

Beyond Silos: Unlocking Funding for Flood Resilience

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 • 7:30 AM • Room RM1, VCC East



LOWER FRASER
FLOODPLAINS COALITION

The Panel



Tyrone McNeil

President, Stó:lō Tribal Council;
Councillor, Seabird Island; Chair,
Emergency Planning Secretariat



Jason Lum

Councillor, City of
Chilliwack; Director, Fraser
Valley Regional District



Jen Ford

Councillor, Resort Municipality
of Whistler; Chair, Squamish-
Lillooet Regional District



Facilitator: Deb Carlson

Staff Lawyer, West Coast
Environmental Law

About this session

Across BC, First Nations and local governments face growing impacts of climate change on their communities.

Floods and wildfires sweep across jurisdictions. Yet while neighbouring communities are often brought together in emergencies, it's rarer that we work together in regular times, to reduce the risks we face and build resilience for our communities.

Our panel of leaders will share their reflections and expertise on the benefits of collaboration and cooperation, and the investments needed.



About the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition (LFFC)

We are a B.C. collaboration advancing **effective, equitable flood recovery and management**, drawing on expertise from Indigenous communities, conservation, farming, environmental law, research and natural resource management.



ADVOCATE
for better governance
& funding to do this work



CONVENE
communities to build
capacity & relationships



CATALYZE
projects at local
& regional scales



The Lower Fraser Region

Flood risk in the Lower Fraser is the result of historic land use decisions, aging infrastructure, and a changing climate.

Addressing it now requires rethinking how we manage floodplains to better protect communities, ecosystems, and the region's future.

We listened as the region spoke...

There is a growing regional alignment on the need for coordinated action



The context for flood resilience management in BC

- Front-line responsibilities for local governments and First Nations
- Lack of clarity around responsibilities for critical infrastructure
- Intermittent, project-based funding opportunities
- BC Flood Strategy – co-developed, integrated flood management planning
- EDMA – but lacking regulations
- DFAA – April 2025 updates – build-back better, appropriate mitigation
- FHIMP – floodplain mapping, Bill 44
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – whole-of-society, pro-active approach

The Joint Statement: Key Points

1. We are ready to **work together as a region** to build flood resilience
2. Federal and provincial governments **must step up**
3. Investment must match the **scale and importance** of this region



Beyond silos: unlocking investment in flood resilience

Questions for audience:

How do siloes affect your ability to manage flood and other climate risks in good ways for your communities?

How could sustained funding support collaboration and proactive work for long-term resilience?

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Beyond silos: unlocking investment in flood resilience – first round

What's at stake for your communities in being proactive about resilience to flooding, landslides etc.?

Where do you want to get to in a resilient future and what's in the way?



Beyond silos: unlocking investment in flood resilience – second round



Sea2City Design Challenge: PWL Partnership

How could you make use of the umbrella of a sustained investment program (e.g. 20+ years)?

What would be different—e.g. planning, allocating resources, collaboration, working at different scales, working with nature, multiple-benefits approaches?

Joint Statement on Action for Floodplain Resilience in the Lower Mainland

Already endorsed by these local governments and First Nations, let's stand together!



Email us:
contact@fraserfloodplains.ca

Read more on our website
www.fraserfloodplains.ca/advocacy





COMMON GOOD

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Vancouver Food Runners

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Vancouver Food Runners. Building connections between local businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers to ensure surplus food reaches essential community food programs. Vancouver Food Runners believe in turning surplus food into meaningful change. They believe good food belongs to people, not landfills!