

Decision Note
Department of Justice and Public Safety
Emergency Services Division

Title: Newfoundland and Labrador Disaster Financial Assistance – January 5th, 2025 Storm Surge

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether or not to activate the Newfoundland and Labrador Disaster Financial Assistance Program (NL-DFAP).

Background and Current Status:

- NL-DFAP activation is dependent upon meeting the following eligibility criteria under the DFAA:
 - The disaster must be considered an extraordinary event that has caused widespread damage to property over multiple areas and/or jurisdictions, and a large number of people are affected.
 - The damage caused by the disaster must not be reasonably insurable.
 - The costs to repair the damages caused by the disaster would have to place a significant burden on the provincial economy and exceed what is considered reasonable to fully bear on their own.
 - The total response and recovery costs of the disaster must exceed the threshold determined by the Federal Government, which is \$3.75 per capita. The threshold for the Province is just over \$2 million.
- All eligible costs associated with the event must be paid by the province. Any eligible costs above the threshold, are cost-shareable under the federal DFAA.
- If NL-DFAP is activated and does not meet the federal eligibility requirements, the province will be solely responsible for all expenses.
- In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance through cost-share to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), administered by Public Safety Canada (PSC). DFAA is considered a last resort program.
- JPS does not have authority to distribute funds for damages that are ineligible for cost-sharing through DFAA, unless established through specific direction for a particular circumstance.

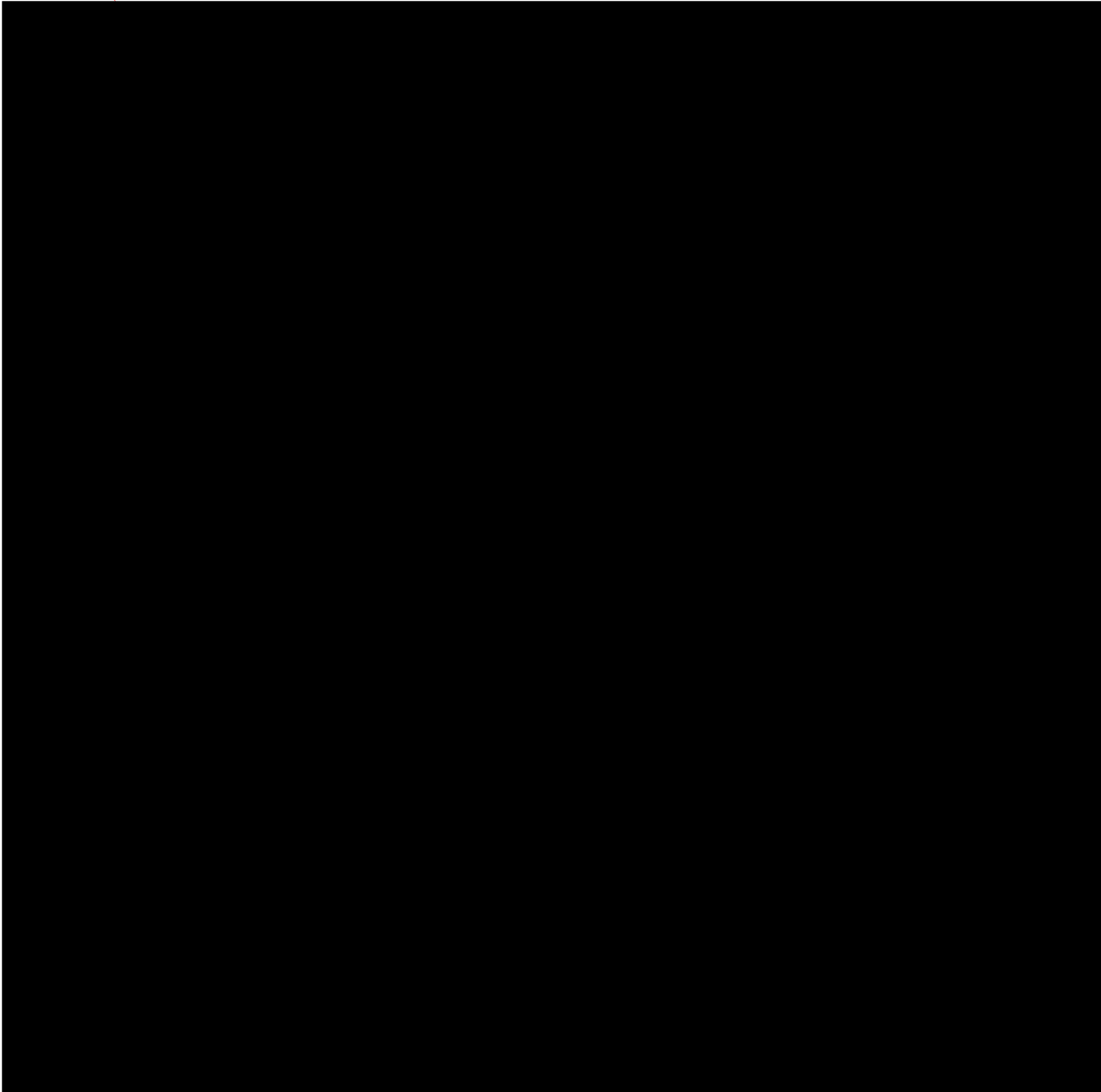
Analysis:

- On January 5, 2025, a storm surge impacted the northeast coast of the island, causing damages in several communities.

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s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

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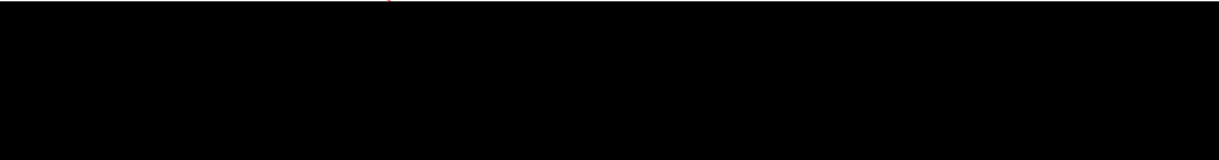


Alternatives:

Option #1: Activate NL-DFAP

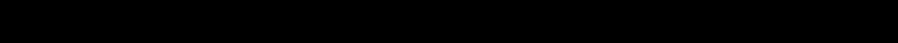
Pros: s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

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Cons:

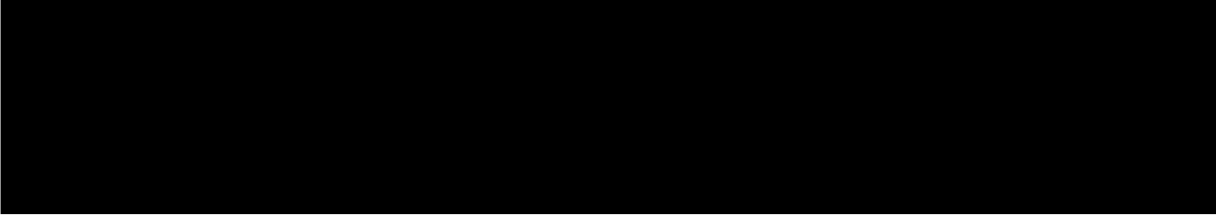
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s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

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Option #2: Do not Activate NL-DFAP

Pros:

s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

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Cons:

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s.29(1)(a), 35(1)(d), 35(1)(h)

Prepared/Approved by: J. Kennedy/ K. Moffatt/ N. Simms / D. Dunphy

Ministerial Approval: Received from: Hon. Bernard Davis

January 24, 2025