

Emergency Preparedness Committee Brief, January 2023

BC Flood Strategy, Intentions Paper & Engagement

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Background

The province of BC has launched a Flood Strategy for feedback and comment:

- Discussion paper – issued Spring 2021
- Intentions paper – issued Fall 2022

The intentions paper can be found at

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/797/2022/10/From-Flood-Risk-to-Resilience-in-B.C.pdf>

The submission portal for comments/feedback can be found at

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcfloodstrategy/>

2022 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Announced

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness was announced late fall 2022. The Minister's mandate largely focused on *disaster risk reduction, building resilience and climate adaptation/readiness*.

BC's disaster resilience and climate adaptation measures are largely based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to which Canada is a signatory. The goal of the Sendai Framework is "to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries". This goal is expressed to be achieved through four priority actions:

- understanding disaster risk,
- strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk,
- investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and
- enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Flood Strategy Overview

In the context of BC's Flood Strategy, these themes are being developed to increase flood resilience in BC. The Flood Strategy Intentions Paper is organized into 4 key program areas:

- ***Understanding Flood Risks*** –
 - Advanced flood maps

- Province wide flood risk assessment
- Increasing public awareness of flood risks
- Research & training
- ***Strengthening Flood Risk Governance to manage disaster risk –***
 - Involvement of FN in flood resilience decision making
 - Modernization of legislation & policy around flood risks
 - Modernization of provincial technical guidelines for floods.
- ***Enhancing Flood Preparedness, Response and Recovery –***
 - Enhance flood forecasting.
 - Enhance flood preparedness, response activities, recovery planning & post disaster recovery
- ***Investing for Flood Resilience, with the aim of building a coherent strategic vision for flood management -***
 - Enhance investment for flood avoidance, flood accommodation, flood protection and community led retreat.

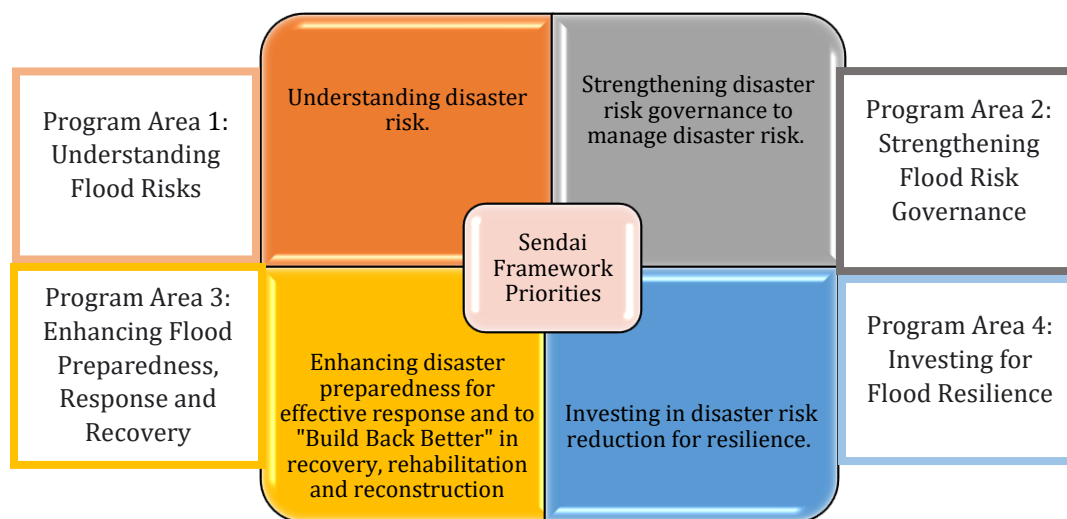


Image: Program areas in the BC Flood Strategy Intention Paper & the Sendai Priorities

Areas of Concern

- Responsibility of LG expanding exponentially – impact on resources
- Sustainability of funding
- Requirement for more engagement with FN
- Expectation to undertake significant flood risk reduction projects, but without the establishment of service functions by bylaw
- Significant implications to Land use Planning functions
- Unclear Roles and Responsibilities across the orders of government,
- And the implications of structural flood mitigation & orphan dykes and dams in rural regional settings