

February 17, 2023

To Chief and Council and Administrators:

Each year, emergency events have a significant impact on First Nation communities and many costs associated with responding to and recovering from natural hazards events such as wildfires and flooding can be reimbursed by either the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (formerly known as Emergency Management BC) or Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

We are aware that there are still outstanding costs from past natural hazard emergency events that require reimbursement and both the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) strive to process and reimburse claims as quickly and to the fullest extent possible.

To support the reimbursement process, we continue to offer the following services and supports to First Nation communities to expedite reimbursement to communities including the following:

- Training to complete claim submissions and navigate the claims process;
- Support for hiring temporary contracted services to complete claims;
- Availability of First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to work directly with you in support of putting claims together;
- Coordination with partners to explore and identify alternate pathways to address ineligible costs including other federal or provincial departments and agencies; and
- Ability for ISC and EMBC staff to meet in community to review documentation and compile claims with you.

For more information on the eligibility of emergency response and recovery cost please see the [EMCR Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations](#) and Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program Terms and Conditions: [Contributions for Emergency Management Assistance for Activities on Reserve](#) (sacisc.gc.ca).

EMCR, ISC and FNESS are also undertaking an internal review of processes to find efficiencies and will continue seek improvements to processes and prioritization. In the future, we are also looking to implement enhancements to our information technology to allow for greater use of automation.

In the coming months both ISC and EMCR will be contacting First Nations that we are aware of having responded to or experienced natural hazards emergencies to follow up on any outstanding reimbursements or any support needed submitting claims. In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to the EMCR Regional office that serves your First Nation including:

Southwest Region

Tel: 604-586-4390

Email: EMCR.SWEAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Central Region
Tel: 250-371-5240
Email: EMCR.CTLAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Southeast Region
Tel: 250-354-5904
Email: EMCR.SEAAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Northeast Region
Tel: 250-612-4172
Email: EMCR.NEAAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Northwest Region
Tel: 250-615-4800
Email: EMCR.NWEAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Vancouver Island - Central Coast Region
Tel: 250-952-5848
Email: EMCR.VIRAdmin@gov.bc.ca

We are hopeful that this review process and the additional steps that we have noted above will expedite the claims reimbursement processes.

Sincerely,

Carol McClintock
Executive Director, Partnership Agreements & Negotiations
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Wayne Schnitzler
Executive Director
First Nations Emergency Services Society

Tim McCann
Regional Manager, Emergency Management
Indigenous Services Canada / Government of Canada