

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

Office of the Fire Marshal and  
Emergency Management

25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
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**Ministère du Solliciteur général**

Bureau du commissaire des incendies et  
de la gestion des situations d'urgence

25, avenue Morton Shulman  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tél. : 647-329-1100  
Télééc. : 647-329-1143



May 31, 2019

Dear Mayor or Head of Council,

The Province of Ontario is actively engaged in providing emergency response assistance to Pikangikum First Nation with the Government of Canada. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM), in partnership with provincial ministries and federal departments, coordinates planning for and evacuation of First Nations communities when they are at risk due to flooding or forest fires.

As you may be aware, there is an immediate need to evacuate vulnerable members of Pikangikum First Nation due to imminent life-safety concerns. There is a high risk from a fire that is in close proximity to the community along with smoke blowing east from the Manitoba border. This is compounded by additional smoke drifting from fires in western Canada. Contingency planning is currently underway and host community capacity is required for the remainder of the community, this includes a need for an additional 2000+ spaces. The worst-case scenario would see more than one First Nation community in the northwestern part of Ontario trying to evacuate concurrently, which will overwhelm our existing host capacity.

The OFMEM is asking if your municipality would consider being a 'Host Community' for this immediate need and for the remainder of the 2019 forest fire season. The following questions are provided to assist you in your deliberations:

1. Could your Region/Municipality host evacuated residents?
2. Could your Region/Municipality host elders, families with young children, people with illnesses or disabilities, pregnant mothers in hotel/motel/dormitory-type accommodations?
3. Could your Region/Municipality host displaced community members in arena-type accommodations?
4. How soon could your municipality begin to accept evacuees (do you have any ongoing or near-future events which will decrease hotel or arena capacity – i.e. tournaments, garden shows, etc.)?
5. How much lead time would your municipality require to set-up for evacuees?
6. How long could your municipality host evacuees for?
7. What provincial and/or federal supports would your municipality require (OFMEM Field Officers and / or Liaison Officers from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC))?
8. What other supports would you foresee requiring (Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army, other non-governmental organizations)?

OFMEM works closely with provincial and federal stakeholders to ensure a host community receives the appropriate funding and supports to safely accommodate displaced First Nation community members.

If you require further information about evacuations and becoming a host community, please do not hesitate to contact Jason Redlarski, Program Manager, Provincial Emergency Operations (647-329-1194, [Jason.Redlarski@ontario.ca](mailto:Jason.Redlarski@ontario.ca)).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Pegg  
Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management