



FOCUS FIRST Emergency Preparedness Forum

Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2023 | Sault Ste Marie

REPORT

In partnership with



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada



Ontario



PREPARE FOR FUTURE EMERGENCIES





Contents

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| About the Forum | 6 |
| Forum Agenda | 10 |
| Public Relations | 20 |
| Survey Results | 24 |
| Recommendations | 31 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First Nations Emergency Response Association (FNERA) held the Focus First Emergency Preparedness Forum in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario February 28 through March 2, 2023, with over 170 registered attendees. Tribal Councils, Political Treaty Organizations, and one Large First Nation community brought together emergency professionals from across Ontario to learn from each other and collaborate in preparation for the 2023 flood and fire season.

The agenda was packed with opportunities to learn, share, and network. Emcee Brent Edwards led the attendees through great information sessions, a mock emergency exercise, and a tradeshow. The Tradeshow allowed registrants to engage with partners, suppliers, and educators to build relationships to enhance support for their emergency management programs. On the other hand, the tabletop exercise provided attendees with a scenario-based learning opportunity to gain highly applicable skills.

Funding for the event was provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO), and Emergency Management Ontario. FNERA also supplemented the funding with some delegate registration and tradeshow sales.

Overall, the event was considered a strong success with positive feedback from attendees and exhibitors alike. While attendees would like more time for some of the sessions, they were very satisfied with the information provided and the experiences they had at this forum. Exhibitors were also pleased with a few considering the potential of becoming more involved at the next forum. There is a continued need in the First Nation emergency management field for this forum.

“One of the best forums I have attended. The focus and contributors was value added. Appreciated the information sharing on how as a collaboration can become stronger allyship with First Nations driving it all.”




ABOUT THE FORUM

The Focus First Emergency Preparedness Forum was born from the vision of the First Nations Emergency Response Association (FNERA) to develop Indigenous-led emergency management in Ontario. FNERA, alongside First Nation emergency professionals, communities, government, and industry members came together to learn from each other and collaborate in preparation for the upcoming flood and fire season.

FNERA began as a northern Ontario association and has since grown to cover all of Ontario while continuing to be led by First Nations.

This year's event was hosted in Sault Ste Marie from February 28 to March 2 of 2023 to bring together communities, government, and organizations to share, learn and grow their skills in preparation for future emergencies. Participants emerged stronger through this forum, readying for the upcoming fire and flood seasons.



Supporting First Nations in Emergency Response

- Fire
- Flood
- Extreme Winds
- Climatic Issues
- Emergency Response
- Now Events



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ABOUT FNERA

The mission of the First Nation Emergency Response Association (FNERA) is to support First Nations in developing Indigenous-led emergency management in Ontario.

FNERA was developed to work alongside First Nations, bringing them together to have a voice in emergency management. By sharing best practices and training, we can equip First Nation communities for future emergencies including fire, flood, infrastructure, health and more. A consortium of Tribal Councils, Political Treaty Organizations, and one Large First Nation community lead FNERA including:

- » Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- » Anishinabek Nation
- » Grand Council Treaty #3
- » Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA)
- » Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- » Nookiiwin Tribal Council
- » Six Nations of the Grand River



Together, we can emerge stronger from our collective experiences to be the best help for our communities and avoid further loss of our property, our potential and, most importantly, our people.

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

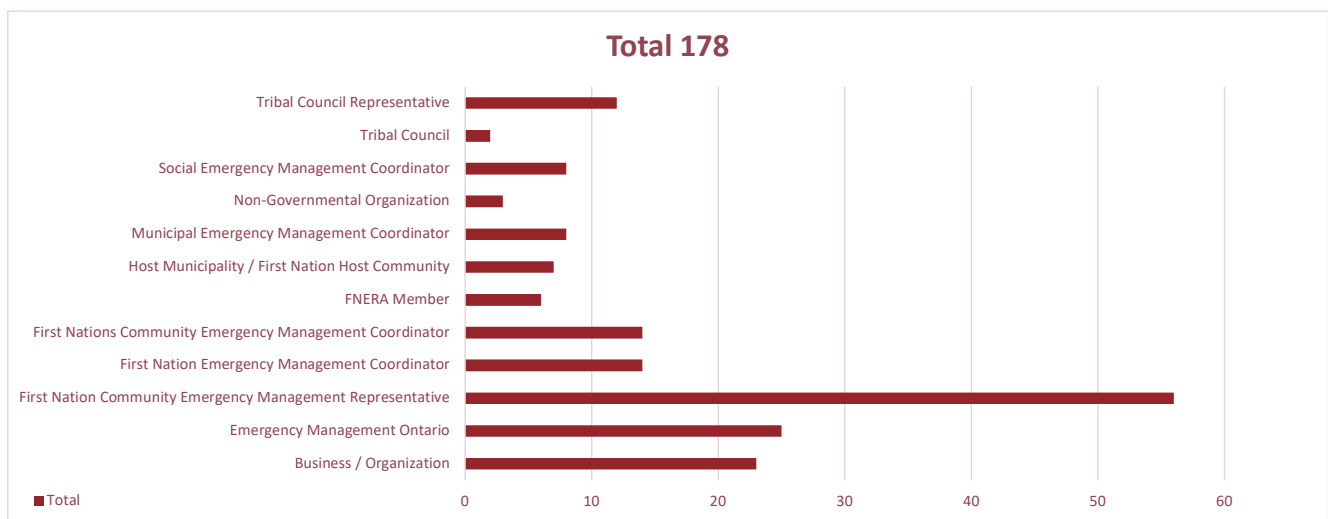
Following the previous year, FNERA recruited the aid of TAG Creative Strategy to provide marketing and event coordination for the forum to run smoothly. With their long history working with First Nations organizations, they brought with them the experience necessary to help plan and run the logistics of the event.

With the event coordination in TAG's hands, the FNERA members could focus on the important day-to-day work they provide to their organizations and communities.

ATTENDANCE

With 178 registered attendees, the Focus First Forum had a diverse range of perspectives and knowledge. Most of the attendees were First Nation Community Emergency Management Representatives and Coordinators. Approximately one-quarter of the attendees were made up of government and business entities.

A total of ten exhibitors hosted booths for attendees to visit to learn, share and network. The exhibitors ranged from First Nation organizations to industry suppliers and services, and government branches.





“This is one of the most substantial forums I have attended to date”

FORUM AGENDA

The Focus First Forum agenda was spread across three eventful days of plenary, concurrent, and Tabletop sessions. The first day began with Bear Creek Drum and a prayer before the opening remarks. Speakers were divided into three plenary sessions as well as three concurrent streams of two sessions each, giving a total of eight emergency planning topics. Emcee Brent Edwards, aka Mooselegs, helped maintain positive energy throughout the forum while ensuring each presentation ran smoothly.

For the second day of the forum, attendees were assigned to either the morning or afternoon tabletop exercises (TTX). The TTX provided attendees with an opportunity to collaborate with individuals from different skill levels and backgrounds while working through a mock emergency scenario. During the other half of the day, they could then explore the Tradeshow to learn about the resources available to them and foster relationships. This structure offered engagement for attendees and hands-on learning while maintaining traffic in the tradeshow.

The final day of the event followed a similar format to the first day, with plenary sessions and three streams of one session each, for a total of seven sessions. The event closed with prize giveaways and closing ceremonies.

TABLETOP EXERCISES IN FOCUS

The previous year's forum received feedback indicating the desire for hands-on opportunities to learn and network. In response, the Tabletop Exercises (TTX) were implemented this year. Participants were provided with a mock flood emergency scenario and asked to collaborate with fellow participants to create a solution and after-action report. Through challenges and collaborations, the groups could imagine the real situation to help them prepare when the time comes for action. Through the survey responses, it can be determined that the delegates enjoyed the experience and a TTX or similar activity would be beneficial for future events.

AGENDA



Tuesday, February 28

Registration & Breakfast

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM

Opening Ceremonies

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, THE GRAND HALL

Join us for the Opening Ceremonies and Opening Remarks hosted by emcee Brent Edwards (aka Mooselegs) to kick off the event. Bear Creek Drum will begin the event with a drum song, followed by an opening prayer. Welcoming remarks will follow from representatives of the Traditional Territory and your event host, FNERA. Finally, we will hear from our event funders and partners before moving into the first session.

Health Break

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

2022 Season Community Emergency Panel

ROBERT CORNELIUS, ONEIDA OF THE THAMES; CHIEF CONRAD RITCHIE & GERRY GLOVER, SAUGEEN; COUNCIL MEMBER & WAYNE NEEGAN, CONSTANCE LAKE; BUSTER KURAHARA, PIKANGIKUM

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM, THE GRAND HALL

The experiences of last year's emergencies will be brought to light on the 2022 Community Emergency Panel. Hear directly from Constance Lake First Nation, Oneida of the Thames, Pikangikum First Nation, and Saugeen First Nation community members as they share their experiences. These communities responded to a range of emergencies and have an abundance of knowledge to share on topics including critical infrastructure failure, blastomycosis outbreak, COVID-19 pandemic response, and mental health and addictions. The panel will discuss what worked, challenges and gaps within emergency responses and potential solutions going forward.

Lunch

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Stream 1

Introduction to JEMS

CHRIS PITTENS, EMO

THE GRAND HALL

Chris will provide an overview of the JEMS Evacuation Standards, and what it means to organizations involved in supporting the evacuation of First Nations communities in Ontario.

Stream 2

Community Emergency Management Planning

JAMIE SCRINGER, NOKIWIN

COURTYARD ROOM

As the occurrence of emergencies in Indigenous Communities continue to rise emergency planning becomes vital to increase the resilience of communities. This presentation will give attendees a brief overview of how to develop an emergency response plan for their First Nation community. Covering topics such as legislation, the purpose of Emergency Response plans, community Hazard and Risk Assessment (HIRA), Critical infrastructure, and tools to provide for vulnerable community members.

Stream 3

Indigenous Initiative Crews Program

DAVE MAY, MNR

ANNEX ROOM

Presentation outline:

- » Background
- » Current status
- » Roles: types of projects and supports they can offer communities
- » Benefits created as a result of Initiative Crews
- » Discussion and questions

**“Very well organized!!
Lots of networking!”**

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Stream 1

Stronger Together: Shifting from Coexistence to Collaboration

MICHELLE GERVAIS,
TARA SLOSS

THE GRAND HALL

Interoperability traditionally focuses on communications or multi-agency collaboration, often overlooking the application and value it holds in social dynamics. In this presentation Sgt. Matthew Gull and Michelle Gervais share how strengthening cultural interoperability has shifted emergency evacuation hosting operations and community relationships. The team will share the Stronger Together model used, challenges faced and provide resources for other emergency service providers.

Stream 2

Evacuation Planning Concept of Operations

KATRINA GRANTIS, EMO
COURTYARD ROOM

This session will focus on Far North First Nation Evacuation Concept of Operations and will include an overview of the role of the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, a discussion on Host Community considerations and identifying how Emergency Management Ontario can assist with Host Site planning.

Stream 3

All Hazards Response: The IFNA Journey

NICK RHONE AND SAM
MANITOWABI, IFNA
ANNEX ROOM

Led by Nick Rhone, Director of Integrated Emergency Services for the Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA), Hazard Response Teams: The IFNA Journey will discuss key lessons learned between 2019-2022 regarding effective cross-training and preparedness for all hazards response in Northern Ontario. At the forefront of this discussion, will be personal experiences from Lac Seul First Nation member, Sam Manitowabi. Sam is the youngest member of IFNA to be cross-trained as a First Nation firefighter, medical responder, first aid instructor, advanced drone operator and currently, training in the Incident Management System (IMS). This session will highlight the multiple roles involved in supporting communities in hazard response.

Health Break

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

A Safe, Practiced and Prepared Ontario - One Window for Emergency Management

DEPUTY MINISTER BERNIE DERIBLE, EMO

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, THE GRAND HALL

Emergency Management Ontario's expansion over the past year has been aimed to better support all Ontarians in being safe, practiced and prepared for emergencies. The Commissioner for Emergency Management Ontario, Bernie Derible, will lead a conversation discussing how to better support First Nations communities guided by the One Window vision for Emergency Management, with an opportunity for Forum attendees to share solutions to Emergency Management challenges they have experienced.

Emergency Support Specialists Model

NORMAND ROY, ISC

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, THE GRAND HALL

The Manager of Emergency Management for Indigenous Services Canada, Normand Roy, will be leading a workshop on Emergency Support Specialist Model. Explore protection, incident management, resource management, aerial imagery, and evacuation support from the perspective of Indigenous Services Canada which works collaboratively with partners to improve access to high-quality services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Wednesday, March 1

Breakfast

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Tradeshow

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

A full-day tradeshow will be available for attendees to learn, share and network with organizations that have experience and expertise to share. These exhibitors provide a range of support from preparing and planning to support and supply during fires, floods, evacuations, pandemic issues, and other crises. Make sure you visit each booth and take the time to connect with other attendees before and after your respective Tabletop Exercise.

Tabletop Exercise: Unify All Nations - Group A

LED BY EMO

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Unify All Nations is a 1.25-hour simulation exercise that aims to bring participants together to identify key actions and considerations necessary for a successful and safe evacuation of a First Nations community in Northern Ontario due to severe flooding. The exercise presents several challenges and obstacles related to the evacuation scenario, and participants will discuss and provide possible solutions for each challenge. The group will work together to identify a final set of actions and considerations to be included in a post-exercise report. The after-action report will include the final set of actions and considerations identified by the group, along with a summary of the challenges and obstacles faced during the evacuation scenario, any lessons learned, and recommendations for future evacuation scenarios.

GROUP 1

PATIO ROOM

GROUP 2

COURTYARD ROOM

GROUP 3

LIBRARY ROOM

Health Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Tabletop Exercise: Homecoming - Group A

LED BY EMO

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Homecoming aims to identify key actions and considerations necessary for a community to ensure a safe and successful return home after an extended evacuation period, following a wildfire disaster. The 1.5-hour exercise includes an overview of the scenario, a discussion of challenges and obstacles, identifying actions and considerations, and a hot-wash. The challenges and obstacles include temporary housing, restoration of basic services, cleanup and disposal of debris, emotional and psychological support, and health and safety considerations. The after-action report includes the final set of actions and considerations, a summary of challenges and obstacles, lessons learned, and recommendations for future scenarios.

GROUP 1

PATIO ROOM

GROUP 2

COURTYARD ROOM

GROUP 3

LIBRARY ROOM

“Learned about some initiatives at a community & regional level that will inform provincial work”

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Tabletop Exercise: Unify All Nations - Group B

LED BY EMO

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Unify All Nations is a 1.25-hour simulation exercise that aims to bring participants together to identify key actions and considerations necessary for a successful and safe evacuation of a First Nations community in Northern Ontario due to severe flooding. The exercise presents several challenges and obstacles related to the evacuation scenario, and participants will discuss and provide possible solutions for each challenge. The group will work together to identify a final set of actions and considerations to be included in a post-exercise report. The after-action report will include the final set of actions and considerations identified by the group, along with a summary of the challenges and obstacles faced during the evacuation scenario, any lessons learned, and recommendations for future evacuation scenarios.

GROUP 1

PATIO ROOM

GROUP 2

COURTYARD ROOM

GROUP 3

LIBRARY ROOM

Health Break

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Tabletop Exercise: Homecoming - Group B

LED BY EMO

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

The Exercise Homecoming aims to identify key actions and considerations necessary for a community to ensure a safe and successful return home after an extended evacuation period, following a wildfire disaster. The 1.5-hour exercise includes an overview of the scenario, a discussion of challenges and obstacles, identifying actions and considerations, and a hot-wash. The challenges and obstacles include temporary housing, restoration of basic services, cleanup and disposal of debris, emotional and psychological support, and health and safety considerations. The after-action report includes the final set of actions and considerations, a summary of challenges and obstacles, lessons learned, and recommendations for future scenarios.

GROUP 1

PATIO ROOM

GROUP 2

COURTYARD ROOM

GROUP 3

LIBRARY ROOM

Thursday, March 2

Breakfast

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

MNRF Response Update/Forecast for 2023

BRYAN TARINI, MNRF

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, THE GRAND HALL

The aviation forest fire and emergency services branch of the Ministry of Natural resources uses tools for predictive modeling for the upcoming fire and flood season. This presentation will outline possible expectations of the coming fire and flood season as well as a brief overview of the aviation forest fire and emergency services branch.

Health Break

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Stream 1

Education & Training for Emergency Management

TARIQ BUTT, EMO
THE GRAND HALL

This session will: (1) provide an overview of the audience for EMO training, as well as the objectives of the courses offered by the province, (2) focus on the current training model for EM & IMS training, including the development of instructors and curriculum, and (3) introduce the audience to the public education strategy and programs led by EMO Training and Education. Lastly, the audience will be introduced to some of the new training and education initiatives underway at EMO.

Stream 2

Emergency Management Assistant & Health Emergency Management Programs

ROSEMARIE KEOGH-SMYTH & MARCO GIANCARLO, ISC;
DAMAN DHILLON, MPH
COURTYARD ROOM

ISC will be presenting an overview of the Emergency Management Assistant Program and Health Emergency Management Programs. Topics will include but not limited to: program eligibility, eligible expenses, application process, reimbursement process, project success stories, and upcoming initiatives.

Stream 3

Food Sovereignty

DAVID PEARSON,
LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY
ANNEX ROOM

The cost of flying in fresh fruit and vegetables to communities makes good nutrition a challenge that amounts to a health emergency, especially in the far north. Food sovereignty is an option in which communities decide to grow healthy vegetables of their choice from seed. This session will encourage discussion and describe initiatives, including using seeds of Indigenous heritage and cultural ownership.

Social Emergency Management Panel

GINNY HEILMAN, FORT FRANCES; DARRIN SPENCE, IFNA;

JOSHUA TAYLOR, KEEWAYTINOOK OKIMAKINAK

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM, THE GRAND HALL

The Social Emergency Management Coordinators will be leading a discussion focused on Social Emergency Management. The panel will focus on the exploration of critical system supports, training, barriers, and challenges to help improve community member experiences, addressing social emergencies, and accessing the necessary reports. The panel will also discuss what is working well in preventing and addressing social emergencies and share best practices other communities can learn from.

Lunch

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Hazard Identification & Risk Assessments: Present and Future

WILBERT WESLEY, MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL; DAVID PEARSON,

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY; MARK BREEN, EMO

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM, THE GRAND HALL

Speakers of various backgrounds will address issues surrounding hazard identification and risk assessments on the Hazard Identification & Risk Assessments (HIRA): Present and Future panel. Experts will touch upon important topics including the increasing intensity, frequency and cost of flooding, heat stress, concerns with the wildfire season in Northern Ontario and the HIRA program. This panel will feature a graphic discussion and a workshop co-created with Indigenous partners designed to stimulate and focus interaction among community members. In addition, there will also be a discussion on current products that support local and provincial emergency management programs and new activities planned for 2023-24.

First Nation Fire Departments Panel

ASHLEY RUSSELL-TAYLOR, SIX NATIONS FIRE DEPT; TIM STONE, MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM, THE GRAND HALL

Learn more about the realities of fire departments in First Nation communities with the First Nation Fire Department Panel. Ashley Russell-Taylor of Six Nations Fire Department and Tim Stone of Moose Cree Fire Department will discuss processes, prevention, and protection for establishing and operating fire departments in First Nations.

Health Break

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Closing Ceremonies

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM, THE GRAND HALL

After three days of learning, sharing, and preparing, we will be closing off our event with closing marks from FNERA and PRIZE DRAWS followed by a closing prayer and a drum song. We hope you gained the training, research and support you need to help prepare your community for future emergencies and crises!



Tiger Dam™
is THE first line of Defense

ISN
MASKWA
Indigenous-Led
Community Support

“Great job, look forward to learning & networking with all EM personnel in the future to create & build a safer Ontario”

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Focus First Forum received media attention, spreading awareness of the event and its contents emphasizing the importance of the forum and the knowledge to be gained by attending. A few clips from published media are included below.

First Nation Emergency Professionals on the Frontline of Emergency Preparedness SaultOnline.com

First Nation Emergency Professionals on the Frontline of Emergency Preparedness

By Content Team - March 1, 2023 @ 5:39 am



Emergency professionals and organizations serving on the frontline of emergency response in First Nation communities are meeting together this week for the inaugural Focus First: Emergency Preparedness Forum. This Forum is hosted by First Nation Emergency Management Association (FNEM), a working group committed to First Nation-led emergency management.

Focusing on First Nations and their emergency management needs ahead of the upcoming flood and wildfire season, this event brings together emergency professionals to learn, share and prepare for future emergencies

Focus First Emergency Preparedness Forum - Avert Magazine



Event

Focus First Emergency Preparedness Forum

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February 28 - March 02, 2023
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

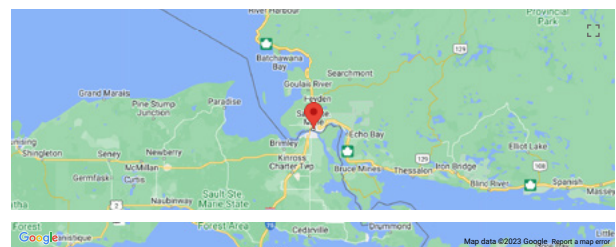
Within the past few years, First Nation communities across Ontario have had to continuously adapt to handle unprecedented crises. While we continue to face barriers in emergency responses, we have also demonstrated our resilience in managing these challenging situations in innovative ways. Emergency Management Coordinators, Social Emergency Management Coordinators, and other First Nation emergency professionals are invited to learn, share, and prepare together for future emergencies.

Join the First Nation Emergency Response Association (FNEM) in partnership with the Government of Ontario and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), this winter to discuss First Nations Emergency Preparedness. FNEM is a First Nations organization striving to support First Nations in developing Indigenous-led emergency management in Ontario.

The event will take a collaborative approach and provide the opportunity for First Nations, municipal, provincial, and federal representatives to come together.

Visit event's website

<https://theadventuregroup.regfox.com/emergency-preparedness-forum>



AIAO Facebook Post

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
and enhance the indigenous and ir

Page · Community Organization
387 Princess Avenue, London, ON, Canada, Ontario
+1 519-434-2761
itimothy@aiai.on.ca
aiai.on.ca
Rating · 4.9 (21 Reviews)

Photos See all photos

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
January 31 ·

FIRST Emergency Preparedness Forum. The conference takes place February 28th – March 2nd at the Water Tower Inn in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

This is going to be a great way to meet, collaborate and network with key people and stakeholders involved and responsible for emergency planning and preparedness in First Nation communities throughout Ontario. Registration and hotel is complimentary for the first delegate from your community, while additional delegates will have a... See more

THEADVENTUREGROUP.REGFOX.COM
FNERA Spring 2023
Online registration for Focus First Emergency Preparedness Forum. Online registration e...

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First Nation Emergency Professionals on the Frontline of Emergency Preparedness - Indigenous Health Today

Friday, June 09, 2023 | Stay Connected Search in site...

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HOME PARTNER NEWS MEDIA RELEASES MAINSTREAM NEWS EMPLOYMENT MULTIMEDIA
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First Nation Emergency Professionals on the Frontline of Emergency Preparedness - SaultOnline.com
March 1, 2023

Emergency professionals and organizations serving on the frontline of emergency response in First Nation communities are meeting together this week for the inaugural Focus First: Emergency Preparedness Forum. This Forum is hosted by First Nation Emergency Management Association (FNERA), a working group committed to First Nation-led emergency management.

Focusing on First Nations and their emergency management needs ahead of the upcoming flood and wildfire season, this event brings together emergency professionals to learn, share and prepare for future emergencies through various workshops and networking opportunities. Last year in Ontario, 24 emergencies were officially declared by First Nation communities with many more undeclared for circumstances ranging from flooding to health-related issues and infrastructure failure.

Read More: <https://saultonline.com/2023/03/first-nation-emergency-professionals-on-the-frontline-of-emergency-preparedness/>

HOME PARTNER NEWS MEDIA RELEASES MAINSTREAM NEWS EMPLOYMENT MULTIMEDIA
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SURVEY RESULTS

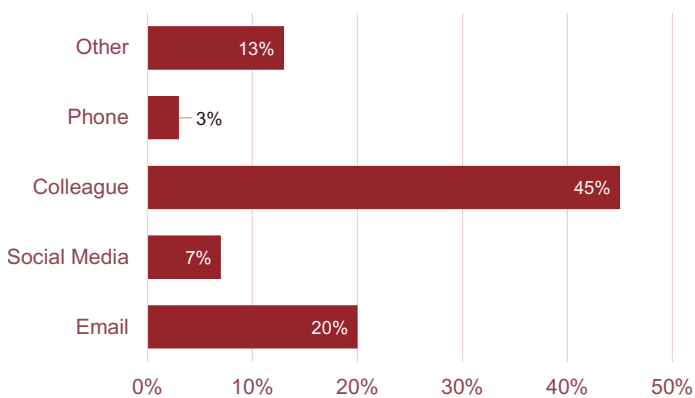
CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Most of the attendees came to the event for networking and personal growth where they returned very satisfied. Speakers, exhibitors, and the Tabletop Exercises were given positive feedback with little to no negative responses.

Some provided input, feeling that there was not enough time for some of the sessions. Others requested more opportunities to network.

All survey respondents indicated they would attend the forum again next year.

How did you hear about the Forum?

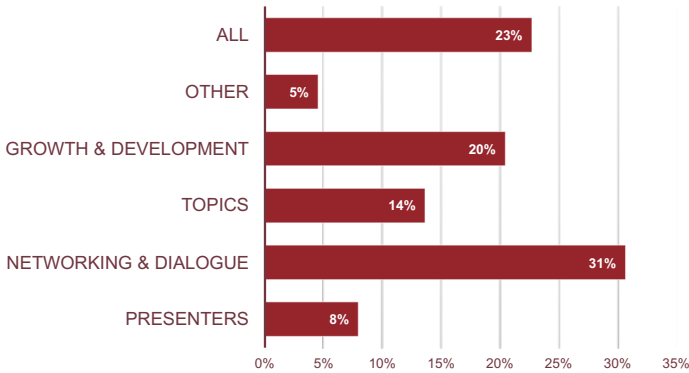


The most effective method for gaining attendees appears to be through colleagues and their work. Reaching out to relevant organizations by email may be the best way to spread the word about upcoming forums to gain attentive participants.

Answers to Other

- » Part of EMO and planning
- » Band Rep
- » Conference in Toronto in January
- » ISC Rep
- » Tribal Council IFNA
- » IFN Emergency Response Planning session
- » Rose Marie from ISC
- » My manager and Souya Cloutier
- » Work (x3)
- » Conference EM training
- » Organizer
- » Funder (x2)
- » I helped plan it

What was your main reason for attending the Forum?

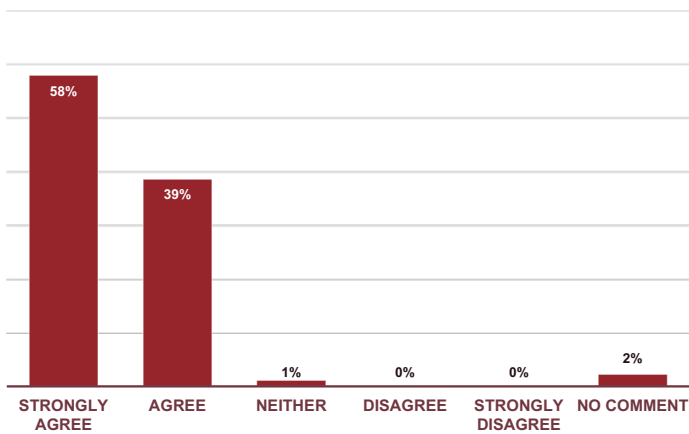


The results demonstrate that networking opportunities were a key draw to the forum. For future forums, connection and growth are important components to embed in the agenda.

Answers to Other

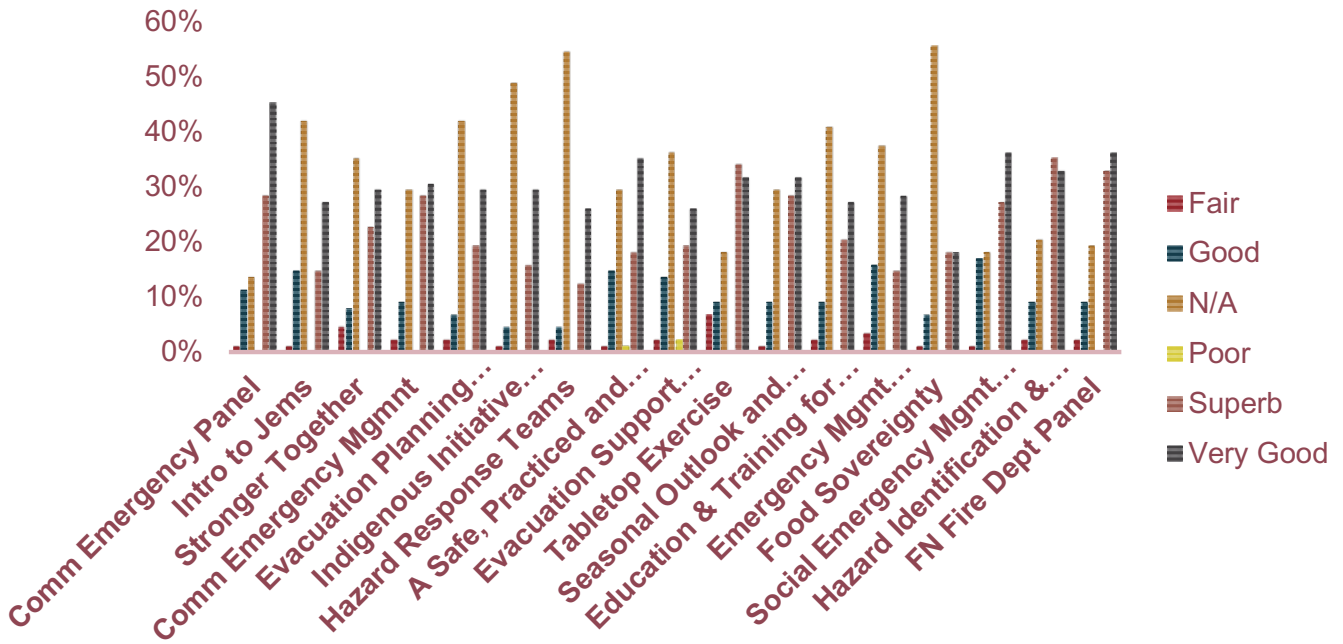
- » ISC recommendation
- » Tradeshow
- » ERC
- » To develop one for my First Nation
- » EM role

The Forum fulfilled your reason for attending.



Attendees felt they gained personal growth and created connections through this forum. Most of the participants felt they could take what they learned back to their community or organizations.

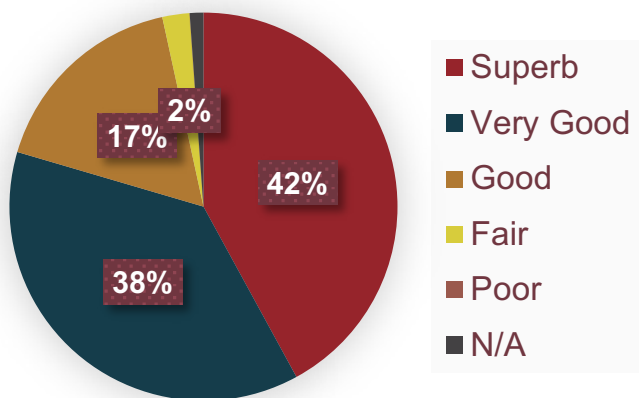
Effectiveness of the overall content and subject matter of the individual sessions.



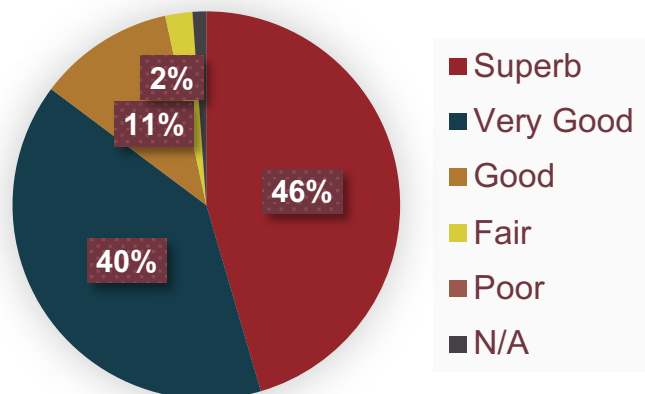
The overall effectiveness of the sessions was apparent through the positive response received from attendees. The Community Emergency Panel, Stronger Together, Community Emergency Management, and Tabletop Exercise presentations received the strongest feedback from survey respondents.

Please rate the overall features of the Forum.

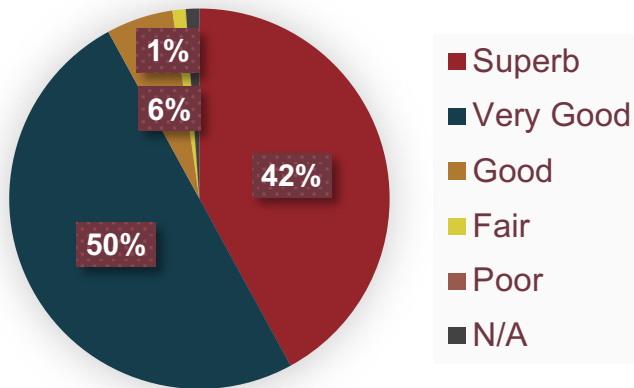
Content/Agenda



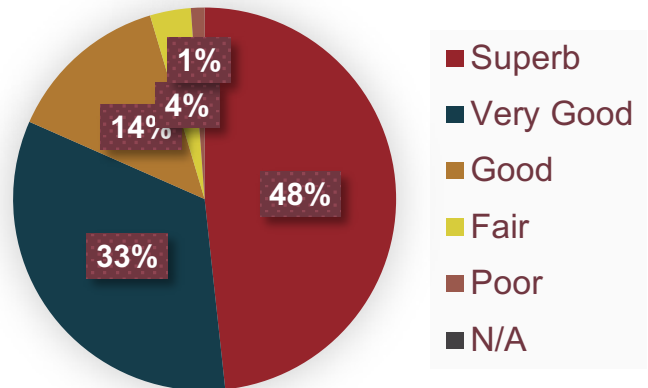
Variety of Presentations



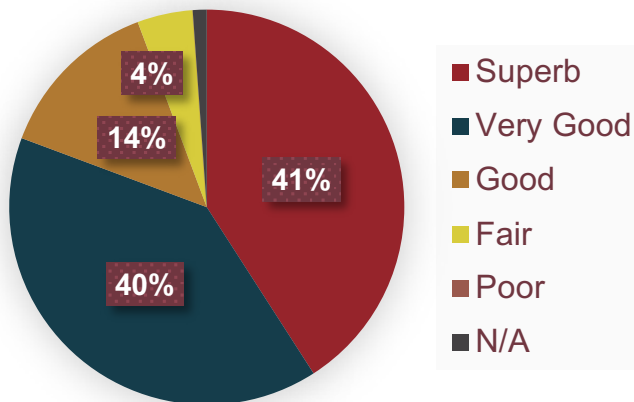
Quality of Presenters



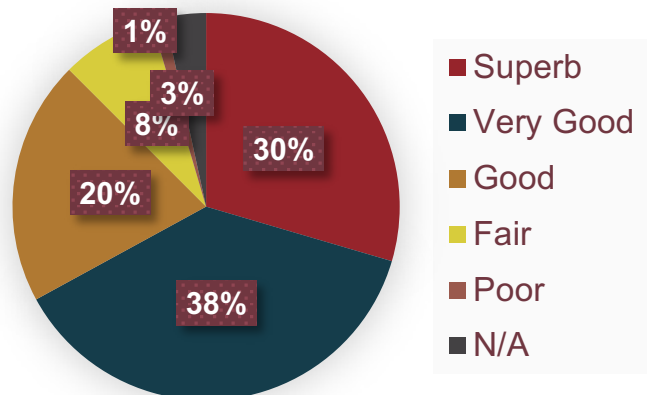
Event Organization



Venue



Tradeshow

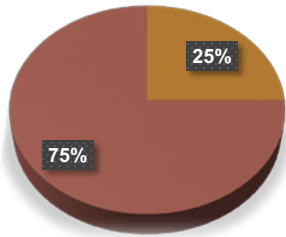


All the features except for the Tradeshow had at least a collective 80% of responses rating of very good or superb. For the Tradeshow, only 68% of respondents gave high ratings, indicating that there is more to be done for this aspect of the event.



EXHIBITOR EVALUATION

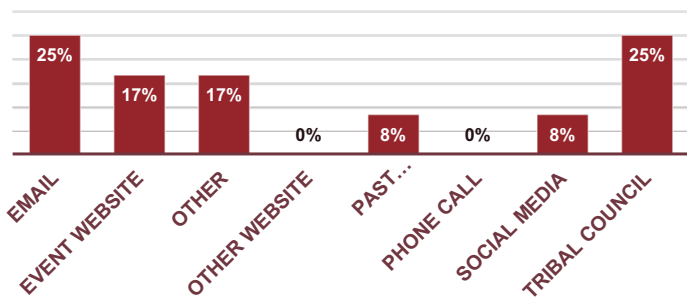
Overall Assessment of the Tradeshow



- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
- Very Satisfied

All exhibitors of the survey provided satisfactory feedback. Although suggestions were made to provide more notice.

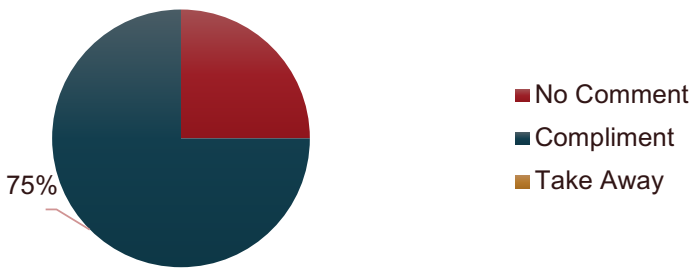
How did you hear about the Tradeshow



Half of the exhibitors heard about the Tradeshow from either the Tribal Councils or through emails. These results indicate that direct connections with individuals was the most successful in gaining tradeshow registrations. Leaning into these success while improving in the other areas can help increase tradeshow registrations in the future.

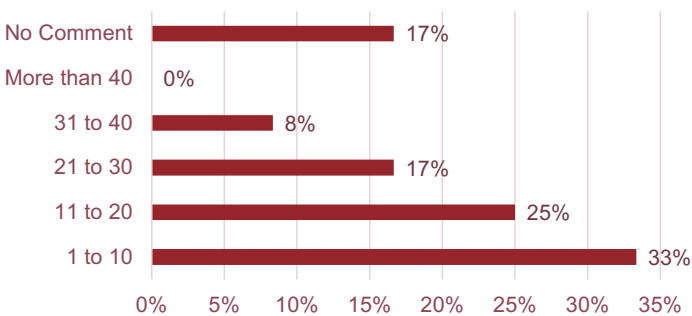


Did the Tabletop exercises compliment or take away from the Tradeshow?



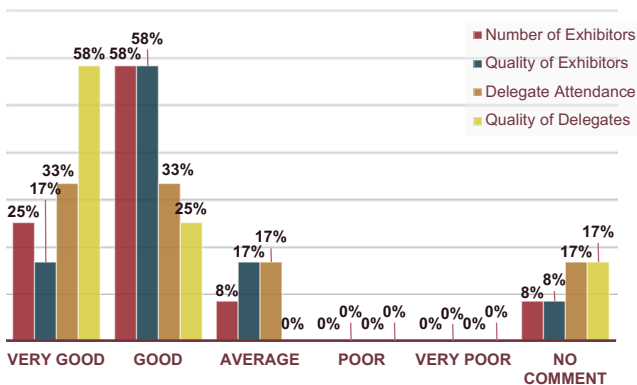
All exhibitors responded that the Tabletop exercises complimented the Tradeshow.

Estimate the number of potential buyers identified through this show



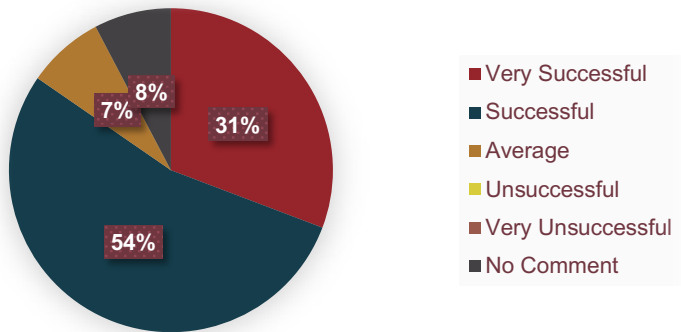
Most of the participants estimated that there were 1 to 10 potential buyers identified through this show closely followed by 11 to 20 potential buyers.

Feedback on the attributes



The exhibitors rated the tradeshow attributes positively with satisfaction across the board. Similar Tradeshows in future events may maintain the quality that is sought after.

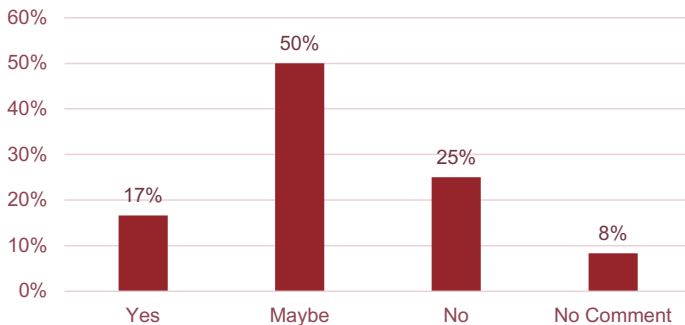
How successful do you feel the Tradeshow was?



With only one average rating and no negative ratings, the Tradeshow can be considered a success based on the feedback from exhibitors.

Further to this feedback, all respondents said they would attend the Tradeshow again in the future.

Do you think your company or organization would potentially sponsor next year?



Three exhibitors show interest in potentially sponsoring next year. Some exhibitors suggested that they would refer other companies to the forum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is obvious that there is a tremendous need for First Nation-relevant events and meetings in emergency management that are by First Nations for First Nations. The survey results and success of the event despite some initial challenges, clearly indicate this. Above all, it is strongly recommended that FNERA continue this event on an annual basis being a First Nation-led entity representing all First Nations in Ontario with the unique ability to expand on a national level.
2. Because more than half of the attendees heard about the forum from colleagues and friends, it may be beneficial to promote the forum where word of mouth spreads most, such as the community Band Offices.
3. Encourage timely funding in order to roll out marketing campaigns to announce the coming event thereby gaining a larger number of attendees.
4. An incentive program like a stamp card could be created to encourage attendees to meet and connect with vendors as well as attend the entire event for a chance to win great prizes.
5. It is also recommended to continue hosting the event after the emergency seasons so that the experiences are remembered to the best of the ability of the participating members. Fall has been suggested at the past two forums.
6. Beginning the planning process earlier is key to maintaining secure funding, as the possibility of delays could hinder the forum's overall success.
7. Continuing the tabletop exercises is also suggested due to the positive feedback and participation, allowing attendees to gain practical application by all skill levels.
8. Through the surveys, many people suggested some ideas for future sessions:
 - » Emergency Management Bylaw Creation and Enforcement
 - » Emergency Planning 101 (for new people; where to start and how to secure funding)
 - » Dedicated Networking Session
 - » Structural ISC, or other ISC departments
 - » Creating an emergency management plan
 - » Include personal experiences and emergency situations from southern communities

Other recommendations from the surveys include:

- » Providing exhibitors more notice
- » Add a fire department, even from municipalities
- » More detailed agenda







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Emergency Preparedness Forum

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