

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Emergency Preparedness Committee

AND TO: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Stephanie Masun, Manager of Emergency Program Services

DATE: February 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program

The Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) received royal assent on November 8, 2023. The modernized legislation brings British Columbia into alignment with federal and provincial commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Included in EDMA are provisions that set requirements for local authorities to engage in consultation and cooperate with First Nations through all four phases of emergency management.

The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) has received a letter from the Province of British Columbia, dated January 12, 2024, that brings forward the newly created Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program that is intended to support local authorities in meeting Indigenous engagement requirements.

The CRD will use the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program to build relationships with First Nations and Indigenous Governing Bodies as required under EDMA. This is in alignment with the Emergency Program Services business plan goal to adapt and adjust to meet the significant changes under EDMA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Masun
Manager of Emergency Program Services

building communities together



January 12, 2024

Cariboo Regional District
180 North 3rd Ave Suite D
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2A4

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

Re: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation - Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program*

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to provide this letter of offer and Contribution Agreement to support implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) through the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program.

Guided by the *United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the EDMA includes engagement provisions that promote relationship building and collaboration across jurisdictions. Engagement requirements of municipalities and regional districts include consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies, the incorporation of available Indigenous knowledge into emergency plans and risk assessments, and consideration of cultural safety across emergency management practices.

The Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program 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 impacts on Indigenous Peoples during emergency events.

The Province is providing funding to First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts in response to feedback about capacity requirements to implement the EDMA. This funding is intended to support municipalities and regional districts in meeting their Indigenous engagement requirements, and to support Indigenous governing bodies in participating in such engagement.

This letter of offer is accompanied by a Contribution Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the funding, including eligible activities and reporting. The term of the Contribution Agreement begins on the Effective Date and extends to March 31, 2025. Please sign and return the Contribution Agreement to EMCR.Procurement@gov.bc.ca on or before March 31, 2024 to receive funding.

Further information about the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program is provided on our [website located here](#) and includes the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program Guide, fact sheet, and Interim Guidance. The website also contains contact information should you have further questions about the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program.

Yours truly,



Monica Cox
Assistant Deputy Minister
Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness