



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

Emergency and Disaster Management Act - Consultation & Cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies

UBCM Electoral Area Directors' Forum March 10, 2026

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

- ✓ EMCR is responsible as the primary coordinating agency in BC for responding to provincial-level emergencies and disasters.
- ✓ The Ministry is responsible for providing cross-ministry coordination to enhance BC's readiness and resilience towards climate and disaster risks.
- ✓ EMCR leads provincial emergency management through the four-phased approach of:
 - ✓ Mitigation
 - ✓ Preparedness
 - ✓ Response
 - ✓ Recovery



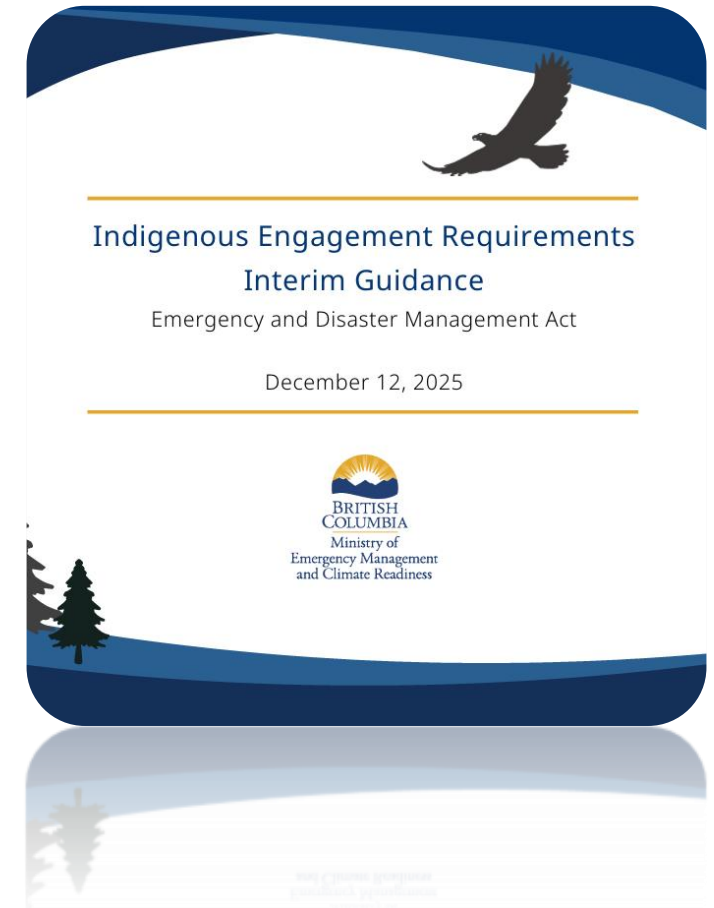
Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)

- ✓ The EDMA came into force November 2023 and emphasizes the importance of consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.
- ✓ Requirements are being phased in through regulation.
- ✓ Key policy shifts in the EDMA include:
 - ✓ recognition of Indigenous governance
 - ✓ agreements framework for shared decision making
 - ✓ requirements for consultation and cooperation
 - ✓ addressing disproportionate impacts and cultural safety
 - ✓ including Indigenous knowledges in emergency management



Indigenous Engagement Requirements (IER)

- ✓ Support for implementation to date:
 - ✓ IER forums
 - ✓ IER funding program
 - ✓ Indigenous Engagement Requirements Interim Guidance
- ✓ Terminology is explained including:
 - ✓ consult and cooperate
 - ✓ engage and cooperate
 - ✓ consult and coordinate
- ✓ Supplemental guidance available about cultural safety, Indigenous knowledge, and agreements described in the EDMA.



What is required now?

- 1) Reaching agreement
- 2) Submit information to EMCR.IER@gov.bc.ca
- 3) Consult and cooperate prior to exercising certain response and recovery powers



Consultation and cooperation – response and recovery

- ✓ Where agreements are reached, consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies is required to exercise land and property-based response powers such as:
 - ✓ Evacuation alerts and orders
 - ✓ Use of land or property
 - ✓ Travel restrictions
- ✓ Engage and cooperate in limited circumstances due to imminent risk where it is not practicable for the Province or local authorities to consult and cooperate followed with rationale in post-event report.
- ✓ A list of response and recovery powers available to all parties authorized to exercise those powers under the Act, and related consultation and cooperation requirements, can be found on our website.

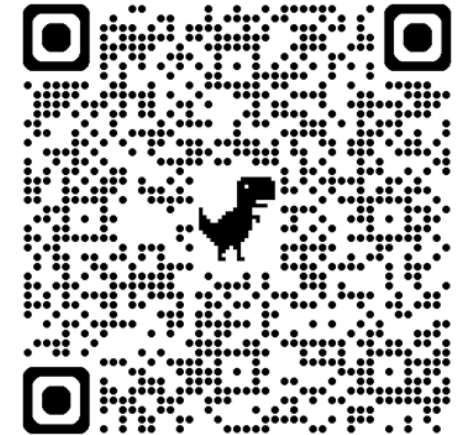
Consultation and cooperation – preparedness

- ✔ Regulated entities are required to consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies when preparing, reviewing, and revising risk assessments and emergency management plans.
- ✔ Consultation and cooperation on risk assessments and emergency management plans is a process through which meaningful engagement about cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge can take place.
- ✔ Requirements are phased in with regulation.



Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program

- ✓ Recipients now have until March 31, 2027, to use IERFP funds, with a signed modification agreement.
- ✓ Funding is to support the implementation of IER. Activities are described in the program guide under the following categories:
 - ✓ consultation and cooperation
 - ✓ relationship building
 - ✓ planning
 - ✓ reconciliation and capacity building
 - ✓ reaching agreement to support engagement





Looking Ahead

Reasonable efforts to reach agreement

✓ In effect now

Local authority emergency management regulation

✓ Active in early 2027

Contact us: EMCR.IER@gov.bc.ca



Thank you



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