



# BC FLOOD AND WILDFIRE REVIEW

January 23, 2018

[bcfloodfirereview.ca](http://bcfloodfirereview.ca)

# BACKGROUND



- The 2017 floods and wildfires were unprecedented. Many British Columbians experienced catastrophic impacts to their lives and communities, with First Nations traditional territories and communities facing disproportionate impacts.
- 15 First Nations communities were impacted by flooding in 2017, while 26 First Nations communities were impacted by wildfires. Several communities faced both events in 2017.

# BACKGROUND



- Over 65,000 people were displaced in 2017 as a result of floods and wildfires.
- As of Nov. 30, 2017 flood response costs for the season were estimated at over \$73 million, while direct fire suppression costs were estimated at over \$564 million.

# ABOUT THE REVIEW



- The Government of B.C. commissioned an independent review of flood and wildfire practices in the province, with a focus on events surrounding the 2017 flood and wildfire season.
- The BC Flood and Wildfire Review will examine the implementation of both provincial and local government emergency management systems to determine how the province can better plan for the future.
- The review is seeking community input and community-driven solutions to guide its recommendations to government.
- The review aims to be completed in advance of the 2018 flood and wildfire season.

# REVIEW CO-CHAIRS



- In December 2017, the Government of B.C. appointed two independent co-chairs to led the review:



## **Chief Maureen Chapman**

Shxwetelemel-elhot (Chief Maureen Chapman) is the hereditary Chief of Sq'ewá:lxw (Skawahlook) First Nation and has filled that role since 1999. In that time, she has established a provincial and national reputation

as a committed advocate for First Nations self-governance and autonomy with a particular interest in children and families, women's and health issues.



## **Mr. George Abbott**

Mr. George Abbott has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in politics and public service. Most recently, he was BC's Minister of Education (2010-12), successfully launching such initiatives as the BC Teachers Council, the BC Education Plan and full-day kindergarten.

# REVIEW OBJECTIVES



- The review will focus on the four phases of emergency management operations:

  Planning and preparedness

  Response

  Prevention and mitigation

  Recovery



# TIMELINE



- The BC Flood and Wildfire Review will meet with communities, local and provincial stakeholders, and government and First Nations leaders and officials between January and March 2018.
- The review is targeting late April 2018 to release its recommendations report.

Government of BC announces review and appoints co-chairs

Dec 2017

Community engagement, and stakeholder, government and First Nations meetings

Jan to March 2018

Report due

April 2018

# THE AFTER ACTION REVIEW



- The BC Flood and Wildfire Review is just one part of the broader After Action Review.
- The After Action Review was initiated following 2017's unprecedented flood and wildfire season.

## JOINTLY LED BY EMBC & FLNRORD

**ORGANIZATION SPECIFIC RESPONSE REVIEW**  
INTERNAL DEBRIEFS CONDUCTED BY KEY MINISTRIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FIRST NATIONS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN OR IMPACTED BY 2017 WILDFIRE / FRESHET EVENTS

Provincial approach to reach out to:

- Ministry Staff
- Local Government Staff
- First Nations Leaders
- Other Key Stakeholders

Benefits:

- Provide insights on an annual basis
- Capture lessons learned to enable continuous improvement
- Drive consistency across organizations

**TIER 01**

**PROVINCIAL INTER-MINISTRY & AGENCY RESPONSE REVIEW**  
CROSS-MINISTRY DEBRIEFS WITH GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVING A ROLE IN OR IMPACTED BY 2017 WILDFIRE / FRESHET EVENTS

Integrated provincial approach to reach out to:

- Provincial Ministries
- Key Crown Corporations (e.g. BC Hydro) & Provincial Agencies (e.g. BC Ambulance Service)

Benefits:

- Identify opportunities for alignment, improvement, filling in gaps on legislation, policy, procedures and plans
- Identify actions to address cross-jurisdictional challenges, to enhance coordination and integration

**TIER 02**

**PARTNERS & PROVINCE RESPONSE REVIEW**  
ALL PARTNERS HAVING A ROLE IN OR IMPACTED BY 2017 WILDFIRE / FRESHET EVENTS

Integrated provincial approach to reach out to:

- Local Governments & Regional Districts
- NGOs & Volunteer Sector Agencies
- Stakeholder Associations
- Federal partners
- Critical infrastructure stakeholders
- Health Authorities, including First Nations Health Authority

Benefits:

- Document lessons learned and to identify opportunities for improvement, gaps and recommendations for actions to address
- Enable broad collective input and debrief of response activities with all partner agencies

**TIER 03**

## STRATEGIC REVIEW LED BY AN INDEPENDENT TEAM

**PROVINCIAL LEVEL RESPONSE REVIEW**  
AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE PROVINCE'S RESPONSE TO THE WILDFIRE / FRESHET EVENTS

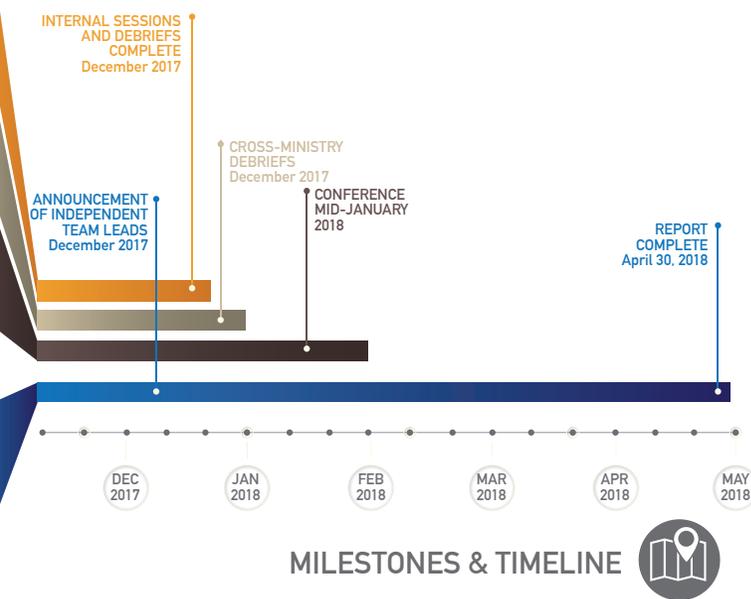
Independent review to:

- Engage with and be informed by Provincial Ministries & Organizations
- Consult with impacted communities, citizens, stakeholders and other individuals and organizations impacted by 2017 events

Benefits:

- Provide an independent perspective on how the government could enhance its readiness and response
- Provide recommendations, delivered in time for 2018 freshet and wildfire season
- Recommend strategic direction on land base management
- Provide recommendations on Emergency Management

**TIER 04**



# ENGAGEMENT



- We are meeting with local and provincial stakeholders, as well as government and First Nations leaders and officials.
- We are reaching out to communities to host events February – March 2018. We want to hear directly from those impacted in 2017.
- Our website will include an online feedback mechanism, providing all British Columbians with an opportunity to share their experiences and provide recommendations.
- We will accept written submissions from individuals or organizations. To receive a copy of our feedback guide, please contact [info@bcfloodfirereview.ca](mailto:info@bcfloodfirereview.ca).

# CONTACT US



- More information about the review will be posted on our website in the coming weeks.
- Please visit our site now to sign up for project update emails:  
**[Bcfloodfirereview.ca](https://bcfloodfirereview.ca)**
- We can be reach via email at:  
**[info@bcfloodfirereview.ca](mailto:info@bcfloodfirereview.ca)**