

# Update: Emergency Management Assistance Program

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Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Canada

# Context

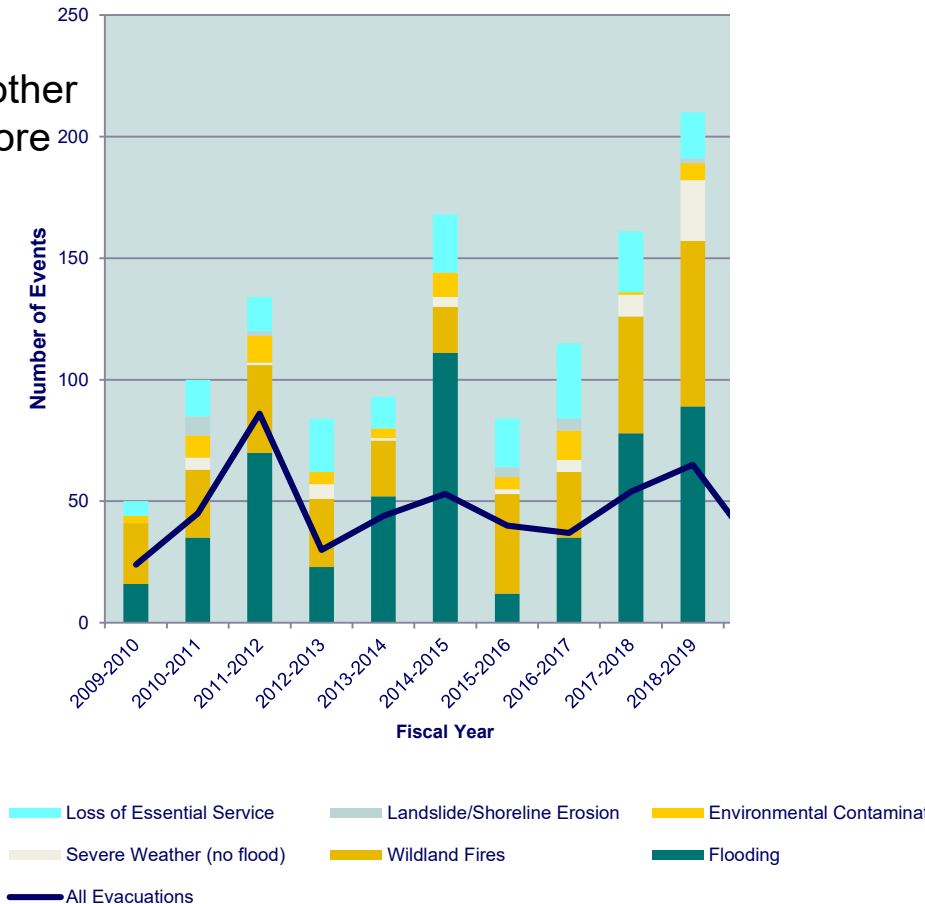
- Natural disasters and catastrophic events are increasing in both frequency and intensity across Canada due to the effects of climate change.
- Emergencies can impact First Nations more than other Canadians and on-reserve First Nations can be more vulnerable to emergency events than off reserve communities.

Annually, across Canada, First Nations communities experience 52 flood emergencies, 34 wildland fires, and 34 other emergencies on average

First Nations are 18 times more likely to be evacuated during a natural disaster than non-Indigenous communities

Since 2009, over 112,000 on-reserve community residents have been evacuated

Total Number of Emergencies by Type and Fiscal Year



# Federal Role in Responding to Emergencies On-Reserve

- Emergency Management on-reserve is a shared responsibility among First Nations, Tribal Councils, the federal government, and First Nations members
- The Minister has the legislative responsibility and acts as the federal lead for emergency management services on-reserve, in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act*, the *Indian Act* and the *Department of Indigenous Services Act*
- The Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) was established in 2014 as a single-window for First Nations partners to access federal support for emergency management
- EMAP works in partnership with First Nations communities, provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations to help communities on-reserve access emergency assistance services



Manitoba Flooding, 2017

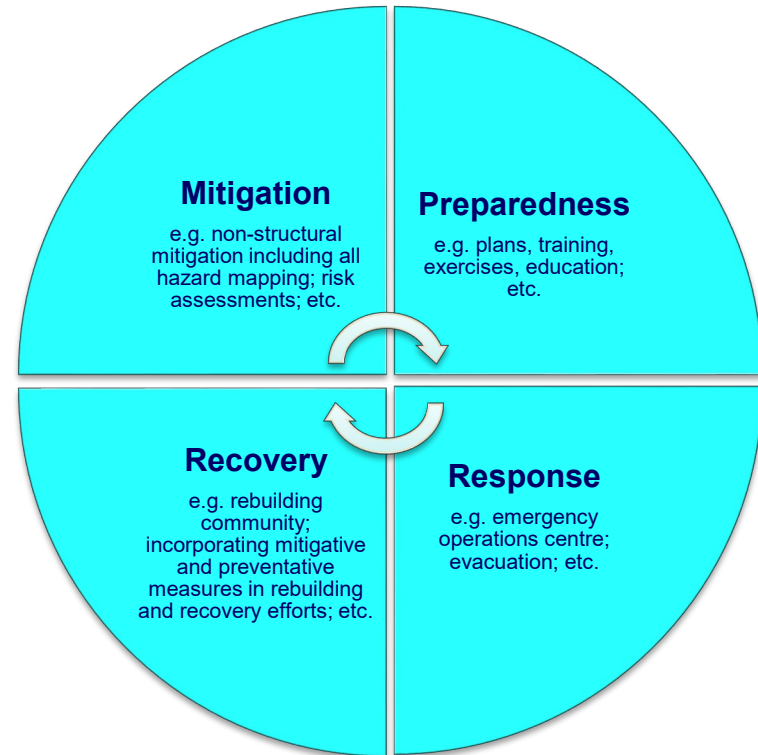
## History of On-Reserve Emergency Management

- Prior to 2014, expenses related to on-reserve emergency management recovery costs were funded under Public Safety's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).
- However, a 2013 Report of the Auditor General of Canada found that the DFAA was too complex (often involving many departments) and lacked coordination between stakeholders
- The Auditor General recommended that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada update and align the authorities for its emergency management program with the *Emergency Management Act* and the Emergency Management Framework for Canada
- This recommendation led to the establishment of the Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) in Indigenous Services Canada.

# Emergency Management Assistance Program: Overview

- EMAP provides funding to First Nations communities to strengthen resiliency and prepare for natural hazards and respond to them using the four pillars of emergency management
- The program also provides funding to provinces, territories and non-government organizations to support on-reserve emergency management
- EMAP aims to be flexible, culturally sensitive, responsive to the strengths of First Nations communities, and adaptive to evolving needs
- EMAP activities are organized into four programs:
  1. Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness
  2. Firesmart
  3. Capacity Enhancement
  4. Response and Recovery (Including the Build Back Better policy)

## 4 Pillars of Emergency Management



## How EMAP has evolved

- **Prioritizing building partnerships and engagement** with First Nation representative organizations and communities to move towards self-determination in the context of emergency management.
- **Indigenous-led emergency management capacity building** through modernizing structures and governance to make way for Indigenous capacity enhancement and self-determination.
- **Multilateral Emergency Management Service Agreements** that will see the formal full integration of First Nation partners in all aspects of on-reserve emergency management, region by region.



Bella Coola welcomes new Emergency Management Coordinator

# Multilateral Emergency Management Service Agreements

- Multilateral emergency management service agreements are between First Nations, the provinces/territories or other third party service provider and ISC;
- Funding has been provided to FN organisations across the country to engage with and ask communities directly their vision for EM;
- Emphasis is placed on First Nations as full and equal partners integrated into existing emergency management regimes and protocols;
- Clarity afforded to roles and responsibilities of all partners;
- Emphasis is placed on ensuring that First Nation partners have equitable access to resources that meet their needs and aspirations in emergency management;
- Approach undertaken recognizes distinct reality of each jurisdiction – no ‘one size fits all.’



**Signing of BC MOU, between the First Nations Leadership Council , the Provincial Government represented by BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC, and the federal Government represented by ISC.**



# Building Back Better Strategy Guide

- In 2018, ISC introduced its Building Back Better (BBB) Strategy Guide;
- The Guide draws from the United Nations Sendai Framework's principle of Building Back Better during the recovery phase of an emergency event to increase community resilience;
- It provides new tools and expands eligibility to enhance critical emergency response and recovery supports, including but not limited to social and cultural supports.



Tahltan Wildland Fire, 2018

During the 2019 flooding of Bearskin Lake, the First Nation accessed support for culturally appropriate mental wellness counselling, child friendly spaces, and community cultural gatherings to mitigate trauma and stress caused by an evacuation.

Following the B.C. wildfires of 2018, the Tahltan First Nation accessed support to rebuild affected housing using more fire resilient materials enhancing their resiliency.

# Emergency management in a new department

- The new Indigenous Services Canada and the inclusion of the First Nation Inuit and Health Branch will advance the development of holistic approaches for the delivery of social, healthcare, infrastructure and emergency management services to Indigenous partners;
- this means a more holistic health/emergency management framework to better address all aspects of an emergency on-reserve; COVID pandemic has highlighted this necessity;
- The Emergency Management Directorate (EMD) and FNIHB staff are working more closely together to ensure more streamlined services to First Nations;
- EMD is also actively exploring collaboration with other sectors such as community infrastructure, to provide an integrated perspective and enable more building-back-better.





# Budget 2019

- Federal Budget 2019 announced increased investments of approximately **\$173 M** over five years and **\$32 M** ongoing to build First Nation resiliency and improve emergency management on-reserve;
  - \$69M to support Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness initiatives
  - \$43.7M in Capacity Enhancement funding to support 96 notional positions for Emergency Management coordinators on-reserve
  - \$47.9M to support FireSmart initiatives and build skills in First Nations communities to prevent and prepare against wildland fires
  - \$1.8M in Engagement funding to support the development of Multilateral Service Agreements
  - First Nation and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) received almost \$80 M over 5 years for Emergency Management
- Last year, EMAP supported
  - ✓ 271 Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness projects;
  - ✓ 50 FireSmart initiatives;
  - ✓ 39 positions in communities for Capacity Enhancement;
  - ✓ engagement in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



FireSmart project in BC

# Key Priorities and Next Steps

## **Continuing Support to Enhance First Nation Partner Emergency Management Capacity;**

- Support through Year 2 (of 5) of the incremental Budget 19 funding;
- Allocation based on expressed desires of First Nation partners.

## **Pursuing Multilateral Emergency Management Service Agreements, as determined by FN communities and organisations;**

- staggered amongst jurisdictions cognizant of the unique and diverse relationships;
- Advancing agreements that are inclusive of and meet the needs and aspirations of the First Nation communities.

## **Increase engagement and partnership opportunities**

- ISC is intent on exploring ways to deepen its collaborative approach with the AFN to meet the emergency management needs and aspirations of First Nation partners and works towards First Nation partners' inherent self-determination and care and control of emergency management services to their communities