

Office of the Minister Deputy Government House Leader MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR100314

## Dear Chief Elected Officials:

This letter is to inform you of changes to the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), which are in effect for DRPs that occur in 2021 and onward and are outlined in the 2021 Disaster Assistance Guidelines.

In response to the rising cost and frequency of disasters in Alberta, we have made changes to the DRP. These changes are intended to share the responsibility of disasters with all those who are impacted and to make the program more sustainable for future events. Changes will ensure that assistance is available for Albertans when they need it most.

While conditions for eligibility remain the same for qualifying applicants, the following cost-sharing arrangements and funding limits have been added to the program:

## Local authority and private sector applicants (including homeowners) We are implementing a 90:10 cost-sharing arrangement.

- DRP assistance is limited to 90 per cent of eligible disaster expenses, instead of 100 per cent.
- The remaining 10 per cent of eligible assistance will be subtracted from the amount payable to the applicant. No payment to the program will be required.

## Homeowners only

We are implementing a funding limit of up to \$500,000 per homeowner application and a limit on assistance to one time per property.

For disaster events that occur in 2021 onward, qualifying homeowner applicants will only be able to access DRP assistance once per property address. Financial assistance from the program will not be provided to future applicants who own property at the same physical location.

.../2

132 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-3744 Fax 780-422-9550

Classification: Protected A

- The one-time funding limit is not cumulative. For example, if an applicant has received \$100,000 worth of assistance under the new policy, they would not qualify for any funding in the future.
- This change will not be applied retroactively. If a homeowner has received assistance before 2021, this does not count as meeting the one-time assistance limit.
- Homeowner addresses that receive DRP assistance will be posted online to the Government of Alberta website to provide transparency about DRP funding limits and up-to-date information for prospective homeowners, developers, and real estate professionals. The funding received stays with the property; therefore, a new homeowner would not be able to access disaster recovery funding for that same property in the future.

Being prepared improves individual and community resilience by lessening the impacts of disasters, shortening recovery time, and reducing economic disruption. Individuals and communities are encouraged to take measures to prepare for disasters and to look at ways of reducing their disaster risks. Learn how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters by visiting us at <u>alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx</u>.

Please refer to the enclosed information sheet for more information on changes to the Disaster Recovery Program and the Alberta Disaster Assistance Guidelines, or visit us online at <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/drp">www.alberta.ca/drp</a>.

If you have any additional questions, please call 1-888-671-1111 or email <a href="mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca">drp.info@gov.ab.ca</a>.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver Minister

Attachment: Information Sheet

Ric Mtv

cc: Chief Administrative Officers