



Progress Report—BC Floodplain Maps Action Plan

December 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 September 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> National Floodplain Mapping Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A technical working group has been formed, and intends to create national floodplain mapping guidelines in 2016. In fact, an RFP for developing the national principles, best practices and guidelines has been advertised: https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-15-00710207. <p>National Disaster Mitigation Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the funding decisions for the first intake were interrupted by the federal election, BCREA understands from Public Safety Canada that those decisions will be made in the next few months.
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 published the <i>BC Floodplain Map Inventory Report</i> (www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/2015floodplainmapinventory.pdf) on October 30. Seventy-two local governments and First Nations responded to the survey, and only 21% of those have access to floodplain maps updated or created within the past 10 years.</p>

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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> The development of national guidelines (see action 1) may impact this action.</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> <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 December. An overview of the initiative 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> In the past few months, several events relating to flood management and floodplain maps have taken place, and the <i>BC Floodplain Map Inventory Report</i> captured some notable media attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC communities at increased flood risk are unaware of danger, study finds, <i>The Vancouver Sun</i> - www.vancouversun.com/business/communities+increased+flood+risk+unaware+danger+study+finds/11481610/story.html?lisa=eo6c-bf93 • New report says flood plans in BC are out of date, Global News/TV - http://globalnews.ca/news/2311288/new-report-says-flood-plans-in-b-c-are-out-of-date/ • Most BC communities don't have updated floodplain maps: report, News1130 - www.news1130.com/2015/11/01/most-bc-communities-dont-have-updated-floodplain-maps-report/ • Flood plain concerns, Fairchild TV - www.fairchildtv.com/english/news.php?n=dba595edc1e3c2214ed62c128944c932 • Flood risk mystery as Chilliwack and other communities using out-of-date maps, <i>Chilliwack Times</i> - www.chilliwacktimes.com/news/339983071.html

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="289 237 1230 310">• Lack of floodplain maps concerns BC's REALTORS®, <i>Vernon Morning Star</i> - www.vernonmorningstar.com/business/347800051.html <p data-bbox="289 363 873 394">BCREA is aware of the following upcoming event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="289 405 1409 510">• Feb. 22 – Workshop on Climate Change-Induced Hazards (hosted by the Centre of Natural Hazard Research and co-organized with the SFU Adaptation to Climate Change Team and Natural Resources Canada), Vancouver: http://cnhr.mhrisk.ca/index8.php