

Community Recovery Planning Guide

This resource is intended to be used as a guide to support the Community Recovery Planning process after a disaster has occurred. A Recovery Plan Template is in development and will be added to this resource in the future.

What is a Community Recovery Plan?

A Community Recovery Plan is developed by a First Nation or Local Authority (FN/LA) and:

- Outlines recovery needs, priorities, and themes
- Defines the values and principles a community will consider throughout recovery
- Describes the actions a community plans to take for recovery operations
- Estimates costs and timeframes to identify funding requirements
- Identifies recovery-specific staffing requirements for FN/LA
- Identifies possible challenges and limitations
- Cultivates community leadership and public awareness

Importance of a Community Recovery Plan

When a community undergoes a significant disaster, the impacts can change the built environment, the population, the economy, and even the culture. A common challenge in recovery is trying to coordinate the different rebuilding efforts in a way that reflects the values, interests, and needs of returning residents. Similarly, opportunities exist to modernize the local economy, increase equity, and enhance the resilience of infrastructure. For these reasons alone recovery planning is vitally important. It is crucial for communities to engage the community on their vision for the future, and develop a plan that will bring that vision to fruition.

To that end, a Community Recovery Plan (CRP) is also important for funding the recovery vision the community has. There are different funding streams following a disaster, which require different types of applications, negotiations, and proofs of need. Usually, a community will use a Community Recovery Plan to articulate the findings from a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and connect them to projects and programs that have not been funded elsewhere (e.g. Disaster

Financial Assistance [DFA], etc.). This becomes the blueprint for facilitating recovery funding and operational assistance from provincial, federal, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In addition to getting community input, it is highly recommended to develop the plan in collaboration with government and NGO partners so that they can develop their own programs in tandem with the planning process. They can help communities craft the plan in ways that will better align projects with likely sources of funding and support.

Benefits of a Community Recovery Plan

There are several reasons to create a CRP, including but not limited to:

- The CRP allows an impacted community to lead their recovery and coordinate with Provincial Ministries, Federal and non-governmental agencies to identify potential funding opportunities for recovery actions.
- The CRP provides organized, strategic direction for the community during a time of increased workload and change and creates institutional knowledge and recognition in the case of turnover.
- The CRP is an achievable early recovery deliverable that signals (to the public and to partners) that the community is approaching community recovery with intention and strategic planning, which creates trust and opportunities for collaboration.
- The CRP allows the community to track recovery progress, compare new projects against values and needs, and better shape the trajectory of long-term recovery.