

Update on Stronger Together

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Prepared by:	Shannon Dowling Community Safety
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Safety

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the business activities within the Emergency Management Section of the Community Safety Department as it relates to the adoption of the Stronger Together host community framework in advance of the flood and wildfire season in Ontario in 2023.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

The City's Emergency Management department continues to engage in annual conversation with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) to discuss the potential for municipal support for the upcoming flood and wildfire season. Each year, EMO aims to pre-plan and secure the necessary spaces for any needed evacuation prior to the need becoming imminent.

The potential to host communities evacuated due to flooding or wildfires remains a complex endeavor, even more so as we continue recovery efforts stemming from the pandemic, that further challenges our community's emergency, health, and social resources. However, this is essential work that demonstrates our collective support for Indigenous communities.

When a request for assistance is received by EMO, the City's decision to act as a host community will always consider the current local conditions, available resources and any circumstances that exist at the time, to best inform our decision.

The Stronger Together framework is a toolkit to help First Nations and municipalities work together to support community development initiatives with a focus on supporting joint First Nations municipal planning and

decision making. The Stronger Together framework puts First Nations communities first, in establishing an operating plan to host communities displaced by flooding or wildfires in Greater Sudbury in 2023. The framework, developed in Timmins, has been adopted in many communities across the province.

Lead by the City's Emergency Management department, a working group was established in 2022 that brought together local Indigenous and community partners to collaborate on and develop an operating plan using the Stronger Together toolkit and under the mentorship of the Stronger Together Team from Timmins.

In March 2023, the ongoing planning and collaboration with local partners resulted in the establishment and adoption of the operating plan. As these important relationships continue to enhance, the plan is evergreen in that it is a dynamic document that may be edited and updated to adapt to the changing needs and environment.

Developed as a working group, the Stronger Together guiding principles and vision statement create an environment of trust, leading the way to creating a culturally diverse and respectful environment for all parties involved.

Guiding Principles

- Be present and listen
- Speak from your experience
- Welcome diversity
- Engage curiosity, not judgment
- Hold intensity
- Welcome the unknown

Vision Statement

Walk together in a good way to establish a holistic collaborative, cultural-based group that respects, serves and builds a safe and connected space for everyone.

With the above guiding principles and vision statement leading the way, the operating plan acknowledges that emergency hosting has many moving parts that require partners to be fully committed to being able to offer services at a moment's notice. The plan could not be formed without guidance and support from members of Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, and representatives from the seven First Nations of:

- Atikameksheng Anishinawbek
- Batchewana First Nation
- Garden River First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Serpent River First Nation
- Thessalon First Nation

Several important roles are needed to oversee all aspects of managing an emergency evacuation with the evacuated community at the forefront in the decision-making process. Support for the evacuated community comes from Traditional Knowledge Keepers, the Stronger Together Team, the City of Greater Sudbury, Emergency Management Ontario and the following Indigenous services and community partners offering their expertise in the following areas:

Role	Organization
Health Services	Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre Better Beginnings Better Futures Health Science North Ontario Health Northeast Home and Community Care Support Services Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Family and Social Services	Nogdawindamin Child and Family Services Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services Better Beginnings Better Futures
Personal Supports	Canadian Red Cross
Recreational Services	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
Emergency Services and Security	Peacekeepers Greater Sudbury Fire Service Greater Sudbury Paramedic Service Greater Sudbury Police Service

Various City services are also supporting these efforts with support from the following departments:

- CAO's Office
- Emergency Management
- Communications and Community Engagement
- Social Services
- GOVA Transit
- Leisure Services
- Greater Sudbury Airport

We acknowledge the many partners engaged in this initiative for their efforts in adopting this framework that complements each partners strengths and highlights existing efforts. In developing these collaborative relationships before and during hosting efforts, we are creating additional community-wide capacity and resiliency.

Resources Cited

Emergency Management Update - April 2022 – Host Community - <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=43969>

Emergency Management Update - June 2022 – Host Community and Stronger Together Host Community Planning and Framework - <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=46675>

Emergency Management Update – August 2022 – Stronger Together Host Community Planning and Framework Update - <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=47824>