



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-065

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: February 25, 2021

Subject: EMBC Financial Assistance Guide for Emergency Response Costs

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize that the letter re: "Financial Assistance Guide for Emergency Response Costs Feedback" dated February 25, 2021 be sent to the Northeast Regional Manager, Emergency Management BC, on behalf of the Peace River Regional District to express concerns in the following areas:

- a) expense authorization process;
- b) provision of water to communities during emergencies;
- c) evacuation costs;
- d) personnel costs and use of contractors;
- e) per diem and Blue Book rates;
- f) damaged equipment costs;
- g) ESS staff payment; and
- h) claim reimbursement.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In November 2020, Emergency Management BC (EMBC), through its regional offices, distributed by email an updated Financial Assistance Guide for Local Authorities and First Nations (FinGuide). The original FinGuide was developed in 2005 and updated in 2008 prior to the 2020 update.

A number of local governments across the province asked EMBC for the opportunity to submit feedback on the new FinGuide, and in response, EMBC announced on January 27, 2021 that additional feedback would be received until the end of February 2021.

Staff have reviewed the 2020 FinGuide and have drafted a letter identifying concerns with the processes specified in the Guide, for the Board's consideration. As noted in the letter, some of these guidelines have not changed since 2005 or 2008 and as such there still remains a number of core issues as well as new issues. Staff have provided comment in the letter with regard to the following topics:

- a) the expense authorization process;
- b) provision of water to communities during emergencies;
- c) evacuation costs;
- d) personnel costs and use of contractors;
- e) per diem and Blue Book rates;
- f) damaged equipment costs;
- g) ESS staff payment; and
- h) claim reimbursement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Advocacy
- ☒ Emergency Response Capacity for Local Governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In the event of an emergency, the Financial Assistance Guide for Emergency Response Costs will determine cost recovery from EMBC.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Feedback on this guide will allow the PRRD to voice its concerns prior to the formal adoption of the guide.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None

Attachments:

1. Letter to EMBC Financial Guidelines Feedback Feb 25, 2021
2. Financial Assistance Guidelines September 2020