



## Progress Report—Planning to Avoid Disaster: Action Plan to Update Floodplain Maps in British Columbia

September 2013

On March 8, 2013, with financial support from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) hosted a workshop in Vancouver, to examine the state of floodplain maps in BC. The Floodplain Maps Action Plan was the key output of the workshop, and this report summarizes progress made since June 2013.

The complete Floodplain Maps Action Plan and previous progress reports are available online at: [www.bcrea.bc.ca/government-relations/flood-protection](http://www.bcrea.bc.ca/government-relations/flood-protection).

Category	Action	Potential Partners	Proposed Timeline	Status
High-level	2. Engage key organizations and associations to help with coordinated communications and awareness raising among decision makers.	Working Group to lead	ongoing since June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July, BCREA submitted an article to the Canadian Water Resources Association newsletter, <i>Water News</i></li> <li>September, BC Water and Waste Association hosted a workshop: Got Risk? New Tools for Communicating About Water, Climate and the Future</li> <li>September, BCREA's tradeshow booth during the Union of BC Municipalities Convention will focus on the Floodplain Maps Action Plan</li> <li>October, Canadian Water Resources Association workshop will focus on coastal flooding</li> <li>Adaptation to Climate Change Team at Simon Fraser University is involved with the Coastal Cities at Risk project, which is designed to build capacity for managing climate change in coastal megacities: <a href="http://www.act-adapt.org/special-projects">www.act-adapt.org/special-projects</a></li> </ul>

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High-level	6. Submit an expression of interest to conduct a workshop on updating floodplain maps at the 2013 UBCM Convention in Vancouver.	BCREA and Fraser Basin Council	June 2013	Done, with ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team) at SFU as an additional partner; the proposal was not successful, but BCREA will focus on floodplain maps at its tradeshow booth.
Technical	7. Facilitate a GIS pilot project to explore how to improve data-sharing protocols and procedures, and to resolve related technical and institutional issues, including proprietary interests and data management requirements.	Working Group to lead	revisit in February 2014	As of fall 2013, projects underway or proposed by other organizations may fulfill this action.
Technical	8. Assess best available flood hazard information and other data inputs necessary to develop flood hazard maps, identify data gaps, propose a plan to fill data gaps (e.g., LiDAR topography, hydrometric data, oceanographic data, inventory of natural hazards) and suggest ways to integrate climate change into planning and hydraulic analysis during floodplain mapping.	Working Group to lead	deliver by June 2014	In June, the Working Group identified this as a priority, and a subset of the Working Group continues to refine the project description. In August, Public Safety Canada issued a request for proposal for a study regarding floodplain maps best practices and the current state of floodplain mapping in Canada.
Political	18. Ask the provincial government to clarify liability and access to emergency funds, with respect to local governments and residents, in designated floodplains.	BCREA	October 2013	In June, the Working Group identified this as a priority, and BCREA will pursue an answer throughout the fall.  West Coast Environmental Law is examining legal tools to help communities adapt to climate change: <a href="http://www.wcel.org/our-work/community-climate-action-o">www.wcel.org/our-work/community-climate-action-o</a> .

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Financial	19. Conduct/commission research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• opportunities for new, innovative sources of funding to develop floodplain maps, and</li> <li>• opportunities to incentivize floodplain mapping and management.</li> </ul>	BCREA, Fraser Basin Council, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Real Estate Foundation of BC	begin research by January 2014	The Real Estate Foundation of BC has approved a grant of \$10,000 for BCREA to complete this project, in collaboration with the project partners.