



**Grant for Assistance Application – Year Round Intake
For Grants of \$1,000 and Under**

Organization Information Sheet

Name of Organization:	Nazko Emergency Management Team
Mailing Address:	9560B Nazko Road, Nazko BC V2J 3H9
Telephone (office):	250-249-9654
Purpose of Organization:	Emergency preparedness for Nazko community
What Community does your organization serve?	Nazko BC
BC Society Registration Number: (if applicable)	
Federal Charitable Registration Number: (if applicable)	
Chairperson's name:	Shannon Bell
Telephone:	250-249-9669
Treasurer or Financial Officer's name:	Judy Lister
Telephone:	250-249-5735

Previous Grants from CRD (if applicable, please indicate year grant amount and project):

Current Grant Requested from CRD \$ 1,000.00



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Please answer the following questions, using additional paper if necessary:

1. Brief Description of Proposed Use of Grant Being Applied For:

As a part of a much larger, overall community emergency plan, we will be creating an inventory of emergency supplies for use in any emergency. We will secure training for volunteers in a number of areas including First Aid. To this end, we wish to have a full First Aid kit available for those volunteer first responders in a central place. We will purchase a WorkSafe BC level 3 first aid kit as well as a back board and accessories. These supplies will be stored in a secure place and added to (an AED and oxygen concentrator for example) as other funds become available. Given our distance from Quesnel, and the fact that the clinic on the Nazko reserve is only staffed for 4 days per week, it is essential that the whole community has access to help during medical emergencies and situations such as the wildfires of 2017. As previously stated, this is part of a much larger, community plan.

The budget for the needed equipment is as follows:

- \$635 for Work BC Level 3 First Aid Kit
- \$365 for spine board with head immobilizer and straps

2. Start date of the project: May 15, 2019

End date for the project: October 15, 2019 or as soon as equipment can be ordered and received.

3. How will you indicate that the CRD is contributing to your organization?:

We will put an acknowledgement in the Nazko News that the First Aid equipment was supplied by the CRD. Where the equipment is stored, there will be a sign acknowledging the same.

THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

President/Chairperson



9560B Nazko Road

Nazko,

BC, V2J 3H9

Ph: (250) 249 - 9654 Fax: (250) 249 - 9653

Administrator: Shannon Bell, Financial Officer: Teresa Sharp

Cariboo Regional District

File No.1850-01.....

FEB 11 2019

Referred ToDCO.....

Nazko Emergency Management Team

Dear Jim,

Thank you for taking the time last week to meet with us along with Mary Sjostrom and later Coralee Oakes and Jackie Sarginson. It was really gratifying for our small team to have the ear of our local representatives and know that we have someone rooting for us as we seek to prepare our community for future disaster situations. It is easy to feel alone and discouraged out here and your willingness to be on board with us and hear our concerns is encouraging.

As you suggested, I am sending you a request that outlines some of our funding needs for 2 of our smaller projects that are more immediate.

First, we would like to request a grant of **\$1,000** to help with the purchase of First Aid supplies. I have also attached along with this letter, a grant application which we made to the CRD's Grant for Assistance program last year just for reference sake. We were directed to the Quesnel Community Foundation at the time which deadline had long passed. As we anticipated funding through the Red Cross we also did not apply to the QCF this year. However, the Red Cross has informed us that they will not fund any equipment within our projects and so we are back at square one. If you are able to help us with obtaining some of our needed First Aid equipment, it will be a great start to preparing us at least for medical emergencies. We anticipate funding through the Red Cross to train 5 people as First Responders to be available to the community. Our plan is to purchase a WorkSafe BC level 3 First Aid Kit along with a backboard and any other items that will fit within the \$1,000. Gradually we hope to add items such as a portable defibrillator and portable oxygen concentrator, but we know those are larger ticket items to be sought down the road. We are starting with the basics.

Secondly we would like to be able to send 2 of our team members to the Northern Emergency Social Services Training conference in Prince George April 12-14. Unfortunately I will be out of the country at the time so will not attend, but I anticipate being able to be a speaker at the conference through a pre-recorded video arranged by Emily Epp. Tammy Helfrich and Judy Lister will attend the conference on behalf of our team. There are no bursaries or scholarships available so we would request that you help us to be able to send them to this conference. We expect that it will be an excellent learning and networking

opportunity as they connect with many other people from small communities in the north of BC. The conference costs are as follows:

\$243.80 for travel from Nazko to Prince George at the rate of \$.53/km

\$230.00 for 2 nights in the least expensive hotel set aside for the conference - Travelodge

\$250 registration for 2 people

This is a total of **\$723.80**.

We will ask our community association and community centre to help with the costs of meals not covered by the conference.

Totaled together we are requesting a grant of \$1,723.80 for these two projects. We believe they will provide both practical help through the First Aid equipment and learning opportunities through the conference towards our goals with the Nazko EMT. Thank you for your consideration. If you need any further information, feel free to contact me and I'll do my best. Again, we truly appreciate the opportunity to bring our hopes and concerns to the CRD through you and look forward to working together for the protection of our community in the future.

Sincerely,

Shannon Bell
Chair, Nazko Emergency Management Team
Nazko BC
Phone: 250-249-9669
Email: cariboopc@xplornet.ca

PS: I have sent this letter on the letterhead of the Nazko Valley Community Centre as they have agreed to allow all EMT financial matters to be handled by their financial officer and through their books as a registered society. The NVCC is a partner in the EMT as Judy Lister sits on the team as a rep from the NVCC.

Notes from Nazko on Evacuations and Permitting

Evacuation considerations:

As residents and leaders in the Nazko community, we applaud those within the Cariboo Regional District who seek to look at the issues surrounding evacuation alerts, orders and permitting. These are difficult issues to navigate as there are so many perspectives, concerns and factors involved in making decisions. As members of the Nazko community who have been very involved in the emergency situations of the past years, we hope that our comments will be helpful as the CRD forges new policies and approaches to these issues.

First and foremost for all involved is the importance of safety for both residents and first responders in any crisis situation. That is a given. However, we believe that safety can be maintained while also recognizing the different contributions that can be offered by community members in our rural and remote areas. While hard and fast rules may seem to be the most efficient way to approach disaster situations, often more flexible and cooperative plans can be more effective in the long run.

In the report from the CRD consultations that followed the 2017 wildfires, there were many recommendations that called for a shift in perceptions of local residents. The report called for a higher valuing of local knowledge and active engagement in responses. Recommendations challenged the CRD to see residents as assets to be used rather than liabilities to be dealt with or pushed aside. Our experience as a community affirms these recommendations. Many of the people who did not choose to evacuate in 2017 became great sources of information and practical help to both first responders as well as residents and neighbours who did evacuate. Some of the ways that they were able to be of help were:

- Worked with SPU's to monitor own and neighbouring homes systems.
- Helped SPU's numerous times to find properties they were confused about.
- Kept a group email to advise evacuees of conditions in the area, which was considered very valuable towards relieving anxiety.
- Kept an eye out for vehicles and activity in the community that didn't belong, to report to authorities if necessary.

- Visited neighbours homes to feed and check on animals, water gardens and greenhouses, follow up questions and concerns emailed by evacuees, etc.
- Checked in with other residents who stayed - for moral support, to help with protection, to discuss options regarding staying safe.

We believe that having some designated people staying in the community when it is safe and there is no immediate danger from fire or flooding is of great value. Residents are able to do things that RCMP and BCWS workers are not able to do such as identifying people who do not belong in the area and having the knowledge of homes and people that outside responders do not have, which can be the difference between protecting a home or having it missed. Our experience over the past several fires has been that SPU teams have been very ineffective in passing on information from one to another, resulting in confusion and some properties being missed. Designated residents can do a great number of things to set their neighbours minds at ease, allowing more people to make the choice to evacuate since they are able to trust that their properties, animals, assets etc will be taken care of by others they know.

We all know the reality is that some people will not evacuate when ordered to do so. Our hope and goal is to allow more people who should be evacuating (due to health, age and other concerns) to do so with confidence. Having some residents stay when safe to look after the community and offer valuable knowledge and services to the outside responders can help that to happen. These designated people (assets!) could also receive training that would enhance their ability to do these tasks.

For those who choose to remain, or are specially designated in the community to remain while the danger is low, there should be constant communication between the Community Liaison officer for the camp and those within the evacuation order area. In the past, those who chose to stay were told that they would receive no information and would be completely on their own. This does not help anyone involved. When the fire camp evacuated in 2017, the Community Liaison should have been informed in a timely way and permitted to contact all those who remained in the community that increased fire activity was expected so that those people could then make an informed decision to leave or seek safer accommodation in other parts of the community. Situations handled like that one only creates greater animosity between the community and BCWS

and the RCMP. We need to be all on the same team, with the same goal of protection and safety, while recognizing that the people who live in the community have a much greater knowledge of the local area than those coming from the outside, while the 'professionals' also have specific training and knowledge. They need to be working together as partners rather than as adversaries. No one has a greater commitment to protecting a home than the home-owner, especially in areas such as ours where insurance is almost non-existent. At the same time we recognize and acknowledge the special training that BCWS and others have for fighting fires and fire activity. We need to be prepared to bring all those gifts together.

There are benefits to the professionals when they are able to use community members as they do their jobs.

Here are some thoughts from experience in 2017 from someone who was an "asset" remaining within Nazko evacuation area:

- Most SPU members were very thankful for assistance. This relationship between crews and "assets" will be even more valuable as more homeowners install their own sprinkler systems – communication and cooperation will be important.
- RCMP policing was minimal in terms of looking after vacated properties and monitoring area traffic on a continuous basis – something "assets" within the community can greatly assist with.

Permitting:

After the 2017 wildfire season, the consultation report also called for more consideration towards evacuated residents to get permits when conditions are safe to allow people to check their homes and property, do routine maintenance, etc. There was considerable press as the 2018 fire season approached that pre-approval for ongoing permits was being considered. Pre-authorized ongoing permits could be invaluable in coordinating between residents who elect to stay and firefighting agencies.

In 2018, the focus for permitting was restricted to ranches and livestock owners only. This is unfair to property owners who do not meet these criteria. Everyone has concerns and needs specific to their homes and properties, as well as simply the need to see that everything is OK. If homes could be checked when

safe to do so, situations such as flooding and water damage from sprinklers could be kept to a minimum as well. Especially during situations of lengthy evacuations, residents have a right to visit their homes when conditions allow. During the 2017 evacuation, by far most days were low risk in terms of fire activity threatening homes and access routes. Consideration and common sense need to replace authoritarian inflexible rules.

One of the realities of the evacuation alerts and orders in 2017 was that the orders were put on long in advance of any real danger. We understand and applaud the consideration of the CRD that it takes a great deal of time and effort for people in remote areas, especially those with animals, to be able to respond to an order to leave. It is our understanding that that is why the orders were put in place so long before the fires were a direct threat. However, at the same time the length of the evacuation put stressors on the community and being out of one's home for so long exacerbates symptoms of trauma, especially in children and vulnerable people. It is a delicate balance for sure, but more open access to permits would allow people to return home when the danger was low, check on property, animals and gardens (for some this is an essential means of food sourcing for the entire year) and find peace of mind. Pre-permitting and eased restrictions would go a long way towards creating an atmosphere of partnership and cooperation between the CRD, community members and BCWS and RCMP.

In the carrying out of evacuation orders and alerts, there needs to be more community involvement with the RCMP staffing roadblocks. Most members on roadblock duty are from outside the area and do not know one road from another. Some are quite cooperative while others took a hard line and wouldn't hear of adjustments that needed to be made. Clear permits could help with this as well.