

Report 8 - Emergency Management in First Nations Communities - Indigenous Services Canada - Preliminary Management Action Plan

Recommendations	Management Response / Actions	Supplemental Details	Planned Implementation Date
<p>8.32 Indigenous Services Canada should work with First Nations to implement a risk-based approach to inform program planning and decisions on where to invest in preparedness and mitigation activities to maximize support to communities at highest risk of being affected by emergencies.</p>	<p>The department's response. Agreed. In collaboration with First Nations, Indigenous Services Canada is committed to implement a risk-based approach to inform funding decisions. Targeted investments by the department will consider, as it has to date, the communities' willingness, readiness and interest in undertaking emergency preparedness activities by empowering First Nations to take the lead in preparing for and managing emergencies. The department is committed to support First Nations in their endeavors to identify their unique communities' level of risk and priorities to seek funding from the department to enhance emergency preparedness.</p>	<p>ISC is committed to using a risk-based approach to better inform funding decisions. Risk management practices by integrating climate change projections and by clarifying the dimensions of risk, including causes, likelihood of occurrence and possible severity of consequences.</p>	<p>Ongoing – ISC will continue to work in partnership with First Nations to implement a risk-based approach. Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness (NSMP) and FireSmart funding for the 2024-25 cycle will be among the first programs to further implement a risk-based approach.</p>
<p>8.36 Indigenous Services Canada should work with First Nations communities to address the backlogs of eligible but unfunded structural mitigation projects and of unreviewed structural mitigation projects to effectively allocate resources to reduce the impact of emergencies on First Nations communities.</p>	<p>The department's response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada is currently working with First Nations to identify the infrastructure gap, which includes structural mitigation needs. The department will support First Nations to work towards closing that gap in the long term. In addition, the department is committed to work with First Nations, as well as collaborate with central agencies, other government departments and all levels of government to leverage partnership opportunities and explore alternate financing options to meet the needs of First Nations in structural mitigation while working toward the transfer of infrastructure services.</p>	<p>ISC will continue to work with First Nations to identify and invest in structural mitigation projects to help communities become more resilient to potential hazards and mitigate the most urgent and safety risks.</p>	<p>Ongoing - with an immediate focus on highest priority projects.</p>
<p>8.39 Indigenous Services Canada should, on the basis of an</p>	<p>The department's response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada, in collaboration with First Nations, will proceed to</p>	<p>ISC will begin work to immediately review and update the all Emergency</p>	<p>Identification by the fall of 2023, ongoing implementation.</p>

<p>assessments of risks, regularly update outdated departmental and regional emergency management plans and take immediate action to develop regional emergency management plans for the 3 regions that do not have them. These plans should be used to make informed decisions and take concrete actions to assist First Nations communities with managing the risks related to emergencies.</p>	<p>review and update the department's national Emergency Management Plan and regional plans and will develop customized regional emergency management plans based on an assessment of risks.</p>	<p>Management Plans and will ensure plans are updated at least every three years. Regions that have no plans will be prioritized by the department.</p>	
<p>8.42 Indigenous Services Canada, in collaboration with First Nations, should determine how many emergency management coordinator positions are required and allocate funding for these positions on the basis of risk and need to ensure First Nations have sustained capacity to manage emergencies.</p>	<p>The department's response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada is committed to work in partnership with First Nations to build emergency management capacity. The department also agrees that funding for emergency management positions, provided through the Emergency Management Assistance Program's capacity enhancement funding stream, should be expanded. Emergency management coordinators, of which the department currently funds 196 full or part-time positions across the country, provide First Nations with valuable emergency preparedness and planning capacity. The department is diligently working to secure additional funding to provide more positions to First Nations communities.</p>	<p>ISC will work to continually assess the number of Emergency Management Coordinators by leveraging the planned development of a new risk based approach. For example, this approach will emphasize the importance of assessing vulnerability to all hazards in order to determine the number of coordinators needed.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>8.62 Indigenous Services Canada should, in collaboration with First Nations, provincial governments and other service providers, ensure that First Nations communities receive the emergency management services they need by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing emergency management service agreements and wildfire agreements in all 	<p>The department's response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada is committed to work in partnership with First Nations and emergency management partners to establish comprehensive emergency management service agreements.</p>	<p>ISC is working with First Nations to engage with their members on their vision for emergency management, as well as funding going to enable First Nation partners to develop their own First Nation-led emergency management models. This will help set the stage for multilateral discussions that bring all</p>	<p>Ongoing - ISC has already launched engagement related to establishing new emergency management service agreements and will work to update wildfire agreements in the coming fiscal year.</p>

<p>jurisdictions that include all First nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing mutually agreed-upon evacuation service standards in the jurisdictions that lack such standards ○ increasing support for First Nations-led approaches to emergency management 		<p>partners together to develop new multilateral service agreements.</p> <p>Where service agreements and wildfire agreements already exist, at the next annual cycle opportunity for renewal, all eligible First Nations will be asked to confirm their explicit inclusion. Where no agreements currently exist, negotiations will be started or accelerated and will also list all First Nations that have agreed to be included.</p> <p>Should a First Nation not agree to be listed, activation procedures will continue to be followed and ISC will look for opportunities to increase support for First Nations-led approaches to emergency management.</p>	
<p>8.66 Indigenous Services Canada should develop performance indicators to allow the department to measure progress against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and use these indicators to track and report publicly on progress.</p>	<p>The department’s response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada agrees that certain performance indicators could be improved to better measure progress against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Moving forward, the department will ask its programs that use performance indicators related to emergency management to review and consider revising how they measure progress against the Sustainable Development Goals. The review process should involve programs analyzing both the federal and departmental sustainable development strategies as well as the Sustainable Development Goal targets to understand how the programs could best measure progress and to identify which performance indicators should be utilized to do so.</p>	<p>In consultation with ESDC as the lead for measuring progress against the Sustainable Development Goals and in partnership with Statistics Canada that has developed the Canadian Indicator Framework for SDGs Data Hub, ISC will review and revise how it measures progress against the SDGs within the next annual reporting cycle.</p>	<p>2024 – While internal work with begin immediately, the department is aligned with Statistics Canada’s strategic three year review of the “Canadian Indicator Framework scheduled for 2024.</p>

	<p>The Government of Canada also reports on progress made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and uses performance indicators from the Canadian Indicator Framework (see Taking Action Together – Canada’s 2021 Annual Report on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals). The Department supports this whole-of-government process by providing information on relevant departmental actions and initiatives that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>		
<p>8.68 Indigenous Services Canada should, in collaboration with First Nations, provincial governments and other service providers, ensure that First Nations communities receive the emergency management services they need by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ defining what is meant by comparable services for First Nations in relation to those available to municipalities of similar size and circumstance in each jurisdiction ○ monitoring the services provided to First Nations to ensure that they are comparable to services provided to non-Indigenous communities, are culturally appropriate, and address the needs of marginalized groups ○ identifying and addressing shortcomings by monitoring emergency management service agreements and conducting lessons-learned exercises 	<p>The department’s response. Agreed. Indigenous Services Canada is committed to work in partnership with First Nations and emergency management partners to establish comprehensive emergency management service agreements that will define comparability of services and monitoring and reporting components to identify and address shortcomings for continuous improvement.</p>	<p>Future multilateral comprehensive emergency management agreement negotiations will include and define agreed upon comparability of services and monitoring and reporting mechanisms that will allow gaps to be addressed as part of a continuous improvement approach.</p>	<p>Ongoing - A calendar with timelines and milestones will be developed in partnership with First Nations and Emergency Management Stakeholders by the fall of 2023.</p>