

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2023



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness was created in 2022/23 as a stand-alone ministry separate from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. This Annual Service Plan Report represents the Ministry's actual results and compares to the expected results outlined in the 2022/23 - 2024/25 Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan published in 2022. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bowinn".

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
August 9, 2023

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness 2022/23 Annual Service Plan Report.

The extreme weather challenges and emergencies that British Columbians face are increasing, significantly impacting people, communities, economies, infrastructure, and ecosystems. These events continue to grow in complexity as climate change persists. B.C. has experienced several climate-driven disasters in recent years, including a heat dome, catastrophic atmospheric river event, and severe wildfire seasons. In addition, B.C. remains exposed to increased seismic risk compared to other parts of the country. These events, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have a lasting impact on people and communities.

In December 2022, our government demonstrated a commitment to emergency management and climate and disaster risk reduction by creating the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. As the first Minister of this new Ministry, I am humbled to lead our provincial approach to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery while we help keep people and communities safe.

Over the last year, we have made significant progress towards disaster and climate risk reduction, including the launch of the ClimateReadyBC platform, the 2023 Exercise Coastal Response, and committing a further \$180M to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. We have also formed new partnerships and agreements with First Nations, local authorities, post-secondary institutions, and organizations, and prioritized incorporating cultural safety and cultural humility into our planning, policies, and programs.

We continued our work to modernize emergency management in B.C. and advance the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through co-development of legislation and regulations with First Nations. We also remained engaged with communities to prepare for potential disasters and continue recovery efforts from past disasters.

While we have taken some significant steps towards our vision of a disaster resilient British Columbia, we still have more work to do. Our policies, programs, and engagement need to remain current and meet the needs of all British Columbians.

The many significant accomplishments outlined in this report are a testament to the dedication and hard work across the Ministry. I would like to thank Ministry staff for their continued commitment to the resiliency and well-being of individuals and communities in B.C.



Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
August 9, 2023

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and Minister Farnworth's [2020 Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the [Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

Purpose of the Ministry

In December 2022, the Province demonstrated its commitment to emergency management and disaster and climate risk reduction by creating a new Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (the Ministry). The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General was restructured with Emergency Management BC and its accountabilities, divisions, branches, and staff forming the new ministry with an expanded mandate towards addressing climate risk. The increased intensity and frequency of disasters in recent years, coupled with the continued risk posed by climate change, highlighted the necessity for a standalone ministry to address the needs and demand from people and communities across the province.

The Ministry is responsible to British Columbians as the primary coordinating agency for reducing climate risk impacts and responding to provincial-level emergencies and disasters. The Ministry works to advance the vision of a disaster resilient British Columbia.

The mission of the Ministry is to lead provincial emergency and disaster risk management, build and foster collaborative relationships and partnerships, advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and support all people in British Columbia to reduce climate and disaster risk.

The Ministry is responsible for providing cross-ministry coordination to enhance British Columbia's readiness and resilience towards climate and disaster risks and working towards a comprehensive and interconnected approach to achieving climate and disaster risk reduction. The Ministry leads provincial emergency management through the four-phased approach of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in close collaboration with First Nations, local authorities, other provinces and territories, federal departments, industry, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers. Delivery of the Ministry's mandate is supported by the *Emergency Program Act*.

Operating Environment

After a year of unprecedented extreme weather events in 2021, including a historic heat dome, wildfire season, and atmospheric river event, people and communities in British Columbia continued to recover from these disasters. As a result of these events and the devastating impacts across the province, the Ministry experienced an increasing demand from communities and First Nations for emergency preparedness, mitigation planning, and response and recovery supports.

Compared to the previous year, 2022/23 brought a relatively mild hazard season. The Ministry continued its focus on supporting people and communities to improve emergency preparedness, building capacity, and establishing partnerships and agreements, while also working to modernize emergency management and service delivery.

The uncertainty of when British Columbia will experience an emergency or disaster, and the variable severity of yearly hazard seasons, poses significant risk to the Ministry and the people of B.C. The Ministry continued internal planning to ensure resources are effectively managed and allocated in the event of an emergency, and that the delivery of the services, programs and supports are not adversely affected.

With the formation of a new Ministry, there was also a focus on establishing a stable organizational structure with the capacity and skills to deliver on its mandate and to support organizational excellence. The competitive labour market continued to challenge recruitment and hiring efforts and the Ministry implemented new approaches to recruit, retain and develop staff, while also fostering a learning culture that aims to establish internal capacity with the necessary specialized and technical skillsets.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The Ministry was created partway through the 2022/23 fiscal year, with its accountabilities moving from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to a new standalone ministry with an expanded mandate towards addressing climate risk. The Goals and Objectives in this Annual Report follow the structure of the Ministry's 2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan. The scope of this Annual Report is retrospective, and the key results and progress reported are specific to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2022/23 Service Plan's Goals, Objectives, and Key Strategies applicable to the Ministry. More details on the linkages to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2022/23 Service Plan can be found in Appendix B.

Goal 1: B.C.'s strategies and systems reduce the impacts of climate driven hazards and other emergencies and disasters.

Objective 1.1: Lead provincial coordination for disaster risk reduction and climate readiness initiatives to improve awareness and transparency, increase resilience, and build back better from disasters.

As the Province's lead agency responsible for climate readiness and disaster risk reduction, the Ministry coordinates across the provincial government and with external partners to bring together expertise in the development of plans and strategies to ensure B.C.'s communities, economy, and infrastructure are prepared to meet the challenges of a changing climate and other emergency events. The Ministry coordinates provincial efforts to enhance resilience, provide guidance and resources to individuals and communities, and applies lessons learned from past emergencies.

Key results

- Launched [ClimateReadyBC](#), an online platform to guide First Nations, local authorities, professionals, and the public on the Province's disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports.
- Led the Exercise Coastal Response 2023, a three-day simulated exercise of a catastrophic earthquake response bringing together internal and external partners to practice coordination, communication, and strategic decision-making.
- Developed a Provincial Business Continuity Management Program Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

To guide First Nations, local authorities, professionals, and the public on government's disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports, the Ministry launched [ClimateReadyBC](#). The online platform acts as both a disaster and climate risk reduction tool for public and community use, as well as a hub for future collaboration and growth. It incorporates lessons learned from past emergencies, builds capacity and resilience to face current challenges, and prepares B.C. communities to mitigate risk from future disasters – including floods, wildfires, extreme heat, tsunamis, and earthquakes. The platform provides mapping tools, risk and resilience data, and other resources to support communities. The Ministry created the platform in partnership with the Ministries of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship, Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Citizens' Services, and is aligned with the [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#), [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and the *B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The [ClimateReadyBC](#) platform will continue to be expanded over the coming years, and engagement with First Nations, local authorities and other partners will drive the platform's evolution. Data, maps, tools, and resources will be added as they become available. Deeper collaboration and open access to risk and resilience data will improve all four phases of emergency management towards disasters and climate-related events.

In February 2023, the Ministry led Exercise Coastal Response 2023, a three-day simulated exercise of a catastrophic earthquake response based on the [Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy](#). The exercise provided a safe learning environment to practice and evaluate strategy and procedures and an opportunity to develop new concepts and identify gaps in response, moving forward on a path of continuous improvement. The Ministry is undertaking an after-action review which will inform an improvement plan that identifies where procedural changes may be needed. These are all important pieces in strengthening our earthquake response planning and overall preparedness to support people, local governments, and First Nations in British Columbia.

The Ministry also worked closely with the Ministry of Forests on the development of the BC Flood Strategy, including supporting engagement efforts and providing substantive input towards the strategy. After engagement and consultation is completed, a comprehensive flood strategy is expected to be released in 2023/24.

Objective 1.2: Champion evidence-based approaches across the B.C. government to identify and reduce disaster and climate risks and invest in disaster risk reduction.

Every disaster provides the opportunity to learn, build capacity, and reduce future risk. Using global best practices and reliable data and information, the Ministry leads cross-government efforts aimed at enhancing the province's ability to withstand future disasters and minimize impacts to people, First Nations, local authorities, the economy, and the environment.

Key results

- In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, initiated work to develop a new approach to assessing disaster and climate risk and resilience, through co-development and engagement with First Nations and Indigenous partners.
- Released the [Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy](#), a comprehensive strategy that builds on emergency preparedness capacity to increase resilience and keep people safe following a major earthquake.
- Committed an additional \$180M to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund in 2022/23, which funded a total of 432 projects that support mitigation and preparedness across the province through intakes in 2022/23.
- Launched the Green Infrastructure Adaptation Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Sub-Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, a Federal/Provincial cost sharing program that will invest in flood mitigation projects to better protect British Columbians.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

The Ministry led the development of the [Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy](#) (PEIRS), which outlines the roles, responsibilities and integration of all levels of governments, agencies and partners following a catastrophic earthquake. It is designed to be flexible and scalable, and can be used for other major emergency events, such as flooding.

PEIRS builds on other preparatory activities, including work with the federal government, to develop earthquake scenarios and plans to address national support strategies, as well as agreements with other jurisdictions to share resources in the event of a significant disaster. The new strategy incorporates the Province's strengthened and evolving relationship with First Nations and considers the disproportionate impact of emergencies on vulnerable populations. It also considers technology, service delivery strategies and priorities, and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 atmospheric rivers.

In 2022/23, the Province committed a further \$180M to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF). Administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), CEPF supports projects that help First Nations and local authorities prepare communities for the risks of natural hazards and climate change and lessen the effect before disasters happen. The new contribution brings the Province's total investment in the CEPF to \$369M, and since 2017, has supported more than 1,500 First Nations and local authorities projects.

Across all streams of the CEPF, UBCM announced funding for a total of 432 projects from intakes in 2022/23. The CEPF built on previous program areas to develop the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) funding stream, which expanded the program from floods to include other climate-related risks. The 2022/23 DRR-CA intakes invested in 135 projects for \$69.7M. Additionally, 297 preparedness projects were funded for \$14M.

Additionally, the Province invested \$12.5M in flood resilience for communities along the Fraser River. This includes \$5M for Sqwá First Nation, Shxwhá:y Village, and Chilliwack for riprap

erosion control measures for shoreline stabilization; \$5.3M to Metro Vancouver for Barnston Island dike improvements and other flood-risk-reduction work; \$1.2M to the Leq'á:mel First Nation for watershed recovery capacity to offer support and leadership, and guide flood-recovery-related projects affecting the Leq'á:mel First Nation's territory; \$500,000 for the Fraser Valley Regional District to offer support and leadership in the Hatzic Lake flood-mitigation planning table and support actions to reduce flood risk in the Hatzic Lake flood zone, and \$500,000 to the District of Hope for Lower Coquihalla watershed resiliency planning that looks beyond traditional flood infrastructure, encompasses regional partners and works toward building resilience to future flooding.

The Ministry also worked with other ministries to fund recovery and disaster risk reduction projects, including providing over \$10M to the City of Merritt to rebuild the Middlesboro Bridge damaged during the November 2021 atmospheric river and bring it to modern standards to ensure its resiliency in the face of climate change.

The Ministry also began working in partnership with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) to explore opportunities to enhance the delivery of culturally safe evacuee support services. The ministry continued the partnership with the Justice Institute of British Columbia and supported the delivery of courses in emergency management, search and rescue, and emergency support services. Additionally, the Ministry continues to work alongside the Emergency Planning Secretariat and the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition (formerly Build Back Better Together Collaborative) to strengthen our partnership and disaster risk reduction and flood resilience strategies.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual ²	2022/23 Forecast	2022/23 Actual
1.1 Provincial and regional risk assessment methodology developed and implemented. ¹	N/A	Risk assessment methodology completed.	Foundational risk assessment methodology drafted.

Data source: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Manually compiled.

¹ PM 1.1 was introduced in the 2023/24 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Service Plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

² [Provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy \(CPAS\) Phase 2](#) (2022/23- 2024/25) was published and began implementation in 2022/23.

The Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy have a joint mandate to advance B.C.'s commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by integrating the assessment of disaster and climate risk and resilience to support the development of a subsequent province-wide disaster and climate risk reduction plan. The Province last completed a provincial Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in 1997 and, in 2019, released the [Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for British Columbia](#). The Province recognizes that disaster and climate risks are interrelated and an updated integrated

assessment approach is needed to inform disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation actions.

The Ministry began work in 2022/23 to co-develop a new risk and resilience assessment methodology. This preliminary work was based on learnings since 2019 from engagement with First Nations, Indigenous partners, local governments, and subject matter experts across B.C., Canada, and internationally. This draft methodology will take a values-based approach, and will uphold Indigenous and local knowledges, climate science, and equity considerations not typically included in conventional risk assessments. In addition, the provincial and subsequent regional assessments will be co-developed and engaged on with First Nations and Indigenous partners taking a distinctions-based approach and in alignment with actions in the [BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan](#).

The methodology will provide a new approach to evaluating disaster and climate risks as well as our resilience in the face of a changing climate. The methodology will recognize the varying impacts of risks to diverse and equity-denied populations, assess resilience, respectfully uphold local and Indigenous knowledges, and ensure the outputs of the assessment are useful for decision-makers. The Ministry plans to finalize the methodology in 2023/24.

The new methodology will be used to conduct the provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments for completion in 2024/25 and regional assessments in 2025/26 and 2026/27. These assessments will inform how actions to reduce and mitigate risks are prioritized in the subsequent disaster and climate risk reduction plan.

Goal 2: Indigenous Peoples are true partners and leaders in emergency and disaster risk management.

Objective 2.1: Include First Nations during all phases of emergency management, including all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.

Effective emergency management requires involvement and expertise of First Nations across B.C. The Ministry works with First Nations and through government-to-government relationships to foster shared leadership across all phases of emergency management, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, to build their future resilience.

Key results

- Renewed the tripartite Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement between the T̓silhqot̓in National Government and the governments of British Columbia and Canada for a five-year term.
- Provided \$10M to First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) for Indigenous emergency management priorities including supporting First Nations in accessing

funds through an application-based programs such as the CEPF, and augment its technology, increase emergency management training to Indigenous communities, and hiring over 40 new Emergency Program Coordinators.

- Provided a total of \$555,000 to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to support implementation of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between FNLC, Canada, and B.C. and development of a new multi-lateral service agreement, and support FNLC in leading a series of engagement sessions to inform the development of Sendai-based B.C. First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In 2022, the T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG) and the governments of B.C. and Canada renewed a five-year tripartite Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA). The renewed CEMA supports capacity for the TNG and T̓silhqot'in communities to be true partners and leaders in emergency management. The agreement creates a structure for collaboration to ensure that T̓silhqot'in communities inform decisions that affect them, their families and their territories while prioritizing the importance of cultural safety and Indigenous knowledge in wildfire and emergency management.

Over the past five years, the parties have made progress related to establishing government-to-government agreements and protocols that provide a progressive framework for emergency response.

The Ministry has also worked closely with three First Nations and two cities on flood mitigation in the Sumas River Watershed and Nooksack River Watershed. The Nooksack River flood prevention and response is also a transboundary initiative involving Washington State. It is expected that collaborative recovery frameworks will be signed early in the 2023/24 fiscal year. In support of the Sumas River Flood Mitigation Collaborative Framework, the Ministry provided \$1.2M to support technical capacity. This was complemented by \$2.8M in capacity funding for the Semá:th First Nation to support flood recovery and resilience planning and \$3.2M provided to Abbotsford for upgrades to the Barrowtown pump station.

The Ministry has continued to work closely with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council and its affiliated membership to advance recovery priorities in Nlaka'pamux territory following the devastating impacts of the Lytton Creek wildfire in July 2021. This work is supported through a trilateral table with the Tribal Council and Canada. A renewed governance structure and identification of longer-term recovery objectives is anticipated in 2023/24 fiscal year.

The Ministry continued to strengthen partnerships with NVIT, Emergency Planning Secretariat and FNESS through capacity funding and collaborative engagement efforts.

Objective 2.2: Better shape the delivery of services to Indigenous Peoples to consider both the needs and the cultural perspectives of individual members and communities.

Actions and decisions taken by the Ministry are guided by the B.C. Government's commitment to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Ministry recognizes the diversity of First Nations in British Columbia and respects the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples. Services, programs, and training are designed to improve cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Key results

- Released an updated [Emergency Support Services Program Guide](#) that is reflective of UNDRIP and the B.C. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and cultural safety and humility best practices and policies.
- Coordinated five Partnerships Tables across the province, providing a regional forum for First Nations emergency managers to build relationships, share knowledge, and inform emergency management service delivery efforts.
- Advanced shared objectives of ensuring an approach to emergency management that is culturally safe and supports the interests, perspectives, and self-determination of First Nations in B.C. through a Letter of Understanding between the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry.
- Integrated cultural safety and cultural humility into emergency planning, policies, programs, and all four phases of emergency management.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

The Ministry released an updated Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide in 2022/23. ESS is a First Nations government and local authority based provincial emergency response program designed to meet the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support in a compassionate manner. ESS is designed to provide support for disasters ranging from a single house fire to provincial level events involving large evacuations. These supports enable people to re-establish themselves as quickly as possible after an emergency or disaster. The updated guide and all online training resources are reflective of UNDRIP and incorporates cultural safety and humility best practices and policies.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual ³	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual
2.1 Percentage of on-reserve First Nation communities participating on Indigenous Emergency Management Partnership Tables. ^{1, 2}	N/A	39	38

Data source: Strategic Partnerships, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

¹ PM2.1 targets in the 2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan were reporting in error as the number of First Nations communities participating rather than the percentage. The 2022/23 Target has been revised in the above table and the 2023/24 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Service Plan.

² This performance measure was revised in the latest service plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#). The revised measure was reworded to remove the term "on-reserve" for the 2023/24 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Service Plan. The Ministry recognizes that some First Nations communities are not on reserves and the Ministry provides services to all First Nations communities.

³ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021/22 Partnerships Tables did not occur. The FNLC held a Virtual BC First Nations Emergency Management Forum and the percentage of First Nations communities was not tracked.

In 2018 the First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables were created as regional forums for First Nations and provincial agency emergency managers to share knowledge and provide guidance on emergency management issues and initiatives.

Every First Nation community in B.C. is invited to participate, along with key support organizations, including FNESS, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), FNHA, BC Wildfire Service, and many other non-governmental, provincial, or federal partners, as determined by First Nations. Agendas are shared in advance of each partnership table meeting with all First Nations communities in the region, copies of the presentations are shared after each meeting, and a copy of the Partnership Tables report is shared with all First Nations communities in B.C.

In fall 2022, all First Nations communities were invited to attend a regional Partnerships Table at one of the following locations: Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (Prince George), Kitsumkalum Band (Terrace), Kwantlen First Nation (Langley), Osoyoos Indian Band (Osoyoos), and Wei Wai Kum First Nation (Campbell River). The Partnership Tables brought together representatives from First Nations across B.C., with 17 provincial and federal agency representatives, and 11 local government representatives. The Halalt First Nation Partnerships Tables was cancelled due to flooding and the Partnerships Tables hosted at Osoyoos Indian Band had decreased participation due to poor weather and road conditions.

As part of continuous improvement efforts, support organizations and community representatives are encouraged to continue local and regional dialogue around emergency management topics between Partnership Tables, including through seasonal readiness calls/meetings, in-person community visits, and First Nations specific coordination calls. First Nations communities are faced with capacity challenges and competing priorities at the provincial and federal levels of government. Targeted participation rates are anticipated to increase gradually over time as First Nations continue working toward building dedicated emergency management capacity. The Ministry is exploring ways to enhance participation at future Partnerships Tables including the addition of virtual options for First Nations unable to attend in-person.

The Ministry recognizes the limitations of a performance measure that merely measures the percentage of First Nations attending First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables and is committed to achieving truly meaningful engagement and shared decision-making with First Nations far beyond this quantitative metric. This will be realized through modernization of the emergency management system, including the creation of a new approach for the delivery of emergency management services in alignment with the multi-

jurisdictional services agreement with ISC, FNLC and FNESS, and new legislation built in partnership with First Nations.

Goal 3: B.C. has modernized and enhanced emergency management in all four phases (prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover).

Objective 3.1: Modernize B.C.'s emergency and disaster risk management legislation.

Modernizing the Province's emergency management legislation is a crucial step in implementing the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizing the importance of disaster risk reduction, and strengthening the four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Key results

- Resumed modernized emergency management legislation engagement with a focus on co-developing the new legislation with First Nations partners.
- Initiated discussions with First Nations partners on the process and content for the co-development of modernized emergency management regulations.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In 2018, British Columbia was the first province in Canada to adopt the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, representing a significant step towards modernizing emergency management. Repealing the *Emergency Program Act* and replacing it with a new Act will formally align the province with the leading-edge approach, as well as reflect the B.C. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, lessons learned from past events, incorporate all four phases of emergency management, and a focus on disaster risk reduction.

In 2022/23, the Ministry resumed modernized emergency management legislative development and consultation work after an intentional pause in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry is using a distinctions-based approach to engagement that acknowledges and affirms the specific rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

The Ministry continues consultation and co-development with First Nations – including rights and title holders, the FNLC, and member Nations of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations – and other Indigenous organizations, including Métis Nation BC, and service providers, such as the FNHA, FNESS, and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

The Ministry worked with First Nations to draft legislation planning documents and the legislative package to reflect both the co-developed policies and the feedback from Indigenous governments and organizations on the consultation draft of the legislation.

While this legislation is foundational to the future of B.C.'s emergency management, it is also historic in our province's path to reconciliation, as the most substantive and first land-based piece of legislation to be co-developed with First Nations, in alignment with UNDRIP.

Additionally, preliminary discussions on regulations were initiated at regional Partnership Tables meetings. Co-development and engagement opportunities will continue to shift to focus on regulations to be made under the new Act. Modernized legislation is expected to be introduced in fall 2023.

Objective 3.2: Support Indigenous communities, local authorities, and individuals to access the tools and resources needed to manage emergencies and disasters in alignment with local conditions and needs.

The Province plays a key role in providing programs, systems, and resources that people need to prepare themselves and their communities for disasters and manage emergencies when they occur.

Key results

- Expanded Broadcast Intrusive Alerts for extreme heat emergencies, flood, and wildfire.
- Supported the launch of the [Capital Region Tsunami Information Portal](#), providing centralized tsunami risk information and regionally consistent messaging across the Capital Region.
- Continued public education on emergency preparedness through [PreparedBC](#) social media campaigns and guides, including release of an Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In 2022/23, the Ministry led and partnered on a number of initiatives to support First Nations, local authorities, and individuals access tools and resources to manage local emergencies and disasters.

As noted in Objective 1.1, the Ministry launched [ClimateReadyBC](#), a disaster and climate risk reduction tool to help guide the public and communities on government's disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports. Over the coming years, the platform will continue to evolve through collaboration and engagement, and be expanded with data, maps, tools, and resources as they become available. Together, ClimateReadyBC will improve all four phases of emergency management towards disasters and climate-related events.

The Province expanded Broadcast Intrusive Alerts (BIA) to include extreme heat emergencies, flood, and wildfire. These alerts deliver critical and potentially life-saving alerts to people in B.C. through television, radio, and wireless devices. Two alerts were issued in summer 2022 due to wildfire activities. The Ministry also led training and development of materials for Indigenous communities and local authorities to support the issuance of BIAs.

Through the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP), the Ministry and the Capital Region's thirteen municipalities released the [Capital Region Tsunami Information Portal](#), a collaborative regional tool that provides centralized tsunami risk information and regionally consistent messaging for nine First Nations, all thirteen municipalities, and three electoral areas within the region. REMP provided the project management support for developing the information portal and partnered with GeoBC to create the tool, which will enable residents and visitors to understand the distribution of tsunami risk across the region.

The Ministry continued to develop and deliver inclusive public education initiatives to promote preparedness, including the delivery of three PreparedBC campaigns aimed at increasing individual and community-level preparedness: Tsunami Preparedness Week/High Ground Hike; Emergency Preparedness Week; and ShakeOut. The Ministry also developed and launched a new Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide to add to the existing preparedness guides for Earthquake and Tsunamis, Wildfire, Flood, Pandemic and Landslides, and provided translations of the Earthquake and Tsunami, and Extreme Heat Guides in French, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese.

Objective 3.3: Support urgent coordinated government response and recovery to communities in times of emergency.

The Ministry continues to apply lessons learned from past events, such as the 2021 wildfires, flooding, landslides, and the COVID-19 pandemic, to improve preparedness and the timeliness and coordination of response and recovery efforts.

Key results

- Introduced Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool, a digital platform to enhance ESS and increase the efficiency and service delivery provided to evacuees.
- On-going community recovery work with 23 communities impacted by the Atmospheric River in 2021.
- Received 2,298 Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) applications from the private sector with over \$33M in payments issued.
- Received 394 DFA public sector project applications from 52 communities, with \$1.3M provided to 108 projects, 212 projects pending approval, and 74 projects with a value of \$13.6M approved in principle.
- Completed the COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report: an independent review of the Provincial Government's operational response to the pandemic.

Summary of progress made in 2022/23

In response to the flooding in November 2021, the Ministry made significant changes to strengthen the DFA program to ensure more people, communities and businesses can access and receive increased benefits and help recover from catastrophic emergencies. The regulatory changes allow the Province to provide up-front contributions toward community

recovery projects, increase the Province's contribution toward recovery projects, and expand eligibility to cover more people and small businesses, among other improved supports.

The DFA public sector applications represent projects that vary significantly in scope and timeframe. These projects can range from one to multiple years to complete and are led by the communities. The projects approved in principle are on-going and new projects continue to be approved in principle as applications are reviewed.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2021/22 Actual ²	2022/23 Forecast	2022/23 Actual
3.1 Percentage of eligible communities onboarded and utilizing the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool. ^{1,2}	N/A	35	35

Data source: Regional Operations Division, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

¹ PM 3.1 was introduced in the 2023/24 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Service Plan. For forward-looking planning information, including current targets for 2023/24 – 2025/26, please see the latest service plan on the [BC Budget website](#).

² The ERA platform was introduced in 2022/23.

In 2022/23, the Ministry enhanced ESS by introducing a new digital platform called ERA, which increases the efficiency and speed of service delivery and payments for evacuees. Onboarding to ERA and its use is voluntary. Ministry staff engaged with communities to onboard and train on the ERA tool and worked closely with communities to encourage adoption and highlight the value proposition of the ERA tool through multiple communions. Onboarding included training of volunteers, First Nations, and local authority staff, and if requested, on site support by Ministry staff during activation. The Ministry also continued to work with Indigenous communities and other partners to ensure the program is administered in a culturally safe manner and meets the needs of those receiving support.

The Ministry has set a baseline of 225 communities for this measure, determined by community size and likelihood of delivering ESS and set a target of 35% of eligible communities onboarded in 2022/23. This target was achieved, and the Ministry looks to continue this growth into future years.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Emergency Management BC	0	43,952	43,952	43,995	43
Minister's Office	0	18	18	152	134
Corporate Services	0	785	785	608	(177)
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	0	776,191	776,191	776,191	0
Sub-total²	0	820,946	820,946	820,946	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ³	0	0	0	(2,623)	(2,623)
Total	0	820,946	820,946	818,323	(2,623)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Emergency Management BC	0	495	495	14	(481)
Total	0	495	495	14	(481)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Government Reorganization, Contingencies. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Subtotal of Other Authorizations includes Statutory Appropriation within Vote of \$339.771M, Contingencies (General Programs, Pandemic & Recovery) \$2.080M, and Government Reorganization \$479.095M.

³ Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of \$2.623M is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Farnworth's and Parliamentary Secretary Rice's 2020 Mandate Letters.

November 2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Work with communities to identify gaps in existing emergency response procedures and resources, with the goal of updating and future-proofing our province-wide ability to respond to crises, including pandemics.</p>	<p>This work is in progress. Further details can be found throughout this report. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched ClimateReadyBC and the Capital Region Tsunami Information Portal, and continued public education on emergency preparedness through PreparedBC social media campaigns and guides. • Completed a foundational first draft of the risk and resilience assessment methodology as part of an integrated provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment. • Coordinated annual Partnerships Tables across the province, providing a regional forum for First Nations emergency managers to build relationships, share knowledge, and inform emergency management service delivery efforts. • Released an updated ESS Program Guide and the ERA tool. • Completed the COVID-19 Lessons Learned Report: an independent review of the Provincial Government's operational response to the pandemic.
<p>Work to complete the modernization of the <i>Emergency Program Act</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is in progress and is detailed under Objective 3.1.

November 2020 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2023
<p>Support the work of the Minister of Forests to work with local governments to reduce wildfire risk and better prepare and support communities for future wildfires.</p>	<p>This work is in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked collaboratively with BC Wildfire Service to expand Broadcast Intrusive Alerting for wildfires.• Initiated work with BC Wildfire Service, the Office of the Fire Commissioner, and First Nations' Emergency Services Society to develop a Letter of Understanding to support enhanced community preparedness and response.

Appendix B: Goal, Objective, and Key Strategy Comparison

The following is a summary of the Goals, Objectives and Key Strategies from the 2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan, with reference to results described in this Annual Report.

2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan	Annual Report Reference
<p>Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Improved outcomes for Indigenous peoples across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to move forward on the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and implement the <i>B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>. 	<p>Goal 2; Objectives 2.1, 2.2.</p> <p>Goal 3; Objective 3.1.</p>
<p>Goal 1; Objective 1.2.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to partner with First Nation communities to advance disaster risk reduction, improve emergency management services and supports, and enhance capacity building of First Nations within all pillars of emergency management by working with key organizations such as ISC, the FNLC, the FNHA and the FNESS, and through key initiatives identified in the Tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Management Services, including revising the existing Canada-B.C. bi-lateral Service Agreement to a tri-lateral agreement. 	<p>Goal 2; Objectives 2.1, 2.2.</p>

2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan	Annual Report Reference
<p>Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable.</p> <p>Objective 3.1: Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work across ministries to help maintain the overall provincial business continuity program, including ministry plans that prioritize the critical infrastructure assets and services that governments, citizens, businesses and visitors rely on, and the continuity of government operations to ensure an effective command and control structure following an emergency or disaster. 	<p>Goal 1; Objective 1.1.</p>
<p>Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence.</p> <p>Objective 4.1: Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the province-wide response and recovery from the widespread damage caused by severe flooding and landslides in B.C., bolstered by the provincial state of emergency declared by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General on November 17, 2021, based on recommendation from Emergency Management BC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. 	<p>Goal 3; Objective 3.3.</p>

2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan	Annual Report Reference
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernizing the <i>Emergency Program Act</i> to address current gaps in the legislation, reflecting international best practices, including enhancing disaster mitigation and climate adaptation, as well as recommendations for change identified through engagement with emergency management partners. 	<p>Goal 3; Objective 3.1.</p>
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining specialized regional emergency management partnership agreements with local governments, and cross-border arrangements and agreements with key stakeholders, aimed at enhancing B.C.'s emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts for catastrophic or emergency events. 	<p>Goal 2; Objective 2.1.</p> <p>Goal 3; Objectives 3.2, 3.3.</p>
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the use of the Alert Ready system to additional hazards to enhance First Nations and local government preparedness and response. 	<p>Goal 3; Objective 3.2.</p>

2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan	Annual Report Reference
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing capacity to support First Nations and local governments in recognition of the growing scope, scale and duration of natural disasters which require enhanced provincial coordination, liaison and information sharing capacity. 	<p>Goal 1; Objectives 1.1, 1.2.</p> <p>Goal 2; Objectives 2.1, 2.2.</p> <p>Goal 3; Objectives 3.2, 3.3.</p>
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in developing a B.C. Flood Strategy to inform and modernize flood management in a changing climate, and in working with local governments and First Nations to reduce wildfire risk and better prepare and support communities for future wildfires through further implementation of Government's Action Plan: Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks. 	<p>Goal 1; Objective 1.1.</p>
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing disaster mitigation in B.C., in collaboration with partners, through improved research, data and information, policies and programs. 	<p>Goal 1; Objectives 1.1, 1.2.</p> <p>Goal 3; Objective 3.2.</p>

2022/23 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Service Plan	Annual Report Reference
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernizing Emergency Support Services, which provides critical emergency supports including food, lodging, clothing, transportation and incidentals to those impacted by emergency events. 	<p>Goal 2; Objective 2.2.</p> <p>Goal 3; Objectives 3.2, 3.3.</p>
<p>Goal 4; Objective 4.1.</p> <p>Key Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance emergency management across B.C., consistent with the adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work closely with the BC Search and Rescue Association to support Ground Search and Rescue groups. 	<p>Goal 3; Objective 3.3.</p>

