



Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Project Resources

Information Guide: British Columbia

General Information

Provincial/territorial emergency management organizations coordinate response activities, conduct planning and research, train, administer, and deliver disaster financial assistance programs in their respective province or territory. Funding agreements between emergency management organizations and AANDC help to ensure successful coordinated response and recovery efforts, better clarify roles and responsibilities, and support enhanced preparedness activities, including training and development of more robust community emergency plans for on-reserve First Nations.

For all aboriginal communities not considered as on-reserve First Nations communities, Provincial/Territorial emergency management organizations provide the same level of support as they do any community within their respective jurisdictions. These include Metis, First Nations in settlement areas and Inuit communities

You can use the keywords listed in your internet search engine (Google, Yahoo, Explorer, etc.) to find the information online.

AANDC is currently negotiating provincial/territorial bilateral agreements regarding emergency management service provision for on-reserve First Nations

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1324572607784/1324572653216#a2>

Keywords: AANDC National Emergency Management Plan

For general information regarding AANDC's role in emergency management, please contact:

AANDC Public Enquiries Contact Centre

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, North Tower
Gatineau, Quebec

Postal Address:
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4

Email: InfoPubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
Phone: (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604
Fax: 1-866-817-3977
TTY: (toll-free) 1-866-553-0554

First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) of British Columbia

FNESS is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia. The mission of FNESS is to assist First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities by providing programs and service related to emergency preparedness and response.

<http://fness.bc.ca/>

Keywords: First Nations Emergency Services Society, BC, emergency management

FNESS Head Office Tel: 604 669 7305 Fax: 604 669 9832 BC Toll free: 1 888 822 3388 Email: info@fness.bc.ca Mailing address: 102-70 Orwell Street North Vancouver, British Columbia V7J 3R5	Forest Fuel Management Office Tel: 250 377 7600 Fax: 250 7610 BC Toll free: 1 888 388 4431 Email: ffminfo@fness.bc.ca Mailing address: 712 Mount Paul Way Kamloops, British Columbia V2H 1B5
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The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)

PEP is part of Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and its website has all kinds of valuable information about hazards. But PEP also has Regional Managers and staff throughout the province who are able to take calls and do their best to answer any questions about hazards that you may have.

www.pep.bc.ca

Keywords: Emergency Management British Columbia, natural hazards, Provincial Emergency Program

British Columbia Regional Offices:

<p>South West Region</p> <p>Tel: (604) 586-4390 Fax: (604) 586-4334</p> <p>Mailing Address: 14275 - 96th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia V3V 7Z2</p>	<p>Central Region</p> <p>Tel: (250) 371-5240 Fax: (250) 371-5246</p> <p>Mailing Address: 1255-D Dalhousie Drive, Kamloops, British Columbia, V2C 5Z5</p>
<p>South East Region</p> <p>Tel: (250) 354-5904 Fax: (250) 354-6561</p> <p>Mailing Address: 403 Vernon Street Nelson, British Columbia V1L 4E6</p>	<p>North East Region</p> <p>Tel: (250) 612-4172 Fax: (250) 612-4171</p> <p>Mailing Address: 3235 Westwood Drive Prince George, British Columbia V2N 1S4</p>
<p>North West Region</p> <p>Tel: (250) 615-4800 Fax: (250) 615-4817</p> <p>Mailing Address: Suite 1B - 3215 Eby Street Terrace, British Columbia V8G 2X8</p>	<p>Vancouver Island Region</p> <p>Tel: (250) 952-5848 Fax: (250) 952-4304</p> <p>Mailing Address: Block A - Suite 200 2261 Keating Cross Road Saanichton British Columbia V8M 2A5</p>
<p>Central Kootenay Regional District</p> <p>Tel: (250) 352-6665 Fax: (250) 250-352-9300</p> <p>Mailing Address: Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4</p>	

Local Communities

Each of the 13 municipalities within the Province of British Columbia listed below has an Emergency Preparedness website. The websites below will either provide you with a direct Emergency Management contact or jurisdictional contact information in order to begin your search for more information regarding disaster plans and emergency response in your area.

<p>City of Vancouver: http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/how-vancouver-prepares-for-emergencies.aspx</p> <p>Central Kootenay Regional District: http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-management.html</p> <p>City of Richmond: http://www.richmond.ca/safety/prepare/about.htm</p> <p>District of Maple Ridge: http://www.mapleridge.ca/453/Emergency-Services</p> <p>Regional District of Nanaimo: http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=141</p> <p>Central Okanagan Regional District: http://www.cordemergency.ca/cm/page3353.aspx</p>	<p>North Shore Emergency Management Office: http://www.nsemo.org/</p> <p>City of Victoria: http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/emergency-management.html</p> <p>North Okanagan Emergency Management (Vernon): http://www.vernon.ca/em/index.html</p> <p>City of Coquitlam: http://www.coquitlam.ca/public-safety/emergency-preparedness/overview.aspx</p> <p>Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen: http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=399</p> <p>Shuswap Regional District: http://www.csr.bc.ca/services/emergency-management</p> <p>District of Saanich Emergency Program: http://www.saanich.ca/sep/index.html</p>
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(For each of these cities or districts you can search for information on the internet by typing in your internet browser the name of the city or district, together with “emergency management”).

Local District Contacts

The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a political territorial organization, representing the 203 First Nations in British Columbia. The BCAFN is the regional arm of the National Assembly of First Nations. The regional Chief represents regional concerns and ensures that regional perspectives are included in political discussions and decision making. One of the BCAFN’s main objectives is to improve the quality of life of First Nations and to ensure practicing and thriving cultures. The BCAFN website contains a list of all 203 First Nation communities, including contact information, in British Columbia.

<http://www.bcafn.ca/>

Keywords: BC Assembly of First Nations

Other Contacts:

In British Columbia contact information for regional districts is available at

<http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/pathfinder-rd.htm>

Keywords: Government of British Columbia, Local Government Department, Regional District

Areas and Districts

School Districts

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) is an independent society led by about 100 representatives from First Nation communities. The FNESC is committed to improving education for all First Nation students in British Columbia, by communicating the priorities of First Nation communities to federal and provincial governments.

<http://www.fnesc.ca/>

For School Districts in British Columbia:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/bcmap.htm>

Keywords: Government of British Columbia, School District

Electoral Boundaries and Districts

British Columbia Statistics has a “Mapping and Geography” section which may be helpful to identify the Provincial Electoral District (PED) to which your community belongs:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Geography/ReferenceMaps/PEDs.aspx>

Keywords: BC Stats, Provincial Electoral District, PED

Territorial Policing

The First Nations Policing Program (FNPP), is administered by Public Safety Canada

“A First Nations self-administered policing agreement is an arrangement between Canada, the participating province or territory, and the First Nations community. In these arrangements, the First Nation develops, manages and administers its own police service under provincial legislation. Independent police commissions provide for the impartial and independent oversight of police operations, and the police chief is responsible for the management and administration of the service.”¹ As of Feb 22, 2013, over 80% - or 528 of 617 – of the eligible First Nations communities are under the policing program.

Please check with your Band leaders to see if your community is currently participating in the program.

Please note that you might still have to find out exactly where the territorial policing boundaries are, but the website gives you contact information.

<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/plcng/brgnl-plcng/index-eng.aspx>

Keywords: First Nations Policing Program

¹Public Safety Canada. (2015). *Trends in Indigenous Policing. Models: An International Comparison*. Retrieved from <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/trnds-ndgns-plc-mdl/index-eng.aspx#a5>

You can locate RCMP Detachments, including those that service First Nation communities, in British Columbia at

<http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=523&languageId=1&contentId=7337>

Keywords: RCMP, British Columbia, detachments

Fire Protection Areas

First Nation Bands are responsible for managing fire protection services on their lands. AANDC provides core capital funding for fire protection services at an annual basis. Some First Nation communities may have their own fire department, others may have made agreements with neighboring municipalities and pay an annual fee that entitles them use of fire protection services.

A list of agreements between First Nation Bands and local communities can be found at:

http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/13_show.asp?titleid=4

Keywords: CivicInfo BC, First Nation Governments

British Columbia Fire Departments can be contacted for fire protection area information at

http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc/services/pdf/fire_dept_listing.pdf

Keywords: British Columbia Fire Departments, EMBC

Please note that you might still have to find out exactly where the boundaries are, but the website gives you contact information.

Territorial Geological Organization

In British Columbia see GeoBC

<http://www.geobc.gov.bc.ca/>

Keywords: GeoBC, government of British Columbia

Popular services offered by GeoBC include Emergency Management and First Nation Consultative Area. The latter service provides preliminary contact information for First Nations who may have Aboriginal Interests identified within a certain area queried.

Geography - General

BC Statistics has a “Mapping and Geography” section which may be helpful

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Geography>

Keywords: BC Statistics, mapping, geography

Civil Emergency Measures Act

AANDC National Emergency Management Plan

The National Emergency Management Plan of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) lists the roles and responsibilities of the department and its partners in emergency management. It furthermore describes the concept for operations for responding to and managing an emergency affecting First Nation communities across Canada.

The Plan is available for download at:

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1324572607784/1324572653216>

Keywords: AANDC, Emergency Management Plan

British Columbia: The Emergency Program Act

The legislation which covers disasters in British Columbia is called the Emergency Program Act.

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96111_01

Keywords: BC Emergency Management Act, BC Laws

There are a few definitions and legal requirements under the Act which are important to understand (note that this list is selected from a larger list and the text has, in some cases, been edited for length).

"declaration of a state of local emergency" means a declaration of a local authority or the head of a local authority

"disaster" means a calamity that

(a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or by the forces of nature, and

(b) has resulted in serious harm to the health, safety or welfare of people, or in widespread damage to property

"emergency" means a present or imminent event or circumstance that

(a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature, and

(b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property

"head of a local authority" means

(a) for a municipality, the mayor or a person designated by the municipal council to act in the capacity of mayor in the mayor's absence, and

(b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the chair of the board of the regional district, or, in the chair's absence, a vice chair

"local authority" means

- (a) for a municipality, the municipal council
- (b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district, or
- (c) for a national park, the park superintendent or the park superintendent's delegate if an agreement has been entered into with the government of Canada

"local emergency plan" means an emergency plan prepared under section 6(2)

"volunteer" means a volunteer registered by a local authority or the Provincial Emergency Program for the purpose of responding to a disaster or an emergency. Thus, if you are an incorporated municipality the Mayor has the ultimate authority, while if you are unincorporated the main responsibility lies with the Regional District. Further under the legislation, whether or not you are incorporated or not, there must be an Emergency Plan that covers your community:

(2) Subject to subsection (2.1), a local authority must prepare or cause to be prepared local emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters

(2.1) For the purposes of subsection (2), a local authority that is the board of a regional district must ensure that it has one local emergency plan that applies, or 2 or more local emergency plans that in the aggregate apply, to all of the electoral areas within the regional district.

Community History

Provincial archives are a great place to search for early history on your community – it may be a bit confusing to access information at first, so take some time to get orientated to each website.

British Columbia Archives

<http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-1BEAB7F/bsearch/Library>

Keywords: BC Archives, search

Community Information

Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has many resources available on their website. The British Columbia regional office has maps available that show First Nation communities, as well as a map with First Nation languages spoken in BC.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100021015/1100100021021>

The Government of British Columbia has a "GeoBC" mapping section which may be helpful

<http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/>

Keywords: GeoBC, Government of BC

General Territorial Statistics

The Aboriginal Community Data Initiative was started by Statistics Canada. It provides First Nation communities' socio-economic data that may be helpful in community planning.

You can find Aboriginal Community statistics on the BC Stats website:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/AboriginalPeoples/AboriginalReports.aspx>

Keywords: BCStats, Aboriginal Community, Aboriginal people

Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics provides legal proof of all births, deaths, marriages and changes of name in British Columbia

<http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca>

Keywords: Vital statistics, British Columbia

Supplemental Territorial Hazards Information

The PEP Weekly Incident Report

<http://www.pep.bc.ca/incidents/incidents.html>

Forest and Wild Fires

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/wldfrs-eng.aspx>

Floods

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/flds-eng.aspx>

Human Diseases, Epidemics and Pandemics

The BC Centre for Disease Control has a lot of information on diseases and their spread into BC (e.g., West Nile Disease) as well as salmonella and other communicable diseases.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/default.htm>

Tsunamis

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/tsnms-eng.aspx>