

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** February 14, 2024

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Eric Depenau, Acting Director of Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation – Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council;

1. ACCEPTS the terms and conditions of Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation – Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program contribution agreement (ECR24351) to receive designated funding in the amount of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000); AND
2. AUTHORIZES the City's Director of Finance and Acting Director of Administrative Services to sign the contribution agreement and subsequent contract documents should grant approval be received.

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek City Council approval to enter into a contribution agreement with the Province of British Columbia to receive funding to support the implementation of the Indigenous engagement requirements in the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) which received royal assent in October of 2024.

Under the terms of EDMA, municipal governments and regional districts are required to engage with Indigenous governing bodies including: consultation and cooperation, and considerations related to Indigenous knowledge and cultural safety. To support this new requirement, the province has agreed to contribute funding in a set amount, which does not require a grant application, but does set parameters for its use and requires both a contribution agreement and a final report.

Eligible activities include those that support consultation and coordination; relationship building; planning; as well as capacity and agreement building. The Emergency Programs staff proposes working with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (per our tripartite MOU) on the following as a potential path forward. Further conversation with the Nation to identify joint priorities is planned:

Activities may include:

- Development of processes for regular engagement during the planning and mitigation phases of emergency management, as well as formalizing processes for coordination and regular communication during the response and recovery phases. This engagement would work to support the Emergency Plans for both the City of Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation to meet EDMA requirements. This work may also help to identify sources of traditional knowledge and culturally important aspects for incorporation into the City's emergency plan.
- As part of reconciliation and capacity building, members of the City's emergency management staff, staff trained for the Emergency Operations Centre and Emergency Support Services staff may seek to engage in cultural activities with members of the Lheidli T'enneh to further the integration of indigenous knowledge in emergency management and develop key linkages between team members. This activity may provide a foundation for cultural supports for first nations within the City's reception centres and would help ensure valuable cultural liaison supports are available to all first nations supported in Prince George during emergency events.
- Identify significant cultural sites (such as Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park) and work jointly to develop an all-hazard emergency plan specific to those sites to support efforts to recognize the cultural significance of the site and perform emergency response activities with a focus on cultural preservation and traditional practices.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation – Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program provides valuable resources to support new requirements under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act. This funding will support continued relationship building with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation specifically and support a more culturally aware response generally. The proposed initiatives herein are intended to bolster the emergency management ability to activate and effectively respond in a collaborative manner to future large-scale emergency and evacuation events.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Eric Depenau, Acting Director Administrative Services

**PREPARED BY:** Tanya Spooner, Manager Emergency Programs

**APPROVED:**

Andy Beesley, Acting City Manager

Meeting date: February 26, 2024