



2.15 Cultural Activity Locations Support

2.15.1 GENERAL

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) have a signed Declaration of Commitment that highlights a shared intention to embed cultural safety and cultural humility across all four pillars of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This shared intention recognizes that the manner, in which emergency management is conducted can have a lasting impact on First Nations health and wellness.

The Declaration of Commitment is based on the following guiding principles of cultural safety and humility:

- *Cultural humility builds relationships founded in mutual trust and respect and enables cultural safety.*
- *Cultural safety and humility must be understood, embraced, and practiced at all levels of the emergency services system including governance, organizational, and within individual practice.*
- *We have achieved cultural safety when First Nations and Indigenous People tell us we have.*

Large scale evacuations that impact an entire community may be stressful and traumatizing for First Nations people, so it is important to provide trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services to lessen further impacts and to transition more effectively into recovery. These services may be offered within or close to Emergency Support Services Reception Centres, however, some communities may prefer to have a separate designated gathering space where services can be provided.

To support the delivery of First Nations health, wellness, and cultural services, the host and/or evacuating community may utilize a Cultural Activity Location Support. The Cultural Activity Locations Support provides a safe space where evacuees can gather and access cultural care services. Services offered within Cultural Activity Locations Support may be delivered in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), community health society, or other support agency.

Related Policies and Guidelines:

- **2.14 Community Navigator - First Nations Community Navigator for Emergency Support Services**
- **2.02 Task Authorization**
- **5.02 Expense Reimbursement**
- **[Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations \(revised January 2008\)](#)**

2.15.2 DEFINITIONS

- See [Terms and Definitions](#)
- **Cultural Activity Location Support:** is a designated location for the purpose of providing cultural care services.



- **Evacuee:** is a resident whose primary residence is directly impacted in the defined geographic area of an evacuation order within the issuing authority's jurisdiction.
- **Primary residence:** is the dwelling where an individual or family spends most of their personal time. A person can only have one primary residence at any time.
- **Support agency:** is an agency that provides support and/or resources to another agency (e.g., First Nations Health Authority, Indigenous Services Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross).

2.15.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) Cultural Activity Locations Support are eligible expenses for reimbursement.
 - a. To receive reimbursement, the community must:
 - i. Follow the same prescribed reimbursement process used for other resources (e.g. [Expenditure Authorization Form](#)).
 - b. PREOCs will ensure that communities are aware this resource is eligible for reimbursement.
 - c. PREOCs will ensure that communities are aware of the process for receiving reimbursement and/or resource sourcing.
- (2) Cultural Activity Locations Support may be identified by the impacted community or may be sourced from a support agency such as the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), or community health society.
- (3) The need for Cultural Activity Locations Support is identified by and at the discretion of the impacted community.
- (4) Services offered within the Cultural Activity Locations Support are community-driven and may vary depending on the community's needs.
 - a. If PREOCs receive requests for cultural services, requests will be directed to the FNHA or Indigenous Services Canada Agency Representative in the PREOC.

2.15.4 REFERENCES

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2019)
BC Canada Bilateral Agreement (2017)
FNLC/BC/Canada Tripartite Agreement MOU (2018)
FNHA/EMBC LOU (renewed 2021)

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