

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Reference: 641998

Blair Ireland  
Board Chair  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Email: [ireland@lakecountry.bc.ca](mailto:ireland@lakecountry.bc.ca)

Dear Blair Ireland:

I am writing to follow up on our meeting at this year's Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention on September 19, 2024. Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet with Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness representatives; it was good to hear first-hand the matters of importance to you and your community relating to year-round funding for Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) facility and training.

I want to acknowledge the impacts within the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) during the 2023 wildfire season and the support that RDCO communities have offered as host communities during other events.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), which is administered through UBCM, has a funding stream to support the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises. This funding stream can cover up to 100 percent of the cost of eligible project activities, with a maximum contribution of \$40,000 per applicant. Applications are currently being accepted until February 28, 2025. If you have questions on the CEPF, you may contact UBCM at [cepf@ubcm.ca](mailto:cepf@ubcm.ca) or (604) 270-8226 [ext. 220]. Additionally, EMCR staff are available at [EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca) to address any questions or concerns regarding this funding program.

Attached is a document outlining potential funding source. I also recommend checking the [Community Climate Funding Guide](#), a resource developed by our colleagues at the Ministries of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation and Environment and Climate Change Strategy, for other funding programs that may be able to provide support for your projects. For any funding-related questions or clarifications, please contact the funding programs team at [EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMCR.DisasterMitigation@gov.bc.ca).

EMCR partners with the Justice Institute of BC to provide online and in-person Emergency Management courses throughout each of the EMCR regions. Please reach out to Andrew Morrison, Senior Regional Manager, Central Regional Office, via email at [Andrew.morrison@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.morrison@gov.bc.ca), or by phone at 236-468-1784 to discuss training opportunities.

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Again, thank you to you and your delegation for taking the time to meet.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards  
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Programs Annex

CC: Andrew Morrison, Sr. Regional Manager, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness  
Jordan Coble, Board Director, Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Corie Griffiths, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Jodie Foster, Director of Communications, Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Kathleen Trivers, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Regional District of Central Okanagan