



THE HUDSON BAY CONSORTIUM

Roundtable 2024

2024 Hudson Bay Consortium Roundtable Summary

Working with community and regional organizations, and with generous support from funding partners, delegates familiar with emergency response challenges from each of the 28 coastal communities traveled to Winnipeg to participate in the proceedings. The event reached maximum capacity with 125 attendees and focused on marine emergency response: search and rescue and environmental.

With support from regional Indigenous organizations and governments, and Polar Knowledge Canada, the 2024 Roundtable also included the Consortium's first Youth Delegation. Youth from around the Bays shared their unique perspectives, resources and experiences with participants while actively demonstrating their appreciation for intergenerational knowledge exchange.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



Emergency Response (ER): Empower communities to lead local ER, ensure equitable funding and support, enhance technology, maintain collaboration with partners for knowledge and resource exchange, and engage youth in community and federal roles.

Search and Rescue (SAR): Improve coordination of jurisdictions and decision-making, enhance proactive prevention measures, enhance mental health support, acknowledge climate change's impact on SAR efforts, develop community-specific funding solutions, clarify roles, integrate Indigenous knowledge, and raise awareness of regional issues for non-residents.

Environmental Response: Improve two-way communication and awareness between communities and passing vessels, respect and avoid important habitats and areas prone to ice break-up, integrate Indigenous knowledge, and share data collaboratively to enhance navigation and stewardship in the region.

WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Search and Rescue: This workshop identified the challenges and strengths of core marine SAR operations, and assets in the region.

Emergency Response 101: CCG provided an overview of their jurisdictions, roles and responsibilities, and assets in maritime emergency response for both search and rescue and environmental operations.

Team Debriefing and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing: Discussion was informed by real-life experiences and focused on post-operation debriefs to enhance learning and support, communication challenges, and mental health concerns.

The CCG Auxiliary in the Region: Discussion on the Coast Guard Auxiliary is key in local SAR systems. Discussions included the need for adequate support and resources for long-term effectiveness, and efforts to expand and sustain local auxiliaries for the benefit of communities.

Participatory Mapping Exercise: Participants shared areas of concern, areas of cultural significance, identified possible dangers or risks, explained ice break-ups and seasonal changes, and spoke directly to the operational staff of the CCG. This information will be used to inform an Arctic region situational awareness map.

Charting the Path Forward: In response to community discussions, establishment of a community and government partnered working group on Environmental Response for this region is desired, with a focus on practical deliverables. The work targeted should include the identification of best practices in emergency response (medical, logistical, and operational) and provide a platform for sharing what's been working well and where further improvements need to be made

KEY TAKEAWAYS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Support for developing a new Environmental Response Working Group under the Consortium to help advance the following:

- Delivery of marine safety training and capacity building in communities, in coordination with Transport Canada and OPP funding
- Working towards solutions for the lack of critical incident reporting in communities
- Creating communication networks for communities and CCG and ensuring key contact list are kept updated (in-community visits, caches/equipment)
- Development of a best practice guide for emergency response guided by Indigenous knowledge
- Highlighting the recent improvements to CCG operations in and around the Bays

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Hudson Bay Consortium Working Groups and Steering Committee, please contact: info@hudsonbayconsortium.com

For the 2024 Roundtable Report, and full list of sponsors please visit: [2024 Roundtable](#)