

# ***Reimagining Emergency Management using the “Braided Approach”***

Our Gathering  
January 22, 2020  
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm  
Stanley Park Salon 3, Westin Bayshore



# *Introductions*

- First Nations Leadership Council-driven process
- Brent Langlois, First Nations Emergency Services Society
- Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Indian Band
- Anthony Moore, Nisga'a Lisims Government
- Jeremiah Louis, Takla Nation
- Lindsay Tighe, Nlaka'pamux Nation Health Services



# ***Emergency Management in BC: The status quo***

- Provincial and territorial governments have primary responsibility for emergency management though 90% of emergencies are managed by municipalities and communities
- Canada is responsible for reserve lands, and this responsibility is delegated to the Minister of ISC
- ISC supports emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery on-reserve, and has a service agreement with Emergency Management BC to ensure that First Nations have access to the provincial emergency management system
  - 10-year agreement done unilaterally without consultation with First Nations



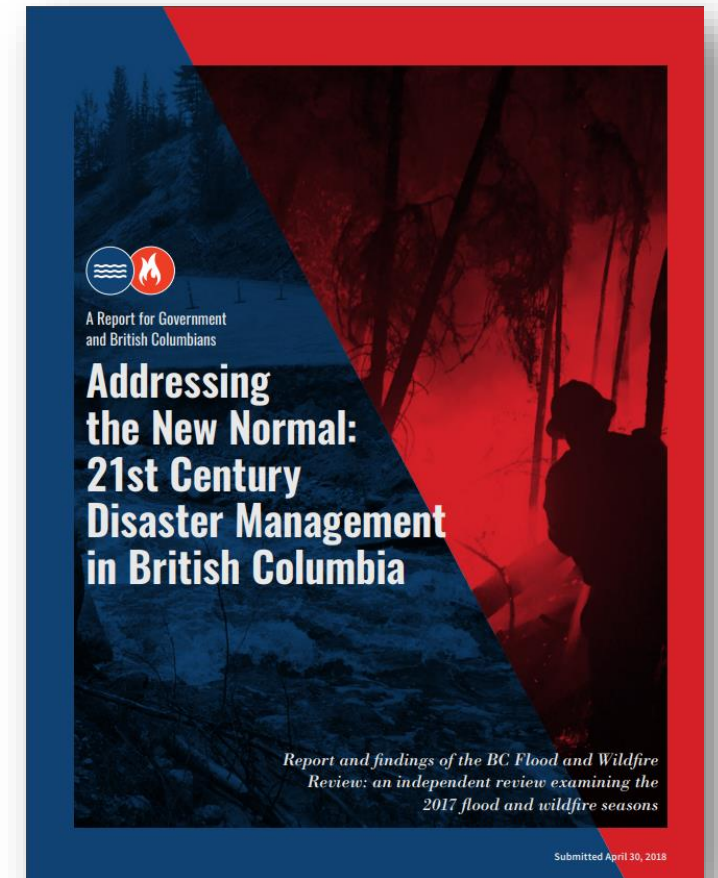
# *Experience from 2017 and 2018*

- Unprecedented flood and wildfire seasons in 2017 and 2018 disproportionately affected remote and First Nations traditional territories and communities.
- 15 First Nations communities were impacted by flooding in 2017, while 26 First Nations communities were impacted by wildfires.
- The 2017 wildfires broke all records in BC:
  - Burnt over 1.2 million hectares of land
  - Forced 65,000+ people to evacuate
- The 2018 wildfires surpassed the 2017 records in BC:
  - Burnt over 1.35 million hectares of land
  - Loss of homes, community infrastructure



# *Experience from 2017 and 2018*

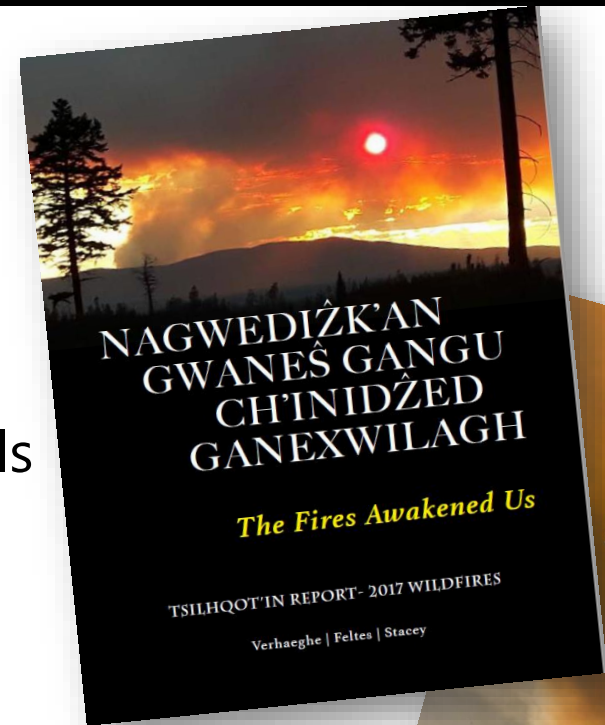
- Chapman/Abbott report (2018)
  - 108 Recommendations
    - Recognize First Nations jurisdiction on their own territories
    - Develop a toolkit for Indigenous communities and rural and remote communities
    - Establish centers of excellence in interior locations to support large-scale disaster response
  - BC Government action updates (2018, 2019)
    - BC moving forward with implementing recommendations





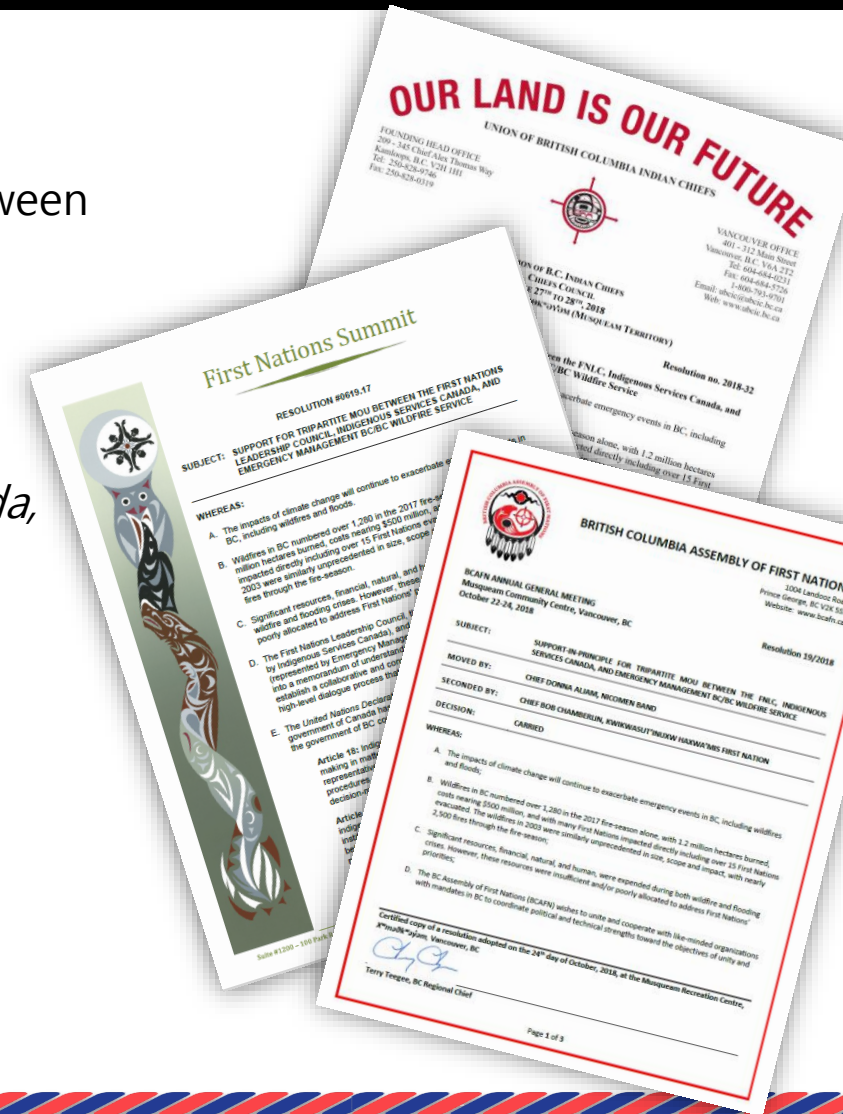
# *Experience from 2017 and 2018*

- Tsilhqot'in National Government report "The Fires Awakened Us."
  - 33 Calls to Action and detailed list of community specific needs
- Nadleh Whut'en report "Trial by Fire."
  - 49 recommendations and calls for improved protocols between provincial agencies and First Nations in BC



# Reimagining Emergency Management in BC

- Political appetite
  - *Resolutions:*
    - **BCAFN Resolution 19/2018:** Support-in-principle for Tripartite MOU Between FNLC, Indigenous Services Canada, and Emergency Management BC/BC Wildfire Service
    - **First Nations Summit Resolution #0619.17:** *Support For Tripartite MOU between FNLC, Indigenous Services Canada, and EMBC*
    - **UBCIC Resolution 2018-32 –** *Support-in-Principle for Tripartite MOU between the First Nations Leadership Council, Indigenous Services Canada, and Emergency Management BC/BC Wildfire Service*
    - **AFN Resolution 03/2015 –** *First Nation Involvement in Emergency Preparedness*
    - **AFN Resolution 94/2017-** *Support for the Immediate Inclusion of First Nations in the Development of Emergency Management Agreements*
- Practical need
  - Climate change threats and adaptation
  - First Nations vulnerability
  - Complex EM landscape with many players



# *Reimagining Emergency Management in BC*

- In 2018, BC adopted the Sendai Framework for Disasters Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
  - Reflects international best practices in emergency management
  - Calls for coordination with Indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards including the use of traditional Indigenous and local knowledge
  - BC first province in Canada to officially adopt the Framework
- BC in process of modernizing the *Emergency Program Act*
  - Act has remained in place with little substantive change since 1993
  - Looking to developing new relationships with Indigenous communities as partners in emergency management
  - New legislation expected Fall 2020 with a deadline of **January 31, 2020** for submissions
- Tripartite Emergency Management Services MOU (Canada, BC, FNLC)
- Bill 41: *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

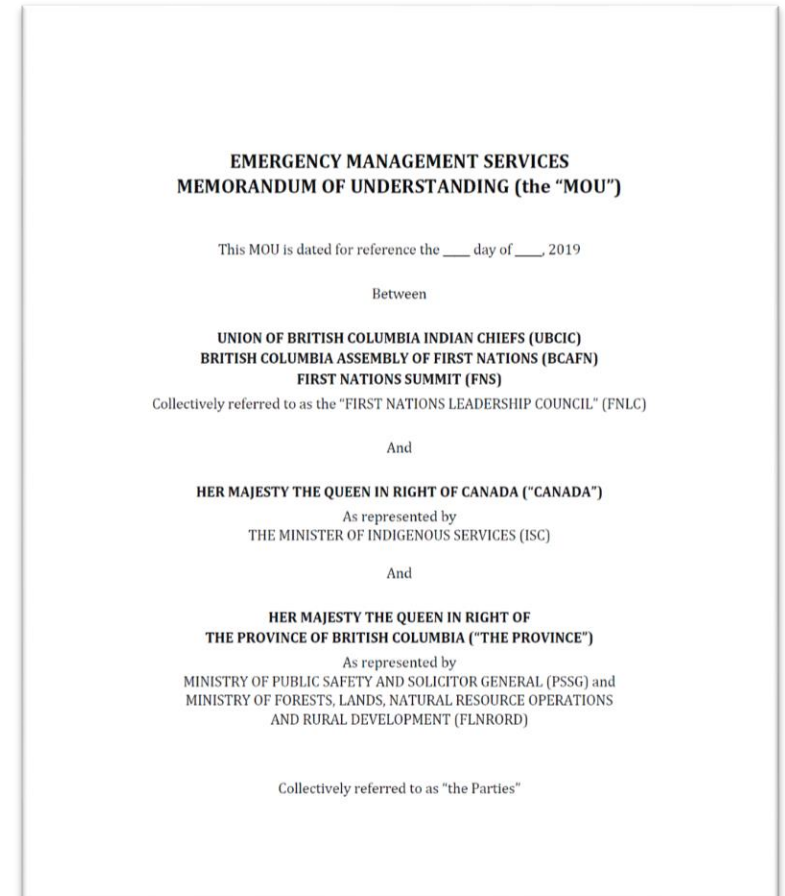


# ***Acknowledging First Nations successes***

- A number of First Nations have already entered into collaborative arrangements which represent a new approach to emergency management, including:
  - The Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement between the Tsilhqot'in National Government, Canada and BC
  - The Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Plan, which supports local governments, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, and the Westbank First Nation
  - The Tofino-Ahousaht Protocol Agreement on areas of mutual interest, including infrastructure, health and emergency planning
  - Nuxalk Nation, the Central Coast Regional District and BC MOU agreement to better co-ordinate efforts to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from emergencies in the Bella Coola Valley

# ***Tripartite Emergency Management MOU***

- Tripartite MOU signed April 2019
- Canada (Minister of ISC)
- British Columbia (Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General)
- FNLC (BCAFN, FNS, UBCIC)



# ***Emergency Management Services MOU: Goals***

- Recognition of First Nations existence in BC and the continued existence of inherent Aboriginal Title and Rights in BC and the inherent rights of self-determination and self-government according to UNDRIP
- Incorporating First Nations' traditional, evolving and invaluable knowledge into the practice, policy development, and decision-making around emergency management
- Improving overall emergency management capacity for the benefit of all British Columbians, including First Nations
- Supporting First Nations communities to respond, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change in order to reduce the impact of emergency events

# ***Working Group/Emergency Management Services Committee – Guiding Principles***

- Foster cross-sectoral collaboration to support high quality services and improve emergency management at the community-level
- Recognition of pre-existing Aboriginal Titles and Rights, including the right to self-determination
- Support emergency management approaches that are consistent with renewed relationships, implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the and respective 10 Principles of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia
- Building preventative, people-centred and culturally safe approaches to emergency management at all levels of government and across society



# ***Working Group/Emergency Management Services Committee – Guiding Principles (cont'd)***

- Respect for Indigenous knowledge, strategies to sustain the environment and safeguard communities in emergencies
- Ensuring that Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in matters that affect their rights, through representatives selected by themselves and in accordance with their own procedures, so as to ensure free, prior and informed consent is obtained before legislative or administrative measures are implemented that may affect them
- Regular dialogue between Canada, B.C., and the First Nations Leadership Council on issues of mutual interest and concern related to emergency management



# ***“The Braided Approach”***

- To create a framework for annual guided dialogue in British Columbia on how to facilitate the “braiding” of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing in relation to emergency management (from prevention, mitigation to recovery and response).
- The act of “braiding” is based on the work of Drs. Gloria Snively and Wanosts’a7 Lorna Williams (2016), *Knowing home: Braiding Indigenous Science with Western Science*.
- To provide an informational and operational based gathering to insure the inclusion of knowledge keepers of First Nations in BC.



# *Implementing the MOU: Next Steps*

- Committee Workplan being finalized and Committee work ramping up
- Province-wide technical and educational emergency management forum
- Submission to BC regarding the modernized BC EPA legislation



# ***Indigenous Knowledge Gathering and Emergency Management***

March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Lheidli T'enneh – Uda dune Baiyoh

House of Ancestors Conference Centre – Prince George

- Organized by FNESS in partnership with EMBC and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)
- Each First Nation will be invited to send their Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Emergency Program Coordinator or representative and Youth
- Travel, accommodation and meals will be provided
- Registration requests to [dgarnier@fness.bc.ca](mailto:dgarnier@fness.bc.ca)

# *Community Testimonials*

Sharing Best Practices, Opportunities and Challenges to Overcome:



**Chief Donna  
Aljam  
Nicomen Indian  
Band**



**Anthony Moore  
Nisga'a Lisims  
Government**



**Jeremiah Louis  
Takla Nation**



**Lindsay Tighe  
Nlaka'pamux  
Nation Health  
Services**





# *Thank you!*

## *Questions, Comments?*

