

## PROVINCIAL DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

In response to spring flooding in Rainy River District and parts of Kenora District, the province has activated the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program.

Homeowners and residential tenants, small owner-operated businesses and farms, and not-for-profit organizations in your municipality that were affected by the disaster can apply for assistance under the program.

Eligible applicants can receive assistance for emergency expenses and costs for repair or replacement of essential and basic property if they do not have insurance or their insurance is insufficient to cover their essential costs as laid out in the program guidelines. The intent of the program is to return essential property to a basic level, to make homes safe and habitable and allow people to resume their livelihoods.

Low-income households can apply for assistance for damage caused by sewer backup, which is not otherwise eligible under the program.

It is our experience that residents often go to their municipality for information on the provincial program and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the following basic information that you can share with your residents (e.g., on your website, in response to telephone inquiries, etc.):

- Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians is a provincial program designed to help people affected by natural disasters get back on their feet. The program provides assistance for emergency expenses and costs to repair or replace essential property. It is not a replacement for insurance.
- The Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) has been activated for eligible homeowners, tenants, small owner-operated businesses and farms, and not-for-profit organizations within parts of our municipal boundaries that were most affected by the spring flooding between April-June 2022.
- Low-income households can apply for assistance for damage caused by sewer backup, which is not otherwise eligible under the program.

- If you are interested in submitting an application or learning more about this provincial program, please visit: [www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance](http://www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance). You can find the [program guidelines](#), frequently asked questions and application forms on this website.
- Please note that this is a program run by the province. If you need help with your application or have questions please write directly to the province at [disasterassistance@ontario.ca](mailto:disasterassistance@ontario.ca) or contact the information line at 1-877-822-0116.

- Application deadline for this program is: **October 7, 2022.**

A copy of the info sheet and applicant self-assessment questionnaire is attached to this e-mail in French and English versions. Application forms can be downloaded at [www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance](http://www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance). Please note that there is now a separate form for homeowners/tenants and small businesses/farms/not-for-profits.

If there are applicants that require an advance payment before they are able to replace essential property like a furnace, they should obtain quotes (as much as possible) and submit the quotes and a complete application form as soon as possible.