

Proposal: Development of a Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) for Ashcroft

Description of the HARS Ashcroft Demonstration Project

Overarching Objective: To develop and operationalize a Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) in Ashcroft. The outputs of this HARS demonstration project will provide a framework that could be used in other communities in BC and Canada to develop similar plans, thereby advancing Health Canada's HARS initiative.

Background: Extreme heat¹ has occurred in communities across BC throughout the summer, including the Village of Ashcroft. Historic temperature data shows that Ashcroft is one of the hottest municipalities within the Southern Interior region of BC. Extreme heat puts people at risk of heat-related illness, especially in high risk groups such as older adults, infants and young children, people with chronic disease and those who work in the heat. The increase in extreme heat events has prompted municipalities across Canada to develop heat response plans. The current demonstration project is to support Ashcroft to develop a plan suitable to the unique context of this smaller rural community.

Objective of the 2018 component of the HARS Ashcroft Demonstration Project:

- Engage community in a process to develop a heat response plan for Ashcroft

Required Services and Deliverables:

1. Service and Expertise

A consultant is required to:

- Function as the community point of contact throughout the development of the HARS project.
- Consult with and engage community.
- Develop a community situational scan.
- Develop a community asset map.
- Liaise with Village of Ashcroft staff, members of Ashcroft Indian Band and Interior Health leaders.

The consultant should have experience/knowledge in:

- Identifying relevant community stakeholders, including formal and informal leaders and representatives of Indigenous communities.
- Engaging community stakeholders to work in a focussed manner toward a specific objective.
- Organizing meetings and documenting discussions, actions and outcomes.
- Facilitating group meetings, discussions and problem-solving.
- Following up on action commitments.
- Situational scan, asset map and evaluation development.
- Presenting information in various formats (verbal presentation and written for various audiences).

The consultant is expected to work with an advisory committee that will inform/advise plan development.

2. Deliverables

The goal is to develop Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) in Ashcroft that will serve as a framework that could be used in other communities in BC and Canada to develop similar plans, thereby advancing Health Canada's HARS initiative.

Specifically, the following activities will support plan development:

- Develop a stakeholder work group to (1) identify the current assets and capacity of the community to inform a heat response plan using techniques and tools such as asset mapping and situational assessments and (2) prioritize action that meets the needs of people in the community, especially those who are most heat-vulnerable.
- Identify and document the strengths and weaknesses (or challenges) of developing a heat response plan in a rural community.
- Deliver evidence-informed information through various formats that (1) raises awareness about heat-health impacts and (2) provides ideas on how to reduce health risks by educating audiences about protective actions.
- Develop and begin operationalizing a heat response plan with support from an advisory committee comprised of Interior Health and Village of Ashcroft staff.
- Support development of an evaluation tool for use by the community to examine the extent to which the response measures are timely, relevant, and effective.
- Additional activities as relevant and necessary to achieve objective.

3. Term and Budget

The start date will commence upon the appointment of the consultant with an approximate end date of January 31st, 2019. The budget permitted is \$50 an hour to a maximum of 200 hours for each of phase 1 and phase 2. The payment is contingent on the consultant meeting the deliverables on schedule.

4. Submission Guidelines

Please send your submission by **October 22nd, 2018**. Your submission should include the following:

- A recent resume and cover letter outlining qualifications, background and/or areas of experience as they relate to this project.

Contact person:

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