



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

March 2014

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 December 2013.

The complete Floodplain Maps Action Plan and previous progress reports are available online at: 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"> • BC Real Estate Association now links to related events, projects and reports. • Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT) 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: www.act-adapt.org/special-projects. • February 2014, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting focused on flood issues (presentation by BCREA) • February 2014, ACT published proceedings from the Not Waiting For Noah workshop that took place in April 2013: www.act-adapt.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/NWFN_02.03_web.pdf

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2014, GLOBE 2014: www.2014.globeseries.com/conference (presentation by ACT) • April 2014, Livable Cities Forum: www.livablecitiesforum.com (presentations by ACT and Fraser Basin Council) • May 2014, BC Land Summit: www.bclandsummit.com (presentation by BCREA)
High-level	Explore opportunities to advance flood hazard mapping through the proposed Regional Flood Management Strategy for the Lower Mainland.	Fraser Basin Council and others	begin by November 2013	<p>Two of the three initial projects involve mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review current approaches to management and the status of practices and policies; part of that review will look at who has floodplain maps in the Lower Mainland • regional assessment of risk and vulnerability will require coarse mapping, and will involve some estimates of flood extent
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	The Working Group continues to refine a description for this important project. A Public Safety Canada project, expected to be completed in March 2014, may help inform work done in BC.

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Technical	11. Develop a rough overview flood risk assessment—with vivid visuals, if possible—to raise public and political awareness of the issue (especially the social and economic implications of flooding), and to promote the need for more detailed flood hazard information to inform management decisions. Provide to identified stakeholders and release publicly.	Working Group	begin after June 2014	To assist with presentations, BCREA is collecting animations, photos and video footage of flood events and flood scenarios. To make contributions, contact Norma Miller at nmiller@bcrea.bc.ca .
Political	14. Educate elected decision makers (local and provincial governments) to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of floodplain mapping / flood hazard management, and to support the allocation of the necessary resources.	see action 2	begin in September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser Basin Council (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca), through its work on the Regional Flood Management Strategy and its Joint Program Committee, conducts this work on an ongoing basis. • January 2014, BCREA made a presentation to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association's Flood Control and River Management Committee. • April 2014, BCREA Government Liaison Days conference will focus on floodplain maps.
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	Discussions continue with provincial government representatives. West Coast Environmental Law is examining legal tools to help communities adapt to climate change: www.wcel.org/our-work/community-climate-action-o .

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Financial	19. Conduct/commission research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities for new, innovative sources of funding to develop floodplain maps, and opportunities to incentivize floodplain mapping and management. 	BCREA, Fraser Basin Council, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Real Estate Foundation of BC	begin research by January 2014	With funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC (www.realestatefoundation.com), BCREA is working on this project in collaboration with Ebbwater Consulting (www.ebbwater.ca) and Sustainability Solutions Group (www.sustainabilitysolutions.ca). The report will likely be completed in April 2014.