



The Emergency Planning Secretariat

Summary and Request for Community Support

The Emergency Planning Secretariat is an emerging body in the Lower Mainland seeking to improve First Nations Emergency planning, preparedness and capacity. Over the past two years, since our inception in March 2019, we've engaged with 29/31 Mainland Coast Salish First Nations individually and in groups to understand their concerns. Out of this, we have put together the following draft Mission and Vision statements to push us forward, of course subject to communities comments.

Mission:

The EPS is a non-political organization that supports 31 Mainland Coast Salish First Nations in improving emergency planning and preparedness at the local and regional levels, as well as advocating for increased capacity for First Nations communities, and the full realization of DRIPA and representation of Mainland Coast Salish values in all regional emergency planning activities. The EPS is seeks to create a Mainland Coast Salish Emergency Plan for all hazards and climate change based in the Sendai Framework and rooted in UNDRIP that encompasses the values and priorities of all 31 Mainland Coast Salish Communities in the Lower Mainland.

Vision:

The EPS seeks to ensure that each of the 31 Mainland Coast Salish Communities are connected and prepared for all hazards and climate change, have sufficient capacity to fulfill all emergency planning and preparedness needs, and that Mainland Coast Salish values are embedded and protected within all regional emergency planning activities.

To achieve this goal, our first steps consist of assisting 31 Mainland Coast Salish communities in understanding their flood risk and management priorities through a Mainland Coast Salish Lens through our Mainland Coast Salish Emergency Plan, which utilizes a Sendai Action Plan [using the Sendai Priorities





(i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction] and ensures disaster risk reduction across the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery). We also endeavor to ensure Mainland Coast Salish Communities are involved and they are reflected in regional flood planning, management and response activities, in particular this includes the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy. Lastly, our team is working with community emergency coordinators on a coordinated approach for collaborative emergency response between sub-regions to allow Mainland Coast Salish communities to share capacity.

The past two years have brought many successes. In addition to building relationships with Mainland Coast Salish Communities, we have also begun our work of understanding flood hazards of each community. We've assisted in several regional initiatives, and in particular with the engagement of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy. We have also worked to understand the emergency planning and response space, and have supported several communities through the ongoing emergencies over the past two years. Furthermore, we drafted out our decision-making structure and built out our Leadership Committee!

This next year we hope to continue our flood work, by building out our Sendai Plan starting with flood. This involves continuing to map out flood risk for First Nations communities, and discussing community priorities around flood mitigation. This will culminate in the EPS putting together a Flood Plan using our Sendai Action Plan for long term actions for both individual communities and the region. Another large aspect of our priorities in the new year is assisting First Nations communities in a coordinated response to the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Draft 1A, by reviewing and producing a response framework for communities to build off of. In addition, we also are taking a larger role in emergency response, by assisting with convening regional and subregion meetings to allow communities to learn and coordinate to ensure their needs are met. We also hope to continue to support by taking the first steps in our hubs model and creating communication documents requested in our strategic planning meeting.

In order to do the above work, we require additional funding from ISC and CIRNAC. We are asking for \$600,000 split between the two organizations to do all of the above work, and continue engaging communities. However, a requirement of this funding is that we receive letters of support from Mainland Coast Salish Communities and organizations to continue our funding. We have attached our proposed budget and workplan, as well as a template letter to use at your convenience.

If you have any questions or comments, need support, or want to be involved, the EPS has an open-door policy! Please feel free to get in touch with us at any time.

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Tyrone McNeil, Chair of EPS



List of Relevant Documents

- EPS Template Letter of Support – short
- EPS Template Letter of Support – long
- EPS 2021-2022 Draft Workplan
- EPS 2021-2022 Budget Ask
- EPS Draft Strategy Plan on a Page and Calendar
- EPS Mind Maps – Regional Action Plan
- EPS Strategic Planning Session with Communities What We Heard Report

Pending Documents:

- EPS Terms of Reference
- EPS Sendai Action Plan
- EPS Slide Deck Presentation to Communities, Staff, Chief and Council