



REPORT

To: Emergency Executive Committee

Report Number: CS-EEC-001

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: November 26, 2020

Subject: Kelly Lake Community Emergency Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Emergency Executive Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the development of a community emergency plan for Kelly Lake and that the Regional District work with community members, stakeholders and agencies involved in emergency response to develop the plan.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The community of Kelly Lake is an Indigenous community within the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). The community is not recognized by the federal government as a registered First Nation, thus they are not self-governing and the PRRD is their local government or local authority.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) has been working with the community since 2018 to assist them with a number of community development initiatives, and to do so a Leaders Group was formed that brought together representatives from the five different non-profit societies in Kelly Lake (Kelly Lake First Nation Society, Kelly Lake Cree Nation Society, Foothills First Nation Society, Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society and Metis Community Society of Kelly Lake). Since 2018 they have been working on issues related to:

- housing development;
- [community safety](#) and development (e.g., employment skills training, economic development, community services, facilities); and
- emergency planning.

The Leaders Group (which now consists of only two members), has been working with a contractor to develop an emergency plan for the community; however, the emergency plan that has been developed is structured similarly to a local government plan. The plan identifies that an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) would be set-up by the Kelly Lake community in Kelly Lake. The Kelly Lake EOC would direct the response and recovery efforts and essentially take on the roles of the local government. The following are excerpts from their plan:

“3.3 Operational responsibility for implementation of the EP

The Kelly Lake EOC is responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Plan and for the coordination and direction of overall operations in respect of preparation for, response to, and recovery from the emergency or disaster. Although the community has no formal authority under Federal or Provincial Acts they have taken on the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the residents of Kelly Lake.

The EOC Director is responsible for the control of all operations within the EOC identified in this Emergency Plan.”

“4.1 Leadership Group

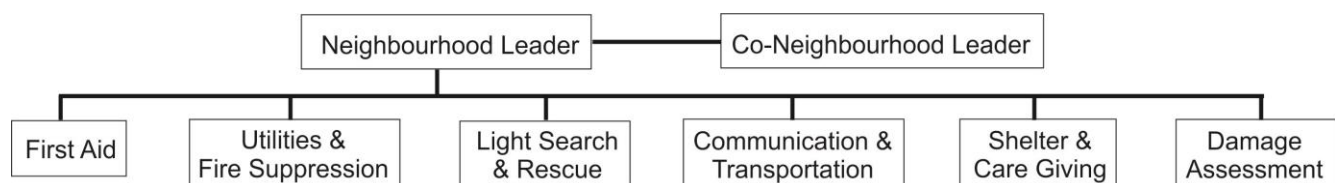
Leadership Group ultimately carry responsibility for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery efforts. These responsibilities, should be outlined in a document and agreement or all parties to support the activities in time of emergency. Emergency Management is delegated to staff and the Emergency Management Committee for action.”

As Kelly Lake is not a self-governing nation the community cannot:

- 1) declare a state of local emergency.
- 2) utilize any of the extraordinary powers listed in the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) (such as evacuations, right to enter property, control and prohibit movement, etc.).
- 3) obtain a task number from Emergency Management BC (EMBC) which secures funding for response and recovery efforts.

Under the *Emergency Program Act* “6 (1) ... a local authority is at all times responsible for the direction and control of the local authority's emergency response.” Under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation, local governments may, however, “enter into agreements with non-government organizations for emergency resources.”

Staff have discussed with EMBC, the contractor, MIRR, and the Leaders Group the issues that exist with the plan and that the plan is not aligned with current legislation and lacks authority. Instead staff have recommended that a Community (Neighbourhood) Emergency Preparedness Plan could be developed in consultation with the community that would provide a framework for individuals and families to become more personally prepared and identify ways in which the community can assist each other in the first 72 hours. Below is an example of what that framework may look like.



- *Note fire suppression refers to:*
 - *ensuring only those who are formally trained as fire fighters and are members of a fire department are responding to fires*
 - *teaching community members how to use a fire extinguisher & assisting with practicing fire drills*
 - *promoting the use of fire alarms and ensuring extinguishers are well maintained*

For instance, if there is a long-term power outage during the winter some of the following actions may be taken:

Community Emergency Preparedness Group	PRRD EOC
Shelter Care & Giving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - check on elders to ensure they have a wood heat source that is working and safe - open the Community Centre as a warming shelter 	Operations & Logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rent a mobile backup generator for the hall and someone to install it
Utilities & Fire Suppression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - check the community to see if there is a downed power line - put up road blocks to stop people from driving or walking in the area of the downed power lines - shut off electrical boxes if needed 	Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - report to BC Hydro the downed power lines and liaise with them to determine if there are any actions the PRRD or community should take until the line is restored and identify timelines for such

If this initiative moves forward, some of the work that has been contributed to the current Kelly Lake Emergency Plan will be utilized for a Community Emergency Preparedness Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Emergency Executive Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
- ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

It is estimated that the cost of conducting the planning process would be approximately \$2,500 which would cover: mileage (if travel is permitted), meals and snacks, and printing.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

External Links:

1. [Emergency Program Act](#)
2. [Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#)
3. [Squamish Lillooet Regional District Community Emergency Plans](#)