

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



(1) CALL TO ORDER

We are privileged to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Quatsino First Nations.

(2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for January 24, 2024, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.

(3) DELEGATIONS:

(4) MINUTES:

Pg 3-4

a.) *THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2024 be approved.*

(5) NEW BUSINESS:

(6) COMMUNICATIONS:

Pg 5-12

a.) Ministry of Housing – Local Government Housing Initiatives funding program
January 18, 2024, Letter from Bindi Sawchuk, Ministry of Housing

(7) REPORTS:

Pg 13

a.) Port Alice Volunteer Fire Department -Fire Chiefs Monthly Report – December
January 3, 2024, Report from Fire Chief, Jerry Rose

Pg 15

b.) CEPF-ESS Grant
January 11, 2024, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

(8) BYLAWS:

(9) QUESTION PERIOD:

(10) RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:

Section 90 1 (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

RECONVENE:

(11) ADJOURNMENT:

THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held January 24, 2024, be adjourned

INFORMATION ITEMS:

a.) Island Health News Release, Stabilizing health-care services in North Vancouver Island

b.) BC Government News Release, Funding will support local volunteer fire departments, keep people safe.

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



- c.) Funding will improve cultural safety for Indigenous people during emergencies.

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE**



Present

Mayor Kevin Cameron
Councillor Holly Aldis
Councillor Sean Watson
Councillor David Stewart
Councillor Russell Murray – Via phone

Staff

Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO
Tanya Spafford, Admin Assistant
Ryan Nicholson, Economic Development Officer

Call to order 5:30

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

01/24
Adoption of
Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for January 10, 2024, be approved with the addition of Link River Workplan under REPORTS d.; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.

RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

02/24
Closed
Meeting
Resolution

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:

Section 90 1 (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

RECONVENE: 6:12pm

DELEGATION:

03/24
Minutes of
December
13, 2023

MINUTES:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes from the Council Meeting of December 13, 2023, be approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Funding Allocation for Port Alice from Capacity Funding

December 21, 2024, Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister

UBCM Meeting with Municipal Affairs

December 29, 2023, Letter from Anne King, Minister

REPORTS:

2023 Motions from Closed Meetings

December 8, 2023, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Accounts Payable Listing for October and November 2023

January 2, 2024, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Summary of Revenue and Expenses for Revenue and Expenses 2023

January 2, 2024, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Link River: Work Plan Discussion

REPORTS:

BYLAWS:

Bylaw 687 – Rates and Fees 2024

04/24 Rates
and Fees 2024
687

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT Bylaw 687 – Rates and Fees for 2024, be given fourth reading and adoption.

QUESTION PERIOD:

ADJOURNMENT:

05/24
Adjournment

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held January 10, 2024, be adjourned at 6:33pm.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held January 10, 2024.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer



VIA EMAIL

Ref: 64234

January 18, 2024

Bonnie Danyk
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Port Alice
Email: cao@portalice.ca

Dear Bonnie Danyk:

On December 21, 2023, we notified you about the amount of funding your local government will be receiving from the \$51 million Local Government Housing Initiatives funding program. I am pleased to confirm that your allocation will be directly transferred to your local government in the next couple of weeks.

This funding is intended to support and supplement local government activities and projects to meet the new legislative requirements arising from Bills 44, 46, and 47. Attached is the Local Government Housing Initiatives Funding Program Scope and Guidelines. This program guide sets out eligible projects, eligible use of the funds, grant management and annual reporting requirements. The funding must be spent on eligible costs and activities.

The Province expects local governments to use this funding prior to December 31, 2025, by which time all local governments in British Columbia will be required to meet the new legislative requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the legislative changes or funding program, please contact Ministry of Housing staff at PLUM@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-3394.

Yours truly,

Bindi Sawchuk
Assistant Deputy Minister
Housing and Land Use Policy Division
Ministry of Housing

Attachment

.../2

Bonnie Danyk

Page 2

pc: Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Tracy Campbell, Executive Financial Officer, Ministry of Housing
Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Kevin Volk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Jessica Brooks, Executive Director, Ministry of Housing
Rebecca Penz, Director, Ministry of Housing
Bonnie Danyk, Chief Administrative Officer Chief Financial Officer, Village of Port Alice



Capacity Funding for Local Government Housing Initiatives

Program Scope and Guidelines

January 2024

1. Introduction

The Government of British Columbia is providing \$51 million in grant-based funding to help facilitate implementation and support local governments to meet new legislative requirements of Bill 44 Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, Bill 46 Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act, and Bill 47 Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act.

Grants will be distributed to all of B.C.'s 160 municipalities, 27 regional districts and the Islands Trust. The grant amounts are based on a formula with two components: a flat funding amount and a per-capita amount. For municipalities, the flat amount is \$150,000 and the per-capita amount is \$4.39. For regional districts, the flat amount is \$80,000 and the per-capita amount is \$5.80.

2. Eligible Projects

The grant funding will support local government planning capacity to adopt Local Government Housing Initiative requirements for small-scale multi-unit housing, pro-active planning and transit-oriented development areas, as well as adopt development finance tools.

Funding can be spent on any planning and implementation activities local governments will need to undertake to successfully meet the legislative requirements of Bill 44 Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, Bill 47 Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act, and to update or adopt tools from Bill 46 Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act.

Any funds provided by the Province to the Recipient that cannot be committed to an eligible project must be returned to the Province upon written request.



Examples of eligible projects include a new project or update to an existing plan or bylaw:

- housing needs report (HNR)
- official community plan (OCP)
- zoning bylaw
- development cost charge (DCC) bylaw
- amenity cost charge (ACC) bylaw
- transit oriented density bylaw
- transportation, parks or neighbourhood plan
- procedures bylaw
- works and services bylaw
- parking bylaw
- infrastructure master plans
- asset management plans or strategies
- long-term financial plan
- capacity modelling/analysis
- condition and risk assessments
- demand management strategies
- stormwater surcharge or rainwater recharge studies

Eligible projects must:

- Meet the requirements of the updated *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter*.
- Be scheduled for completion by the date specified in the new legislation or have an approved extension.
- Once completed, be received by the local government Council, Board or Local Trust Committee in a meeting open to the public. In the case of regional projects, the report must be received by the Council, Board or Local Trust Committee responsible for each planning area that is included in the project.
- Once completed, be published online for free public access.

3. Eligible Use of Funds

Eligible Costs and Activities:

Eligible costs are direct costs that are approved for funding, properly and reasonably incurred, and paid by the local government to carry out eligible activities.

Funding can be used for regional projects that cover two or more planning areas (i.e., municipalities, electoral areas, local trust areas). A municipality may contribute from its



funding to a regional project if that municipality is a participant and the funding is dedicated for planning purposes.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Project management and co-ordination.
- Data collection (from public agencies and/or other data sources), compilation and analysis, not including the collection and compilation of data made available at no cost via the Province for the purpose of eligible projects.
- Research specific to eligible projects.
- Community engagement activities (i.e., online and physical promotion and advertising materials, community surveys, events and engagement activities, collaboration with neighbouring local governments, Indigenous governments and communities, and partner organizations).
- Publication of eligible projects (i.e., editing, proofing, graphic design, online material distribution).
- Presentation of eligible projects to Council, Board, or Local Trust Committee.

The following costs are also eligible, provided they relate directly to the eligible activities identified above:

- Incremental staff and administration costs (i.e., creating a new position or adding new responsibilities to an existing position).
- Software and digital costs to support eligible activities (i.e., survey platform fees, subscription fees for digital engagement, web and IT services related to online materials and engagement).
- Consultant or other third-party contract costs relating to eligible projects.
- Public information, consultation and engagement costs.
- Training and capacity building for local government staff specific to eligible projects.

Ineligible Costs and Activities:

Ineligible costs and activities include:



- Collection of data similar to that made available at no cost via the Province for housing needs reports (HNRs), official community plans (OCPs), zoning bylaws, or other purposes.
- Routine or ongoing operating and/or planning costs or activities that are not instrumental or necessary to successfully complete the project (e.g., tracking and reporting of development and building permits).
- Capital costs (including computer hardware).
- Other costs unrelated to eligible projects (i.e., costs associated with onboarding/training new staff, purchase of software, licenses, service subscription and membership fees for unrelated projects).

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

Activities must comply with all applicable privacy legislation under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information while conducting funded activities. Personal information is any recorded information about an identifiable individual other than their business contact information. This includes information that can be used to identify an individual through association or inference.

4. Grant Management

Grant recipients are responsible for completion of the project(s) and for meeting reporting and legislative requirements.

Recipients are also responsible for proper fiscal management, including maintaining acceptable accounting records for the project. Ministry of Housing reserves the right to review project documents and costs. Recipients must retain records until December 31, 2026.

The Province expects local governments to use this funding prior to December 31, 2025, by which time they will be required to meet the new legislative requirements.



5. Reporting Requirements

Each recipient must report annually for each calendar year (i.e., January 1 to December 31).

The report form will be provided and will require the recipient to summarize the following information:

- The total amount of funding expended during the reporting period and the balance of the funding remaining at the end of the reporting period.
- Total project(s) budget and expenditures on each project during the reporting period.
- A brief description of the project(s) the funding was used to support.
- How the project(s) aids in meeting the new legislated requirements (e.g., update of zoning bylaw to accommodate small-scale, multi-unit housing, adoption of transit-oriented development area bylaw, development of an amenity cost charge (ACC) bylaw, development of a transportation plan to support proactive-zoning and area planning).
- Progress achieved on the project in the reporting period (e.g., updated parking bylaw passed second reading, updated zoning currently being prepared for public hearings, designation of transit-oriented development areas completed).
- The date by when the recipient has met a legislative requirement (e.g., approval of updated parking bylaw so it is now consistent with transit-oriented development legislation). The Ministry will be documenting this information to monitor progress across the province in meeting the new requirements.

The annual reporting must be completed until such time as the grant funding is entirely expended or the legislated requirements applicable to the reporting recipient are met (whichever occurs last).

Recipients must provide a separate report (schedule) to their annual audited financial statements. (as required under s.167 of the *Community Charter* and s. 377(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*) until the Local Government Housing Initiatives funding is fully expended (drawn down to zero). The form of the schedule to the annual audited financial statements will be left to the discretion of the municipality. The Ministry retains the right to request



additional information from municipalities as required. This report does not need to be audited.

Submission of Reports

Electronic copies of the completed reporting forms are required to be submitted within 45 days of the end of the reporting period.

Report forms should be submitted as PDF files. Total file size for email attachments cannot exceed 20 MB.

All final documents should be submitted to:

Planning and Land Use Management Branch, Ministry of Housing

E-mail: PLUM@gov.bc.ca

6. Additional Information

For enquiries about the program, please contact:

Ministry of Housing

800 Johnson Street

Victoria, B.C., V8W 1N3

Email: PLUM@gov.bc.ca

Phone: (250) 387-3394

For more on the new legislative requirements, supporting data and guidance, please visit the webpage where Ministry of Housing will provide updates on local government housing initiatives: [Local government housing initiatives - Province of British Columbia](#).

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE

Port Alice Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief's Monthly Report For the month December 2023

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|-------------------------------|---|
| Active Members | 11 | Rescue Calls | 0 |
| On Leave | 1 | Fire Calls | 0 |
| New/Recruits ** | 4 | Lift Assist Calls | 0 |
| Total | 16 | Ambulance Driver Assist Calls | 0 |
| Mutual Aid Calls | 0 | Public Relation Events | 0 |
| Number Of False Alarms | 0 | Training Events | 1 |

Practices / Events:

| Date | Attendance | Purpose |
|----------------------|------------|---|
| 05Dec2023 | | Practice: Attack live x 2 & Elevated Extraction |
| 09Dec2023 | | Christmas Dinner @ RCL |
| 10Dec2023 | | Truck #1 Driving Training |
| 12Dec2023 | | Practice: Ladders |
| 19Dec2023 | | Practice: Month End Checks |
| | | |
| PAVFD Updates | | |
| May 2023 | | Received \$200 donation from the Morgan's & \$100 from PA Gas |
| Sept 2023 | | Received \$3055.12 donation from Port Alice Health Forum |
| Nov 2023 | | Received \$3000 donation from Port Alice Thrift Store |
| Dec 2023 | | Loss 3 of our members – Moved away from Port Alice |

Fire Chief:

Administrator:

_____

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and Council
From: CAO / CFO
Date: January 11, 2024
Subject: CEPF - ESS Grant

RE: GRANT OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP – EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

PURPOSE

To consider a regional grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2024 Emergency Support Services (ESS) program from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). This application would be in partnership with the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) and other municipal and First Nations in order to enhance mass care capacity in the Village of Port Alice.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The intent of the ESS funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through volunteer recruitment, retention and training, including in-house training, and the purchase of ESS equipment. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake, or as a partnering applicant in a regional application. It is proposed that the Strathcona Regional District will be the primary applicant in a regional application with the Village of Port Alice as a partner applicant. The deadline submission for this grant is January 26, 2024. In order to be considered as a partner, the Village of Port Alice is required to submit a Council Resolution that clearly states that they authorize the Strathcona Regional District to receive and manage the funds on behalf of the Village of Port Alice. Currently there are 14 different First Nation and municipal entities in both the Strathcona Regional District and Regional District of Mt. Waddington that are partners in this regional grant opportunity.

If the grant application is successful it will fund the following activities:

- A temporary Emergency Support Services Administrative to assist the Village of Port Alice with day-to-day operations.
- Incremental costs of the SRD's Protective Services Assistant to provide ESS training and mentorship in the Village of Port Alice.
- Volunteer recruitment and appreciation dinners.
- Emergency care supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT as part of the Village of Port Alice's ongoing work in relation to emergency preparedness that an application for financial assistance under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2024 Emergency Support Services grant be authorized for submission to the UBCM in collaboration with the Strathcona Regional District; and

THAT the Strathcona Regional District be authorized to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of the Village of Port Alice if the application is successful.


Bonnie Danyk CAO / CFO



INFORMATION ITEMS



Stabilizing health-care services in North Vancouver Island

Mobile CT Scanner - open for services

On December 6, 2023, the mobile CT scanner at the Port Hardy Hospital was officially put into service for patient scans following testing and staff training.

With the mobile CT scanner now operational, it means NVI residents have access to this important diagnostic imaging tool without having to leave their local community.

The scanner is available to the Port Hardy Hospital Emergency Room for emergent scans which is supporting necessary care in the community and reducing the need for transporting patients to other facilities.

The technology of the new machine is significant, particularly the image quality of the scans. The new machine has also increased potential interest in local NVI medical imaging roles.



The new mobile CT scanner unit inside the trailer parked on the mobile CT pad (see next image)



The mobile CT scanner trailer parked on the pad at PHH

The mobile unit is located at the Port Hardy Hospital on the mobile CT scanner pad. Island Health partnered with local K'awat'si Construction to deliver the Mobile CT pad project. The project successfully completed on time and budget in November 2023.

As outlined previously, the mobile CT scanner will split time between Port Hardy and Victoria. The scheduled dates for the mobile CT scanner at the Port Hardy Hospital are as follows:

- December 06, 2023 – January 19, 2024
- March 11, 2024 – April 12, 2024
- June 03, 2024 – July 05, 2024
- August 26, 2024 – September 27, 2024
- November 18, 2024 – December 20, 2024



Capital Modernization Projects

Renderings for the expansion and updates to the Port Hardy and Port McNeill hospitals have been completed. These renderings are concepts and indicate the starting point to share ideas and gather feedback to get a better idea of what works, what doesn't and what may have been overlooked.

These renderings play a key role within the initial design process, capturing a realistic visual outcome for both Port McNeill and Port Hardy sites. Currently, the project team is initiating next steps in the project lifecycle; design development, contractor procurement and moving into construction, as well as establishing and finalizing timelines and communications (to both the staff and public).

With the recent completion of the Mobile CT Pad in Port Hardy, the initial capital phase of the NVI Stabilization Project Deliverables are complete.

Anticipated construction timeline for the modernization phase will begin in Fall 2024, with estimated completion in 2027. This timeline will be influenced by Contractor availability and supply chain.

Please see the following page for renderings of the expansion and updates to the Port Hardy (left) and Port McNeill (right) hospitals.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

Significant progress and work continues in North Vancouver Island. We are committed to providing future updates to ensure that local residents, First Nations communities and community leaders are aware of the ongoing progress and results of this important investment.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding any of the initiatives and progress outlined in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us, as we would be more than happy to discuss further.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Mary Knox, Director, North Island, Indigenous Health Diversity and Inclusion, Island Health

Max Jajszczok, Executive Director Operations and Strategy - Community Hospitals and Rural Remote Services Island Health

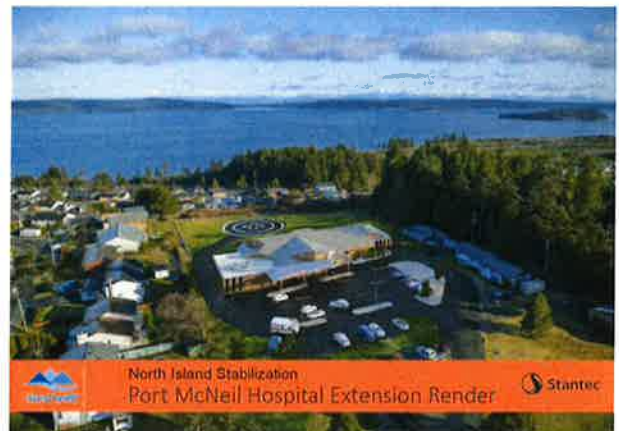
Dr. Louis (Dieter) de Bruin, Executive Medical Director, Clinical Operations, Island Health

To learn more please visit:

[North Vancouver Island Sustainability Initiative](#)

[Island Health Magazine - Spring 2023](#)

[Island Health](#)



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- Skip to footer

British Columbia News

Funding will support local volunteer fire departments, keep people safe

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/30129>

The Province is helping more than 200 volunteer fire departments enhance their capabilities by funding new training and equipment to better keep people in British Columbia safe.

"Many people living in smaller or remote B.C. communities are served by hard-working volunteer or partly volunteer fire departments. These departments don't have the same resources found in larger communities," said George Heyman, acting Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. "We're supporting these fire departments with funding for equipment and training to ensure people are safer and better protected by enhanced local firefighting capability that meets local needs."

Through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), the Province is providing more than \$6.2 million for 122 local projects, benefiting more than 200 volunteer and composite fire departments. Composite fire departments are those that have a mix of staff and volunteers. Most communities in B.C. rely on volunteer firefighters to protect people, homes and businesses. These local projects will help ensure volunteer firefighters have the resources and training they need to keep their communities safe from fire.

Since 2017, more than \$17 million has been provided to volunteer and composite fire departments through the CEPF for additional equipment and training. This funding also helps fire departments meet the B.C. structure firefighter minimum training standards.

"Keeping people in our communities safe is a top priority and supporting our volunteer fire departments is key," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "The funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund shows our commitment to helping local crews in smaller communities. We're investing in training, equipment and mental-health support to improve firefighting and care for our front-line workers. This effort strengthens our push to build strong, resilient communities across British Columbia."

Funding will be provided to local governments, First Nations, and volunteer and composite fire departments for various projects, such as:

- Creating a mental-health peer-support team for all 15 of the Cowichan Valley Regional District's volunteer fire departments, including a four-day critical-incident stress-management course to help firefighters better deal with the pressures of the job.
- Upgrading and replacing equipment, and purchasing new equipment, including a quick-connect deluge gun, which will help put out fires quickly with limited personnel, for the Sandspit Volunteer Fire Department.
- New relay tanks to increase water-supply capabilities, improve refill time and replace older gear for the Skeetchestn Fire Department.
- Hands-on training, personnel and demonstration props, such as fire-window simulators, thermal imaging cameras and rescue mannequins, for 16 volunteer fire departments in the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

CEPF helps communities mitigate and prepare for emergencies by funding local projects and initiatives in several categories. These include disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation, public notification and evacuation-route planning, and emergency support-services equipment and training.

The Province has invested \$369 million into CEPF since it was established in 2017. Approximately \$176 million has been provided to First Nations and local governments through CEPF for as many as 1,700 projects that help communities prepare for disasters and climate-related emergencies. The CEPF is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities for the Province.

Quotes:

Rochelle Porter, public works manager, Skeetchestn Indian Band –

“The recent grant benefited the Skeetchestn Fire Department on two fronts. Firstly, to replace outdated turnout gear that will enhance firefighter safety and, secondly, to enable a purchase of relay tanks to enhance our ability to provide adequate water supply during urban-interface fire responses. Both items are much needed and much appreciated by the Skeetchestn community.”

Robb Schoular, manager, Fire Rescue Services, Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) –

“This funding for equipment, protective clothing and training will allow CVRD volunteer fire departments to reallocate their equipment and training budgets to other critical purchases, such as replacement air tanks, breathing apparatus, necessary radio upgrades and replace aging turnout gear. It will also provide training to Cowichan area first responders for peer support and mental-health first aid. This vital training allows 30 peer-support team members to deliver critical-incident stress management support to more than 350 first responders/firefighters.”

Barbara Roden, board chair, Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) –

“The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund provides the Thompson-Nicola Regional District the opportunity to increase capacity and resiliency for our nine fire departments and their communities. This funding enables the purchase of equipment for initial assistance with wildfire response. This funding also enables equipment purchases that support uniformity among TNRD departments, and compliance with the B.C. Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards. The quality gear and equipment purchased with this grant will enhance firefighter effectiveness in emergency-response efforts, strengthen firefighter confidence and increase job resiliency.”

Robert Ells, fire chief, Sandspit Volunteer Fire Department –

“It is difficult for rural fire departments to make ends meet these days without essential programs like the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This funding will allow us to replace 20-year-old handheld radios and purchase respiratory and personal protection equipment to keep our volunteer firefighters safe. We couldn't afford the equipment without the grant.”

Trish Mandewo, president, Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) –

“Rural and remote communities depend on volunteer firefighters to protect homes and businesses during times of emergency. By upgrading the equipment, training and support available to volunteer and composite fire departments, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund enhances the safety of communities and firefighters. This is a welcome funding program, which UBCM is glad to administer on behalf of the Province.”

Learn More:

For information about the Office of the Fire Commissioner, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/fire-safety> (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/fire-safety>)

For information about the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, visit: <https://www.ubcm.ca/cepf> (<https://www.ubcm.ca/cepf>)

A background follows.
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Backgrounders

What to know about CEPF recipients

The CEPF is administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and funds projects that support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate.

Volunteer and composite fire departments, local governments and First Nations throughout British Columbia will receive more than \$6.2 million from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund as follows:

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District - Equipment and training for the fire department to enhance sustainability and readiness for fire protection in their communities

Regional partners: Beaver Creek, Sproat Lake, Bamfield

Approved funding: \$85,354

Armstrong - Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottle replacement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Atlin Community Improvement District - Purchase of turnout gear, air cylinders, hoses and nozzles, and training

Approved funding: \$29,000

Barriere - Fire-rescue training and equipment

Approved funding: \$10,530

Big Lake Volunteer Fire/Rescue - Ensuring Fire/Rescue has adequate capacity to serve the community

Approved funding: \$26,994.43

Blue River Improvement District - Fire department equipment and training grant

Approved funding: \$29,439.20

Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department - Emergency-breathing safety system (EBSS) equipment and training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Bowen Island Municipality - Engine 33 outfitting

Approved funding: \$30,000

Bralorne Fire Protection Association - Fire protection equipment and turnout-gear updates

Approved funding: \$30,000

Capital Regional District - Fire department training and equipment project 2024

Regional partners: East Sooke, North Galiano, Otter Point, Shirley, Willis Point, Port Renfrew

Approved funding: \$179,439.98

Cariboo Regional District - Volunteer fire department emergency-response improvement project

Regional partners: 108 Mile, 150 Mile, Barlow Creek, Bouchie Lake, Deka Lake, Forest Grove, Interlakes, Kersley, Lac La Hache, Lone Butte, Miocene, Ten Mile, West Fraser, Wildwood

Approved funding: \$357,937.22

Central Kootenay Regional District - Fire-services training program - 2024

Regional partners: Balfour-Harrop, Beasley, Blewett, Crescent Valley, Kaslo, North Shore, Ootischenia, Pass Creek, Passmore, Riodel, Robson, Slocan, Tarry's, Winlaw, Yahk-Kingsate, Ymir

Approved funding: \$473,602

Central Okanagan Regional District - Joe Rich fire-rescue SCBA pack purchase and upgrade, North Westside fire-rescue hose replacement, Wilson's Landing Fire Department live fire-training prop upgrade and Ellison fire-extinguisher training equipment

Regional partners: Joe Rich, Ellison, North Westside, Wilson's Landing

Approved funding: \$115,475.60

Central Saanich - Structural Protection Unit (SPU) improvement project

Approved funding: \$30,000

Chase - Air compressor to fill SCBA cylinders

Approved funding: \$30,000

Cherry Creek Improvement District - SCBA pack replacements

Approved funding: \$30,000

Chetwynd - Fire department apparatus upgrades

Approved funding: \$29,284.25

Chilliwack - Situational awareness training building

Approved funding: \$30,000

Chimney & Felker Lakes Volunteer Fire Department - Structural turnout-gear replacement and training

Approved funding: \$23,595.32

Clearwater - Fire department training props and equipment

Approved funding: \$25,661

Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department - 2023 training and equipment update

Approved funding: \$29,904.95

Comox - Cancer mitigation, washer

Approved funding: \$30,000

Comox Valley Regional District - Fire departments

Regional partners: Denman Island, Hornby Island, Fanny Bay, Union Bay, Oyster River, Merville, Mt. Washington

Approved funding: \$208,750

Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association - Wildfire-response capacity building

Approved funding: \$30,000

Cowichan Bay Improvement District - Improving structure fire response: SCBA

Approved funding: \$30,000

Cowichan Tribes - 2023 fire-service equipment

Approved funding: \$22,000

Cowichan Valley Regional District - Equipment purchase and training

Regional partners: North Oyster, Malahat, Mesachie Lake, Sahtlam, Honeymoon Bay, Youbou, Caycuse

Approved funding: \$210,000

Cranberry Improvement District - SCBA air compressor replacement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Cumberland - Phase Two for exterior fire ground training

Approved funded: \$30,000

Dawson Creek - On-call firefighter PPE and pagers

Approved funding: \$30,000

Deep Bay Improvement District - Equipment for new engine

Approved funding: \$30,000

Ditidaht First Nation - Nitinaht Lake Fire Department

Approved funding: \$26,000

Duncan - Fire department redevelopment project - Training

Approved funding: \$30,000

East Kootenay Regional District - Fire-services equipment upgrades 2023

Regional partners: Jaffray, Baynes Lake, Elko, Hosmer, Windermere, Edgewater, Fairmont, Panorama

Approved funding: \$228,900

Elkford - Live fire training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Erris Volunteer Fire Association - Firefighter training prop

Approved funding: \$30,000

Extension Volunteer Fire Department - Equipment purchase to enhance fire-response capabilities

Approved funding: \$30,000

Fernie - Fire training and equipment replacement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Fort St. James - Bunker gear and laundry facilities

Approved funding: \$30,000

Fraser Valley Regional District - Electoral Area Fire Department 2023 Grant

Regional partners: Boston Bar/North Bend, Chilliwack River Valley, Columbia Valley, Hemlock Valley, North Fraser, Popkum, Yale

Approved funding: \$210,000

Fraser-Fort George Regional District - Emergency-response equipment improvement project

Regional partners: Bear Lake, Beverly, Buckhorn, Ferndale/Tabor, Hixon, McBride, Ness Lake, Pilot Mountain, Pineview, Red Rock/Stoner, Salmon Valley, Shell-Glen, Valemount

Approved funding: \$390,000

Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District - SCBA inventory enhancement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Gillies Bay Improvement District - Upgrading tools and training

Approved funding: \$27,112

Gitwangak Band - Fire-department and emergency-services equipment upgrade

Approved funding: \$27,827

Gold River - Equipment procurement

Approved funding: \$29,960

Golden - Training and equipment

Approved funding: \$24,884.16

Grand Forks - Forcible-entry training prop and replacement hose

Approved funding: \$29,976

Granisle - 2024 fire department updates

Approved funding: \$30,000

Hazelton - Emergency and fire protection upgrades

Approved funding: \$30,000

Hope - Fire equipment and training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Houston - Protective clothing and equipment

Approved funding: \$27,268.76

Hudson's Hope - SCBA replacement project

Approved funding: \$25,553

Invermere - Equipment and training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Kent - Automatic fire-detection training and PPE compliance

Approved funding: \$30,000

Kimberley - Dual certified turnout-gear project

Approved funding: \$27,900

Kitimat-Stikine Regional District - Thornhill portable radio upgrade, Dease Lake fire-training centre

Regional partners: Thornhill, Dease Lake

Approved funding: \$60,000

Kootenay-Boundary Regional District - Firefighter tools and equipment; Christina Lake: firefighter PPE, equipment and training; Big White: firefighter PPE and equipment purchase; Beaverdell: radios, wildland equipment, shop tools

Regional partners: Christina Lake, Big White, Beaverdell

Approved funding: \$118,644.13

Lake Babine Nation - Tachet and Fort Babine firehall equipment replacement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Lake Country - Wildland urban interface personal protective equipment

Approved funding: \$30,000

Lake Cowichan - Enhancing firefighting capacity

Approved funding: \$29,488

Langley City - Community risk reduction through public education and wildfire training

Approved funding: \$25,927.80

Masset - Breathing equipment upgrade

Approved funding: \$30,000

Metchosin - Apparatus equipment update

Approved funding: \$29,272

Mountain Fire Protection District - Personal protective equipment for new volunteer firefighters

Approved funding: \$30,000

Nadleh Whut'en First Nation - Fire department enhancement project

Approved funding: \$29,880.94

Nanaimo Regional District - District wildfire-response equipment and PPE

Regional partners: Coombs-Hilliers, Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, Qualicum Beach

Approved funding: \$119,545.48

Nelson - Fire officer 1 training and rapid intervention firefighter-safety devices

Approved funding: \$30,000

New Hazelton - Fire department equipment upgrades

Approved funding: \$25,000

North Cedar Improvement District - Phase 1 wildland equipment purchase

Approved funding: \$30,000

North Cowichan - Wildland personal protective equipment

Approved funding: \$30,000

North Okanagan Regional District - 2023 equipment and training

Regional partners: BX-Swan Lake, Silver Star, Lumby

Approved funding: \$67,000

North Saanich - Volunteer personal protective equipment

Approved funding: \$30,000

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality - Structural protection unit and training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Nuxalk First Nation - Emergency and fire-protection upgrades

Approved funding: \$29,784

Ocean Fall Improvement District - Fire department update, knowledge-seeking project and safety update

Approved funding: \$10,000

Oliver - Enhancing fire services: SCBA investments

Approved funding: \$30,000

Peachland - Firefighter personal protective clothing

Approved funding: \$30,000

Pemberton - Forcible-entry door stimulator

Approved funding: \$14,496.54

Pender Harbour Fire Protection District - Equipment and training upgrade

Approved funding: \$25,556.13

Pinantan Lake Fire Association - Structure protection equipment enhancement

Approved funding: \$28,056.03

Port Alice - Fire department SCBAs

Approved funding: \$30,000

Port Clements - 2024 equipment upgrades

Approved funding: \$29,443

Port Edward - Volunteer fire department

Approved funding: \$30,000

Port Hardy - Phase II: modular fire-training facility

Approved funding: \$30,000

Pouce Coupe - Fire skid unit

Approved funding: \$30,000

Princeton - 2023 fire department grant

Approved funding: \$30,000

Qathet Regional District - Health and Wellness Initiative Funding for Northside, Savary, Malaspina and Lasqueti Island volunteer fire departments

Regional partners: Northside, Savary Island, Malaspina, Lasqueti Island

Approved funding: \$96,000

Quesnel - Essential fire-officer training

Approved funding: \$28,000

Salmo - Fire department equipment renewal 2023

Approved funding: \$29,343.43

Salmon Arm - Equipment and training grant

Approved funding: \$29,250.26

Sandspit Volunteer Fire Department - Basic Equipment Grant 2023

Approved funding: \$30,000

Savona Improvement District - Training and equipment

Approved funding: \$21,000

Seabird Island Band - Firefighting equipment and training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Sechelt Fire Protection District - Class B car training prop

Approved funding: \$30,000

Ships Point Improvement District - Training facility and equipment upgrade

Approved funding: \$30,000

Sicamous - Fire department 2023

Approved funding: \$30,000

Sidney - Structure protection training

Approved funding: \$8,000

Simpcw First Nation - Chu Chu Volunteer Fire Department - Communication, lighting and imaging upgrades

Approved funding: \$30,000

Skeetchestn Indian Band - Fire department equipment

Approved funding: \$30,000

Skwílax te Secwepemcúlew - Structural protection unit

Approved funding: \$29,793.72

Smithers - Radio communication upgrade

Approved funding: \$26,786.46

South Quadra Island Fire Protection District - Structure protection sprinklers

Approved funding: \$11,400

Southside Volunteer Fire Department - Quick deploy structure protection equipment

Approved funding: \$30,000

Sparwood - Fighter training and equipment upgrades

Approved funding: \$10,007.39

Summerland - Portable radio upgrade

Approved funding: \$29,925

Sunshine Coast Regional District - Fire department continuous improvement

Regional partners: Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Halfmoon Bay, Egmont

Approved funding: \$120,000

Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department - Phase 2: structure protection

Approved funding: \$29,811.51

Tahltan Nation - Fire suppression and community protection enhancement

Approved funding: \$30,000

Tahsis - Training and equipment

Approved funding: \$29,878.20

Taylor - 2023 training and equipment project

Approved funding: \$21,770

Telkwa - Firefighting equipment and gear

Approved funding: \$30,000

Thetis Island Improvement District - SCBA upgrade

Approved funding: \$30,000

Thompson-Nicola Regional District - Regional fire department equipment and training project

Regional partners: Blackpool, Vavenby, Loon Lake, South Green Lake, Tobiano, Pritchard, Little Fort, McLure, Monte Creek

Approved funding: \$270,000

Tl'azt'en Nation - Operation fire department 2023

Approved funding: \$29,110.19

Tla'amin Nation - Fire department equipment purchase

Approved funding: \$30,000

Topley Fire Protection Society - Topley fire training and equipment

Approved funding: \$24,000

Ucluelet - Fire rescue turnout gear 2023

Approved funding: \$28,964.08

Van Anda Improvement District - Increased capacity for forest-fire fighting and training

Approved funding: \$24,644

Vanderhoof - Hands-on training sessions and PPE

Approved funding: \$30,000

Watch Lake-North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department - Turnout gear replacement and safety equipment update

Approved funding: \$28,560

Whistler - Fire officer training

Approved funding: \$30,000

Yaqit 7a·knuqli 'it First Nation - SCBA update program

Approved funding: \$30,000

Acknowledgment

The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

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British Columbia News

Funding will improve cultural safety for Indigenous people during emergencies

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/30167>

Communities across B.C. will receive funding to enhance cultural safety in local emergency management, helping ensure First Nations, Métis and Inuit people are treated with inclusivity and respect during emergencies.

“We have heard that emergency management supports can be delivered in a more culturally safe and inclusive way. Supporting Indigenous people and communities begins with understanding their history and values,” said George Heyman, acting Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. “By creating more opportunities for staff and volunteers to learn about cultural safety, we are working toward ensuring Indigenous people feel respected, included and cared for during emergencies.”

The Province is providing approximately \$580,000 for 22 local projects under the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training stream of the Community Emergency and Preparedness Fund (CEPF). This funding will be used by local governments and First Nations to make emergency management and supports more inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

Projects include:

- Cultural safety and humility training will be provided for Town of Smithers staff involved with local emergency management, which is adapted to the cultural aspects and needs of the Wet'suwet'en community.
- A two-day workshop for Tseshaht First Nation emergency-response staff will focus on the history of residential schools, the effect of displacement on Indigenous Peoples and how to create culturally safe spaces in emergency reception centres.
- Training for emergency management staff, volunteers and elected officials across the Fraser Valley Regional District will increase understanding of cultural differences, the impact of words, the challenges that communities are grappling with, and recognizing how emergency decisions may systemically impact First Nations.
- Semá:th First Nation will develop a comprehensive training program to equip people with skills in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism. It will be offered to a range of partners involved in emergency management, which may include emergency responders, local government officials, health-care providers, community volunteers, non-government organizations, education institutions, social workers, and community leaders and Elders.
- Building cultural competency for collaborative emergency management to bridge gaps between emergency responders, partner agencies and First Nations in the Central Coast Regional District.

“It is crucial that local emergency-management programs and services are centred in cultural safety,” said Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. “With this provincial funding, Indigenous people in B.C. will benefit from more inclusive emergency management. These supports are part of B.C.’s work to build a better province where all people can access the services and programs they need.”

The CEPF helps communities to better prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate-related emergencies by funding local projects and initiatives in several categories. These include disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation, public notification and evacuation-route planning, and emergency-support services equipment and

adaptation, public notification and evacuation route planning, and emergency support services equipment and training.

The Province has invested \$369 million into the CEPF since it was established in 2017. Approximately \$176 million has been provided to First Nations and local governments through the CEPF for more than 1,700 projects.

Quotes:

Teri Kish, emergency services manager, Old Massett Village Council –

“The funding will support the blanket exercise, which will provide an opportunity to experience an empathetic sense of loss of land, way of life and the impacts many Indigenous Peoples deal with to this day, when working with agencies that are not part of the Old Massett community. There will be guidance through a narrative activity of many policies and events that have shaped Canada, in the context of the treatment of the Indigenous Peoples of these lands.”

Jolene Rendolic, community safety co-ordinator, Tsalalh First Nation –

“This is an exciting opportunity to bring our neighbours within our community to share our language, culture, history. While joining our festivities, we can start to create a future relationship with continued collaboration.”

Mindy Ogden, heritage place specialist, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' (Kyuquot) First Nation –

“The Salvaging Sacred Belongings workshop this funding was used for provided community members with the skills they need to recover precious belongings like regalia, drums and masks. In the event of an emergency, we need locals who have these skills, as we are a very remote community. We are looking forward to equipping more community members, including the youth, in the future.”

Chief James Harris, Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band) –

“This funding has been instrumental in our mission to create a more inclusive approach to emergency mitigation and will allow us to provide 30 staff with San'yas training to effectively engage with Indigenous communities during emergencies, to foster collaboration, understanding and a sense of safety.”

Marli Penner, director, human resources and labour relations, District of Kitimat –

“The District of Kitimat is using this funding to put first responders and emergency-operations centre employees through cultural awareness training that is facilitated by employees from the Haisla Nation's language and culture department, on whose territory we live. This training, which also encompasses a blanket ceremony, provides employees with a greater understanding of the history and culture of the local Indigenous people, which in turn will aid in providing culturally appropriate response and assistance in emergency events.”

Shelley Morris, deputy fire chief, City of Surrey –

“Through this funding we will engage with local Indigenous communities to strengthen relationships by focusing on advancing our knowledge and understanding of the lived experiences of Indigenous people to develop a safer environment during emergency response and recovery activities. This commitment to enhance mutual trust will lead to improved services and a better outcome for all during and after a disaster.”

Joni Heinrich, chief administrative officer, Village of Chase –

“The Village of Chase is pleased to receive this funding and is excited to engage our emergency-response employees in expanding their understanding of Indigenous culture. We know how important it is to communicate during an emergency clearly and calmly. Having better knowledge of how to respectfully communicate with our Indigenous neighbours will ensure trauma is reduced during emergency situations.”

Jason Lum, board chair, Fraser Valley Regional District –

"This funding provides a valuable opportunity to equip the organization with essential training, ensuring the presence of compassion and cultural awareness during distressing times."

Trish Mandewo, president, Union of BC Municipalities –

"Training emergency responders in cultural humility is critical for implementing emergency-management plans that are informed by Indigenous knowledge and perspectives. More work is needed to empower all First Nations and local governments to develop plans that are culturally safe and meet the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act requirements. I appreciate the funding that is being provided to these communities and look forward to capacity funding that will support the work."

Learn More:

For more information about the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, visit: <https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-emergency-preparedness-fund>
(<https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-emergency-preparedness-fund>)

To learn more about the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, visit: <https://declaration.gov.bc.ca>
(<https://declaration.gov.bc.ca/>)

A background follows.

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Media Relations
250 880-6430

Backgrounders

What to know about CEPF recipients

The CEPF is administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and funds projects that support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from hazards in a changing climate.

First Nations and local governments throughout British Columbia will receive approximately \$580,000 in provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Funds as follows:

Abbotsford – Indigenous cultural safety and humility training

Approved amount: \$29,662.5

Armstrong – Emergency-operations centre Indigenous cultural safety and humility training

Approved amount: \$8,800

Bulkley-Nechako Regional District – Cultural competence in emergency response

Approved amount: \$30,000

Cariboo Regional District – Relationship building for cultural safety and humility: Training program development and implementation

Approved amount: \$30,000

Central Coast Regional District – Fostering cultural humility in emergency management

Approved amount: \$29,972

Chase – Indigenous safety and humility training

Approved amount: \$19,800

Ditidaht First Nation – Ditidaht cultural exploration and record keeping

Approved amount: \$29,975

Fraser Valley Regional District – Strengthening Relationships: Collaborative Emergency Management in the Shared Fraser Valley Landscape

Approved amount: \$30,000

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (Kyuquot) – Salvaging Sacred Belongings – Supporting Our Pace

Approved amount: \$17,800

Kent – Emergency Program – Indigenous Training

Approved amount: \$7,000

Kitimat – Haisla Nation cultural awareness training

Approved amount: \$5,000

Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation – Wehni noh bulh yas-ulhtuk Nak'azdli-led Indigenous cultural safety and humility training framework development

Approved amount: \$30,000

North Vancouver District – Regional: Paddling Our Canoe Forward: Connecting Cultural Safety and Resilience Planning on the North Shore

Regional partners: North Vancouver, West Vancouver

Approved amount: \$85,300

Old Massett Village Council – Unveiling Canada's Historical Narratives - Blanket exercise

Approved amount: \$16,150

Pacheedaht First Nation – Port Renfrew emergency response

Approved amount: \$30,000

Seabird Island Band – Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility training

Approved amount: \$30,000

Semá:th First Nation (Sumas) – Cultural safety and humility pathways in emergency management for Semá:th

Approved amount: \$30,000

Smithers – Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility training

Approved amount: \$30,000

Surrey – Indigenous cultural safety and cultural humility training

Approved amount: \$30,000

Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Cultural awareness training

Approved amount: \$9,300

Tsal'ah First Nation (Seton Lake) – Community cultural safety meeting

Approved amount: \$30,000

Tseshah First Nation – Cultural safety within an emergency-support services reception centre

Approved amount: \$20,935.7

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