



INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FUNDING PROGRAM GUIDE

December 13, 2023



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

The information in this document is for your convenience and guidance and is not legal advice or a replacement for the legislation or independent legal advice.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	ii
Overview	3
Funding Recipients	4
Eligible Activities	5
Program Funding	7
What Costs are Eligible?	7
What is Ineligible for Funding?	7
Funding Distribution	7
Local Authorities Funding	8
Terms and Conditions	8
Program Reporting	9
Program Communications, Support and Resources	9
Resources.....	9



OVERVIEW

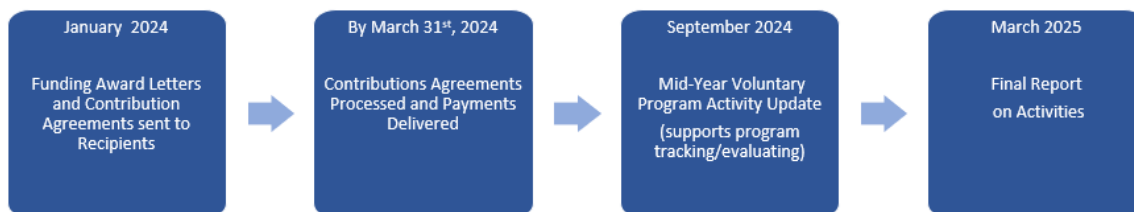
This program guide provides an overview of the **Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program** (IERFP).

The Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) includes Indigenous engagement requirements (IERs) that promote relationship building across jurisdictions and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety across emergency management practices. The intent is to respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, enhance the emergency management outcomes for the safety of all, provide for policy improvements that reflect lived experience, and address the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous peoples during emergency events. Regulated entities as defined in EDMA are required to engage through emergency management, and local authorities (regional districts and municipalities) are required to consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) through response and recovery.

This program guide complements the **Indigenous Engagement Requirements (IER) interim guidance** materials which provide a more detailed overview of roles and responsibilities, the phased timing of requirements, and recommendations regarding how regulated entities might engage with Indigenous governing bodies. Review of the IER interim guidance materials will assist funding recipients in choosing how to allocate funding awarded under this program.

This program guide provides information for funding recipients on the funding program delivery process and information to assist in how to apply the funding to one or more activities.

Summary of Process Steps



The intended objective of the funding program is to support the implementation of Indigenous Engagement Requirements, and intended outcomes including:

- Relationship building across jurisdictions through consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies.
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety across emergency management practices.
- Respecting of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Enhancing emergency management outcomes for the safety of all.
- Providing policy improvements that reflect the lived experience of Indigenous peoples and address the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous Peoples during emergency events.

Questions and inquiries about this funding program can be directed to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) by email: EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca

FUNDING RECIPIENTS

All 204 First Nations and 188 local authorities in British Columbia will each receive a funding award letter and a contribution agreement.

First Nations:

The EDMA requires engagement with Indigenous governing bodies which are, as defined in the *Declaration Act*, an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous Peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

For purposes of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program, funding award letters will be directed to First Nations' Chief and Councils.

First Nations' Chief and Councils may want to identify another entity, an Indigenous governing body, for purposes of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program.

Local Authorities:

For purposes of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program, local authority refers to both municipalities and regional districts.

Funding is responsive to the *Community Charter*.



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Funding is for activities that promote, encourage, and support relationship building and collaboration in emergency management between local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies.

Eligible activities are intended to support successful fulfilment of the Indigenous Engagement Requirements, including consultation and cooperation.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Consultation and Cooperation

- Activities where local authorities contact or engage with Indigenous governing bodies and “make reasonable efforts to reach agreement on the areas to be described in local authority emergency management plans for the purposes of consultation and cooperation” under s.120 of EDMA.
- Engagements to discuss, confirm and document communication protocols that help local authorities understand which entities to consult, engage, coordinate, and cooperate with, when and how, through any or all phases of emergency management.

Relationship building

- Activities that strengthen and develop relationships between Indigenous governing bodies and local authorities, and support collaboration in emergency management.
- Collaboratively developed or delivered training and preparedness initiatives, to support shared understanding of respective emergency management practices.

Planning

- Activities that support collaboration in developing emergency management plans and/or risk assessments; for example, engagements to explore how to incorporate cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge, or how to identify and reduce disproportionate impacts in plans and/or risk assessments.
- Activities related to meeting consultation and cooperation requirements related to preparing, reviewing, and revising risk assessments or emergency management plans.



Reconciliation and capacity building

- Activities that support local reconciliation efforts such as meetings, engagements, and training, including building understanding of cultural safety and the integration of Indigenous knowledge in emergency management.
- Activities that enable self-determination, and governance of emergency management programs and services.
- Planning for and delivering cultural safety and humility training to local emergency management staff and volunteers.
- Activities that support First Nations establishing an Indigenous governing body for purposes of emergency management.

Agreement building

- Activities to develop formal agreements about communications protocols that help local authorities understand which entities to consult, engage, coordinate, and cooperate with, when and how, through any or all phases of emergency management.
- Meeting to review the effectiveness of agreements.

Recipients may identify other activities related to the Indigenous Engagement Requirements that are not on the list above.

To further increase capacity and streamline Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program reporting, recipients may choose to pool Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program funds and work together to achieve shared priorities, and to report out collectively.

Please contact EMCR to confirm the alternative activities or pooling of funds via email to EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca.



PROGRAM FUNDING

WHAT COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Eligible costs must relate to the EDMA Indigenous Engagement Requirements and activities described above and may include:

- All costs considered to be necessary for the successful implementation of an IER activity or activities.
- Costs related to meeting recipients' specific emergency management program requirements, where related to implementation of EDMA and Indigenous Engagement Requirements.
- First Nations, community, and public engagement/education related to new procedures and processes in emergency management.
- Incremental staffing costs (for example: for engagement facilitation or plan development).
- Administrative costs (for example: for internal financial or activity reporting to the Province).
- Travel costs to attend meetings and engagements.

WHAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

This funding is not intended to cover consultation and cooperation costs incurred during a declared state of emergency or recovery period. In alignment with the EMCR Financial Guidelines, pre-approved costs related to response and recovery activities will be reimbursed by EMCR through the expense authorization form (EAF) process. For questions regarding costs please email EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Under the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program, all First Nations in the Province will each be eligible to receive \$45,500, under a contribution agreement.



LOCAL AUTHORITIES FUNDING

Under the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program, local authorities in the Province will each be eligible to receive funding ranging from \$40,000 - \$65,000, under a contribution agreement, recognizing that the number of Indigenous governing bodies that local authorities engage with will vary.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In January 2024, EMCR will send an email to all recipients with a funding award letter and a contribution agreement. The contribution agreement is to be signed by the recipient, with either a brief description of activities or selection of an activity, and this information will inform the "Project" in the contribution agreement.

Contribution agreements must be signed by the recipient and returned to EMCR before March 31, 2024, for provincial signature.

Funding under this program will be delivered upon full signing of the contribution agreements and the end of the term of the contribution agreements will be March 31, 2025.

EMCR is supportive of recipients pooling funds. The intent to pool funds can be communicated when recipients return the contribution agreement. If recipients choose to pool funds after receiving the funds, recipients are asked to notify EMCR via email to the program team at EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca.

The contribution agreement will articulate that if recipients have unspent funds, those funds must be returned to EMCR.



PROGRAM REPORTING

To support program evaluation and administration, recipients will be asked to provide the following:

- In September 2024, recipients will be requested to fill out an online survey, as part of initial review of the program. In this survey recipients will share which Indigenous engagement requirements (activities) they worked towards implementing (how, and with whom).
- A final report on activities will be required by March 31, 2025. In February 2025, EMCR will provide material to support reporting, including instructions and a template.

If recipients have chosen to pool funds, they can share reporting requirement obligations.

PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Program support in the form of an email account has been provided for you to submit your question or inquiry. Emails will be monitored Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 4:00pm, except statutory holidays, and responses from an EMCR Program representative will occur within 1-2 business days.

Email: EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca

RESOURCES

Please refer to the following resources to support use of the IERFP:

- [Indigenous Engagement Requirement Funding page](#)
- [Indigenous Engagement Requirements Primer \(PDF\)](#)

