



Progress Report—BC Floodplain Maps Action Plan

September 2015

In March 2013, with financial support from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) hosted a workshop in Vancouver, to examine the state of floodplain maps in BC. The Floodplain Maps Action Plan was the key output of the workshop, and this report summarizes progress made since May 2015.

The complete Floodplain Maps Action Plan and previous progress reports are available online at: www.bcrea.bc.ca/government-relations/flood-protection.

Category	Action
Technical	<p>1. Monitor provincial and federal responses to the Public Safety Canada National Floodplain Mapping Assessment, and implementation of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).</p> <p><u>Status:</u> First intake (2015-2016) for the National Disaster Mitigation Program ended June 30, 2015; deadline for second intake (2016-2017) is October 31, 2015. No information on awards for the first intake seems to be available, and is perhaps interrupted by the federal election.</p>
Technical	<p>3. Undertake a research project to review the provincial government online floodplain mapping inventory and contact local governments and engineering firms to develop an up-to-date inventory of floodplain maps in BC.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> BCREA is working on the report from this research, and expects to publish by late September or early October.</p>
Technical	<p>4. Undertake a technical project to compile case studies of current BC floodplain mapping practices based on significant flood scenarios (e.g., riparian flooding from freshet, pluvial and rain-on-snow events, debris flooding) around the province. Compile the best practices and minimum standards for floodplain mapping BC, including data requirements, engineering standards and methodologies, and integrating climate change into planning.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> A preliminary meeting will take place in early September.</p>
Political	<p>6. Communicate the progress and outcomes of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy to enable opportunities to advance flood hazard mapping provincially.</p>

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	<p><u>Status:</u> Phase 1 of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy continues, with the regional assessment of flood vulnerability and flood policy review expected to complete in November. Briefing materials will be available this fall, and an overview is available at: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_flood.html.</p>
Political	<p>7. Through a structured communications approach, engage key public and private organizations and associations to raise awareness among decision makers and stakeholders, and strengthen political support; e.g., facilitate opportunities to bring together municipalities for peer-to-peer discussions, host one or more sessions at local government conferences, develop a set of visual tools to improve understanding about the importance of floodplain mapping / flood hazard management, and to support the allocation of the necessary resources.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Two opportunities are currently open for those inclined to comment on the state of floodplain maps in BC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July, Premier Clark appointed the Honourable Naomi Yamamoto as Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, within the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Among Minister Yamamoto’s responsibilities is to “work with BC communities that could be impacted by floods to determine what measures could be taken to reduce these risks and report to Cabinet by March 31, 2016.” BCREA has written to the minister (www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/2015-08-05yamamoto.pdf) describing the Floodplain Maps Action Plan and requesting a meeting, and suggests that other organizations also contact her to assist with this important project. • In mid-July, the Climate Leadership Plan discussion paper was published for public comment. The plan provides a framework for potential climate change adaptation solutions, addressing a broad range of measures addressing the built environment, waste management, transportation and land use planning, among others. Written input will be accepted until September 14, and the paper is available at https://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/files/2015/07/ClimateLeadershipPlanDiscussionPaper.pdf. <p>The following upcoming events also relate to flood management and floodplain maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sep. 16-18 – Planning Institute of BC Central-North Chapter Conference (Prince George): Planning for Hazards: https://www.pibc.bc.ca/events/pibc-central-north-chapter-2 • Sep. 23-24 – BCREA booth at Union of BC Municipalities tradeshow (Vancouver) • Sep. 28-30 – ICLEI Canada Livable Cities Forum: Building Flood Resiliency (Calgary): www.icleicanada.org/events/livablecities • Oct. 15 – Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC Conference (Kelowna), session on Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy: https://events.apeg.bc.ca/ehome/index.php?eventid=127769&

Category	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov. 17-19 – EPICC Emergency Preparedness + Business Continuity Conference (Vancouver): www.epbccconference.ca Nov. 18-19 – Canadian Water Resources Association BC Branch Conference: Floods, Droughts & Everything in Between (Vancouver): www.cwrabc.ca/conference
Financial	<p>9. Review the Floodplain Mapping Funding Guidebook for BC Local Governments every year and update as required.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> BCREA updated the funding guidebook in June: www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/floodplainmapguidebook.pdf.</p> <p>The update coincided with the publication of the following resource from the Adaptation to Climate Change Team at Simon Fraser University: <i>Paying for Urban Infrastructure in Canada: An Analysis of Existing and Potential Economic Instruments for Local Governments</i> (http://act-adapt.org/paying-for-urban-infrastructure-adaptation-in-canada-an-analysis-of-existing-and-potential-economic-instruments-for-local-gove).</p>