

National Issue 143 May 2025

Wildfire evacuation information for Indigenous Peoples

In the event of a possible emergency evacuation, make sure you and your family are prepared. If there is an emergency event near your home or community, you should:

- monitor the emergency through radio, television or local social media accounts for warnings or information about evacuation plans
- be ready to exercise your <u>emergency plan</u>. Take your <u>emergency kit</u> and other essential items with you if an evacuation order is issued or you have to leave your home
- follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area

For First Nations or Inuit who are evacuated, here are a list of <u>supports available</u> to you. <u>After you've evacuated</u>, you should follow evacuation orders and stay outside the evacuation zone. For more information, visit <u>www.canada.ca/indigenousevacuations</u>.

Emergency Management Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness program

The <u>Emergency Management Assistance Program</u> (EMAP) provides funding to First Nations communities so they can build resiliency, prepare for natural hazards and respond to them using the 4 pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

EMAP supports non-structural mitigation and preparedness initiatives through the Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness funding stream. This stream is proposal-based and funds non-structural projects undertaken by First Nations communities on reserve to prepare for and mitigate emergencies caused by natural disasters.

The 2025 to 2026 period to submit proposals is now open. **Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is spent.** For more information, including <u>eligibility</u> and <u>how to apply</u>, please visit <u>Emergency Management Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness program.</u>

Introduction of a new bill to address some of the remaining inequities and band membership provisions of the *Indian Act*

On May 29, 2025, the Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services, announced the introduction of Bill S-2, An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements), in the Senate, which addresses some of the remaining inequities in the registration and band membership provisions of the Indian Act. Bill S-2 replaces former Bill C-38, which was introduced in December of 2022, but did not receive Royal Assent before Parliament was dissolved in March 2025.

Bill S-2 proposes amendments in four key areas: enfranchisement, voluntary deregistration, natal band reaffiliation and membership, and the removal of outdated and offensive language related to dependent persons. If passed, the legislation would ensure that individuals with family histories of enfranchisement are entitled to registration under the *Indian Act* and extend entitlement to their descendants.

For more information, please visit the <u>backgrounder</u> and <u>news release</u>.

HELP IS AVAILABLE WHENEVER YOU NEED IT.

Immediate support is available 24/7 for all Indigenous people in Canada.

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat 1-855-242-3310 or www.hopeforwellness.ca

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line
1-844-413-6649





The Emergency Management Assistance
Program supports wildland fire nonstructural mitigation and preparedness
initiatives through the FireSmart funding
stream. FireSmart builds skills in First
Nations communities to prevent and prepare
against wildland fires.

Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is exhausted. For more information, including eligibility and how to apply, please visit Emergency Management FireSmart program.

Explore the Indigenous Community Infrastructure projects across Canada

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned Indigenous Community Infrastructure Map. This enhanced tool offers new features and improved performance. Explore ISC-funded infrastructure projects across Canada with ease through innovative features, such as a new Featured Stories toggle that highlights photos and stories about specific projects in First Nation communities on reserve. Stay informed with project updates, financial investments and more.

Check out the latest updates and explore the map here.

Canada invests in Green Jobs for Youth

On May 28, 2025, the Government of Canada <u>announced \$15 million to create 470 employment and skills training opportunities for youth across Canada</u> in natural resources sectors including energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology. Through the <u>Science and Technology Internship Program (STIP) – Green Jobs</u>, employers in natural resources sectors can apply for funding to hire, train and mentor youth aged 15 to 30 for up to 12 months.

STIP – Green Jobs is part of the Government of Canada's <u>Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS)</u>, which supports youth in gaining the hands-on skills and experience they need to effectively transition into the labour market. Visit Natural Resources Canada's <u>STIP – Green Jobs</u> page to find out how to apply to be an employer or an intern.



Regional

Manitoba government declares state of emergency

As of May 28, 2025, the Manitoba government is declaring a provincewide state of emergency under the Emergency Measures Act, based on the recommendation from Manitoba's wildfire and emergency management officials. The state of emergency is initially in effect for 30 days once issued and may be extended if necessary. This ensures federal, provincial and local resources can be delivered in a co-ordinated response to help protect Manitobans.

All evacuees are urged to follow the instructions of the emergency alerts in their communities with specific instructions on how to make their way to safety. For more information, please visit Your Guide Through Emergencies and Disasters.

Air purifiers and air quality monitors available under EMAP

Smoke from wildfire can affect both your lungs and heart, and has been linked to <u>symptoms</u> such as chest pains, asthma attacks, an irregular heartbeat and even premature death. To help prevent these health impacts and meet the needs of <u>high risk community members</u>, portable <u>air purifiers may be an eligible expense</u> under the <u>Emergency Management Assistant Program</u> (EMAP).

Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada are also working to expand the wildfire smoke monitoring network by offering free air quality monitors to First Nation communities on request. An <u>air quality monitoring map</u> (AQMap) is publicly available to track air quality during wildfire smoke events.

For more information and to request air purifiers and air quality monitors for your community, please contact gestionurgencessantemb-mbhealthemergency@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Investing \$2 million in employment and training programs

The Manitoba government is <u>investing \$2 million to help 150 Manitobans facing employment barriers</u> access employment and training programs to gain the skills and qualifications needed to secure good jobs and a sustainable income. The investment includes funding to <u>BUILD Inc.</u>, an Indigenous non-profit social enterprise, to train and support individuals facing multiple employment barriers to secure long-term careers in the trades.

The Manitoba government is also providing funding to <u>Purpose Homes Construction Skills Training Program</u> to develop the next generation of tradespeople in Manitoba and increase diversity in the construction trades. An investment in <u>SEED Winnipeg's BEST program</u>, will provide low-income entrepreneurs including newcomers with the skills and support they need to launch successful businesses.

For more information, please visit the <u>news release</u>.

Taking action to make Indigenous women safer in Winnipeg

The Manitoba government is enhancing safety and support for Indigenous women in Winnipeg by providing more than \$350,000 through the Mino'Ayaawag Ikwewag Strategy to the Downtown Community Safety Partnership (DCSP) to establish a new Indigenous Women's Support Team. The new Indigenous Women's Support Team increases the presence of the DCSP in downtown Winnipeg to provide culturally safe supports and services for Indigenous women, providing increase response times and connections to resources for people in need.

For more information, please visit the <u>news release</u>.



MB Emergency: mb.emergency@sac-isc.gc.ca

ISC 24/7 duty officer: 1-855-850-4647

Report a wildfire: 1-800-782-0076

Report a hydro outage: 1-888-624-9376

Highway closure info: 511

Medical transportation: (Non-Insured Health Benefits)
1-877-983-0911

Canada