



ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

For Indigenous
Governments in BC





Economic Recovery for Indigenous Governments in BC

The core capability of economic recovery for Indigenous governments in British Columbia draws upon Indigenous communities' strengths, resources, and traditional knowledge, alongside external partnerships with federal, provincial, municipal, regional district, and private sector organizations. Indigenous governments are uniquely positioned to lead disaster recovery efforts that focus on their communities' cultural, social, and economic resilience. By integrating traditional practices with modern recovery methods, Indigenous governments aim to rebuild local economies in a way that sustains both economic opportunity and cultural integrity.

Indigenous economic recovery involves Elders, community leaders, Indigenous economic development corporations, and businesses. These stakeholders play a vital role in coordinating the costs of incidents and leading recovery efforts. Indigenous governments can enhance their capacity for economic recovery through pre-disaster planning rooted in community values, economic resilience, and the preservation of land and cultural practices. These recovery strategies emphasize rebuilding infrastructure and protecting cultural assets, supporting existing businesses, community well-being, and long-term economic sustainability.

Economic recovery efforts are bolstered by the collaboration of Indigenous governments with neighbouring local and regional governments, federal and provincial agencies, industry partners, and local organizations. Key issues in post-disaster recovery often involve capital access for rebuilding housing, businesses, and infrastructure, as well as uncertainties surrounding market conditions and long-term outcomes. Indigenous governments ensure that economic recovery efforts are inclusive, community-driven, and respectful of the rights and traditions of all community members. By leveraging the expertise of Indigenous economic development organizations and collaborating with neighbouring jurisdictions, Indigenous governments can lead an economic recovery that strengthens their nation's economies and cultural fabric.

Critical Tasks

- Aggregate and share economic impact data to assess the community's needs and identify barriers to economic recovery. This includes measuring the impacts on local businesses.
- Implement recovery strategies that blend traditional Indigenous practices with modern economic recovery tools, promoting collaboration with private and public sector partners.

Lead Organization, Key Partners and Roles

The following are just some of the key partners an Indigenous community should engage for economic recovery following a disaster. Each community's situation may be different in how economic development is managed, and as such, the following is only an example and should be designed by the community, for the community.

- **Lead Organization:** Economic Development Corporation or internal economic development function. It is important to appoint the organization generally responsible for the day-to-day economic development programs.

Indigenous communities in British Columbia should partner with various organizations and agencies to enhance their economic recovery efforts, drawing on Indigenous knowledge and external resources. Key partnerships should include, but are not limited to:

Federal and Provincial Government Agencies

- **Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC):** These agencies provide funding, resources, and technical support specifically targeted at Indigenous communities for disaster recovery and long-term resilience.
- **Emergency Management BC (EMBC):** The provincial agency offers support in coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts, including funding and recovery planning.

- **Natural Resources Canada (NRCan):** This agency provides expertise on rebuilding and land management, which is particularly important for communities affected by natural resource-based disasters like wildfires or floods.

Private Sector Partners

- **Local Businesses:** Engaging local Indigenous businesses to participate in rebuilding and recovery is critical for retaining economic activity within the community.
- **Industry Partners:** Large industries operating within or near Indigenous communities (such as forestry, mining, or tourism companies) can contribute resources, expertise, and financial support for recovery.

Indigenous Financial Institutions

- **First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA):** FNFA can provide access to capital for rebuilding infrastructure and businesses after a disaster, enabling quicker economic recovery.
- **Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs):** These institutions provide funding and financial services to Indigenous entrepreneurs and communities, supporting business recovery and new opportunities post-disaster.

Nonprofit and Charitable Organizations

- **Indigenous-led non-profit organizations:** Groups like the **First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)**, specializing in emergency management and recovery services, offer crucial guidance and technical support for Indigenous communities during recovery.
- **Canadian Red Cross:** They often provide disaster recovery funds and can collaborate with Indigenous communities to support short-term relief and long-term rebuilding efforts.

Academic Institutions and Research Bodies

- **First Nations Technology Council** and other Indigenous research organizations can help integrate technology and innovation into economic recovery planning.
- **Universities and Colleges:** Collaborating with academic institutions can bring research expertise, workforce development programs, and training opportunities to enhance recovery efforts and long-term community resilience.



Regional and Local Governments

- **Regional Districts and Municipal Governments:** Partnering with neighbouring non-Indigenous communities on shared recovery initiatives can be mutually beneficial, especially for infrastructure projects and shared economic development goals.
- **Local Economic Development Organizations (EDOs):** These organizations can provide access to business networks and economic planning expertise and may be able to provide funding that can be applied to Indigenous recovery efforts.

Provincial and National Economic Development Organizations

- **British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA):** BCEDA has extensive experience in economic recovery and in helping communities develop short—and long-term economic recovery plans. This service is provided on a fee-for-service basis and may be funded by the Red Cross or the Province of BC. In some cases, corporate partners will provide financial assistance for BCEDA initiatives to support local communities.
- **Canadian Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO):** Cando has several resources available to help Indigenous communities in the economic recovery process. They work closely with BCEDA on these initiatives.

