



2nd National Emergency Management Forum - *Floods, Wildfires, Severe Storms, and Pandemics: Are First Nations Ready?*

March 5-7, 2024 | Hilton Lac Leamy | 3, Boulevard du Casino Gatineau, Quebec





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The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 2024 Emergency Management Forum will include updates on First Nations emergency management programs and planning, sharing of successful of emergency management initiatives and projects, networking and information sharing, and discussions on issues and challenges in developing culturally relevant emergency management care and control.

The Assembly of First Nations 2nd National Emergency Management Forum was made possible through funding provided by Indigenous Services Canada



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Welcome from Northwest Territories Regional Chief Gerald Antoine

Welcome to the Assembly of First Nations' 2024 Emergency Management Forum.

The voices of First Nations community families are essentially crucial in the path forward. These voices to date expressed clearly that emergencies of all categories such as floods, wildfires, severe weather, pandemics, loss of winter roads, food and water shortages continue to affect our communities in many ways with numerous impacts.

Many of our communities do not have ready access to emergency response and are often impacted more than their neighbours of similar size and circumstance due to remoteness causing them to not get the attention they deserve. All levels of government - federal, provincial, and territorial, must engage and work with First Nations in a timely manner to ensure our families receive the appropriate duty of care, and are returned or resettled quickly.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that First Nations are involved in and contribute to leading the prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for their families. is a common discussion point and must lead to the implementation of concrete action items to ensure that all moving parts have the ability to operate in conjunction with each other. This coordinated collective effort of emergency management policy, process, and programming must be the standard operating procedure going forward.

I am happy to welcome you all: federal, provincial, and territorial representatives, academics and allies, and First Nations practitioners, presenters, and delegates. It is very important that our First Nations are supported, assisted, and given the opportunity to lead on their initiatives, projects, best practices. Hear them talk about implementing the four pillars of emergency management, that is appropriate and essential for the safety, security, and physical and mental well-being of their community family members and how they'll determine how they need to be involved in the development of their emergency management plans.

Let's hear what they have to say and use our time here to explore the possibilities to achieve First Nations care and control of emergency management.

Thank you, Mahsi

Northwest Territories Regional Chief Gerald Antoine
AFN Portfolio Holder for Emergency Management





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Forum Information

Forum Welcome Reception

The AFN will host a **Welcome Reception** on the evening of March 4, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Beethoven Room and foyer. Forum registration will also be set up at this time. Come by and register for the Forum and meet with your colleagues from across Canada, have some refreshments and listen to the wonderful music of the Lyle Odjick Band.

Originating from the Algonquin reserve of Kitigan Zibi, QC, now based in Ottawa, Ontario, Lyle Odjick went from living in a small town with very little exposure to blues or live music to teaching himself harmonica and starting his own blues band. His few recent festival appearances include RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, Calabogie Blues and Ribfest, Mont Tremblant International Bluesfest, Junofest and Ottawa's Westfest.

Whether they're showcasing their original blues-rock material or performing a modern take on a blues classic by Muddy Waters, Lyle Odjick and The Northern Steam never cease to turn heads at every venue they play.



American Sign Language (ASL) / Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ)

ASL/LSQ interpretation will be available in the plenary room, the Mozart Ballroom. It will be available during all plenary sessions as well as the workshops that will take place in the Mozart Ballroom.

Simultaneous Interpretation into French

Simultaneous interpretation from English to French will be available in the Mozart Ballroom, where all plenary sessions will take place. Please note that one concurrent workshop during each period will be interpreted into French in the Mozart Ballroom (Plenary). Please consult the program agenda for the sessions that will have simultaneous interpretation available. Headsets can be picked up in the back of the Mozart Ballroom.



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Forum Agenda

Monday March 4, 2024 Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau, Quebec		
Time	Activity	Room
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Forum Registration / Welcome Reception	Beethoven Ballroom and Foyer

Day 1 - Tuesday March 5, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
7:30 a.m.	Forum Registration / Continental Breakfast	Beethoven Ballroom/Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator: Gina Doxtator – Agenda & Introductions Rose Beaudoin, Traditional Algonquin Elder Lawrence Courtoreille, AFN Knowledge Keeper 	Mozart Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	Welcome Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Dylan Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg 	Mozart Ballroom
9:15 a.m.	Setting the Context - Emergency Management Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFN Regional Chief Gerald Antoine (NWT), EM Portfolio Holder 	Mozart Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	Presentation by Government of Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherry Romanado, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Emergency Preparedness (virtual) 	Mozart Ballroom
10:00 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK	Mozart Foyer
10:30 a.m.	Plenary #1 – Government of Canada: Joanne Wilkinson, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Services Canada	Mozart Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	Facilitator: Gina Doxtator – Review of Agenda/ Announcements	Mozart Ballroom



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Day 1 - Tuesday March 5, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
11:15 a.m.	Plenary #2 - Are we Ready? Accessibility Legislation and Emergency Response Planning (with) First Nations Persons with Disabilities <i>Presenters: Marie Frawley-Henry, Senior Policy Analyst - AFN and Marsha Ireland, Oneida Sign Language Advocate - Oneida First Nation</i> The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) was introduced in 2019, and First Nations will be subject to the ACA in 2026. The AFN is advocating for an extension beyond 2026 to support First Nations engagements. Participants will be informed by recent national survey findings on the specialized needs of persons with disabilities in emergency planning and evacuation.	Mozart Ballroom
12:00 p.m.	Lunch provided	Mozart Foyer
1:00 p.m.	Plenary #3 - Relationship Protocol and Supporting First Nations <i>Presenter(s): Amy Avis and Shelley Cardinal - Canadian Red Cross</i>	Mozart Ballroom
1:30 p.m.	Plenary #4 - Governance and Legislation in Emergency Management <i>Presenter(s): Lloyd Philips, Arnold Lazare, Ryan Montour and Dennis Diabo - Mohawk Council of Kahnawake</i> Kahnawake has experienced several major incidents over the years including the summer of 1990, an ice storm in 1998, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the community has been proactive and has adopted an Emergency Preparedness Law. This presentation will review how the law contributes to establishing clear direction and authority during all-hazard events, which results in effective response and recovery and supports resilience in the community. Successes as well as lessons learned will be documented.	Mozart Ballroom
2:30 p.m.	HEALTH BREAK	Mozart Foyer
2:45 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	



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Day 1 - Tuesday March 5, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
	<p>Workshop #1 - Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Wildland Fire Management Working Group (CCFM WFMWG): Canadian Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy</p> <p><i>Presenter: Mike Norton, CCFM WFMWG Co-chair, and Director General, Northern Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p>The escalating threat of wildland fires in Canada poses a significant risk to thousands of lives, communities, and livelihoods. Strengthening resilience requires a collective effort to learn, prevent, mitigate, and coexist with wildland fires. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is working on developing the country's first Canadian Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy using a whole-of-society approach. Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge must be recognized, respected, and included in Canada's wildland fire management. During the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback to strengthen elements of the draft Strategy and enhance Canada's resilience to wildland fires.</p>	<p>Mozart Ballroom <i>Simultaneous Interpretation available</i></p>
	<p>Workshop #2 – How Can First Nations Prepare for the Worst Emergencies? An Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA) Story</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Mathew Hoppe - Chief Executive Officer and Linda Debassige, IFNA</i></p> <p>The presentation will share a Tribal Council's approach to supporting road and remote access for First Nations during past social emergencies and community-wide evacuations due to forest fires. IFNA's approach to protecting community membership through an Integrated Emergency Services approach will highlight the residential smoke detector program within five communities, outline innovative community fire suppression tactics and share its regional fire rescue framework model.</p>	<p>Beethoven</p>
2:45p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<p>Workshop #3 – Earthquake Early Warning for Disaster Risk Reduction in Canada (30 minutes in length)</p> <p><i>Presenter: Henry Seywerd – Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p>Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is developing a national Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system for at-risk regions of Canada, focused on western British Columbia, eastern Ontario, and southern Quebec. EEW will provide advance notification (seconds to tens-of-seconds) of strong ground motion, allowing for protective actions by emergency measures organizations, critical infrastructure operators, other industrial facilities, and the public. Automated systems can be triggered by EEW to open doors, sound alarms, close valves, stop hazardous machinery, and halt trains. People will be alerted by the National Public Alerting System to Drop, Cover, and Hold on to protect themselves from falling debris.</p>	<p>Julien</p>



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Day 1 - Tuesday March 5, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
3:45 p.m.	BREAK (Transition to Next Workshop)	
4:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
	Workshop #4 – Are we Ready? Accessibility Legislation and Emergency Response Planning (with) First Nations Persons with Disabilities <i>Presenters: Marie Frawley-Henry, Senior Policy Analyst - AFN and Marsha Ireland, Oneida Sign Language Advocate - Oneida First Nation</i> <p>The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) was introduced in 2019, and First Nations will be subject to the ACA in 2026. The AFN is advocating for an extension beyond 2026 to support First Nations engagements. Participants will be informed by recent national survey findings on the specialised needs of persons with disabilities in emergency planning and evacuation. This will be an interactive session with Marsha Ireland, and participants will learn basic sign language and how to include the unique needs of persons with different abilities and disabilities in emergency planning. Participants will take away best practices for effective emergency response planning in First Nations to meet the tailored needs of all individuals in First Nations for all types of emergencies.</p>	Beethoven
	Workshop #5 – Stronger Together - Evacuation Partnerships <i>Presenter(s): Bree Boyer, Sonya Cloutier, Michelle Gervais, and Maia Foster-Sanchez</i> <p>The Stronger Together approach was developed to address challenges faced by evacuated First Nations and under-resourced host communities in Ontario. The model promotes relationship- and trust-building between First Nations and nearby partners to complement one another's existing knowledge and capabilities. While the approach was envisioned for collaborative and culturally responsive host operations, it can be applied to all emergency management contexts, whether it be multiple First Nations or a First Nations community and a municipality working together. Speakers will share experiences of capacity and relationship-building across northeastern Ontario, both in hosting operations and enhancing regional capacity. Delegates will receive access to an on-line toolkit that provides the Stronger Together framework.</p>	Mozart Simultaneous Interpretation available
	Workshop #6 - Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada: Humanitarian Workforce Project <i>Presenter(s): Lawrence Conway</i>	Suzor-Cote
5:00 p.m.	END OF DAY	



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Day 2 – Wednesday March 6, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
7:30 a.m.	Forum Registration / Continental Breakfast	Beethoven Foyer/ Mozart Ballroom
8:30 a.m.	Facilitator: Gina Doxtator - Morning Review & Agenda	Mozart Ballroom
8:45 a.m.	Plenary #5 - Indigenous Services Canada • Kenza El Bied, Director General, Policy and Outreach	Mozart Ballroom
9:15 a.m..	Plenary #6 - Public Health Agency of Canada • Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada (virtual message)	Mozart Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	Plenary #7 - Indigenous Services Canada – Emergency Management Directorate (EMD) • James Moxon, Director General – EMD, and Dr. Tom Wong, Chief Science Officer, FNIHB	Mozart Ballroom
10:00 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK	Mozart Foyer
10:15 a.m.	Address by National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Assembly of First Nations	Mozart Ballroom
10:45 a.m.	Plenary #8 - Sources of Strength When Help Never Comes Presenter(s): Rosalita Whitehair, Diné Nation, Indigenous Disaster Response & Recovery Advocate, Disaster Policy SME/Contributor to Preparing Our Home	Mozart Ballroom
11:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	Mozart Ballroom
	Workshop #7 - Building Capacity and Resilience in the Face of Wildfires and Floods Presenter(s): Jordan Porfeit, Nick Mauro and Jesse Latoski and Wilfred Johnston, Yukon First Nations Wildfire Yukon First Nations Wildfire's (YFNW) workshop, "Building Capacity and Resilience in the Face of Wildfires and Floods," introduces participants to the significant natural threats in remote areas, and how to action them. YFNW's goal is to cultivate multi-dimensional responders capable of effectively addressing diverse challenges. This workshop showcases ideas and real-world examples of strengthening community resilience, fostering adaptable leadership, and instilling sustainable practices.	Julien



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Day 2 – Wednesday March 6, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
	<p>Workshop #8 - Preparing Our Home: First Nations Youth in Emergency Management</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Brent Boissoneau - Mattagami First Nation, Aaliyah Calliou - Whitefish Lake First Nation #459, Sheena Charles - Stanley Mission, Bailey Chartrand-Tait – Norway House, Jeremiah Louis - Takla Nation, Sheri Lysons - Adams Lake Indian Band, Mia McDonald - Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Santana Dreaver-Kinistin Saulteaux Nation/Mistawasis Nehiyawak, Shalyn Pigeon - Ashcroft Indian Band, Tessa Thomas – Mattagami First Nation and Lily Yumagulova - Preparing Our Home</i></p> <p>Preparing Our Home is an award-winning program that empowers Indigenous Youth to become emergency preparedness leaders in their communities. Join us for a Preparing Our Home session where First Nations youth, youth workers and Mentors (seasoned emergency managers) from across Turtle Island will share stories and advice for intergenerational emergency management. You will learn about community engagement, youth-led programming, and training opportunities. We will cover topics and offer resources for community emergency preparedness workshops, tabletop exercises, First Nations-led recovery, and evacuation planning. A strong focus will be placed on the importance of mentorship, peer-to-peer and nation-to-nation learning. To learn more visit: www.preparingourhome.ca.</p>	<p>Mozart Ballroom <i>Simultaneous Interpretation available</i></p>
	<p>Workshop #9 - How to Develop a Strong Emergency Coordinator Position in your Community</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Marc D'Aquino and Paul Berry</i></p> <p>As community's emergency programs grow, we will need to support the program with a key position, Emergency Program Coordinator. In this session, the presenters will share with you a process of capacity development to ensure success in this position. The development of the position will require strong commitment from community leadership that will include guidance and financial planning. In Canada, they foster the 4 pillars approach to Emergency Management; Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery, during this session the presenters will share how this process is a guiding factor to the position development.</p>	<p>Beethoven</p>
12:15 p.m.	LUNCH	Mozart Foyer
1:15 p.m.	<p>Plenary #9 - Out of the Ashes: Rebuilding Lytton First Nation</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Patrick Michel (virtual presentation)</i></p>	Mozart Ballroom



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Day 2 – Wednesday March 6, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
2:15 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
	Workshop #10 – Holistic Emergency Preparedness & Response (HEPR): Skills for High-Stress Operations <i>Presenter(s): Cam Challenger, HEPR, and Paul Berry, HEPR</i> What makes an emergency or disaster “high stress”? How do we make good decisions, when we don’t have all the information we want and there is no time to think? What if we are faced with a situation we have never encountered before and know little? Stress is a very personal experience. A stressor for one person could be a normal day for another. Skills for High-Stress Operations is a workshop to help us explore stress and some tools we could use to manage this emotion, when the stakes are high, and the pressure is on.	Mozart <i>Simultaneous Interpretation available</i>
	Workshop #11 - Community-Driven Disaster Risk Reduction <i>Presenter(s): Dr. Etsuko Yasui - Brandon University</i>	Suzor-Cote
	Workshop #12 - Integrating Health into Emergency Management <i>Presenter(s): Marlene Larocque – AFN and Ardamanreet Dhillon – Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)</i> First Nations in Canada live with the consequences of health inequities, which shape community readiness and capacity to prepare for and respond to floods, wildfires, severe storms, and pandemics. The compromised health status of First Nations compels the necessity to include appropriate measures to advance health considerations into Emergency Management assessments, protocols, and planning tools. Marlene Larocque from the AFN Health Sector will apply a health lens on emergency preparedness. This presentation will highlight the opportunities to integrate proactive measures that support individual and community wellness during Emergencies and reflect on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Daman Dhillon from ISC will provide an overview of the Health Emergency Management program and supports available to prepare for and respond to health emergencies.	Beethoven
	Workshop #13 - CN Emergency Resources and Outreach Opportunities <i>Presenter(s): Steven Santelli</i>	Julien
3:15 p.m.	HEALTH BREAK	Mozart Foyer



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Day 2 – Wednesday March 6, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
3:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
	Workshop #14 – Adapting to Climate Change: Multi-Sector Approaches to Emergency Management <i>Moderator: Nathan Polard-Yopek - AFN</i> <i>Presenters: Melissa White and Natalie Dube – AFN</i> Climate change is changing everything - our communities, the land, and the ways we prepare for hazards are being outpaced by the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. As we seek to increase our resilience to the increasingly severe, frequent, unpredictable, and now inevitable risks we will face each year, we need to consider every possible angle for advantage as we continue to adapt. Moderated by Nathan Polard-Yopek (AFN), please join Melissa White, and Natalie Dube as they discuss multi-sectoral approaches to combatting climate change. Leveraging knowledge from other disciplines and applying it to our emergency management preparations and responses will increase our ability to form new partnerships and generate new understanding of what can be done to manage the ever-changing environment and protect our peoples and lands for a future seven generations and beyond.	Mozart <i>Simultaneous Interpretation available</i>
	Workshop #15 – Health, Wellness and Culture in Emergency Management- the First Nations Health Authority Approach <i>Presenter(s): Jodie Millward and Shalyn Pigeon, First Nations Health Authority</i> The First Nations Health Authority will share about how we structure our response to both environmental and health emergencies in partnership with First Nations communities and response partners across the province to bring health, wellness and culture to those when they need it most. This will include the story of last year's wildfire response in the Interior region of B.C.	Beethoven



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Day 2 – Wednesday March 6, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
	<p>Workshop #16 - First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs: Implications for Allyship and Emergency Management</p> <p><i>Presenters: Dr. Brenda Murphy, Coachhouse Enterprises Inc., and Kevin Smart, Risk Mitigation Strategies Inc.</i></p> <p>This presentation provides an overview of the recently completed AFN project focused on First Nations Flood Insurance needs that involved First Nations participants and industry experts from across Canada. Dr. Murphy will present findings from the final report, First Nations Home-Flood Insurance Needs Initiative (June 2022) and will discuss how non-Indigenous researchers can use ideas such as 'two-eyed seeing' to think about how allies can contribute to decolonizing EM approaches. Kevin Smart will summarize insurance findings from the final report and relate them to emergency management of disaster events. This research was awarded the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award – Resilient Communities by Public Safety Canada in 2022.</p>	Suzor-Cote
	<p>Workshop #17 - First Nations Emergency Response Association (FNERA)</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Darrin Spence, IFNA</i></p> <p>First Nation Emergency Response Association are a group of Emergency Management Professionals who work directly with First Nation Communities in the Province of Ontario. FNERA board members work collaboratively with leadership and communities, government and non-governmental agencies with the goal to have Indigenous-led services across all pillars of Emergency Management.</p>	Julien
4:30 p.m.	END OF DAY	



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Forum Agenda

Day 3 - Thursday March 7, 2024		
Time	Activity	Room
7:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Mozart Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Facilitator: Gina Doxtator - Morning Review & Agenda	Mozart Ballroom
8:45 a.m.	Plenary #10 - Canadian Red Cross – Inclusive Resilience Project: Indigenous Learnings <i>Presenter(s): Sarah Rain, Canadian Red Cross</i>	Mozart Ballroom
10:45 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK	Mozart Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	Plenary #11 – Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations (FSIN) The Talking Stick App <i>Presenter(s): Carey T. O'Soup, Executive Director, Emergency Management - FSIN and John MacBeth, Chief Executive Officer, TryCycle Data Systems</i>	Mozart Ballroom
11:30 a.m.	Closing Remarks <i>Gina Doxtator, Forum Facilitator</i>	Mozart Ballroom
11:45 a.m.	Closing Ceremonies <i>Lawrence Courtoreille, AFN Knowledge Keeper and Rose Beaudoin, Traditional Algonquin Elder</i>	Mozart Ballroom
12:00 p.m.	FORUM CONCLUDES	

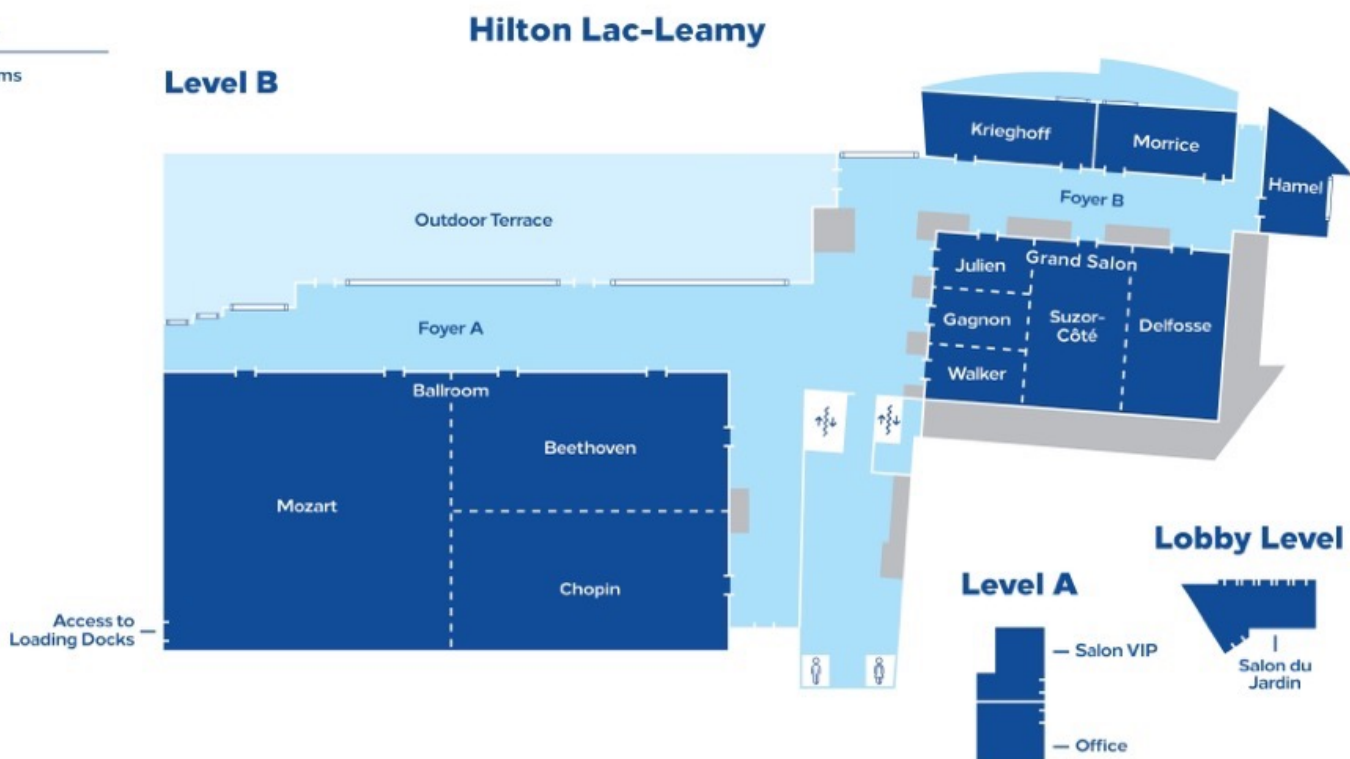


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Hilton Lac Leamy – Forum Venue





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