



## **Biography of Jo Ann Ford**

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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 field 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.

Jo Ann is INAC's representative on the Ontario Regional Pandemic Planning Working Group and Federal/Provincial/Territorial First Nations, Inuit and Northerners Emergency Management Working Group to provide support to Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM). The working group's main objective is to develop First Nations, Inuit and Northern communities' ability to increase capacity of Emergency Management at their communities.

Prior to becoming the Emergency Response Coordinator, Jo Ann Ford held the positions of Manager of Social Programs and Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Advisor for INAC, Ontario Region. Jo Ann served as INAC's representative on the Grassy Narrows and Islington Bands' Mercury Disability Board from 2006 to 2008.

**JO ANN'S WORKSHOP PRESENTATION IS ON APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> AT THE CENTRE IN DRYDEN**