



REMP

REGIONAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP
in the Capital Region



2021 Annual Report

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Message from the Co-Chairs

We are pleased to present the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) 2021 Annual Report, which highlights the partnership's accomplishments with our local, provincial, and regional partners.

2021 proved to be another unforgettable year for the region. We experienced several events including the heat dome, challenging wildfire smoke, the ZIM Kingston cargo ship spill, and atmospheric river(s) along with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. At times, regular responsibilities were put on hold as REMP staff transitioned their skillsets to assist with response efforts and were deployed to both the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and the Vancouver Island Coastal Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (VIC PREOC).

REMP engaged over 100 participants from 30 different diverse organizations to advance regional planning priorities with respect to the shared hazards of extreme heat, tsunami, and COVID-19. Staff held a series of engagement workshops to discuss heat wave response, to identify challenges and gaps and to explore how the region could respond more effectively to future heat events. Additionally, staff continued to further work on tsunami risk communication collecting input into the creation of a future centralized and inter-active map. Finally, staff continued to work on existing initiatives, such as the COVID-19 Regional After Action Review and supporting the implementation of the 10 COVID-19 related recommendations.

2021 was a year of great change and transition for the REMP support staff team. In June 2021, Clarence Lai's time with REMP came to an end, as he moved on from his role of Director, Partnerships with EMBC to a new opportunity. Clarence was instrumental in creating the partnership in 2016. Clarence's leadership and commitment to collaborative regional emergency planning and coordination has led to many successes across the region. We would like to thank Clarence for his hard work and dedication. We also saw new beginnings for the partnership, welcoming Brittany Schina as the new Director, Strategic Partnerships, EMBC, and Ruth Fernandes, Senior Project Manager to the REMP support team.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all our partners for their dedication and hard work throughout the last year and, sincerely recognize the tireless efforts of the emergency management community that contribute to support REMP's vision of a disaster resilient region. We look forward to working with you all in the years to come.

Bob Lapham, Local Co-Chair,
*Chief Administrative Officer,
Capital Regional District*



Dave Peterson, Provincial Co-Chair,
*Assistant Deputy Minister, Recovery,
Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction
Division, Emergency Management BC*

2021 Annual Business Plan Highlights

2021 was a year of concurrent hazards and emergency responses, pushing emergency management practitioners to adapt quickly to manage conflicting priorities. In the Summer of 2021, we saw the third worst wildfire in BC's history, record breaking extreme heat, including the June-July Heat Dome event, an atmospheric river that caused catastrophic flooding and landslides, and winter storms.

Additionally, we saw the Province of BC continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including "circuit breaker" restrictions to combat the rising COVID-19 case counts, vaccination roll out and the implementation of BC's Restart Plan. The closing out of 2021, brought us one month closer to the start of the 2-year mark of a global pandemic experienced in BC.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and natural hazards experienced in BC, REMP successfully achieved several of its key performance indicators and successfully held three regular REMP Steering Committee, meetings and one joint meeting with the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) in the Metro Vancouver region. Additionally, REMP held the first **annual REMP Policy Group** meeting since 2019, approved the **2020 Annual Report** and **2021 Steering Committee work plan**. As well, REMP developed and approved both the **2022 Annual Business Plan** and **2022-2026 Financial Plan**.

Key Performance Indicators Achieved:



Four Steering Committee Meetings
Four LGE PAC Meetings
One Policy Group Meeting



One Tsunami Regional Forum



COVID-19 Information Sharing
• Development of Action Plan
• Bi-weekly Medical Health Officer calls



Two Extreme Heat Workshops

2021 REMP Initiatives

Regional Tsunami Initiatives



On May 19th REMP hosted a virtual forum bringing together stakeholders involved in all aspects of tsunami hazard management



55 people participated, with presentations from the United States National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC), Natural Resources Canada, Associated Engineering and Emergency Management BC



28 organizations attended from local, regional, federal and First Nations governments. As well as post-secondary institutions, private and non-profit sectors, and international agencies



The most important places identified to make improvements were: (1) increase public education (2) provide consistent data, modelling and mapping (3) improve cross-organizational communication

At this time tsunami risk communication is managed independently by each local authority. As REMP grows, it is committed to implementing the findings of previous work into practice. In 2019, participants at a Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop (representing the final step of the Regional Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment) identified a need within the region to modernize its education initiatives and identified modelling and interactive maps as needed tools to support risk education. REMP staff spent the second half of the year scoping out and socializing a complex regional tsunami mapping project with regional partners.



One survey of local emergency programs to identify the needs of each participating community in order to address project risks, milestones, and deliverables



Six Community Cross-departmental Virtual Engagement Sessions



Over 65 people participated across the six engagement sessions bringing diverse perspectives from emergency management, communications, and GIS



Participants shared a desire for consistency across the region, Island and North America, a move towards a regional hazard dashboard and “one-stop shop” for hazard information

Regional Extreme Heat Initiatives

Extreme heat was identified as a hazard of regional significance during the REMP Regional Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project. Extreme Heat is a lead cause of illness and death from weather-related hazards in Canada and coastal regions are susceptible to heat impacts despite their temperate climate. The 2021 heat initiative builds on this previous work by supporting the implementation of identified risk reduction solutions.



One survey of local emergency programs



Hosted two extreme heat workshops



A total of 87 people representing dozens of organizations participated in the two REMP workshops



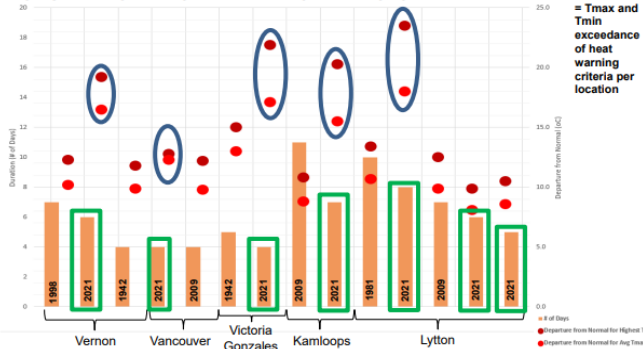
Participants at both workshops expressed interest in future regional collaboration

Overview of Promising Practices

HEAT ALERT RESPONSE SYSTEMS (HARS)



HIGHEST AND AVG TMAX FOR EACH EVENT COMPARED TO NORMAL



On May 6, 2021, the Extreme Temperature Response Workshop convened local emergency programs to explore a regionally consistent approach for responding to extreme heat. Guests included Island Health, Health Canada, and the City of Vancouver. Participants were introduced to the Heat Alert and Response System (HARS), planning and communications tools, and examples of HARS implementation from other jurisdictions in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. The top supports needed to address heat in community were identified as capacity for planning and more collaboration.

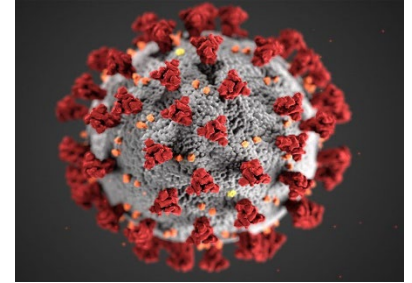
Shortly following this workshop, the region experienced the deadly heat dome event. REMP pivoted following the 2021 heat season. A survey of local emergency programs was distributed to document the experience of local authorities in support of continuous improvements in regional coordination.

On October 14, 2021, REMP hosted a multi-sectoral post-heat Season Debrief and Improvement Planning Workshop to understand the impacts of the 2021 heat season and share experiences across sectors, explore communication and coordination and discuss potential opportunities and structures for continued multi-sector engagement in the future. Participants were forward thinking, recognizing that evidence-informed interventions are necessary to reduce illness and death to future heat events, and were committed to improve communication and coordination amongst diverse regional actors.

50 people representing over 30 organizations associated with public health, communications, emergency management, community planning and more participated. Environment and Climate Change Canada and Dr. Shannon Waters, Medical Health Officer (Island Health) presented the data behind the heat dome and the human health impacts. The Town of Sidney, James Bay New Horizons and the Portland Hotel Society shared their experiences from a community perspective.

COVID-19 Regional After Action

In 2021, we saw the Province of BC continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including “circuit breaker” restrictions to combat the rising of COVID-19 case counts, vaccination roll outs and the implementation of BC’s Restart Plan. The closing out of 2021, brought us one month closer to the start of the 2-year mark of a global pandemic experienced in BC.



The Pandemic has offered new and unique opportunities to further REMP’s role through strengthened collaboration and communication among our partners. In 2021, REMP hosted and facilitated nineteen COVID-19/BC Restart conference calls between local authorities and the Island’s Medical Health Officers. The purpose of these calls was to receive timely updates on the COVID-19 situation for the South Island, and to provide the opportunity for the region’s emergency program coordinators to ask specific questions.



REMP would like to extend a personal thank you to both Dr. Fyfe and Dr. Hoyano for providing the region with medical updates.

Additionally, REMP continued working collaboratively with both local government and the province to develop a Recommendation Action Plan that outlined the status of 10 recommendations and suggested actions for each recommendation. Staff were successful in completing 3 out of the 10 recommendations, but given the continuous emergency situations, progress on the remaining recommendations was postponed to 2022.



Hosted 19 Island Health-Emergency Management COVID-19 Restart Conference Calls



Developed a COVID-19 Recommended Action Plan and will continue to track progress on the remaining 10 recommendations.

Cross-Jurisdictional Evacuation Coordination

Due to the complexities of being on an island and the diversity of the Capital region’s geography, it is known that a large-scale evacuation would require a coordinated approach to facilitate the movement of people across and within jurisdictional bounds safely.

On December 3, 2020, the Steering Committee approved REMP as the appropriate regional entity to provide project management support in scoping out the project and identifying the necessary elements needed to develop a regional evacuation plan. REMP committed to including this work in its 2021 and future Work Plans.



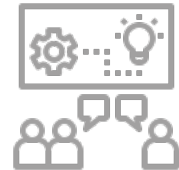
Revised the project scope and obtaining approval from the Steering Committee



Establishment of working and advisory teams; hosted and facilitated monthly project meetings



Multi-jurisdictional review of the region’s emergency management plans



Procurement for contractors and development of workshops for 2022

On March 15, 2021, the Steering Committee approved the project scope and staff began work on this project. Working and advisory project teams were created and expanded to include membership from multiple local government emergency practitioners across the region, a multi-jurisdictional review of the region’s emergency management plans was conducted

At the height of this summer, 3,631 personnel were helping fight the fires, including support from Mexico, Australia and across Canada. A total of 181 evacuation orders were issued for the province, with approximately 32,000 people displaced, and 19,807 people registered with Emergency Support Services. Our regional partners were deployed to other parts of the province to support these response efforts to wildfires and atmospheric rivers, providing opportunities to build local and regional capacity, and integrate those experiences and learnings into regional initiatives including this project.

In the fall of 2021, REMP procured services for the development of a workshop series to be hosted in January 2022. REMP looks forward to hosting three sub-regional workshops and one partner workshop in early 2022.

Strengthening the Partnership Highlights

Relationship Building and Maintenance

In 2021, REMP welcomed a new support staff and a new Director, Strategic Partnerships. Staff worked together to establish an internal rhythm to ensure REMP work was able to progress smoothly. As a result of the new additions to the team, 2021 was a year of building new and maintaining existing relationships amongst the REMP partnership and our member municipalities.

This included internal meetings between new staff with each of the REMP Steering Committee Voting Members. In addition, staff connected with communities in the Capital Region through various avenues, including:

- Coordinating the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LGEPAC) regular meetings;
- Hosting region specific calls; and
- Reaching out to communities to inform current REMP initiatives.

REMP also regularly connected with our partners at Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) to compare, collaborate, and coordinate on existing initiatives, as well as supporting project work through workshop facilitation.

2021 Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commissions Meetings

REMP also provided support to the LGEPAC by coordinating four meetings throughout 2021. LGEPAC allows emergency programs to share information with each other and to discuss shared regional issues that might come up. In 2021, LGEPAC members explored tsunami risk communication and shared information regarding the heat dome, atmospheric river events and the evolving emergency management landscape. Additionally, LGEPAC invited presentations from UBC's Dr. Ryan Reynolds and Alex Tanner who shared research about: *How residents responded during a Tsunami Evacuation on Vancouver Island and how similar evacuations might be improved.*

REMP would also like to recognize all new members and those who retired in 2021 for their support and contributions to emergency management.

Local Government Emergency Program Education Support

REMP staff managed and maintained the [PrepareYourself](#) website, which is a collaborative site that shares emergency preparedness information on behalf of the 13 municipalities and 3 electoral areas in the Capital Region. In 2021, the website received over 10,000 views.

REMP staff also managed and maintained the [@PrepareCRD](#) Twitter Account, which was used primarily to amplify original content that was already generated by local emergency programs. Content shared often promoted personal preparedness, local hazard information and regional subscriber based alerting systems.

2021 PrepareYourself Social Media Accomplishments

In 2021, REMP leveraged social media in various ways to promote emergency preparedness education throughout the region.



400+ Tweets and 22 Mentions



2630 Profile Visits and 53 new followers

11, 957 Tweet Impressions

REMP Administration and Governance

Annual Policy Group Meeting

The REMP Policy Group came together virtually for the first time since 2019 to ratify the 2021 Business Plan and extension of the current Strategic Plan to 2022, highlight the collaborative efforts from COVID-19, discuss public alerting in BC and the future direction of REMP. As outlined in the REMP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Policy Group consists of the Capital Region Board Chair and the Minister responsible for the BC *Emergency Program Act*.



The Policy Group meeting is an important opportunity to bring together elected officials to talk specifically about emergency management in the region despite so many competing priorities and issues. This convening of elected officials stresses the value of emergency management initiatives to both regional and provincial leaders and provides the opportunity to shift to a strategic lens. Recent partnership accomplishments are highlighted, and relevant issues are brought forward to elected leaders, which enables them to give increased prominence to these matters while connecting with their peers and constituency. The opportunity to connect during a year with continuous operational events highlights the importance of this partnership and displays the commitment and time that is dedicated to this vital work.

Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee collectively makes decisions on priorities and resources and liaises with other senior decision makers to champion the work of REMP. REMP held four Steering Committee meetings throughout 2021.

At the fourth quarter Steering Committee meeting, Parliamentary Secretary (PS) for Emergency Preparedness, Jennifer Rice was invited to attend. PS Rice provided a valuable presentation on her mandate and the alignment of work that currently exists with REMP. She was able to engage in valuable dialogue surround REMP initiatives and current issues experienced in the Capital Region.

Emergency Response Support

In 2021 REMP staff were deployed to support the Vancouver Island Coastal Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (VIC PREOC) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) Planning Units. REMP staff's involvement in operational response deployments have been invaluable as they provide staff the opportunity to work more closely with others in the region. REMP staff are well versed in various intricacies of local and provincial government processes and can share tools to support various ongoing activities. REMP Staff bring a unique lens from which to assess issues and problem solving from a regional perspective. The work of REMP and expertise of staff was leveraged to support EMBC with research and analysis of the 2021 heat season including data analysis, communications tracking across ECCC, EMBC and Health Authorities, PREOC responses across the province, and the intersections of heat and wildfire smoke. These opportunities position REMP staff to be agents of change, and advocates for our local government partners. REMP staff also supported the PREOC and PECC's with communications and briefing materials.



Figure 1 - The Sparks Lake wildfire on June 30, 2021. (BC Wildfire Service photo)

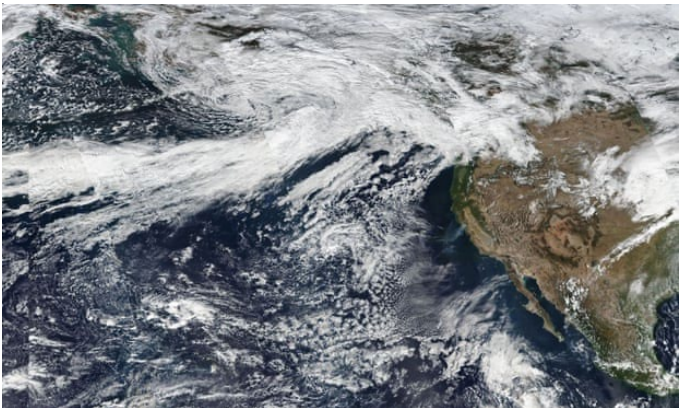


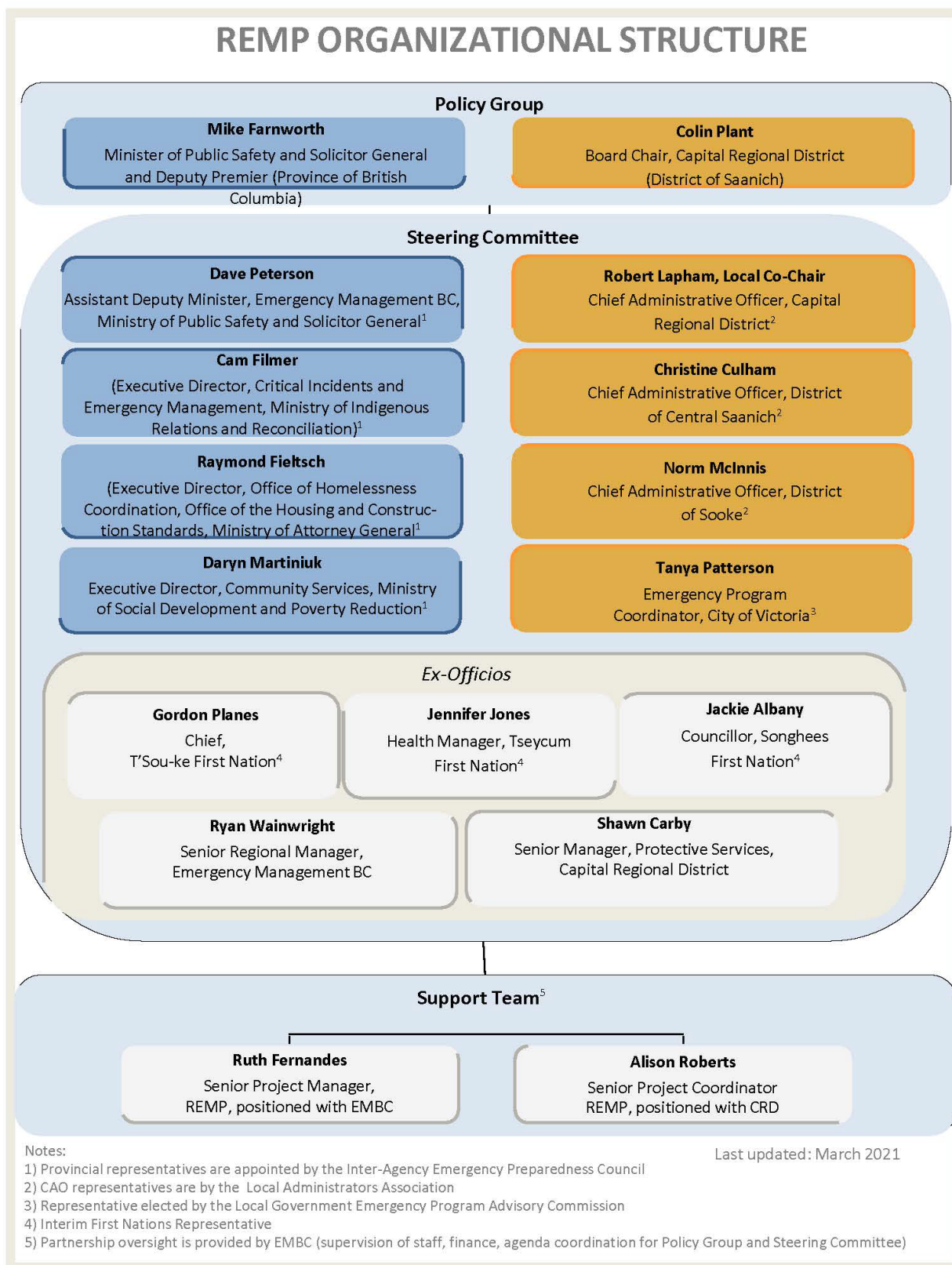
Figure 2 - A satellite image shows an atmospheric river above the north Pacific. Photograph: VIIRS/Suomi NPP/NASA

The 2021 BC wildfire season and the 2021 Atmospheric River event reinforced the projects undertaken by the partnership continue to be timely and relevant. Through the wildfire season a total of 181 evacuation orders were issued for the province, with approximately 32,000 people displaced, and 19,807 people registered with Emergency Support Services. The Cross-jurisdictional Evacuation Coordination Project can incorporate the lessons and experiences of other regions in BC.

Starting on November 13, 2021, an unprecedented atmospheric river storm caused severe flooding and landslides across British Columbia that destroyed homes, washed away highways, and had significant impacts on transportation networks, movement of essential goods and supplies, agriculture, and communities.

Various Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) were activated across the Vancouver Island Coastal region including the Capital Regional District and other communities within the region.

Organizational Chart



2021 Year-End Financial Statement

REVENUE

CRD Requisition	\$136,683
Provincial Government	\$125,000
Reserve Account	\$32,760
Total Funds Available	\$294,443

EXPENDITURES*

Salaries and Benefits	\$192,851
Consultants - REMP Projects	\$13,035
Regional Concept of Operations	-
Cross-Jurisdictional Evacuation Coordination (<i>previously Ex Strat</i>)	-
Extreme Heat AAR (<i>previously Pub Ed Plan</i>)	\$8,625
Regional Forums on EM Topics	\$4,250
Regional Tsunami	\$160
COVID-19	-
Travel (staff)	-
Professional Development	\$700
Other Services	\$22,877
Conference Registrations	\$547
Catering	-
Workshop Supplies	\$27
Allocations (Network support and other administrative services from the CRD)	\$22,303
Total Expenditures	\$229,463

**Note: Unspent funds from previous years are tracked and set aside for future REMP initiatives*