



---

# Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program Guide – Year 2

March 10, 2025

---



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

<b>Year 2 Program Guide Summary of Changes.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Funding Recipients.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Eligible Activities .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Program Funding.....</b>	<b>5</b>
What Costs are Eligible? .....	5
What Is Ineligible for Funding?.....	6
Funding Distribution .....	6
<b>Terms and Conditions.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Program Reporting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Program Communications, Support and Resources .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Resources.....	8

## Year 2 Program Guide Summary of Changes

This program guide provides an overview of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program (IERFP), as updated March 10, 2025.

EMCR announced Year 2 of funding for the IERFP in September 2024 to further support eligible recipients with implementing the Indigenous engagement requirements. Provision of additional funding is responsive to feedback from recipients of Year 1, and IER Regional Forums.

In March 2025, based on feedback from recipients, EMCRC has implemented changes intended to better support the development of long-term relationship building and collaboration in emergency management between Indigenous communities and local authorities:

- Year 2 funds are available to all recipients regardless of whether Year 1 funds have been expended
- A Modification Agreement has been sent to all recipients. This must be signed and returned before March 31, 2025 to receive Year 2 funds
- Year 1 Program funds can be expended through March 2026, with a signed Modification Agreement for Year 2.

### **Updates to the Program Guide are as follows:**

- ✓ Process updates to assist recipients in accessing Year 2 program funding
- ✓ Removal of the Optional Survey originally intended for September 2024
- ✓ Year 2 funds are available regardless of whether Year 1 funds have been spent

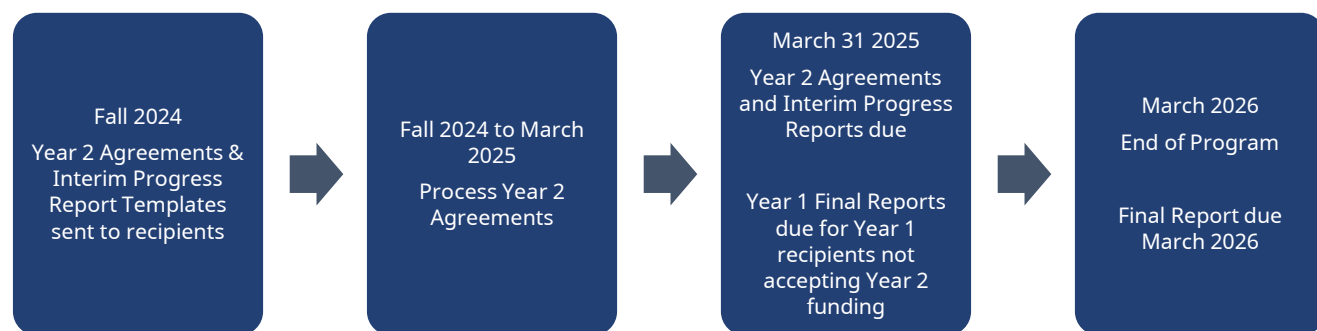
## Overview

EDMA includes Indigenous engagement requirements (IER) 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 co-operate with Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) through response and recovery.

This program guide complements the *Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance* document which provides 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 for Year 2 Program funding



Information in this Program Guide is provided for recipients who:

- are requesting an IERFP funding award for the first time, or
- will complete implementation of their Year 1 agreements by March 31, 2025, and no longer wish to participate in the Program; and, who
- received an IERFP Year 1 funding award and wish to receive Year 2 Program funding.

The intended objective of the IERFP is to support the implementation of Indigenous engagement requirements, and intended outcomes including:

- Relationship building across jurisdictions through consultation and co-operation with Indigenous governing bodies.
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety across emergency management practices.
- Respecting 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](mailto:EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca)



## Funding Recipients

All 204 First Nations and 188 local authorities in British Columbia are eligible for a funding award through Year 2 of the IERFP, regardless of whether the offer of Year 1 funding was accepted.

- Eligible recipients who did not sign a Contribution Agreement to receive Year 1 Program funding but wish to receive Year 2 Program funding will need to sign a Contribution Agreement by March 31, 2025.
- Eligible recipients with signed Contribution Agreements for Year 1, that do not wish to accept Year 2 funding, must submit a final report by March 31, 2025 – per current agreement terms, or contact EMCR if you wish to extend the term of the agreement
- Eligible recipients with signed Contribution Agreements for Year 1, that do wish to accept Year 2 funding, must both sign and return an updated Year 2 Modification Agreement and submit an Interim Progress Report by March 31, 2025. Year 1 funding does not need to be expended before March 31, 2025, to receive Year 2 funding.

### 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 notices 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.

For First Nations that have identified additional contacts for IERFP implementation, the program team will strive to include these contacts in correspondence for Year 2.

### 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 co-operation. There is no change to the list of eligible activities, and recipients may choose one or more.

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

### **Consultation and Co-operation**

- 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 co-operate 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 co-operation 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, co-ordinate, and co-operate 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](mailto: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 co-operation 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](mailto:EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca).

## Funding Distribution

Under the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program, all First Nations in the Province are eligible to receive \$45,500, and local authorities in the Province are eligible to receive funding ranging from \$40,000 to \$65,000, recognizing that the number of Indigenous governing bodies that local authorities engage with will vary.

## Terms and Conditions

For Year 2 funding, EMCR will send an email to all First Nations and local authorities with an agreement and for returning recipients, an Interim Report template. Both the signed agreement for Year 2 and the Interim Progress Report needs to be returned to EMCR on or before March 31, 2025, for the Year 2 payment to be processed.

**Eligible Recipients who did not participate in the first year of the program, will be sent an email offering funding, and will be provided with a contribution agreement to access program funding.**

- The contribution agreement is to be signed by the recipient, with either a description of activities or selection of an activity, and this information will inform the “Project” in the contribution agreement.

Agreements must be signed by the recipient and returned to EMCR on or before March 31, 2025.

- Funding under this program will be delivered upon full signing of the agreements, and the end of the term of the contribution agreements will be March 31, 2026.





**Recipients who are already participating in the program (received Year 1 program funding) will need to sign a modification to the existing agreement and submit an Interim Progress Report to access the Year 2 program funding.**

- The modification agreement must be signed by the recipient and returned to EMCR on or before March 31, 2025.
- The interim progress report will be an opportunity to choose to continue or change eligible activities to inform the Indigenous engagement requirements “Project(s).”
- The IERFP Interim Progress Report must also be completed and submitted to EMCR, showing the recipient’s progress on Year 1 projects. **The Interim Progress Report may be provided to EMCR at any time before March 31, 2025.**
- Year 2 funds are available regardless of whether Year 1 funds have been expended.
- Year 2 program funding will be delivered upon full signing of the new agreement, and receipt of the Interim Progress Report.
- The final reporting date will change to March 31, 2026

EMCR is supportive of recipients pooling funds. The intent to pool funds can be communicated when recipients return the contribution agreement or new 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](mailto:EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca).

All agreements will have a requirement that unspent funds must be returned to EMCR.

## Program Reporting

To support program evaluation and administration, recipients will be asked to provide final reporting as per the conditions of their IERFP agreements, and if applicable, ad hoc reporting. To help inform future program development, mid-term optional reporting may be requested.

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 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., except statutory holidays, and responses from an EMCR Program representative will occur within 1-2 business days.

Email: [EMCR.IERFunding@gov.bc.ca](mailto: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 Interim Guidance \(PDF\)](#)

