

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 65/2025

TITLE: **Support for First Nations' Multilateral Negotiations and Implementation of Emergency Management**

SUBJECT: Emergency Management

MOVED BY: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Eric Tootoosis, Proxy, Poundmaker First Nation, SK

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.
- ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- iii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

B. Climate-driven disasters are increasing in frequency and severity. The 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for inclusive, people-centered, multi-hazard approaches. First Nations are disproportionately impacted and require adequate, self-determined resources to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies:

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- i. Guiding Principle 19(d): Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest.
- ii. Guiding Principle 19(g): Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data [...] complemented by traditional knowledge.

C. First Nations in British Columbia, the Government of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia created a Multilateral Emergency Management Negotiation Team to transition from a bilateral services agreement to a new multilateral agreement that recognizes First Nations as equal partners and formalizes roles, responsibilities and funding across all four pillars of emergency management.

D. The 2019 Emergency Management Services Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit, recognizes that First Nations governments and their institutions need stable resources to exercise jurisdiction in all four pillars of emergency management.

E. Despite these commitments, federal core-capacity funding remains ad-hoc, application-based and insufficient, forcing First Nations to rely on short-term contribution agreements that do not support long-term planning, staffing, training, or culturally grounded emergency services.

F. First Nations leadership in British Columbia has repeatedly directed that emergency-management capacity be sustainably funded, including through the following mirrored resolutions:

- i. Union of BC Indian Chiefs 2024-16: *Model for Multilateral Emergency Management Services Funding Negotiations*;
- ii. BC Assembly of First Nations 14/2024: *Model for Multilateral Emergency Management Services Funding Negotiations*;
- iii. First Nations Summit 0622.08: *Support for First Nations Involvement in Negotiations on a New Tripartite Agreement for Emergency Management Services Funding*; and
- iv. First Nations Summit 0424.07: *Model for Multilateral Emergency Management Services Funding Negotiations*.

G. The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and the Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC (2023-2030) calls for sustained, distinctions-based funding to implement mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures.

H. The Office of the Auditor General of Canada's 2022 report, *Emergency Management in First Nations Communities*, concluded that Indigenous Services Canada's support remains reactive and does not meet First Nations' needs for preparedness and mitigation.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support the work of the First Nations Leadership Council Multilateral Emergency Management Negotiation Team, and other regions, where requested, in the development and implementation of their own multilateral negotiations with federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure the full jurisdiction of First Nations in emergency management.
2. Direct the AFN to call upon Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Public Safety Canada, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, and other relevant federal departments to support full and effective First Nations participation in the development and implementation of multilateral negotiations, including through supporting any Memorandums to Cabinet and/or Treasury Board Submissions, where requested by AFN regions, with the goal of securing long-term, distinctions-based emergency management funding.
3. Call upon relevant federal departments to ensure that Memorandum to Cabinet and Treasury Board submission provides:
 - a. Predictable, flexible core-capacity funding for First Nation governments to implement the Sendai Framework priorities of understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including connecting the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements to ISC programs to ensure First Nations benefit from Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements as provinces and territories do;
 - b. Sustained operational funding for regional and national First Nations emergency-management bodies, and other First Nations mandated service institutions;
 - c. Resources for infrastructure, training, equipment and culturally appropriate programming; and
 - d. Flow-through, distinctions-based funding governed by First Nations, indexed annually by no less than the Consumer Price Index, First Nations population growth, and aligned with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* Articles 18, 19 and 23.

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