

Regional Districts and Modernized Emergency Management Legislation

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Emergency Management BC



What We'll Cover

- Overview of modernization
- New legislative tools/powers
- New local authority responsibilities
- New responsibilities for EMBC and ministries
- Regional district considerations
- Implementation solutions



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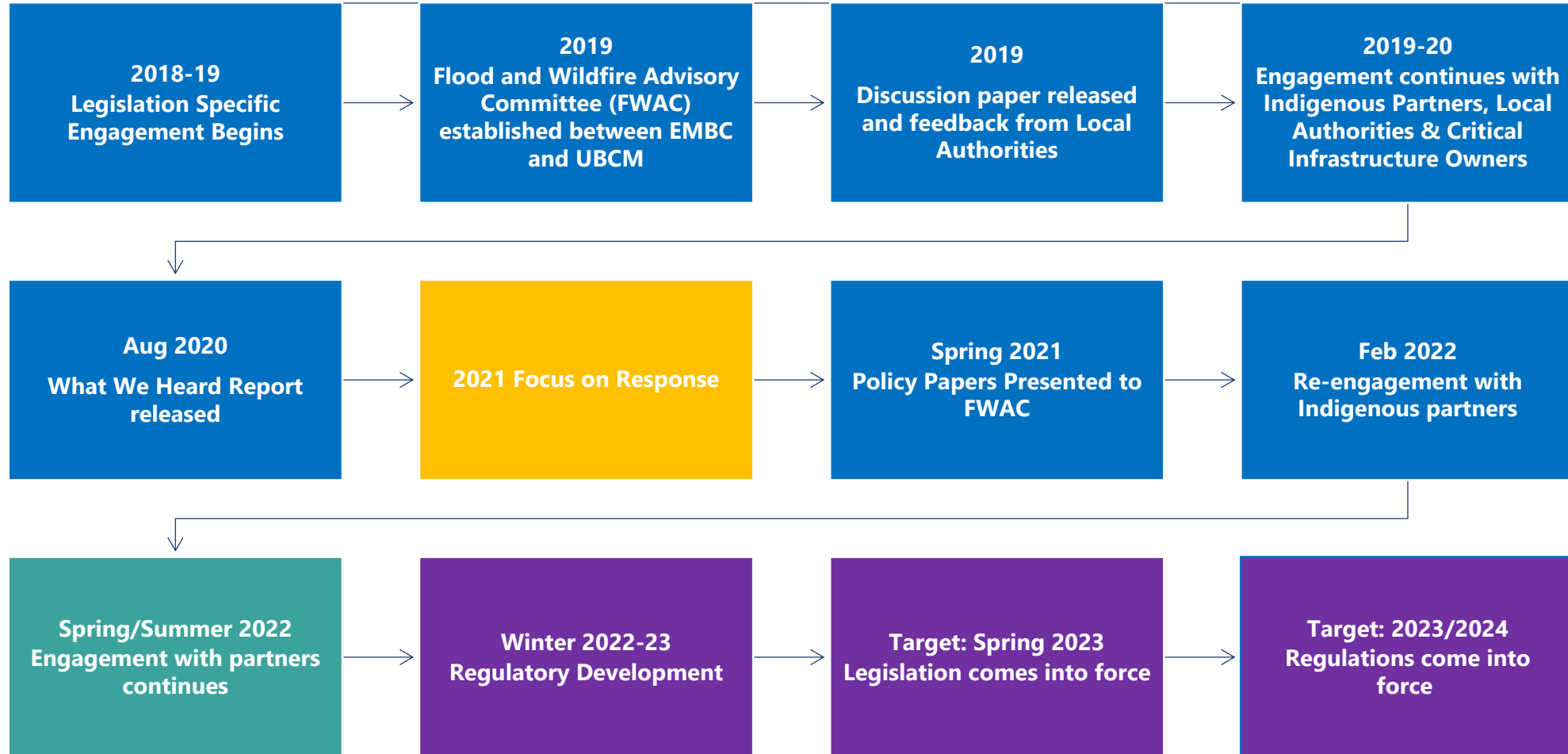
Goals of Modernized Legislation

- Integrate the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Include all four pillars of emergency management
- Address climate change impacts
- Align with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*





Overall Legislative Timeline





Local Authority Definition

- Under the current Act, a Local Authority is:
 - for a municipality, the municipal council
 - for an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district
 - for a national park, the park superintendent or delegate
- Under the new Act, a Local Authority is:
 - a municipal council, including the Council of the City of Vancouver
 - a board of a regional district



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Existing Legislative Tools/Powers

- Power to declare a state of local emergency (SOLE)
- Power to delegate any of a local authority's powers and duties to the committee, emergency management organization or coordinator except the power to make a SOLE declaration
- Power to extend a SOLE with Minister approval
- Power to implement all procedures, local emergency management plans and measures during a SOLE
- Power to borrow money to pay EM expenses
- Ability to authorize the use of certain Minister's powers
 - control/prohibit travel, cause the evacuation of persons and removal of livestock
 - distribute essential supplies, procure/ration essential supplies, require any person to give assistance,
 - use any land/property necessary, demolish trees/structures, construct works, authorize entry into building/land



New Legislative Tools/Powers

- Multi-jurisdictional Emergency Management Organizations (MJEMOs)
 - Local authorities will now be able to choose to establish or join a multijurisdictional emergency management organization. These can include local authorities, First Nations, and the province.
 - This will allow for local authorities to complete related requirements together, such as emergency management plans and risk assessments and can exercise emergency powers jointly
- Recovery Transition powers
 - Local authorities will now be able to declare a Recovery Transition Period and use recovery powers, if required, following a SOLE.
- Clarified and detailed local authority response powers
- Framework for consideration of disproportionate impacts and cultural safety





Existing Responsibilities

- Creation of an emergency management organization
- Creation of emergency management plans for response and recovery
- Exercising emergency powers and implementing emergency plans
- Publishing a SOLE and forwarding to the Minister



New Responsibilities for Local Authorities

- Prepare and maintain a risk assessment with respect to the hazards within their jurisdiction.
 - For Regional Districts risk assessment required only for populated areas
- Emergency management plans must reflect:
 - All four phases of EM
 - Evacuation of people and animals
 - Consideration of populations that might be disproportionately affected and cultural safety
 - Use of Indigenous knowledges
- Prepare and maintain a business continuity plan
- Consult and cooperate with Indigenous Governing Bodies in emergency management planning, risk assessment development, evacuation planning, and throughout response and recovery phases.
- Reporting to the Minister on the use of SOLE and Recovery Transition Period (RTP) powers

Blue: Moved from Regulation

Green: New

Black: Existing





New Responsibilities for the Province

EMBC Requirements:

- Prepare comprehensive EM plan (CEMP)
- Give advice and assistance
- Coordinate EM and disaster risk management activities
- Assist with response and recovery
- May create guidelines for EM plans and Risk Assessments
- May enter into agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies
- May review EM plans
- May establish standards for volunteers

Ministry Requirements:

- Prepare EM plans
- Prepare business continuity plans
- “Lead ministries” to be assigned one or more “hazards” and will:
 - Prepare and maintain Risk Assessments
 - Prioritize hazards
 - Prepare EM plans
 - Take measures in the CEMP

Blue: Moved from Regulation
Green: New Requirement
Black: Existing





Regional district engagement

- Consolidated feedback in Discussion Paper and What We Heard Report
- Policy Paper presentations to UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee (FWAC) by EMBC
- Engagement reset and continued discussions on the new legislative requirements
- Regional district specific engagement through FWAC



Summary of Regional District Needs

- Enhance ability to work with staff from multiple ministries focused on emergency management
- Funding to support implementation of the new responsibilities in modernized emergency management legislation for regional districts
- Support and coordination from EMBC for regional districts
- Recognize inherent differences and capacities of municipalities vs regional districts





Next Steps

- Further engagement with regional districts through FWAC and engagement with emergency management practitioners on regulation development
- Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference
 - Opportunity for practitioners to give feedback
- Target: Legislation comes into force Spring 2023
- Target: Regulations come into force over 2023 and 2024



Guiding Questions

- What supports beyond legislation could be leveraged to address the capacity needs expressed by regional districts?
- What types of tools/training would be helpful for implementation?
- How can we ensure good alignment between Ministry and local authority risk assessment and emergency management planning processes?

Thank You

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