and local governments in better understanding and reducing the risks associated with extreme temperatures and other natural and climate-driven hazards.
- At the start of 2023, extreme temperature-related projects were included as eligible project types under the CEPF Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) stream, replacing the previous Extreme Temperature Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream. DRR-CA funds foundational studies such as risk assessments and mapping, non-structural, and small-scale structural projects.
- Since 2022, the CEPF program stream has approved funding for 56 extreme temperature related projects (for a total of \$3.2M), which include foundational activities (e.g., heat mapping), temporary mitigation solutions (e.g., portable air conditioners), and small-scale structural activities (e.g., cooling and drinking water stations).
- During Extreme Heat or Cold emergencies, EMCR provides reimbursement to IGBs and LAs for supporting incremental costs related to operations of warming and cooling centers.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Heat and Cold preparedness initiatives apply equitably to Indigenous Peoples with additional supports offered through First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Health

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

Year	CEPF Funding Stream	# Projects	Allocation
2022	Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning	34	\$1.69M
2022	Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (extreme temperature related projects only)	3	\$0.22M
2023	Extreme Temperature Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning	11	\$0.46M
2023	Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (extreme temperature related projects only)	1	\$0.15M
2024	Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (extreme temperature related projects only)	7	\$0.68M
TOTAL		56	\$3.2M

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**PREPARED BY:**

Andrew Morrison
Senior Regional Manager
Regional Operations

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	07/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	04/10/2024
CFO	DL	03/10/2024
ADM	MLM	25/09/2024

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Provincial overview of regional flood and landslide vulnerabilities.

BACKGROUND:

- Climate change has contributed to an increased risk of flooding and landslides across BC linked to the increased frequency and severity of wildfires, intense rainfall events such as Atmospheric River Events (ARE), and through extreme heat and cold weather systems. Flooding is influenced by snowpack levels, spring temperatures and spring and fall rains.
- Depending upon the year, snowpacks, rain events and previous fire seasons, the consequence of flooding and landslides will differ. In general, flooding can be expected along all major water systems and tributaries across the province. Landslides are most prevalent through the Peace Region and into the central and southern interior, however, localized landslides may occur in any hilly or mountainous terrain in the province.

DISCUSSION:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) conducts a variety of initiatives to assist Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB) and Local Authorities (LA) in planning and preparing for emergencies and disasters, including landslides and flooding
- Each regional office organizes seasonal hazard preparedness sessions to communicate the anticipated risks of natural hazards and facilitate inter-agency planning discussions. Additionally, the EMCR annually offers to preposition flood mitigation resources, such as sandbags and tiger dams, which can be deployed as required.
- When a public safety risk is identified because of a landslide or flood, EMCR provides subject matter expertise through partnerships with other ministries and agencies (e.g., Water Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS); Ministry of Forests (FOR), Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)). Financial reimbursement for incremental costs for subject matter experts (e.g. geotechnical assessments) to respond to the risk or event may also be provided.
- In significant events, such as the recent Chilcotin Landslide, EMCR plays a lead coordinating role to support a multi-agency approach and coordination of public safety and public information, along with debris management.

Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental
Communications

- A list of regional flood and landslide vulnerabilities is attached. Note: this list is not inclusive of seasonal flood risks that occur along every major river system and tributaries across the province.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Many First Nation communities and culturally sensitive areas are at risk to seasonal and weather-related flood threats.
- Most significant events in the recent past include the 2021 Atmospheric River event that significantly impacted communities in the Highway 8 corridor and in the Fraser Valley. The 2024 Chilcotin Landslide also highlights the risk to culturally significant areas in both landslide and flooding events.
- When flooding and landslides impact First Nation communities, EMCR coordinates with external partners, such as Indigenous Services Canada to ensure that holistic supports are offered to a community in response. Collaboration between this federal department and the Ministry also ensures that additional work in preparedness and recovery are identified and addressed through appropriate funding pathways.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* places a greater emphasis on traditional knowledge, consideration of culturally sensitive areas, and consultation and collaboration between the Province, Local Governments and First Nations.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- WLRS, MOTI, FOR, ENV

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS: N/A

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

PREPARED BY:

Crissy Bennett,
Senior Regional Manager
Regional Operations, Northwest

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	04/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	03/10/2024
ADM	MLM	01/10/2024

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Risk	IGB/LA	Geographic Area	Flood and Landslide Vulnerability Notes
Central Region			
Flooding	Village of Cache Creek	Bonaparte River, Elephant Hill, Highway 1, Nicola River, including tributaries (Spius Creek)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Village of Cache Creek faces risks of both freshet and significant rain events, and was impacted by the 2017, 2021 and 2023 Freshets Following the 2023 flooding, the Village of Cache Creek has been working on long term flood mitigation strategies. In November 2021, the Nicola River watershed was impacted by the Atmospheric River event and the Lytton Creek wildfire
	Upper Nicola Indian Band (UNIB), City of Merritt	Highway 8, Spences Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary risks along this river system is overland flooding or increased ground water (UNIB and Merritt) and erosion which could cause further impacts to Highway 8, and further build up of woody debris in the section between Merritt and Spences Bridge. In August 2022 heavy rain resulted in mud flow impacting 4-6 properties along Highway 8; these properties remain impacted by the past debris flow. Debris flows from intense thunderstorms especially for areas in the Central region that were heavily impacted by 2023 wildfires.
	District of Sicamous	Hummingbird Creek, Wiseman Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks of steep creek flooding and debris flows.
Landslide	Keremeos, Lower Nicola Indian Band, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Highway 8 corridor, Highway 3 (Keremeos/ Similkameen River), Fraser Canyon (Lytton to Lillooet), Nicola River Valley (Highway 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2021- Atmospheric River Event debris flows significantly impacted the Highway 8 corridor
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several areas are prone to rockfall, Highway 3 (Keremeos/Similkameen River), Fraser Canyon (Lytton to Lillooet), and Nicola River Valley (Highway 8). Rockfall events are typically along highway corridors and are managed by MOTI.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023 there was a rockfall event in Keremeos and Lower Nicola Indian Band EMCR supported the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and Lower Nicola with reimbursement of costs and geotechnical hazard assessments.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated risks of debris flow/slides in significant burn scars from 2023 wildfires and steep creeks

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Northwest Region			
Flooding	Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS)	Dutch Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion and flood concerns in the Dutch Valley area, prone to flooding and has been subject to provincially supported erosion protection work in the past. During the 2022 Freshet season geotechnical work was completed in preparation for additional erosion protection, additional work has been paused as risk to this area has decreased.
		Granite Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties along Granite Creek being closely monitored. Diking work in this area has been considered, however, RDKS unable to advance creation of a local service area, due to opposition from the property owners. RDKS invested \$40,000 to purchase 2,000 feet of tri-water bags (similar to tiger dams), to provide temporary flood protection, as required.
	Stikine Region	Unincorporated community of Atlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR continually monitors potential flooding in the Stikine Region, where EMCR acts as the local authority. An area of concern is the unincorporated community of Atlin. Flooding attributed to the elevation of lake levels caused by glacier melt.
Landslide	City of Terrace	Kitsumkalum River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2023 the City of Terrace completed a \$2.5 million slope stability project to address infrastructure issues associated with a landslide on Kitsumkalum River, supported through EPA Funding. EMCR continues to work with the City on additional off-setting work required by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The Ministry is expecting to consider additional work under the response framework of EDMA.
	Tahltan First Nation, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Alkali Lake, Highway 51, Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake, Glenora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slopes along Highway 51 between Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake are prone to landslides.
		Work Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lachmach Forest Service Road is at risk of landslides, one recently which resulted in recreationalists becoming isolated. It is an area that Regional Operations monitors closely when high precipitation events are forecasted.
Southeast Region			
Flooding		City of Grand Forks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly impacted by flooding in 2018. Construction of permanent flood protection works remain ongoing.

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Northeast Region			
Flooding	NRRM, PRRD, RDFFG	Peace Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been long standing drought in the Peace region at level 4 to 5 throughout the winter season with other NEA regions ranging from level 3 to 4. These levels combined with reduced snowpack and less than seasonal precipitation suggest low to medium level risk for freshet flood events.
	Cariboo Regional District (CRD)	Quesnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several homes are uninhabitable due to ongoing slope instability caused by the 2020 Freshet. A State of Local Emergency (SOLE) and two evacuation orders remain in place on two homes located on Maple Drive within the Regional District near Quesnel. The NEA Region continues to work with the CRD should additional Life Safety assessments be required.
	City of Williams Lake	Williams Lake River Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion within Williams Lake River Valley remains an ongoing issue. Infrastructure continues to be threatened by floods and landslides in this area. In 2023, a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) project aimed at armouring the Williams Lake River was completed.
	District of Wells	Lowhee Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2023 to January 2024: Emergency Mitigation work approved for repair of Lowhee Creek Dike. Future additional reinforcement of subsequent dike sections being examined.
	Nazko First Nation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023/2024- ISC supported recovery and mitigation projects Berms constructed in 4 locations, further redesign of berm around Indigenous Government Store being investigated. Berm to include adjacent newly-purchased property.
Landslide	Cariboo Regional District (CRD), City of Quesnel	Cariboo Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains vulnerable to accelerated land movement in slow-moving landslides.
	City of Williams Lake, Williams Lake First Nation, Cariboo Regional District	Hodgson, Dog Creek, Terra Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2023, the City of Williams Lake became aware of further impacts caused by the Hodgson-Dog Creek-Terra Ridge Slide. An ongoing SOLE, declared September 29, 2023, exists for the Terra Ridge open land strata due to landslide impacts. An evacuation order was issued for four residents and the entire Strata was put on evacuation alert; these are still in place. Ongoing structural and geotechnical assessments being conducted
		Chilcotin River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province continues to support CRD and affected First Nations communities in recovery efforts. There continues to be hazards along the Chilcotin River

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Southwest Region			
Flooding	Fraser Valley Regional District, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Village of Pemberton	Fraser River, Coquihalla River, Chilliwack River, Harrison River, Lillooet River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2021 Atmospheric River Event- Fraser, Coquihalla, Chilliwack, Harrison, and Lillooet River systems all impacted. Ministry of Forests Fraser River Diking infrastructure not impacted, recovery is still ongoing, working with communities in the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District. 2024 Atmospheric River - Overland flooding in the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and Village of Pemberton. Limited private and public damage.
	District of Squamish, Squamish Nation	Pemberton, Poole Creek, Place Creek, Gates Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 Atmospheric River Event- Elevated risk in the Sea-to-Sky corridor July 2024- Melting of Place Glacier led to glacial lake outburst, resulting in initial pulse of high velocity water in the Pemberton Portage Road area. Pulse overwhelmed Poole Creek, changed its course into Place Creek. Place Creek and Gates Lake- much higher flows and water levels than typical following flood pulse, leading to overland flood risk from every precipitation event. August 2024- Emergency works to realign the creek approved.
	Katzie First Nation, Leq'a:mel First Nation, City of Abbotsford	Matsqui Dike, Barnston, Nicomen Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion arcs in Abbotsford approaching Matsqui Dike, Barnston, and Nicomen Isl. Significant livestock relocation would be required (Katzie First Nation and Leq'a:mel First Nation).
		Harrison Lake, Harrison River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backflow into the Harrison River and Harrison Lake when Fraser River levels are too high to allow for outflow.
	City of Abbotsford, City of Surrey	Glen Valley, Bridgeview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding and residential evacuation risks in the Glen Valley and Bridgeview areas.
	City of Coquitlam	Nelson Creek, Como Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backflow requires regular pumping to avoid overland flooding, by ensuring swing gates close properly.
	City of Mission		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission dike at Horne St and Harbour Ave require flood mitigation installation during high freshet levels.
	Seabird Island First Nation	Maria Slough, Seabird Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding risk from the Maria Slough due to high water levels on the Fraser River pose flooding risk for Seabird Island First Nation.
	Shxwhá:y Village and Skwah First Nation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a berm to protect communities from flooding when there are significantly high freshet water levels.

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Landslide		Pemberton Valley, Squamish Valley, Chilliwack River Valley (CRV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical landslide risks with potential for catastrophic impacts. EMCR supporting Steering Committees, representatives include Local Authorities, First Nations, FOR, EMCR, and qualified professionals. 2021- The province approved funding for preliminary geotechnical studies, combined total nearing \$200,000, and funding of large-scale public safety studies that collectively totaled approximately \$750,000. Chilliwack River Valley (CRV) is one of the areas most prone to landslide risk
	Soowahlie First Nation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notable landslides in recent years have been in the Chilliwack Lake Road area and Soowahlie First Nation's emergency egress, Sweltzer Creek Crescent.
		Fraser Canyon, Nahatlatch River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Kookipi Creek wildfire- Several parts of the Nahatlatch Forest Service Road (FSR) and nearby private properties were identified as posing moderate, high, and very high likelihood of landslide hazard. EMCR worked with FOR to ensure adequate signage/ communications in place.
		Nahatlatch River, Kookipi Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 2024- Debris flow blocked Nahatlatch FSR and Nahatlatch River, isolating approximately 40 recreational campers and causing a short-term build-up of water on the west side of the blockage. Debris flow occurred in an area that had been heavily impacted by the 2023 Kookipi Creek wildfire, indicative of future risk in the area.
		Pemberton Valley, Squamish Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale landslides risks in various locations pose the risk of catastrophic impact. 2021 Atmospheric River Event resulted in landslides that displaced several residences.
Landslide	Village of Pemberton, Lil'wat First Nation	Mount Meager, Mount Currie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide event on Mount Meager/Mount Currie has potential to cause catastrophic impacts to the Village of Pemberton and Lil'wat First Nation, through the damming of Lillooet River (overland flooding) or sliding into residential values. 2021 Heat Dome- Increased risk in these due to severe glacier ice melt. Both sites monitored by Simon Fraser University with Steering Committee oversight.
	District of Squamish, Squamish Nation	Mount Caley, Squamish Valley, Squamish River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide risks on Mount Caley has potential to cause catastrophic impacts to the Squamish Valley, District of Squamish, and Squamish Nation by damming the Squamish River and causing overland flooding. Mount Caley is monitored by Simon Fraser University, with Steering Committee oversight.
	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)	Jason Creek Lillooet Lakes Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 Atmospheric River Event - Landslide at Reid Road (Jason Creek) initially impacted eight homes. SOLE and Evacuation Order remain active for one property due to imminent landslide risk. 2023 - A Public Safety Study coordinated by SLRD and approved by EMCR for up to \$250,000 was completed, confirming that imminent risk to one property remains. Further geotechnical assessment was provincially funded EMCR working with SLRD on Response and Recovery options under EDMA.

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Landslide			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide risk continues in the Lillooet Lakes Estates area, with SLRD issuing a Do Not Occupy recommendation in 2014. No evacuation order is currently in place. SLRD has been working on mitigation and funding options to support residents.
		Place Glacier, Pemberton Portage Road, Poole Creek, Place Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2024- Melting on Place Glacier led to a glacial lake outburst, resulting in a pulse of high velocity water in Pemberton Portage Road area, overwhelming downstream Poole Creek and realigning/changing its course into Place Creek.
	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood pulse generated several concerns, significant steep alpine bank undercutting from water may pose risk of landslide during future rain events. The SLRD undertaking a geohazard assessment once flood risk concerns have been mitigated to accurately understand current and risk of landslide.
		Highway 8 corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debris flows significantly impacted the Highway 8 corridor during the November 2021 Atmospheric River Event
		Highway 3 (Keremeos/Similkameen River), Fraser Canyon (Lytton to Lillooet), Nicola River Valley (Highway 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several areas are prone to rockfall, Highway 3 (Keremeos/Similkameen River), Fraser Canyon (Lytton to Lillooet), and Nicola River Valley (Highway 8). These rockfall events are typically along highway corridors and are managed by MOTI.
	Keremeos, Lower Nicola Indian Band, Regional District of Okanagan- Similkameen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023- Reports of rockfall in Keremeos and Lower Nicola Indian Band EMCR supported the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and Lower Nicola with reimbursement of costs and geotechnical hazard assessments. Regions with significant burn scars from 2023 at elevated risks of debris flow/ slides.
Vancouver Island, Coastal Region			
Flooding	Regional	Koksilah, Cowichan, Chemainus, Englishman, Kingcome, Bella Coola, Kingcome & San Juan Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The region has seen an increased incidence and impact of atmospheric river and winter storm flooding.
	Central Coast Regional District (CCRD)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several orphaned dykes in varying states of disrepair/ sluffing/ breached, allowing direct flow onto property/Highway. Steps were in place to complete temporary emergency repairs on the dykes, but this was not completed due to insufficient supply of riprap in the area. EMCR is engaged with MOTI to determine if there was a pathway forward.

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

	City of Campell River		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/2023- Three significant landslides. One impacted a hotel, while the other two impacted separate apartment complexes along elevated banks. • SOLEs were declared for initial and adjacent properties as well as Geo-Technical Engineer reports completed.
	Comox Valley Regional District, City of Courtenay	Puntledge River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically experiences occasional flooding from the Puntledge River, particularly from the Comox Dam free spilling which can impact properties. In winter 2023/24 this led to minor flooding of several properties. • EMCR responded by providing a sandbag machine and incremental costs.
Flooding	Halalt First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Municipality of North Cowichan	Chemainus River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halalt First Nation is leading the Chemainus Watershed initiative in collaboration with Penelakut Tribe, Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Municipality of North Cowichan, FOR, and EMCR. Focus on riverscape assessment/restoration plan. <p>Through funding approvals from EMCR, the Ministry of Environment's Flood Debris Management Secretariat completed response and recovery works along the Chemainus river, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority sites designated for sediment removal have been completed downstream of the Highway 1 bridge and upstream of the Chemainus Road Bridge. Temporary flood protection wall installed to protect communities from flooding through the winter season. • Funding approved to protect the right bank downstream of the Highway 1 bridge from further destruction. Project is currently in the planning phase as the engineers develop design packages to be submitted to regulators for approval. • Tentative construction commencement date of next summer 2024.
	Snuneymuxw First Nation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacted by mixtures of king tide events combined with atmospheric river during November 2022 and March 2023. • In the 2022 event: sandbagging efforts, unit crews deployed to assist, flood assessments performed, evacuations occurred due to homes taking on water.
	Stz'uminus First Nation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022- HESCO Gabion Baskets installed and remain in place. • Additional potential supports with First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and ISC Critical Infrastructure (CI) branch for long term supports.
	Namgis Nation, Village of Alert Bay		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2022- Seawall was damaged due to heavy rains and ocean tides. • EMCR arranged collaboration between Namgis Nation and Village of Alert Bay

2024 Regional Flood & Landslide Vulnerabilities by Region

(note: does not include seasonal freshet risks unless events occurred in recent past)

Landslide		Highway 4, Cameron Lake Bluffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2023- Wildfire caused slope instability along the Cameron Lake Bluffs section of Highway 4. • MOTI set up rock-fall mitigation barriers and fencing, completed slope stabilization works. • This stretch of highway impacted with temporary closures due to rockslides. • Temporary closures with no alternative detour route continue to impact local Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) and Local Authorities.
	Regional District of Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To limit disruptions during future closures, EMCR Recovery team working with Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), and MOTI

MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS TRANSITION INFORMATION NOTE

ISSUE: Ground Search and Rescue Program Overview

BACKGROUND:

- Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) is a Provincial Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer program facilitated and coordinated by The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), on behalf of Requesting Agencies with the legislative authority and responsibility to perform the following tasks:
 - The police department of jurisdiction is responsible for the investigation of missing person(s) and of suspicious occurrences within the province of British Columbia. Disoriented, lost, stranded, overdue, and other individuals in distress are also the responsibility of the Police as well as domestic animal rescue for humane or public safety reasons. The Police of Jurisdiction may request GSAR Volunteers to conduct the rescue of persons in distress only when they are without injury.
 - BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is responsible for pre-hospital care and transportation of patients to medical facilities. BCEHS may only request GSAR Volunteers to conduct task eligible activities in the context of a medical rescue.
 - Fire Services may request GSAR Volunteers to support a response to an injured or stranded person in distress within Fire Protection Areas.
 - Air Search and Rescue is the responsibility of the Canadian Forces. Marine Search and Rescue is the responsibility of the Canadian Coast Guard. Air and Marine SAR is initiated and coordinated by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC). The JRCC may request GSAR Volunteer support on behalf of the Canadian Forces or Canadian Coast Guard.
 - Parks Canada is responsible for land and inland water search and rescue within national parks. Parks Canada may request GSAR Volunteers to support a Parks Canada lead response in a national park for persons missing, injured or in distress.
 - The BC Coroners Service investigates all unnatural, sudden and unexpected, unexplained or unattended deaths in British Columbia and may request GSAR volunteers to support this work.
- There are 78 recognized GSAR groups in BC with approximately 3,400 GSAR volunteers, supported by the BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) which is a registered, non-profit society which provides health and safety programs for GSAR volunteers and provincial prevention programming.
- BCSARA and EMCR have developed a Framework for Search and Rescue in BC, that outlines BCSARA's deliverables to support enhanced administrative and financial oversight of GSAR, as a requirement of the funding contribution to GSAR.
- Between April 1st, 2023, and March 31, 2024, GSAR groups were deployed to support 1,664 incidents. This represents a reduction in annual GSAR incident

- rates since 2022/23; however, the figure of 1,664 incidents returns the province to pre-pandemic incident rates of roughly 1,500 annual responses.
- Since 2022/23, GSAR groups have been funded through an annual budget allocation of approximately \$6 million, distributed through the BCSARA. Previously, provincial funding to groups was provided through ad-hoc grants which did not provide funding certainty for GSAR groups from year to year.
 - In addition to the funding provided to all groups, the province provided nearly \$8M in operational funding last year (FY 2023/24) which included the following:
 - \$7.27M in support of operational tasks.
 - § \$3.63M for equipment repair/replacement, mileage, and meals.
 - § \$3.63M in aircraft costs (primarily helicopter).
 - EMCR is in the process of completing a needs analysis to understand search and rescue capability needs across the province. Until the analysis has been completed, EMCR is only accepting requests for new capabilities from GSAR groups that address identified public safety risks.
 - As part of this needs analysis, GSAR groups from around the province and requesting agencies – the RCMP, the Coroners Service, and BC Emergency Health Services – are being interviewed and consulted. The timeline for completion of the needs analysis is the end of this year (2024).
 - Following the needs analysis, EMCR and BCSARA will collaboratively review the capability approval process with the objective of lifting the current pause on capability requests.

DISCUSSION:

- BCSARA disperses the annual provincial funding based on a model that considers several factors, including: the equipment and training requirements associated with each GSAR capability (e.g. rope rescue, swift water rescue, etc.), group capacity (number of trained members); minimum and maximum allocations to strategically direct support to smaller GSAR groups; and operational needs and capabilities.
- GSAR Groups, and BCSARA on behalf of GSAR Groups, have requested an increase to the annual allocation to reflect increasing costs due the cost of living.
- The approval of new capabilities, following completion of the needs analysis, will likely result in additional operational costs as new capabilities are deployed and associated equipment is maintained, repaired, and replaced. In addition, the formula to disperse funds includes consideration of capabilities and new capabilities will create more pressure on the annual disbursement.
- EMCR and BCSARA have been working collaboratively to develop a governance model that can address the needs of GSAR groups, engage transparently with GSAR groups.
- EMCR has received a request from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) to explore search and rescue for First Nations communities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- GSAR teams are deployed across the province, including on First Nations territory.
- EMCR and the Justice Institute of BC are working to include cultural sensitivity training into the GSAR curriculum.

OTHER MINISTRIES OR JURISDICTIONS IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Police of Jurisdiction
- BC Emergency Health Services
- Parks Canada
- Department of National Defense/Canadian Coast Guard
- Fire Services
- BC Coroner Services
- Local Authorities and Indigenous Governing Bodies

MAJOR DECISION NEEDED/NEXT STEPS:

- BCSARA and EMCR are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of program funding and partnership governance structure as recommended in a 2018 consultant's report.
- EMCR is working on a needs analysis of the capabilities required to effectively deliver GSAR services throughout the province. This project includes a review of historical GSAR data, projection of future needs and engagement with both GSAR groups and requesting agencies, to ensure a strong evidence-based understanding of the requesting agencies needs.
- Meeting with the UBCIC representative to fully understand the request for search and rescue for Indigenous communities.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- FY24 SAR expenditure breakdown by STOB

PREPARED BY:

Shaun Glass
Search and Rescue Specialist

APPROVED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	16/10/2024
Associate DM	TD	16/10/2024
A/CFO	SM	08/10/2024
A/ADM	KD	03/10/2024

Project	(All)
Period Name	(Multiple Items)
Responsibility	15K38

Row Labels	Sum of Actual Amount	
5097	460.69	OT costs for EMBC staff for SAR activities
5297	117.02	OT costs for EMBC staff for SAR activities
6040	3,809,851.61	SAR Reimbursements, includes Worksafe BC Costs
6053	13,354.92	SAR Reimbursements, includes Worksafe BC Costs
6301	130.20	SAR Reimbursements, includes Worksafe BC Costs
6504	120.99	SAR Volunteer Miscs
6531	311.91	SAR Volunteer Miscs
6596	0.00	SAR Volunteer Miscs
7015	7,350.00	Drone Costs
7018	3,609,503.20	Helicopter Costs
7905	550.00	Reimbursements to Local Governments for SAR costs
7918	20,017.41	Helicopter Costs
9004	-191,782.75	Worksafe BC reimbursement via Public Safety Canada
Grand Total	7,269,985.20	

3,636,870.61	ASE Costs
3,632,103.98	Reimbursement Costs
1,010.61	Other Administrative Costs
7,269,985.20	

Government 101

Overview of Key Roles, Structures & Processes

October 2024



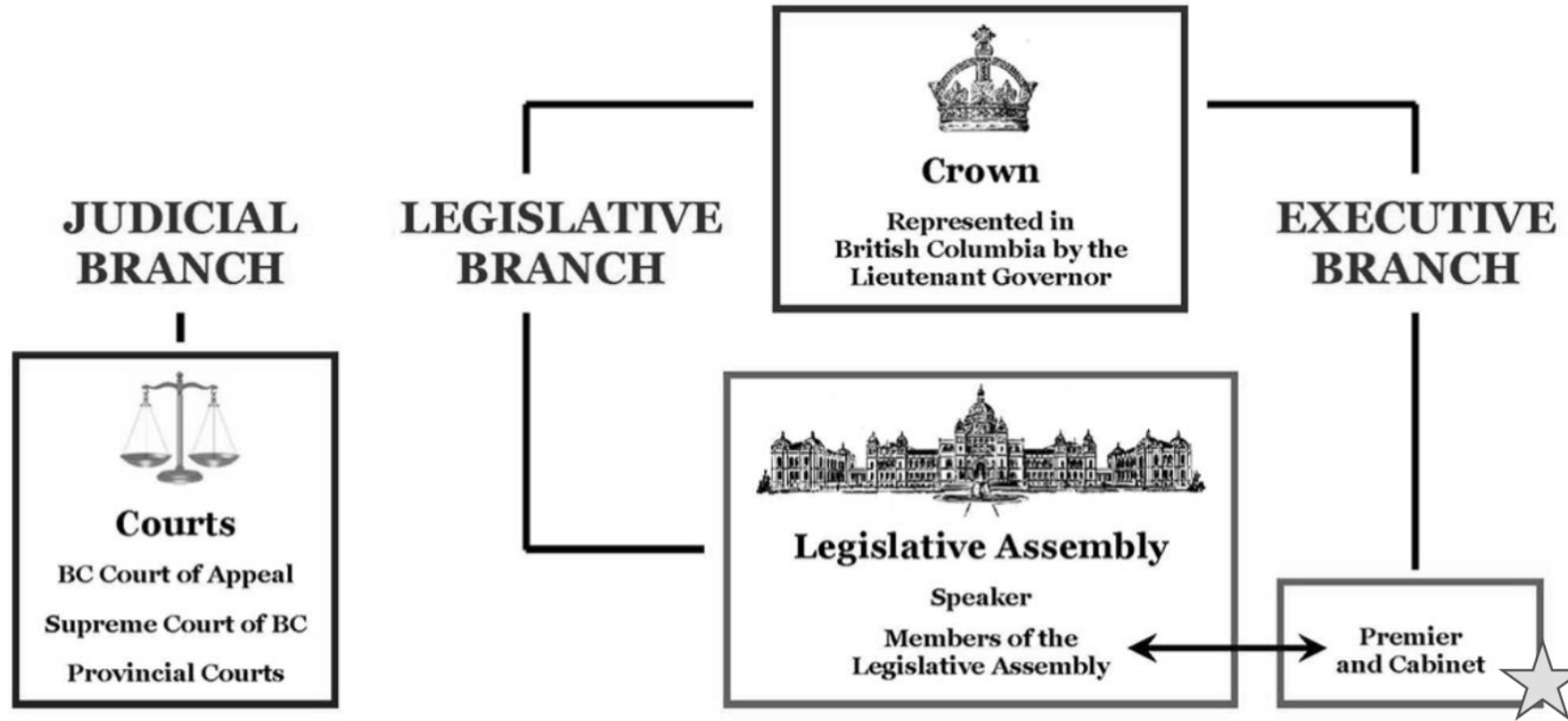
Overview

- Introduction
- Office of the Premier
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Government Decision Making
- Cabinet Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest
- Records Management

Introduction



The Three Branches of Government



The Executive Council or Cabinet

- Established under section 9 of *Constitution Act*
- Ultimate decision-making body of government
- Members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on advice from Premier
- Chaired by the Premier

Office of the Premier



Office of the Premier

- The Office of the Premier has two principal roles:
 - 1) **Political:** overseen by the Premier's Chief of Staff, who acts as the senior political advisor to government
 - 2) **Non-partisan Public Service:** overseen by the Deputy Minister to the Premier
- Premier's **Chief of Staff** and **Deputy Minister to the Premier** work collaboratively to:
 - Support the Premier to advance government's policy and legislative agendas
 - Represent the Premier in providing direction to their respective staffs:
 - Chief of Staff provides direction to political staff, including Ministers' chiefs of staff
 - Deputy Minister to the Premier provides direction to public servants

Key Roles

Premier's Chief of Staff

- Most senior political advisor
- Provides strategic advice to the Premier and Executive Council (Cabinet) to advance government's policy and legislative agenda
- Coordinates and develops government's strategic and policy objectives
- Coordinates cross-government communications and issues management
- Develops and maintains relationships with major stakeholders
- All Ministers' chiefs of staff report to the Premier's Chief of Staff

Deputy Minister to the Premier

- Most senior public servant (non-political official)
- Serves as Cabinet Secretary and head of the BC Public Service
- Provides non-partisan advice to the Premier on public policy, development of legislation, and operational issues
- Ensures effective administration of programs and services, the development and implementation of key policy initiatives
- Manages a professional and non-partisan public service
- All Deputy Ministers report to the Deputy Minister to the Premier

Roles & Responsibilities



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Government Decision-Making



Cabinet-Level Decisions



Policy
Cabinet considers and provides direction on significant new policies or shifts in policy. It may also provide direction on contentious issues and issues with significant cross-government and inter-governmental implications.



Fiscal
Treasury Board considers and provides direction on the overall financial decision making of the province and the execution of the fiscal plan, including making regulations or issuing directives to control or limit expenditures.

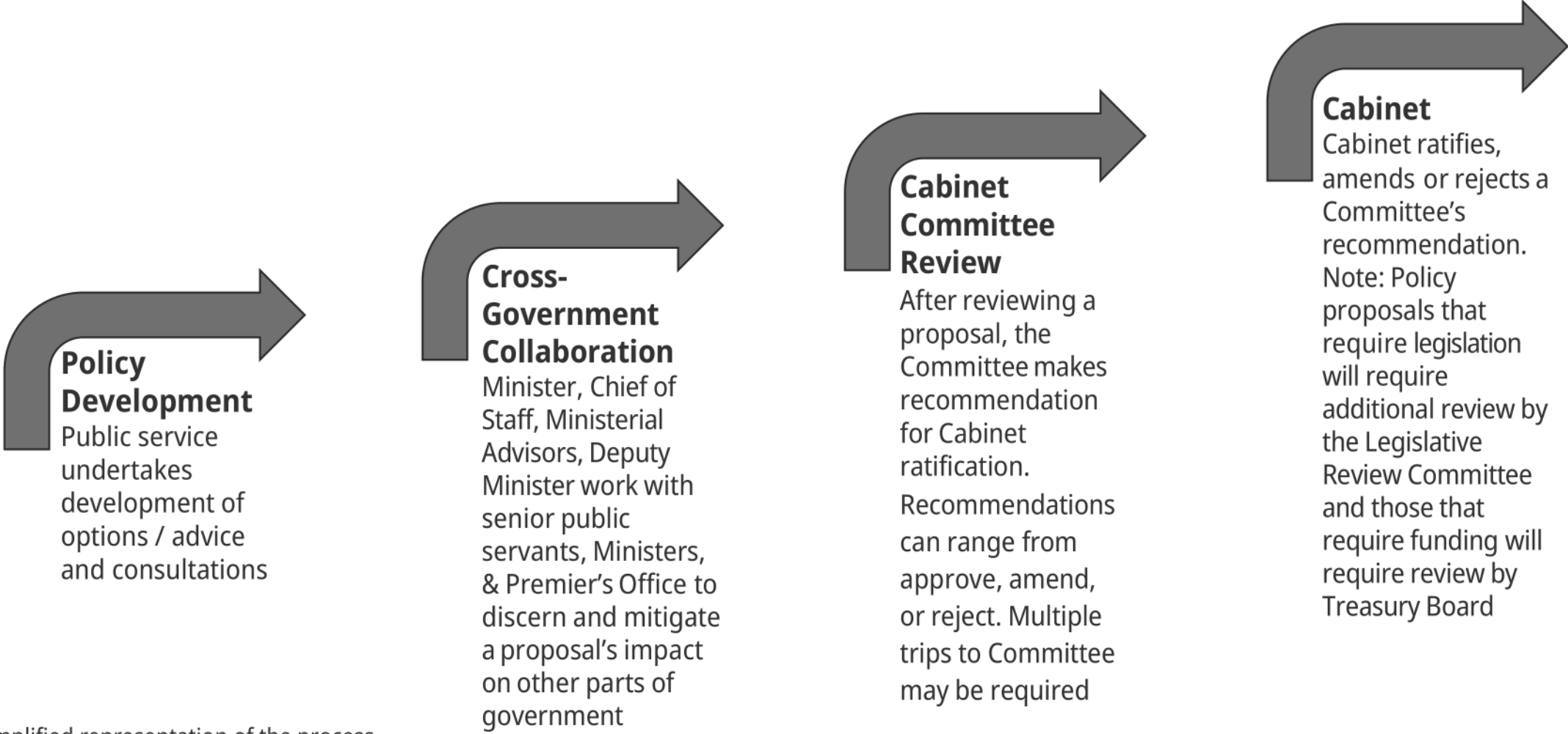


Legislative
Cabinet considers and provides direction on legislative priorities and legislation.



Regulations / OICs
Cabinet considers and provides direction on regulatory changes, appointments and more through Orders in Councils (OICs).

Government Decision-Making: Key Steps*



*This is a simplified representation of the process

Mandate Letters

- Usually, Mandate Letters are issued to each Minister by the Premier and set out the expectations and deliverables regarding their portfolio and priorities for government as a whole
- Mandate Letters act as a guide for the Minister and Deputy Minister to follow in their day-to-day work, as well as the means for evaluating it
- How and when Mandate Letter deliverables are achieved is determined through collective decision making at Cabinet
- Any policy proposal that falls outside of the objectives set out in Mandate Letters requires approval from the Premier's Office to enter into the Cabinet review and decision-making process

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Cabinet and Cabinet Committees

- Policy or program proposals require formal Cabinet approval to proceed:
 - This process involves a Cabinet Submission, sometimes more than one, for review and decision
 - Policy and funding decisions are determined separately, through Cabinet and Treasury Board respectively
 - This process applies even if the item is listed in a Minister's Mandate Letter
 - The Deputy Minister to the Premier, in their role of Cabinet Secretary, is responsible for what advances into the Cabinet review process
 - The process and administration of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is managed through the office of Cabinet Operations
- Cabinet and Cabinet Committees reach decisions through discussion and consensus
- Decisions are set out in minutes and are formally communicated to ministries through Records of Decision

Role of Cabinet Committees in the Review Process

- Prior to proceeding to Cabinet for decision, a submission may be vetted by a Cabinet Committee
- Practically speaking, Cabinet Committees help manage the high volume of items requiring decision so that Cabinet meetings can focus on the most significant, high-profile public policy issues
- Cabinet Committees are established by the Premier, by convention or by legislation
- Membership is composed of Cabinet Ministers and some government caucus MLAs. Each Committee is chaired by a member of the Executive Council (Cabinet)
- Cabinet Committees assess submissions and make recommendations to Cabinet, which the Chair reports out on at a full Cabinet meeting
- Cabinet can ratify, amend or reject the Committee's recommendation and Ministers are expected to leave Cabinet with a united voice

Cabinet Confidentiality



Cabinet Confidentiality

- The work undertaken by Cabinet and its Committees is and must remain confidential. This includes anything that would reveal the substance of Cabinet deliberations:
 - Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions and supporting documents
 - Discussion around the Cabinet table
 - Attendees, agendas and dates that items are scheduled to come forward
- Cabinet is a safe place to talk frankly and emerge with one voice
- All Ministers, MLA Cabinet Committee members and their supporting political staff are required to uphold the confidentiality provisions under the oaths or confidentiality agreements they have taken:

Cabinet Minister	Oath for Member of Executive Council
MLA Cabinet Committee Member	Oath of Confidentiality for Committees of Executive Council
Ministers' Chiefs of Staff	Political Staff Oath Confidentiality Agreement for attending Cabinet & Committee meetings

Cabinet Confidentiality

- The requirement for Cabinet confidentiality prohibits direct and indirect disclosures outside of government – to stakeholders, lobbyists or the media
- Breaches in Cabinet confidentiality violate the collective responsibility shared by all Cabinet Ministers and can have serious implications for Government as a whole
- Confidentiality applies to Cabinet as an entity – individual ministers do not have the authority to waive it

Advice/Recommendations

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Conflict of Interest

Conflict of Interest

- Ministers and political staff are required to avoid conflicts of interest
- Ministers must abide by the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, which prohibits acting in an official capacity if a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest exists
- Similarly, political staff must abide by the conflict of interest requirements outlined in the Standards of Conduct for Political Staff
- There are three types of conflict of interest: real, potential and perceived
- A conflict of interest exists if an official power or an official duty or function is performed when the person knows that there is the opportunity to further a private interest
- A private interest does not include an interest that applies to the general public or affects a minister as a broad class of people
- **Effectively managing conflicts of interest is one of the primary ways that public confidence in the integrity of government is fostered and maintained**

Conflict of Interest Commissioner

- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is an independent, non-partisan Officer of the Legislative Assembly who is responsible for independently and impartially interpreting and administering the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*
- All Members of the Legislative Assembly are required to file a confidential disclosure statement with the Commissioner within 60 days of being elected, and after that, annually
- Once the contents of the confidential disclosure statement have been finalized, a Public Disclosure Statement is prepared, which contains most, but not all, of the information provided to the Commissioner
- The Public Disclosure Statement is filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and is available for public inspection

Records Management



Records Management

- All records created are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*, whether they are considered transitory in nature or are related to government decisions
- These include both hard copy and electronic records (E.g., emails, texts, Post-It notes, notebooks)
- Records relating to government decisions need to be maintained by Ministers and Ministers' office staff
- Maintaining records does not equate to disclosure of records
- Records belong to government, not to individual members of Executive Council or political staff

Records Management

- Content related to Cabinet and Cabinet Committee deliberations cannot be disclosed under section 12 of FOIPPA
- Section 13 of FOIPPA provides a similar rule for policy advice or recommendations developed for a Minister
- Information and Privacy Analysts in the public service help with redacting content from records from records in accordance with FOIPPA as part of preparing responses to freedom of information requests
- Some records are proactively disclosed, including Minister's calendars and travel expenses

Records Management

- Deputy Minister Offices (DMOs) are responsible for the proper management of government records that reside in a Minister's Office and sign off on the final response packages for freedom of information requests
- DMO and Minister's Office staff should establish protocols regarding records management and responses to freedom of information requests
- Minister's Office staff should undertake training via the Corporate Information and Records Management Office related to records management, freedom of information requests, and protecting the personal privacy of individuals
- Specific executive training may be available via dedicated sessions in addition to online learning courses through the Public Service Agency
- **Staying on top of records management is key – any record you didn't need to keep but is still in existence is subject to FOIPPA**



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