



Services aux Autochtones  
Canada

Indigenous Services  
Canada

Sous-ministre

Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0H4

July 15, 2024

John Williamson  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
House of Commons  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Williamson:

In November 2023 the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts studied the Auditor General of Canada’s Report 8 from November 2022 titled, *Emergency Management in First Nations Communities*. Recommendation #2 of Report 34 from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts titled, *Emergency Management in First Nations Communities*, required Indigenous Services Canada to “provide the Committee with reports showing the number of structural mitigation projects funded during the preceding fiscal year in First Nation communities, and for which amount, as well as the structural mitigation projects that are still not funded.” Indigenous Services Canada is pleased to provide, in both official languages, the progress report on this recommendation.

Indigenous Services Canada continues to engage and provide funding to advance previously unfunded and unreviewed structural mitigation projects identified in the Auditor General’s report that remain a priority for communities. As of March 31, 2024, of the 112 unfunded structural mitigation projects identified in the Auditor General’s report, there are 48 projects that remain a priority for First Nations, 37 of which received \$9,273,984 of funding last year; 11 projects did not receive funding last year, as these projects were in their initial project planning stages and not ready to proceed at that time.

Number of unfunded (OAG) structural mitigation projects remaining a priority for First Nations	# of projects allocated funding in 2023-2024	Total Expenditures for 2023-2024	# of unfunded projects in relation to the 48 remaining priorities
48	37	\$9,273,984	11

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Of the 112 unfunded structural mitigation projects, 64 projects were closed for the following reasons: 10 projects were duplicate entries in the system; 41 projects were funded by other levels of government, other federal departments, or scoped into other ISC projects; 4 projects did not meet the structural mitigation eligibility criteria; and, First Nations advised Indigenous Services Canada of 9 projects they no longer wished to pursue.

Of the 72 unreviewed structural mitigation projects identified in the Auditor General's report, 16 remained a priority for First Nations in 2023-2024, with 3 projects receiving \$3,401,788 in funding last year. The remaining 13 structural mitigation projects identified in the Auditor General's report as unreviewed have now been reviewed, ranked and included in regional First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plans.

<b>Number of unreviewed (OAG) structural mitigation projects remaining a priority for First Nations</b>	<b># of projects allocated funding in 2023-2024</b>	<b>Total Expenditures for 2023-2024</b>	<b># of unfunded projects in relation to the 16 remaining priorities</b>
16	3	\$3,401,788	13

The number of eligible unreviewed structural mitigation projects decreased from 72 to 16 for the following reasons: 13 were duplicate entries; 33 projects were funded by other levels of government, other federal departments, or scoped into other ISC projects; 7 did not meet the eligibility criteria for structural mitigation; 1 was not pursued by the First Nation; and, 2 were deemed ineligible because the projects were situated outside First Nation lands.

In addition to the unfunded and unreviewed projects identified in the Auditor General's report, in 2023-2024, Indigenous Services Canada funded 30 other ongoing or new priority structural mitigation projects in First Nation communities for a total of \$22,669,750. These projects were funded based on health and safety risks to communities as a result of climate hazard risks.

<b># of additional projects allocated funding in 2023-2024</b>	<b>Total Expenditures for 2023-2024</b>
30	\$22,669,750

As First Nation communities face growing vulnerability to climate-related natural hazards and their impacts, Indigenous Services Canada remains committed to collaborating with First Nation partners to address the 24 structural mitigation projects that have yet to receive funding that were identified in the Auditor General's report as being unfunded or unreviewed.

Beyond the scope of the Auditor General's report, Indigenous Services Canada continues to engage in ongoing discussions with communities through the First Nation Infrastructure Investment Planning process. These discussions are continuously exploring potential new structural mitigation projects aimed at preventing and mitigating climate-related impacts.

Should the Committee have any further inquiries on this report, please contact Irene Balite, Senior Director, Legislative, Parliamentary and Regulatory Affairs Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada, [irene.balite2@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:irene.balite2@sac-isc.gc.ca); 343-998-2373.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina Wilson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*On behalf of*

Gina Wilson