SHUSWAP EMERGENCY PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

TO:	Chair and Committee Members
SUBJECT:	Emergency and Disaster Management Act
DESCRIPTION:	Report from Tom Hansen, Emergency Program Coordinator, dated March 25, 2025.
RECOMMENDATION:	THAT: this report be received for information only.

BACKGROUND:

Shuswap Emergency Program (SEP) staff continue to consult the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) legislation requirements and associated regulations being developed when updating the various components of our emergency program to ensure compliance.

The Emergency Response and Recovery Plan is one of the major components being reviewed and updated to ensure it meets the new requirements from the EDMA. The new Shuswap Emergency Management Plan must include: all four phases of emergency management (Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery), Indigenous consultation and collaboration, how cultural safety will be maintained, consideration of the impacts of climate change on the various hazards identified for the Shuswap area, and business continuity planning. Future updates are anticipated as the associated Emergency and Disaster Management Regulations are completed by the province.

Another important component that requires a formal update is the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA). This project will require substantial time and resources including input from the various hazard lead agencies. SEP staff will be looking for assistance from a qualified contractor and funding from EMCR to cover costs. Our existing HRVA is still applicable, with the highest risks identified as Wildfires, Flooding and Landslides.

As part of the Emergency Management Plan update, we intend to modernize the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Shuswap Emergency Program staff are working with CSRD Information Technology staff to develop an EOC Dashboard for use by EOC staff during an emergency response. This EOC Dashboard will house all the required EOC resources organized in an easy-to-use format and include relevant forms, checklists, guides, policies, displays, and contact lists. The goal is to utilize new available technology to streamline access to the various EOC tools and improve the processes used. The new system will also be more resilient to disruption in local computer server systems, allowing EOC staff to access the EOC information and tools from anywhere there is an internet connection. Back up hardcopy tools will be retained as another option if needed.

A Disaster Debris Waste Management Plan, another requirement under EDMA, is currently being developed to guide our debris management recovery efforts during and after future emergencies.

The 2023 wildfire in the Shuswap resulted in an enormous amount of post wildfire debris and waste from homes and businesses that were destroyed. The challenge for First Nations, CSRD residents, businesses, local government and provincial agencies was how to clean up and properly dispose of all this material. CSRD Environmental Services staff worked with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff to develop solutions that included collection of damaged appliances for metal recycling, waiving tipping fees for certain residential debris, and garbage from the wildfire. Shuswap Emergency Program staff are working with CSRD Environmental Services staff to develop a Disaster Debris Waste Management Plan that incorporates lessons learned from previous events that can improve preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

NEXT STEPS:

SEP staff will continue work on the various parts of the emergency program that require updating due to this new legislation and the associated regulations. Once completed the updated plans will be shared with the SEP Executive Committee.

Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 2, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

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