



Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation

2020 UBCM Electoral Area Directors' Forum

February 4, 2020



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Current Emergency Program Act

- Dates from 1993
- Focus on preparedness & response
 - Extra ordinary powers necessary during an emergency
- Mitigation & recovery under represented

Driving Modernization: Addressing Challenges

- Increasing complexity, frequency and severity of disasters (**floods, wildfires**)
- Impacts of disasters (**economic, psycho-social, fiscal**)
- Implement Sendai Framework
- Indigenous communities disproportionately impacted
- Needs of vulnerable people not always sufficiently considered
- Address gaps surfaced by events in 2017 and 2018

Key Gaps in Current Emergency Management Legislation (1/2)

- No explicit requirements to assess and mitigate disaster risk (UN Sendai Framework)
- Lack of recovery planning and tools prolongs recovery and does not support resilience
- Integration between plans
- No requirements to provide event-related information





Key Gaps in Current Legislation (2/2)

- First Nations are not yet adequately recognized as partners
- No assurance that cohesive plans and strategies are in place for critical infrastructure
- Current system does not represent an all-of-society approach

2016 EPA Proposals

Discussion paper released January 2016

- UBCM response October 2016
- Key issues raised by Local Governments:
 - Capacity challenges for some LGs
 - Maintain current level of LG authority
 - Recognize LG expertise and experience
- Will help inform current modernization initiative



Proposed Changes: Key Definitions

- Full list in discussion paper
- Expanded definition of “emergency”
- Prescribe new Local Authorities through regulation
- New definitions for four pillars:
 - Mitigation
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery



Policy Shifts To Guide Modernization (1/2)



Obligations to Address All Four Emergency Management Pillars



Improved Tools for Response and Recovery



Recognizing First Nations as Emergency Management Partners



Stronger Recognition of Key Role of Critical Infrastructure

Policy Shifts To Guide Modernization (2/2)



Requirements for Coordination, Collaboration, and Provision of Information Between Partners



Build Confidence in the Emergency Management System



Greater Recognition and Protection for Volunteers



Recap:

Local Authority Proposals

- Emergency and business continuity planning
- Exercises
- Hazard and risk identification
- Land development and building decisions
- Recovery powers
- Coordination and regional approaches
- Requirement for Local Authorities to consult with First Nations

Financial Considerations

- Resourcing and capacity implications
- Phase-in of requirements
- Scaled investments
- Responsive, flexible and disciplined funding mechanism
- Visibility and coordination of mitigation funding
- Apply disaster risk reduction and adaptation lens to capital investment decisions
- Federal funding and partnership



Engagement on Discussion Paper:

- UBCM Flood & Wildfire committee
- Area Associations, Regional Districts, regional collaborations
- EPBC Conference and EPCs
- First Nations engagement
- Critical Infrastructure sector
- Over 200 submissions



Next Steps

- ✓ **Oct. 28, 2019**
Discussion paper released October 28, 2019
- ✓ Engage with all levels of government, Indigenous Nations, industry and the public
- ✓ **January 31, 2020**
Comment period ends
- ✓ **Spring 2020**
“What We Heard” report released
- ✓ **Spring - Fall 2020**
Engagement on implementation
- ✓ **Fall 2020**
Legislation introduced
- ✓ **Spring 2021**
Regulations, policy, guidelines, templates, tools and education
- ✓ **Spring 2021**
Act in force. Phased implementation