



## ISC Mitigation Spatial Data Note

In our pursuit of providing communities with Emergency Preparedness, Mitigation, Recovery and Response data, we at First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) wanted to release this program note to provide as much transparency as we can regarding our approach to supporting community data sovereignty. FNESS is proud to have a data management policy that focuses on Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) for First Nations data. Therefore, as FNESS pursues our vision and mission of supporting safe and healthy First Nation communities, any data collected to support your community, belongs to your community. FNESS does not claim ownership of any data submitted but can offer a diversity of value-added Emergency Management GIS support.

### Program Guides and Data Collection

FNESS recognizes each community's right to data sovereignty and offers supplementary information, tools, and data support to enforce that right. Emergency Management data processes should benefit the community, regardless of who administers or maintains the data. Therefore, data collection to a designated standard is still required when applying for mitigation funding, but data sharing is not required. If the common requirements for spatial submission are achieved, the application will be accepted. There are a few options available:

1. Continue with the standard spatial data submission process for the current project and re-evaluate at any time in the future.
2. Work with FNESS to co-create a Data Sharing Arrangement (DSA) that indicates how data and GIS supports are best provided to your community in the future.
3. Community in-house data retention. FNESS staff will review the data in-person to ensure it meets the criteria of the program. In this case, no digital record of the data will be retained by FNESS.

### FNESS Data Stewardship

It is important to reiterate that **all data collected on behalf of communities belongs to those communities**. If at any time there is a desire to withdraw data from FNESS' servers, FNESS will provide the data back to your community and delete our internal copies. Whenever there is a request for data release for a community from someone external, the community will be notified of the request, and no action will be taken until a decision is made by community leadership.

### Data Custodianship

If your community would like additional data support, FNESS is able to assist. In this case, your community may be interested in developing a data sharing arrangement with FNESS that addresses custodianship, maintenance, and value-added GIS services.

### FNESS Contact

If you wish to learn about our value-added Emergency Management GIS products, please contact [decisionsupport@fness.bc.ca](mailto:decisionsupport@fness.bc.ca).