

Appendix F



FSIN Emergency Management Annual Report 2019-2020



Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
Protecting Inherent and Treaty Rights, Since 1946



FSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Annual Report 2019/2020

FSIN Emergency Management Engagement

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Vice of the Chief, FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron,

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1.0) INTRODUCTION: FSIN FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management is a vital area of programming that affects many arenas of First Nations governance, and which ultimately impacts upon the very health and safety of First Nation communities. State of Emergency events such as forest fires and wild fires, flooding, tornadoes, and plow winds, are just a few examples of state of emergency events that form an ever-present threat to First Nation communities.

Other vital aspects of Emergency Management that are an operational challenge include: search and rescue, search and recovery, and community evacuations. These are costly operations that disrupt and impact upon the daily lives of First Nation communities affected.

Total costs related to fires damaging infrastructure or housing bear a tremendous strain to First Nations already dealing with major social issues. Issues such as suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and other social-infrastructure challenges related to poverty and chronic under-funding by federal authorities place a tremendous strain upon First Nations.

Most recently the current Covid 19 Pandemic, has arisen to pose the most significant and profound threat to First Nation's health, safety and well-being.

Now more than ever, emergency management is of critical concern for Saskatchewan First Nations. Not only a concern in terms of inter-agency structural challenges, but also access to resources, funding and programming, and response effectiveness to First Nations. The Covid 19 Pandemic has shone a spotlight on the nature of emergency issues and challenges First Nation communities face every day.

It is essential for effective emergency management that the key elements of preparation and communication are fully realized. With these goals in mind, FSIN Emergency Management has endeavored to engage First Nations members and leadership, as well as Federal and Provincial governing agencies to determine areas that need to be addressed.

Although the fiscal year reporting is from May 2019 to May 2020, this report is current up to Sept 22/2020 in order to include ongoing challenges and achievements of FSIN Emergency Management during the Covid 19 pandemic. All Financial Reporting is provided in the appendix of this report.

The following is a draft description of FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat Response issues related First Nations Emergency Management related issues and considerations;

1.1) FSIN Draft -Treaty Implementation Contextual Vision Statement:

"Our vision is that our First Nation Member Nations will continue to live or reside in the exercise of our right upon our treaty territories, and the land we share.

Treaty First Nations shall continue as natural stewards upon this land and territories as we have since time immemorial

Treaty First Nations peoples will continue to be self-determining and economically independent and vibrant, in the exercise of all our Treaty / Inherent Rights.

Treaty First Nations will continue to walk in health and happiness with strength, unity, balance and according to our oral traditions and of our shared history as sovereign nations, and as bestowed by the Creator and as affirmed by the various Treaties of FSIN Member Nations."

1.2) FSIN Draft Emergency Management Mission Statement:

"Our mission in addressing First Nations Emergency Management fulfilling our treaty obligations, is that our government and institutions will serve and benefit every citizen of every First Nation in a fair and just manner, based on our distinct culture, laws and customs, according to the spirit and intent of treaty."

1.3) FSIN Formal Emergency Management Mandate:

"To engage and support First Nations (Leadership) on their aspirations towards jurisdiction and control in the area of Emergency Management."

2.0) BACKGROUND OF FSIN CHIEFS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE:

The FSIN was mandated to formally engage with First Nations leadership and communities on all aspects of emergency management response readiness and associated underlying issues, as per FSIN Legislative Assembly Res. No. 2083, May 24, 2018.

It should also be stated that with historical mandate of the FSIN, our organization also has a moral responsibility and obligation to undertake any effort to ensure the health and safety of First Nations and ensure these are protected according to the direction of FSIN First Nation Members. This is the generally accepted and understood mandate of all FSIN boards and commissions and subcommittees.

Furthermore, the FSIN also brings to bear a focus upon Emergency Management, which utilizes the four pillars of Emergency Management in gauging operational capacity and readiness of First Nations and Tribal Councils in response to emergency management. The four pillars of emergency management are described as follows:

- **Mitigation**- actions and measures taken to minimize damage in the event of a State of Emergency.
- **Prevention**- actions and measures taken to minimize and prevent harm to members and/or damages to homes and infrastructure.
- **Response**- actions and measures taken to directly respond to emergency events.
- **Recovery**- actions and measures taken to recover and rebuild from state of emergency events.

In addition to these pillars, FSIN Emergency Management adheres to the following principles prescribed by the FSIN Convention Action and associated mandates:

2.1) FSIN mandate, Part III (Purpose) of the FSIN Convention Act, which pronounces the general purpose(s) of the FSIN;

- Establish an organization that will uphold the jurisdiction of each member First Nation government over its lands, resources, and citizens regardless of residency.
- Assert the Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nation citizens.
- Confirm that the provisions contained in this (Convention) Act recognizes the jurisdiction and political autonomy of each member First Nation government and their Treaty, Tribal, Agency and Grand Council organizations.
- Confirm that the allocation of Inherent Rights, or Treaty rights shall apply equally to each member First Nation government and their members.

- Establish that the governance and organizational structures and processes created under this Act will be based on First Nations laws, customs and traditions.
- Strengthen the status of each member First Nation governments through collective and cooperative action for the political, economic, social, and cultural development of each member First Nation.

2.2) FSIN Emergency Management Mandate and Creation of Chiefs Task Force: (FSIN Resolution 2083, May 24, 2018)

- Gauge First Nation jurisdictional aspirations and assertion of Treaty Rights and implementation.
- To determine Saskatchewan First Nation state of readiness to effectively respond to State of Emergency events
- To create an official record of Saskatchewan First Nation experience with State of Emergency events.
- To guarantee consistent engagement with First Nations so that effective and efficient Emergency Management practices and communication are achieved, the following initiatives have been put forth:
- Task Force was created to address ongoing concerns of First Nation directly affected by State of Emergency event situations through FSIN Chiefs in assembly resolution 2083, May 24, 2018.
- FSIN Emergency Management delivered engagement sessions for First Nation leaders and members, over the period covering November, 2018 to March 2019.

Through these engagements, FSIN Emergency Management heard first-hand concerns and challenges facing First Nations regarding emergency events. The formal engagement formed the basis for the FSIN May 22, 2019 Emergency Management Report and Recommendations.

3.0) BACKGROUND OF FSIN CHIEFS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE MEETINGS AND CONTINUING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT:

The FSIN Chiefs Emergency Management Task Force is comprised of the following members:

- ❖ Chief Peter Beatty, Peter Ballantyne First Nation
- ❖ Chief Jerry Bernard, English River First Nation (Formerly Chief Lawrence McIntyre)
- ❖ Chief Joyce Naytowhow-Mcleod, Montreal Lake First Nation, (Formerly Chief Frank Roberts)
- ❖ Chief Daryl Watson, Mistawasis Nehiyawak
- ❖ Chief Calvin Straightnose, Keeseekoose First Nation
- ❖ Chief Alvin Francis, Nekaneet First Nation
- ❖ Chief Brady O'Watch, Carry-the-Kettle First Nation

According to FSIN Convention Act principles, the current composition of the task force does not represent or meet the requirements for full representation of all Tribal Councils for a commission or secretariat.

3.1) Pandemic Impact Upon Continuing FSIN Engagement & Organization:

Recommendation Number 3 of the May 22, 2019 FSIN Emergency Management Report and Recommendations called for the formal continuation of engagement with First Nations. This was due to the complex array of services and programs directly or indirectly associated with the organizational and inter-governmental aspects of First Nations emergency management.

The FSIN is an organization that is essentially and historically an organization built upon sound engagement with First Nation communities and leadership. It should be noted for the presentation of this report that the impact of the current pandemic to First Nation communities and also across the world has presented an unprecedented challenge to our communities, our organizations, and also upon our personal daily lives. The total human toll and community impacts are yet to be fully determined.

The most critical issues to track in any final tally of cost associated with pandemic impacts are listed as follows;

- Total Numbers of First Nations Infected - Recovery/Mortality Rates
- Health Related Costs Including Addictions and Recovery
- Financial Impact to First Nations Organizations, Services
- Other items related to First Nations Emergency Management

3.2) Summary of Most Critical Issues Related to First Nations Emergency Management

In spite of the current pandemic the most critical issues in the continuation of formal First Nations engagement for emergency management are listed as follows;

1. Amending the Letter of Understanding for First Nations Emergency Management Between Federal & Provincial and Governments.
2. Expand Capacity of First Nations & Tribal Councils Emergency Management Service Delivery.
3. Developing and Implementing a mutually suitable and structured network for First Nations Emergency Management programs and services and capacity.

3.3) FSIN Chiefs Emergency Management Task Force Meetings; Pre-Pandemic and Post Pandemic Onset:

Meetings have been held regularly, and as feasible during the current pandemic response.

Pre and Post Pandemic related Issues of concern discussed by Task Force are identified as follows;

3.4) Summary of Issues Identified through Task Force Meetings:

(All minutes and records of decisions are contained within the appendix of this report. The following is a general summary of identified and related concerns presented and discussed by the FSIN Chiefs Emergency Management Task Force);

Pre & Post Pandemic Onset Emergency Response:

- Ongoing concern over emergency management, including but not limited to fire response, flooding, community emergency evacuations and response, including search and recovery/rescue, missing persons, road closures, and food security.
- Urgent need to have an Emergency Task Force in place to assemble and respond to all emergency situations. This has been proven to be essential during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Urgent need to have the ability to establish and maintain Incident Command Center Operations, in conjunction with medical health authorities and First Nations Communities and Leadership, though never materialized.
- Communication streams that are accurate, thorough, and reliable.
- Command centers are essential to ensure that communication is received and exchanged with all stakeholders involved, in which meaningful consultation and engagement occurs to ensure adequate transparency and fairness to all First Nation members and citizens.

- First Nations and Tribal Councils are under-resourced to meet the fulsome challenge of all circumstances related to pandemic response management
- A streamlined standard approach to emergency situations across all First Nations is required for adequate response and communication and coordination and development of emergency management response measures.
- Response to the suicide and addiction epidemic should be a part of emergency management the same as any other situation that would overwhelm community resources.

PPE Distribution: (Post Pandemic Onset)

- Distribution should be provided for both Urban and On-reserve members.
- Efforts for obtaining adequate amounts PPE must be carried out on an on-going basis.
- 16000 children expected to be returning to First Nations (on reserve schools) this fall. Discussion occurred to address adequate PPE to protect students and to ensure they are not disadvantaged further by the pandemic.

Food Security and Food Sovereignty (Post Pandemic Onset)

- Food Security is related to issues associated with disrupted food supply chains.
- During pandemic related response to food security and distribution especially to the north, was a critical concern especially with shortages and delivery issues.
- The importance of providing food security during the pandemic was a grave concern.
- Establishing secure and reliable food security networks was identified as an emergency response concern.
- Establishing and Creating Back to Traditional ways of Hunting and Fishing and Trapping is a viable manner of providing some subsistence for vulnerable community members.
- Planting gardens and growing crops coupled with cattle and poultry production and processing within the First Nation community was also discussed as a possible response to food security concerns.
- Additional positive spinoffs would also include nurturing industry and creating work programs for community benefit.

Urban-Off Reserve members (Post Pandemic Onset)

- Efforts should ensure the needs of urban First Nation members needs are met in an acceptable manner during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Food and PPE and Food Security shipment and delivery has been distributed in partnership with Tribal Council and First Nations.
- Communication efforts should be made to include urban First Nations membership.

RCMP consultations/ First Nation Security (Post Pandemic Pandemic)

- RCMP severe staffing shortages,
- the RCMP slow or non- response to community safety calls,
- regular policing and Offenders being released from custody into the community.

- That concern has been heightened as more offenders are being released during the covid-19 pandemic and returning to the community with no prior consultation with the Chief and Council.
- Members have expressed the need for allotted funding for trained Peacekeepers on the FN to assist in the response and de-escalation of crisis situations.
- need for strategic planning including search and rescue, including other response applications.

Alcohol and Drug Related Statistical Data (Post Pandemic Onset)

- Alcohol related abuse and community effects are significantly increased during the current pandemic.
- Drug abuse and overdose levels have vastly increased.
- Drug Overdose deaths are much higher than Covid-19 coronavirus deaths by a factor of almost 10 to 1.
- Prior to the onset of the pandemic, drug abuse and overdoses have overwhelmed many communities, particularly in regions where rates are higher. The onset of the pandemic, has aggravated these numbers, due to associated with isolation, extra monies available through the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit.
- Mental Health and Addictions services have been severely impacted and reduced during the pandemic.

Fire & Flood Response & Evacuations (Pre-Pandemic)

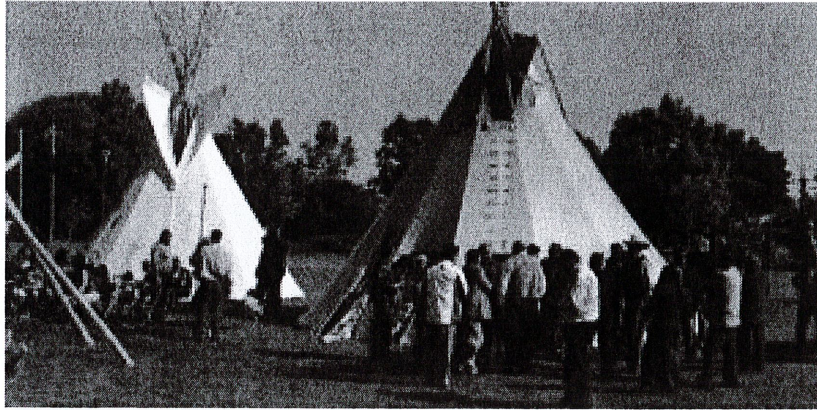
- Much attention has been provided by the task force to these issues.
- Consideration has been given to the matter of community evacuations.
- Issues and concerns remain outstanding with regard to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program.
- Flood related issues remain for communities such as Red Earth Cree Nation and Lac La Ronge Indian Band.
- SFNEM has developed a suite of programs in relation to training and coordination of First Nation communities.

Environmental Emergencies and Concerns

- Issues related to the environment were raised as possible state of emergency-response events, especially as related to train-derailments and possible contamination of water table sources for First Nations.
- Previously the FSIN has been involved in coordinated response to Husky Oil spill in mid-northern Saskatchewan of 2016.
- Some emergency response capacity must be considered for the protection of water and environment.

Search & Rescue/Recovery Concerns

- SFNEM has also developed capacity to deliver many aspects of search and rescue/recovery for First Nations.
- Clarity in jurisdictional control and responsibility is required for further development and expansion.



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4.0) SUMMARY OF FSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, MAY 22, 2019:

Examination and recap analysis of the prior FSIN Emergency Management

Recommendations are relevant to the presentation of this report and are summarized as follows:

4.1) Address Funding gaps: (Recommendation Number 1, Number 2)

- Recommend a prioritized bi-lateral funding directly to First Nations;
- Recommend funding structures and priorities by ISC, including funding for FN firefighters

4.2) Continued Formal First Nation Engagement: (Recommendation Number 3, 12)

- Recommend clarification of costs, mandates, and roles of governmental and non-governmental roles
- Create Terms of Reference for FN emergency management, and establish FSIN Technical Advisory group (Sask/Regional)
- All-hazard approach to emergency management that includes social issues such as suicide and addiction.

4.3) Continued Formal Engagement on Resource Capacity: (Recommendation Number 8, 12)

- To examine Response, Recovery, Mitigation, Prevention-Housing & Infrastructure expenses and track costs and/or possible costs related to the four pillars of emergency management and First Nations communities.
- Capital projects investment review should take place under the guidance of First Nations engagement with First Nations communities, leadership and related staff.
- Creation of Mutual aid assistance agreements: continued First Nations engagement
- Generated data to form part of the background and understanding in creation and establishment of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between FSIN, ISC, Province, or emergency management agencies.
- Development of Emergency Management programs, services and response structures, with the creation of an advisory group (secretariat) to facilitate these practices.
- Incorporate global warming and climate change elements to emergency management engagement programming

4.4) Continued Engagement in relation to Firefighting Services (Recommendation 13)

- Further engagement is required with all stakeholders and communities.
- Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management has spearheaded most aspects of emergency management fire response due to the first hand experience with forest fires and evacuations.
- Related discussion and developments are ongoing.

4.5) Continued Engagement in relation to Global Warming/Climate Change (Recommendation 11)

- Further engagement required.
- Related discussion has taken place in regards to issues of food security and pandemic matters.

4.6) Continued Engagement on the creation and establishment of a formal First Nations Technical Advisory Working Group (Recommendation 4)

- Addressing the viable creation and establishment of a Technical Advisory Working Group for First Nations Emergency Management is contained within the presentation of this report.

4.7) Crafting and Implementation of a regional/provincial First Nations Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding (Recommendation No. 9 &10)

- The recommendation contemplated the need for First Nations to have clarity and understanding of the required needs for improved emergency management structures and regimes affecting First Nations in Saskatchewan.
- The implementation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding would replace the current Letter of Understanding for First Nations Emergency Management, with parameters that are disclosed and approved in a manner acceptable to all First Nations.
- The Memorandum of Understanding would also form the basis and understanding from which Mutual Aid Agreements would be implemented at First Nations and surrounding communities, as per recommendation No. 9.

5.0) BACKGROUND OF FSIN COVID 19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE:

In March of 2020 the FSIN Emergency Response Task Force was faced with a new and uncertain battle, with onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Through the active and dedicated deliberations of the FSIN Emergency Management Task Force, the FSIN recognizes that First Nations people and communities bear a particular vulnerability and danger from the Covid-19 virus within their immediate communities. The Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing and active crisis facing all indigenous communities across Canada, and throughout the world.

5.1) Factors Complicating First Nations Emergency Response

Regarding prior FSIN Emergency Management Engagement, response and related discussions it has been clearly communicated by participants, that emergency management issues are further complicated due to a wide range of common factors. These include but are not limited to the following;

- chronic lack of financial funding and security First Nations Infrastructure and Community programming,
- inadequate access to timely and effective medical support, due to a wide range of factors
- geographical barriers faced by First Nations Governments.
- Other issues as identified and discussed in this report.

These ongoing issues have been identified in the formal engagement the FSIN undertook in regards to First Nations Emergency Management. The information and the anecdotal data compiled from this engagement formed the basis of the FSIN 2018/2019 First Nations Emergency Management Report and Recommendations.

Providing adequate and effective due diligence and response to the issues and recommendations presented in the previous report is instrumental in working to ensure the long-term health and safety of all First Nations before, during and after all future state of emergency events impacting First Nation communities.

Furthermore, in regard to the FSIN's formal mandate with respect to emergency management, it should be noted in this report that the FSIN is currently well extended beyond the service of engagement. Indeed, it should be noted that engagement with leadership and communities is the basis of the organization's convention act. However, as a result of dire

necessity the FSIN has acted beyond its formal mandate of engagement, through providing a province wide response to the pandemic crisis beset upon us today.

5.2) Summary of FSIN Pandemic Emergency Response

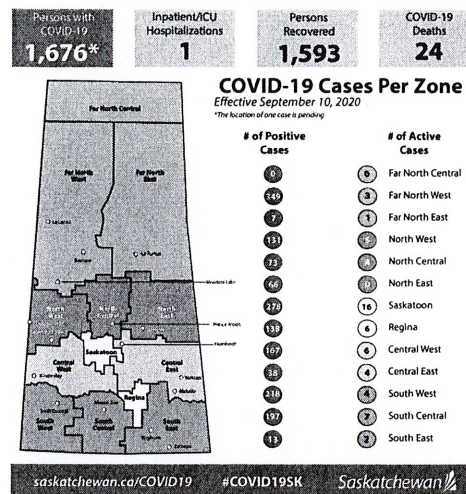
Accordingly, during the current crisis, the FSIN maintained an active response and effective communication in the rapid, and ever changing pandemic environment. The FSIN has endeavored to provide timely, relevant, and practical response to First Nation concerns and has been carried out through:

1. Regular Meetings of FSIN Chiefs Emergency Management Task Force.
2. Direct E-Mail Communications with all Sask. Region First Nation Chiefs.
3. 1-800 Helpline Communications with FSIN First Nations Band Members in On-Reserve and Urban Populations.
4. Social Media and Website Communications directly related to Covid-19 Response and Related Developments.
5. Inter-Agency Governance Communications and Coordination of First Nations and Federal Government representatives.
6. has diligently tracked Covid-19 cases in the province and First Nations.
7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Provision to all Sask. Region First Nations.
8. Food Security Distribution
9. Cultural & Community Events-Pandemic Support

The FSIN Emergency Management Department, in conjunction with the FSIN Office of the Chief have strived to ensure that all information and timely response has been provided to all FSIN First Nation Member Chiefs Emergency Management concerns. Much of this information has been provided in whole or in part by professionals in how to safely endure with adequate safety precautions for the duration of the pandemic.

The FSIN has also responded to the Covid- 19 crisis by directly supplying First Nations, Tribal Councils, First Nation schools with much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Provision of PPE has also been provided in support of community and cultural events.

Some examples of these events include First Nation Rodeos, a Legislative Walk in Support of Suicide, Cultural Ceremony Events, and Funerals and Wakes. It is generally accepted that for the protection of mental health and general wellness of community, that these types of events must continue in a safe manner.



Given the daunting task of forming an effective response to the pandemic FSIN Emergency Management staff and executive have directly responded by supplying PPE, providing food security, and accurate information and communication to all Sask. Region First Nations.

5.3) FSIN PPE Distribution Summary:

Given the state of widespread office closures and self-quarantine and community closures, delivery of PPE and food security was hampered. In many circumstances direct communication by phone was the only form of communication for coordinating delivery of products. It should be noted that this delivery could not have been carried out to the degree it has been without the implicit and direct communication with First Nations leadership and other dedicated community members.

Over 2.2 million pieces of PPE has been distributed across Saskatchewan, and approximately a million dollars-worth of Food Security and Sanitary Items. As of September 2020, the FSIN Emergency Management COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team has secured and distributed the following aid:

- 10 semi loads of food and cleaning supplies
- 1,390,000 barrier masks
- 755,000 protective gloves
- 50,000 disposable hospital gowns
- 1,000 thermometers
- 11,000 litres of hand sanitizer
- 2,200 face shields

These supplies have been delivered by FSIN staff since the pandemic struck us in March. The volunteer drivers have driven through rainstorms and windstorms and some have even gotten stuck in the mud along the way. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our First Nation communities for all their hard work and commitment, and for putting their own health and safety at risk to ensure the potentially life-saving supplies made it to your communities.

The FSIN is committed to bringing PPE to all Sask. Region First Nation communities throughout the pandemic as we face an anticipate second and third waves. The FSIN shall continue to provide to First Nations, Tribal Councils, First Nation schools and community events Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other appropriate materials to combat the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

5.4) FSIN Pandemic Timeline of PPE Distribution:

The supply to First Nations of PPE has been conducted throughout the preceding months as the FSIN was able to secure PPE and coordinate the distribution to the First Nations and community organizations.

- Distribution of PPE to the First Nations commenced on various dates ranging from April 28th being the first delivered, to the current date of October 8, 2020.
- The supply to FN of PPE has continued preceding months as the FSIN was effectively able to secure PPE and coordinate the distribution to the First Nations and community organizations.
- The chart below displays the type of PPE supplied and the total unit amounts secured and distributed as of September 18th 2020;

Non-Medical grade Masks	K-N95 Masks	Youth/Child Masks	Gloves	Sanitr 50ml	Sanitizer 235ml
1668994	10350	99500	975700	19779	2672
Sanitizer 500ml	Sanitizer 1 liter	Face Shields	Gowns	Thermometers	

9248	3765	1955	49846	965
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5.5) FSIN Food Security and Distribution:

Food acquisition became a part of the FSIN's Covid-19 pandemic response. This became increasingly important due to a number of factors as listed;

- At the beginning of the pandemic supply chains were intermittent, food supply was decreasing, costs were increasing and lock downs and social distancing came into effect.
- At the beginning of the pandemic FSIN purchased directly from a wholesaler and delivered directly to the Tribal Councils for First Nations use \$400,000,00 worth of Food Security and Sanitary Items.
- In August 2020 the FSIN Emergency Management Task Force purchased and delivered \$500 000 worth of non-perishable foods items including canned meats, preserved fruit, evaporated milk, flour, cereal and more. Further, the FSIN secured and delivered essential cleaning supplies such as hand and dish soap.

As an example FSIN Food Security Provision and delivery, the chart below represents the Units of food and cleaning supplies purchased and distributed in the month of August;
(*Please note that a full listing of FSIN purchased and distributed products are contained within the appendix of this report)

Baking Powder	720	Fresh Plus Grape Juice	2400	Spaghetti	300
Beef Ravioli	4800	Fruit Cocktail	7200	Heinz Alphaghetti Pasta	4800
Chicken Noodle Soup	3600	Fruit Peach Slices	7272	Heinz Beans Tomato Sauce	4800
Instant Coffee	4000	Fruit Pear Halves	7104	Luncheon Meat	7920
Flakes of Ham	5136	Fruit Roll Ups Berry	2250	Hunts Spaghetti Pasta	3000
Flakes of Turkey	5520	Fruit Roll Ups Tropical	2250	Kelloggs Froot Loops Cereal	1200
Flakes of Chicken	5040	GM Cheerios Honey	2650	Kelloggs MiniWheats	600
Fresh Plus Cherry Juice	2400	Elbow Macaroni	300	Lifebouy Hand soap Lemon	336

Lifebouy Hand soap Mild	312	Motts Fruit Cups Apple	2400	NutriGrain Bar Mixed B.	3200
Lifebuoy Hand soap Natural	336	Motts Fruit Cups Blueberry	2400	NutriGrain Bar Straw.	3200
ML Flakes of Chicken	3960	Motts Fruit Cups Peach	2400	Pacific Evap. Milk	8400
ML Flakes of Ham	3864	Motts Fruit Cups Pom.	2400	Pacific Skim Milk	500
ML Flakes of Turkey	3480	NutriGrain Bar Blue.	3200	Goldfish Crackers	30000
Flour	1000	Quick Oats	500	Canola Oil	3000
Sunlight dishsoap	1600	Sunrype Apple Orange Juice	776	Sunrype Apple Blueberry Juice	2824
Sunrype Orange Juice unsweetened	3600	Sunrype Orange Juice sweetened	2800	Sunrype Apple Juice	3600
Toilet Paper	12000	Tomato Soup	3600	White Rice	400

5.6) FSIN Pandemic Response & Communications:

The FSIN also initiated communications directly related to the pandemic to First Nations through the implementation of a Covid-19 Hotline. The helpline has been in operation since the inception of the Covid-19 pandemic and has provided a valuable service to all First Nation members in the On-Reserve and Urban communities.

Through active engagement with the FSIN Emergency Management Task Force and active response to the current world-wide Covid-19 Pandemic, FSIN has determined that;

- During the Covid-19 pandemic accurate and up-to-date communication is increasingly vital to First Nations Communities and Leadership.
- The FSIN has determined that central communication amongst Saskatchewan's First Nations through a variety of methods, including direct First Nations Chiefs Communiques, Bulletins and other notices is vital to actively combating the pandemic.

- The FSIN has continues to operate an Emergency Management Toll-Free Information and Resource Line.
- The number is 1-888-833-8885 and is open to calls daily from 9:00am to 9:00pm.
- The number is posted on the FSIN website and the Province of Saskatchewan website. The number was well received and utilized not only by First Nations members but also by general members of the public unable to get through to provincially operated helplines.
- The general public used the Hotline for Covid-19 related concerns many stating that they were not able to connect through the Provincial based information number.
- Regular Covid-19 updates posted on the FSIN website and Social Media (Facebook).
- FSIN Emergency Management staff attend a multitude of virtual meetings related to the pandemic.
- FSIN provides regular communications of the most urgent pandemic related information to all FSIN Member Nation Chief and Councils.
- Posters designed by Health Canada are distributed for display in most, if not all First Nation Band Administration public offices providing education on best Covid-19 safe practices.

5.7) FSIN Cultural & Community Support During Covid-19 Pandemic

During the pandemic the emergency management team had determined that there is a lack of support to the first Nations ceremonies and other gatherings including Rain dance, Sweat lodge ceremonies, feasts and funerals.

Where there were scheduled to be larger gatherings like the rain dance and sun dance ceremonies, wash stations and personal protective equipment (PPE) were provided in support of community events. The communities that received the PPE and wash stations were;

- Peepeekisis First Nation
- Okanese First Nation
- Carry the Kettle First Nation (Rain Dance and Horse Dance ceremonies)
- Piapot First Nation
- Nekaneet First Nation
- Big River First Nation
- Peepeekisis First Nation land base healing cultural camp Sept 22-25, 2020
- Kiniston First Nation
- Keesekoose First Nation
- Chacachas First Nation rodeo
- Ochapowace First Nation rodeo
- Kahktawistahaw First Nation rodeo

Most of the raindance ceremonies were hosted in June and July, 2020 and the PPE was distributed from early June, 2020 up to the present date of October. These gatherings were hosted outdoors and used precautionary measures to ensure the

safety of their elders and community members. The rodeos and one day Pow-wows used thermometers to check each individual attending and complied with the number of people allowed at gatherings of 150 people.

5.8) Cultural and Community Event Food Hampers

The extra food hampers were distributed to various individuals across Saskatchewan who either host rain dance ceremonies, sweat lodge ceremonies, feasts, horse dance ceremonies and funerals/wakes. Some of the communities and individuals that received hampers included:

Peepeekisis First Nation
Okanese First Nation
Atahkakoop First Nation
Keesekoose First Nation
Yellow Quill First Nation
Big River First Nation
Piapot First Nation

Mistawasis First Nation
Starblanket First Nation
Carry The Kettle First Nation
Cote First Nation
Kiniston First Nation
Muscowpetung First Nation
Black Lake First Nation

Because of the sacredness of our ceremonies and the protocols surrounding these ceremonies pictures and cameras including phones are not allowed. Also because of the respect of the families during the funeral's pictures were not included for these functions.

The communities and individuals that received help for their ceremonies or events are grateful for the pandemic support, especially those performing the much revered traditional rain dance and feasts. It is recognized that these events require some financial support and resources due to long hours of planning and work though-out the whole year.

The importance of continuing these ceremonies and cultural events is to protect and promote our identity as distinct Nations here in Saskatchewan and the world. FSIN shall endeavor to continue this important work with all First Nations in dedication and promotion of First Nations customs and cultural preservation.

6.0) SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FIRST NATIONS ISSUES & CONCERNS OCTOBER 8TH, 2020:

Emergency events bear a tremendous strain upon First Nations human and capital resources. They also cause a direct and dramatic disruption to the everyday quality of life for First Nation citizens affected. In order to ensure the best possible practices to ensure the health and safety of First Nation communities, all agencies and governments must act upon the concerns and challenges First Nation communities face in emergency management.

Through the FSIN Emergency Task Force meetings and ongoing First Nation engagement and communication, several issues have become evident. As a result, FSIN Emergency Management, and Office of the Chief, hereby presents a list of recommended actions aimed at addressing and resolving current issues, and improving emergency management services and representation to all First Nation communities.

The most-timely and critical of these, are the following;

6.1) Establish FSIN First Nations Emergency Management Secretariat/Commission

- To respond to the need for an identified and coordinated network of widespread emergency response mechanisms of programs and service delivery to First Nations and to coordinate the development and implementation of such mechanisms
- To be established in order to address political/jurisdictional/treaty/departmental considerations of First Nations Emergency Management.
- To be carried out within alignment and correlation to the creation and establishment of FSIN Technical Advisory Body/Working Group.
- FSIN Emergency Management Commission to consist of Tribal Council/Grand Council/Independent First Nation or Agency otherwise identified and/or accepted.
- To develop and implement strategies or programs to address and better serve First Nations Emergency Management needs and interests.
- In correlation and conjunction with proposed FSIN Emergency Management Technical Advisory Group, monitor Fire and Flood forecast and situations, for recommendation, communication and advisory purposes.
- In correlation and conjunction with proposed FSIN Technical Advisory Group monitor, address and/or advise First Nations and other relevant bodies of Insurance development matters that may affect First Nations Housing and Infrastructure protections or losses.

6.2) Establish a FSIN Emergency Management Technical Advisory Group for Saskatchewan Region Emergency Management.

- To consist of Tribal Council/Grand Council/Independent First Nation or Agency as otherwise identified and/or accepted

- To ensure that all technical and program supports and developments are in conjunction and collaboration with First Nations Jurisdiction and Political Leadership.
- To ensure that all technical and program developments and supports are made in respect of First Nations Autonomy, and in collaboration with First Nations leadership.
- To ensure that development of Emergency Management occurs in a uniform manner across all of Sask. Region First Nations.
- Would work in conjunction and correlation to the direction provided by the FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat/Commission.

6.3) Draft and Implement a Formal Revision of the current Letter of Understanding (LOU) for ISC Sask. Region/Province

- to demonstrate commitment to acknowledge and support the continuing capacity development and expansion of First Nation Emergency Management resources and structures both collectively and at the individual First Nations level.
- To include direct and formally recognized dialogue and input from First Nations regarding emergency management of First Nations with regard to any possible regimes and structures or arrangements.
- The formal discussion and resolve to craft and implement the revised Letter of Understanding should occur in correlation and collaboration with the proposed FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat/Commission.
- The formal accord and acceptance of this revision shall occur under the umbrella of a Memorandum of Understanding between First Nations (FSIN)/Canada/Province.

6.4) Establish a Formal FSIN Mandate of Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management Services (SFNEM)

- to provide First Nation Emergency Management Services to all Saskatchewan First Nations in partnership with Saskatchewan First Nations and Tribal Councils.
- Mandate to include the clarification of costs, mandates, and roles of governmental and non-governmental roles.
- Administrative Operations Center would continue to be housed directly by Prince Albert Grand Council and located in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, due to their central location, and their direct past experience in response to past emergency events such as wildfires and evacuations.
- Sub-offices or arrangements would be central consideration for the expansion of services contemplated by further considerations and development.
- Board of Governors for the SFNEM would include representation of all Tribal Council and at least one representative of Independent First Nations.

6.5) Acknowledge the critical aspect of social issues that are prevalent in First Nation communities and include them in the formulation of strategic response to Emergency Management in an All-Hazards approach to service First Nations more effectively. Some of these issues include;

- Substandard Housing is common at many First Nations due to inadequate funding for housing at First Nations.
- Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Counselling Programs accessibility were limited prior to the onset of the pandemic, and have since deteriorated significantly.
- Drug and Alcohol related abuse and deaths have increased during the current pandemic causing financial strain and emotional burden to First Nation communities.
- Other Health and Mental Health Related Concerns bear a significant impact upon First Nation communities in general.

6.6) Track the Pandemic Impacts upon First Nations Communities & Organizations

The current Covid-19 pandemic has impacted First Nation communities in many ways. To create an official record of these impacts the following issues are listed as items for future reporting;

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit
- Mental Health challenges
- Addictions & Counselling Services
- Domestic Abuse Services
- Child and Family Service Impacts
- Overdose & Drug Related Deaths
- Community Closures, Policing and Response

6.7) Continuing Engagement for First Nations Emergency Management, and the fulfillment of the recommendations contained within this report are made within the mandate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. More specifically they will continue to respect and align with:

- Inherent and Treaty rights implementation principles
- Self determination and jurisdiction to First nations
- 94 Truth and Reconciliation recommendations
- United nations declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples
- Free, prior and informed consent
- FSIN Consultation Policy

6.8) Providing Clarity, Transparency and Accountability of FSIN Emergency Management

- All Audit Information and Reporting Requirements for the previous fiscal year are attached in the appendix of this report.
- Due to the unprecedented nature of this report and pandemic response carried out by the FSIN, this report covers the period from May 22nd, 2019, up to the present day of October 8, 2020.
- A full account of actual 2020/2021 Pandemic Related Costs and Expenses cannot be provided until the next formally required audit period.

- Adopting the recommendations provided in this report would help to ensure clarity of processes and procedures with regard to expenses accrued.
- Procedural recommendations and guidelines would be defined to a greater operational extent providing clarity on all matters of transparency and accountability,

DRAFT

7.0) CONCLUSION: CONTINUING MEANINGFUL FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES AND REGIMES IMPACTING FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES:

The FSIN Office of the Chief, and FSIN Emergency Management has worked diligently to keep First Nations communities informed on the facts and issues directly related to emergency events such as the current pandemic. This action represents an on-going coordinated task as a lack of organizational funding and capacity is widespread. During the current pandemic the FSIN has continued to work diligently to ensure First Nations have the protection they need now and will strive to continue doing so in the future.

The FSIN recognizes that Emergency management represents a vital concern to all of Canada including First Nations. It is critical that all communities across the country be fairly and adequately prepared for all state of emergency events.

It is also important to note, the recommendations contained in this report are made within the mandate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. More specifically they respect and align with:

- Inherent/Treaty Rights implementation principles of the FSIN.
- Self determination and Jurisdiction of First Nations.
- 94 Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Free, prior and informed consent principles.

Active consideration of these principles would deliver more effective programming and Emergency Management services to First Nations communities. The FSIN, and the Provincial and Federal governments must work more closely together in order and response to effectively address and actively resolve First Nations emergency management related issues of concern.

It is important to note that currently, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is responsible for coordinating payment for Emergency Management and Response services on behalf of the Saskatchewan Region First Nations. ISC reimburses the province of Saskatchewan for Provincial Services and agencies utilized in First Nations emergency management and response.

The Federal/Provincial Letter of Understanding (LOU) remains as an outstanding issue of fiscal relations and governance that must be suitably addressed and resolved. The matter is most appropriately resolved through the involvement of all First Nations in Saskatchewan according to all generally accepted protocol of the FSIN Convention Act.

In short the establishment and creation of an FSIN Secretariat and Commission for Emergency Management is central to the advancement of First Nations emergency management interests, and the recommendations provided in prior reports and considerations.

First Nations leadership and members have communicated many ongoing concerns, with the current system and policies work and how this system has failed to meet their needs.

First Nations communities and organizations are still chronically under-resourced and under-serviced regarding Emergency Management. Despite this, FSIN Emergency Management has had much success with managing the Covid 19 Pandemic, as during this initial period of the crisis rates of infection were contained quickly. According to the government of Canada, Indigenous Services Canada Website, (Government of Canada (2020-09-17) Retrieved from [http: www.sac-isc.gc.ca](http://www.sac-isc.gc.ca)) as of July 31, 2020. Some initial findings of Covid-19 infection rates are as follows:

- The percentage of First Nations individuals living on reserve and reported positive for COVID-19 is currently one-quarter the rate of the general Canadian population.
- The COVID-19 case fatality rate for First Nations individuals living on reserve is about one-fifth that of the fatality rate in the general Canadian population.
- More than 80% of that testing positive for COVID-19 have recovered.
- As described in this report, in the Saskatchewan region, the FSIN has assisted in attaining these low numbers by taking direct action in response to pandemic matters.

For the purpose of creating an official record, this report would note that First Nations possess an Inherent and Treaty right to jurisdiction and control of services affecting their population and land base. As such, the direction and control of First Nations Emergency Management

along with the development and implementation of strategies and programs should be in the hands of First Nations.

Creating a First Nations Technical Advisory Board and Secretariat/Commission would represent an organizational development that truly signifies and corresponds to First Nations Reconciliation and jurisdictional consideration.

To ensure the health and safety of First Nations are protected and safeguarded now and in the future, a transformation is needed. The adoption of the recommendations provided in this report provided, will provide mechanisms to enable First Nation members and leaders to effectively achieve this objective.

7.1) FSIN Emergency Management 2020 Recommendations:

In conclusion it should be clearly noted that this report is based upon active engagement with First Nation Members of the FSIN. The formal recommendations provided through this report are presented as follows;

1. Establish FSIN First Nations Emergency Management Secretariat/Commission

- In order to address political/jurisdictional/treaty/departmental considerations of First Nations Emergency Management.
- To address the outstanding issue of the Letter of Understanding regarding First Nations Emergency Management and other related issues. (Inter-governmental, FSIN MOU, Mutual-Aid Agreements, etc.)
- To be carried out within alignment of the creation and establishment of FSIN Technical Advisory Body/Working Group.
- FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat/Commission to consist of Tribal Council/Grand Council representatives, and at least one Independent First Nation (mutually agreed to by Independent First Nations).
- To "Red-Flag" issues of concern regarding Emergency Management that must be resolved through inter-departmental/inter-governmental collaboration.
- Terms of Reference to developed.
- FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat and Commission would be housed and coordinated by the FSIN.
- The Technical Advisory Working Group would be coordinated in correlation and abeyance to the direction of the FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat /Commission.

2. Establish a FSIN Emergency Management Technical Advisory Group

- Create and establish a Saskatchewan Region Emergency Management Technical Advisory Body to work in conjunction and correlation with political leadership and advocacy.
- To be coordinated under the auspices and guidance of FSIN Emergency Management Secretariat and Commission.
- FSIN Technical Working Group to consist of Tribal Council/Grand Council/Independent First Nation or Agency otherwise.
- To “Red-Flag” issues of concern regarding Emergency Management that would be resolved through effective inter-departmental/inter-governmental collaboration.
- Terms of Reference to developed.

3. Expand the current composition of the FSIN Emergency Management Task Force

- to formally include the expressed representation and delegation of all Sask. Region First Nations, as grouped by their respective tribal council affiliation or locality.
- Independent First Nations are currently represented by Beardy’s-Okemasis First Nation, in the current task force composition.

4. Establish a Formal FSIN Mandate of Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management Services (SFNEM);

- to provide clarity and transparency in all First Nation Emergency Management Services provided to all Saskatchewan First Nations in partnership with Saskatchewan First Nations or Tribal Councils.
- Mandate to include the clarification of costs, and roles and procedures of governmental and non-governmental reimbursement processes and roles on behalf of Sask. Region First Nations.
- SFNEM to be steered by a formally re-established board of governors comprised of representation of all tribal councils, grand council, and at least one Independent First Nation.
- Administrative Operations would be centered out of Prince Albert, Sask. and housed out of Prince Albert Grand Council offices.
- Further sub-offices or operations as required would be housed at other Tribal Councils or Independent First Nations, along with appropriate and acceptable administrative arrangements.

5. A formal revision of the current Letter of Understanding (LOU) to express a shift to a formal Memorandum of Understanding and arrangement - between the Province of Saskatchewan and the Department of Indigenous Services Canada, and First Nations for Sask. Region First Nations Emergency Management should include the following elements;

- demonstrate commitment to acknowledge and support the continuing capacity development and expansion of First Nation Emergency Management resources and structures both collectively and at the individual First Nations level.
 - All related communications and revisions and structural changes to First Nations Emergency Management Funding shall form the basis for a formal Memorandum of Understanding for First Nations Emergency Management.
 - MOU shall include the 3 Governance parties of First Nations as represented by the FSIN, and the federal and provincial governments, and
 - shall be based upon active dialogue and agreement with First Nations, and related parties.
6. **Acknowledge the critical aspect of pressing social issues** that are prevalent in First Nation communities and include them in Emergency Management in an All-Hazards approach to service First Nations including but not limited to the following;
- Fentanyl or drug related deaths are occurring at an alarming rate and on a widespread basis across First Nation communities and cities in Saskatchewan.
 - Addictions Recovery and Counselling services are critical to reducing harm in First Nations communities.
 - First Nations funding in Housing and Infrastructure is chronically underfunded leading to other chronic poverty/health related issues.
 - Due to many factors, pressing or chronic poverty/health related issues complicate emergency management response effectiveness.
7. **Communicable Disease (HIV/Hepatitis/Syphilis/Fentanyl Deaths) - Implement a Formal Harm Reduction Strategy**
- Susceptibility to addictions and unhealthy lifestyles most often is rooted in traumatic events in early childhood, and is most commonly associated with poverty and related effects in individuals and families.
 - An outbreak for syphilis and HIV has been declared in the province for over a year now, and shows no sign of abatement.
 - The FSIN Emergency Management Department would propose to bring to bear on this social dilemma, the same strategy of PPE Distribution and Pandemic Response to this issue.
 - The FSIN would propose to distribute Harm Reduction Items such as Naloxone Kits and Sexual Contraceptives to combat the epidemic of death and harm from drug and unhealthy lifestyles.
 - This strategy would not be intended to replace any strategic initiatives that health authorities or departments are currently undertaking in the face of this crisis. Our only goal is to complement any strategies or programs already in place at this time.



Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
Office of the Chief - Emergency Management (449)
Schedule 17 - Schedule of Revenues and Expenses and Surplus (Deficit)

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020 (Unaudited)	2019 (Unaudited)
Revenues		
Indigenous Services Canada		
Funding (Q3FO-001)	166,100	271,170
Deferred	(60,194)	-
	105,906	271,170
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB (Q23X-001)	128,590	-
	234,496	271,170
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	101,162	62,134
Administration	37,810	40,676
Per diems	26,495	59,016
Consultants	21,250	29,200
Non-staff travel	21,237	46,278
Staff travel	16,704	10,692
Office rent	5,500	2,611
Fees and memberships	1,400	-
Telephone	1,341	679
Donations and sponsorships	1,000	6,952
Meeting rooms	516	3,479
Office supplies	81	1,595
Cultural events	-	4,335
First Nations and Tribal Councils	-	3,453
Bank charges and interest	-	70
	234,496	271,170
Surplus	-	-