

Bio

Jo Ann Ford

Jo Ann Ford is the Emergency Response Coordinator for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – Ontario Region and has had over 25 years of experience in the area of Emergency Management.

JoAnn has coordinated the First Nation evacuations of Kashechewan, Attawapiskat, Fort Albany (floods) and Kasabonika, Keewaywin, Fort Severn and Saugeen First Nation (forest fires) communities over the past five years.

Jo Ann Ford is co-chair of the Joint Emergency Management Steering (JEMS) Committee which was established in 2006 with the development of a service standards manual which includes roles and responsibilities for federal and provincial, host communities and agencies, identifies the types and levels of service that are required to address the needs of the evacuees, and provides detailed information for host communities as service providers during an evacuation of a First Nation community in Ontario. The work of this committee was modelled on the James Bay First Nations coastal communities annual spring flood occurrences.

Prior to becoming the Emergency Response Coordinator, Jo Ann Ford held the positions of Manager of Social Programs, Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Advisor for INAC, Ontario Region and has had the opportunity to visit all First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario. Jo Ann served as INAC's representative on the Grassy Narrows and Islington Bands' Mercury Disability Board from 2006 to 2008. Currently, Jo Ann is INAC's representative on the Ontario Regional Pandemic Planning Working Group.

Jo Ann is married with two sons, ages 24 and 22 and after spending as much time as she can with her family and friends; any left over free time is devoted to gardening, reading and spending time at her remote site cottage.