

A CASE STUDY OF THE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS OF 2021

WERE EMERGENCY SUPPORTS DELIVERED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY?

WE LOOKED AT 2 PROGRAMS THAT FINANCIALLY SUPPORT PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES



EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES (ESS): DELIVERS SHORT-TERM SUPPORTS

WHAT WE FOUND:

- The province did not adequately support community-led, volunteer-delivered ESS
- Most evacuees need supports for longer than 72 hours
- 'One size fits all' creates unfair barriers for people to access the support they need including for Indigenous people, people with disabilities, lower-income people, older people, and people with physical and mental health needs

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support community-led ESS with timely and effective surge support, integrated professional mental health care, reliable communication hub for evacuees
- Reception centres must be accessible, and ESS supports flexible and responsive.

DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR REBUILDING

WHAT WE FOUND:

- Unreasonable delays in processing applications and appeals
- Inadequate communications about the program
- Program does not cover all climate-related disasters and does not consider the disproportionate impacts of disaster

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify ways to better communicate about the program to those who use it or may need it
- Ensure the program has capacity to process applications and appeals in a timely manner
- Review policies for equity and collect socio-demographic data relevant to assess disproportionate impacts

LOOKING AHEAD: FAIRNESS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

WHAT WE FOUND:

- Ministry does not have a plan for responding to long-term displacement
- Existing programs not designed to address the complexities of large scale and compounding, climate-related disasters
- Evacuees' experiences have not been at the centre of emergency response and rebuilding

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consult broadly on a plan to support people experiencing long-term displacement
- Support Indigenous self-determination in emergency management
- Support capacity and resilience of community-led delivery of emergency supports
- Regularly assess availability of insurance as the impacts of climate-related disasters increase

20 RECOMMENDATIONS 

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness accepted all of our recommendations