



August 6th, 2025

Reference: 644127

Trish Mandewo
President, Union of BC Municipalities
Councillor, City of Coquitlam
Email: tmandewo@coquitlam.ca

Dear Trish Mandewo:

Thank you for your correspondence received on June 27th, 2025, concerning clarification on the Province's position on the roles and responsibilities of local government regarding financial assistance and property buyouts for homes deemed unsafe due to disaster risk.

I will address the two specific questions that you identified in your letter. With respect to the current policy regarding financial assistance or buyouts for homes deemed unsafe due to disaster-related hazards, undamaged principal residences do not qualify for provincial financial assistance following a disaster event. The Province also does not provide financial assistance for damage associated with impacted land. Eligibility for the Disaster Financial Assistance Program is outlined in the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (CDFAR) and coverage focuses on essential structures and items.

With respect to the Province publicly releasing an updated policy framework outlining the roles and responsibilities of provincial and local governments, please be advised that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is working on replacing the existing Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation to align with new provisions that came into effect when the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) guidelines were passed on April 1st, 2025. Many local governments have participated in engagements related to the content of a future regulation.

The role of local governments in property acquisition and buyouts is noted in a document published in 2023 by the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship entitled "[From Flood Risk to Resilience in B.C.: An Intentions Paper](#)". Action 4.1 of this document entitled "Enhance investments in community-led retreat" recognizes that as part of their risk mitigation efforts, communities make decisions about the rezoning of land that is acquired for the purposes of community-led managed retreat.

Community-led managed retreat, which can include land acquisition, is the strategic relocation of people and structures out of harm's way to reduce natural hazard risk and adapt to climate change. Whether to pursue managed retreat or not can be a difficult conversation to have, and community support is key to achieving positive outcomes for affected households and the broader community.

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Local governments and First Nations are best positioned to have these conversations and to lead in decisions to relocate people, buildings and infrastructure from high-risk areas and for managing the land acquisition.

Every situation is unique to each community. The flood management plans that have been developed are based upon local input and expectations. Due to specific local interests, the Province works directly with communities on their needs on a case-by-case basis. Two examples of this approach include:

- Grand Forks chose to include community-led property acquisition as part of their flood risk reduction efforts after significant flooding in 2018. The land acquisition was a component of the Grand Forks Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) project. Funding for this DMAF project was jointly provided by the provincial and federal governments and the City of Grand Forks for the purpose of flood risk reduction.
- In March 2025, EMCR announced funding to support the City of Merritt with a project to relocate and rebuild two damaged dikes to strengthen the community's flood mitigation efforts. This funding will allow the municipality to reconstruct the dikes to modern standards and acquire land to build the dikes in new locations, as part of Merritt's flood mitigation plan to restore and better protect the community after the 2021 flooding.

As climate change leads to increased flooding, the Province is reviewing its role in supporting community-led land acquisition to reduce flood risk. The Province will continue to work with our federal, municipal and First Nation partners to explore how land acquisition can be further incorporated into the risk reduction efforts of local authorities. As this work involves other ministries, I have copied the Honourable Randene Neill on this response for her awareness.

I look forward to introducing a modernized financial assistance regulation to clarify the parameters and availability of provincial funding in the context of disaster recovery.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Kelly Greene
Minister of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
The Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship