



**REGULAR MEETING OF
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Remote Meeting via Teams

For information on how to participate: <https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/committees/emergency-planning-committee>

- PRESENT:**
- School District #48 Representative, I. Currie
 - BC Ambulance Service Representative, L. Darlington
 - Whistler Search and Rescue Society Representative, T. DelBosco
 - Mayor, J. Crompton
 - BC Ambulance Service Representative, R. Larkin
 - Whistler Blackcomb Representative, J. Lawther
 - RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks
 - RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah
 - RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, B. Manson
 - RMOW General Manager Community Engagement and Cultural Services, K. Elliott
 - RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen
 - RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou
 - RMOW Fire Chief, T. Doherty
 - Blackcomb Helicopters Representative, D. Marcoux
 - RCMP Sergeant so, N. Miller
- ABSENT:**
- Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, C. Selfridge
 - Vancouver Coastal Health Representative, Dr. M Khaketla
 - RMOW General Manager Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey
 - RMOW General Manager Corporate Services and Public Safety, T. Battiston
 - RMOW Councilor, J. Ford
- STAFF PRESENT:**
- RMOW Recording Secretary, C. Burford
- OTHERS:**
- Maram Suleiman, Canadian Red Cross Coordinator
 - Chelsey Roberts, RMOW Manager of Capital Projects, Acting on Behalf of General Manager James Hallisey
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. Crompton recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lílwat People, known in their language as Lílwat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou

Seconded By RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of February 13 2024

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah

Seconded By RMOW General Manager Community Engagement and Cultural Services, K. Elliott

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of October 31 2023

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Presentation on Red Cross Emergency Support Services

Presentation provided from Maram Suleiman.

The Canadian Red Cross Emergency Support Services support the following:

- Preparedness: For personal or communities
- Response: Support in local emergencies, such as registering individuals, family unification and providing supplies.
- Recovery: For individuals or families in their recoveries from emergencies such as house fires or wildfires.

Local governments are required to plan and manage their own emergency responses and they can work with the Canadian Red Cross for support.

There are currently over 700 management volunteers that provide a level 1 and 2 Emergency Support Services to over 300 households over 11 regional districts. Whistler's volunteers are currently growing. Their roles include:

- Emergency Support Services
- Emergency Response

- Personal Disaster Assistance
- Safety & Wellbeing
- Indigenous Specialists
- Mental Health and Psychosocial

The CRC will step in if additional support is required but the Emergency Support Services Program provides.

- Primary services
- Temporary lodging (determined on a case-by-case basis)
- Food
- Clothing and incidentals (such as toiletries)
- Specialized services that may be coordinated on a case-by-case basis:
- Emotional Support
- Cultural Support & Safety
- Transportation
- Information and Referrals

The ESS Service Delivery provides a collaborative response planning. They will identify emergency sites for reception sites including setting up permits and completion of site surveys for congregate shelters. Make sure there is pre-positioned stock and operation and communication plans. They will provide large scale opportunities and focused activities including exercises and workshops for CRC ESS volunteers to increase experience and support ESS team leads.

The Canadian Red Cross Agreement responsibilities include:

- Recruiting, on-boarding, training, and managing of ESS Volunteers
- Providing direction and guidance to volunteers on ESS and ERA 2.0
- Response preparedness in collaboration with ESS partner.
 - Response Planning
 - Prepositioned Stock
 - ESS team large-scale response training
 - ESS team operations engagement
- Management of CRC Operations
- Delivery of ESS to households impacted by Level 1 & 2 response events.

4.2 Emergency Support Services Updates

Emergency Support Services provides short term basic support to people impacted by disasters. It is offered to an evacuee for a short period of time and people need to be eligible for the support services, if someone is able to support themselves for the first 72 hours then they would not be eligible for ESS.

The different levels of ESS activations are distinguished by impact and type of ESS resources needed.

- **Level One:** A localized event that can be managed using minimal ESS resources (e.g., single house fire.)
- **Level Two:** An event that requires the full use of an Indigenous governing body or local authority's ESS resources. A Level 2 event might include the activation of a Reception Centre and/or an EOC (e.g., fire in an apartment complex).
- **Level Three:** An emergency that exceeds an Indigenous governing body or local authority's capacity to respond and requires assistance or mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions and/or the province (e.g., wildfire that causes an entire community to evacuate)

Support is provided on a case-by-case basis and the CRC provides support for volunteers.

- **Primary services** include temporary lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals (such as toiletries)
- **Specialized services** include emotional support, health services (such as first aid), pet care, and transportation.

All responders and evacuees can access an online tool to register evacuees and it takes 20 minutes to register 1 evacuee. To receive ESS a person must reside in the property, and it must be their primary residence in the area affected, which a map is normally provided for reference. Evacuees must also be a BC resident, there are some provisions that are taken into account for special circumstances. If individuals have other coverage such as insurance, they do not qualify for ESS and are encouraged to utilize the resources available to them.

ESS Updates

Monthly ESS meetings conducted to keep CRC volunteers up to date and engaged. There was reception center training along with a fire extinguisher training. A quarterly meeting has been set up with the district of Squamish and the Village of Pemberton.

There was a group lodging exercise was conducted by the ESS Coordinator with financial support from the 2023 ESS grant from UBCM. The exercise took place at Spring Creek in November 2023 with approx. 22 people in attendance including representation from the RMOW Emergency Program, Bylaw staff, DOS & VOP Emergency Management & ESS CRC teams. An explanation about the billeting system was provided explaining if individuals are evacuated, they have the option to stay with a friend and the funds will be paid to the people providing the housing/assistance.

An emergency weather shelter was set up at the Whistler Public Library for 2022/2023 winter.

Six Bylaw members were trained to support the ESS program when coverage is needed.

A UBCM Strengthening Communities Grant was completed, and funding went to 3 local non-profits for Emergency housing and support. The 2024 grant is in process, focusing on ESS group lodging supplies and technology tools. An upcoming partnership training on reception centers for volunteers and staff with the District of Squamish in March.

The ESS Responses in 2023/2024:

- Reception Centre stood up at the Delta Hotel in August 2023 due to the evacuation order for the Downton Lake Wildfire affecting Gun Lake Community
- Support provided to the VOP by ESS Coordinator & Whistler CRC volunteer team members over an August weekend and into the next week at the VOP Reception Centre. We provided referrals and evacuee support and coordination for Evacuees from Gold Bridge.
- A Virtual Reception Centre provided ongoing support and referral extensions to evacuees.

K. Elliott asked how often people know they have insurance and do not qualify.

K. Hannah said if they are unsure then they will be accepted for ESS.

K. Elliott suggested an educational package on these details would be beneficial.

V. Cullen asked if there was a formula for ESS based on the size of the community.

K. Hannah confirmed that only the levels of activations are provided and a call out for volunteers based on the activation rating. The provincial systems are trying to catch up for the local government as Emergency situations requiring ESS increase.

L. DeBou said that Volunteer and Red Cross support is necessary, and Whistler shares their volunteers with the District of Squamish and Village of Pemberton.

V. Cullen suggested that UBCM should be notified to recognize the needs for ESS support increase for communities.

J. Crompton asked when and where is the coordination with the province happening.

K. Hannah said that Municipalities will put in a request in the form of a task number for the province to provide funding, which is processed on a case-by-case basis through mutual aid.

J. Crompton asked if the province ever gives advice to where they suggest a local shelter should be.

K. Hannah said that Mutual Aid is not required under the act and it is provided on a case by case basis. It needs to be requested by the community needing support and is provided if the requested municipality has the capacity to provide support.

T. DeBosco asked with the flooding in Pemberton how many rooms were available to the 250 houses affected.

K. Hannah confirmed 70 rooms were available but generally only a third of evacuees use the resources provided.

L. DeBou said if our hotels were at capacity then we would find different options.

K. Elliot asked if the online system with the billeting system that is used to register evacuees indicates what support they need and do we receive that information

K. Hannah clarified we do that it does not have that capacity yet

4.3 Emergency Program Updates

B. Manson provided an update on the Emergency Program.

The new Emergency Disaster Management Act was finalized this includes 4 phases of emergency management requirements: Preparation, mitigation, response and recovery with consideration of climate change. These plans can be audited by the Provincial government including the definition of the Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) with whom the RMOW will consult and cooperate defined in agreements.

Consider cultural safety and intersectional disadvantage.

- Consultation and coordination with neighbouring local authorities
- Recovery period - which are 90 days long and may be renewed and extended, however the ministry can end these at anytime.
- New risk assessment and business impact assessments replace the HRVA, the probability of risk assessments have gone away.
- Creation of business continuity plans for local authorities.
- Option for multi-jurisdictional emergency management organization, these include formal and informal agreements with neighbouring communities to establish roots.
- Reporting requirements, example if there is not time in an emergency to discuss with the indigenous bodies this will have to be reported after.
- Enforcement powers, the RCMP now have the ability to remove people who refuse to evacuate their properties.

J. Crompton asked to have the enforcement powers been written to who would be able to use it.

B. Manson said it states that a Peace officer has the enforcement power, i.e. the RCMP. If people are not evacuating, then we would request the RCMP get

involve.

S. Banks confirmed if a child in the household, then the government gets involved, but if an individual does not want to evacuate their homes, then there is documentation that is requested to be signed to release liability.

V. Cullen asked if this is tactical or strategic.

B. Manson said it would be an order that would declare the same enforcement capacity. For example, if someone caused the fire we could go after them for recovery and damages.

- Operational evacuation plan was finalized.
- Hotel evacuation plan template was handed out to hotel management, this provides what information the hotels need in case of an evacuation, such as number of guests visiting and also documentation they can give to guests.

V. Cullen asked if that document could please be circulated to the members of the committee.

J. Crompton asked if the number of seats in hotel shuttles is also optimized in the plan.

L. DeBou said this is taken into consideration in the evacuation plans.

- A full evacuation exercise will be taking place on April 18th, some of the RMOW Senior management team have been invited but others are encouraged.
- Hosting a JIBC Evacuation course on October 2nd

V. Cullen suggested inviting the Squamish and Lil'wat nation members to both the exercise and the course.

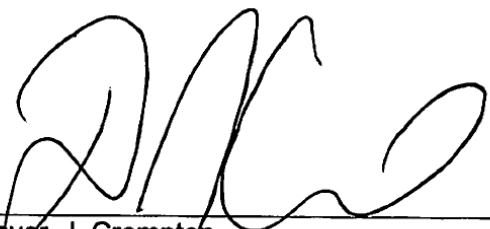
5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. TERMINATION

Moved By Whistler Search and Rescue
Society Representative, T.
DeBosco

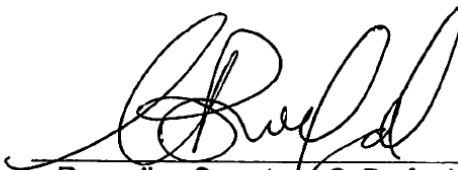
Seconded By RMOW General Manager
Community Engagement and
Cultural Services, K. Elliott

That Emergency Planning Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of February 13 2024



Mayor, J. Crompton

CARRIED



Recording Secretary, C. Burford