



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

June 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 March 2014.

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"> • April 2014, Livable Cities Forum: www.livablecitiesforum.com (presentations by Adaptation to Climate Change Team of Simon Fraser University, and Fraser Basin Council) • April 2014, BCREA Government Liaison Days (provincial lobbying conference); submission available at www.bcrea.bc.ca/government-relations/flood-protection • May 2014, BC Land Summit: www.bclandsummit.com (presentation by BCREA)
High-level	5. Explore opportunities to advance flood hazard mapping through the proposed Regional Flood Management Strategy for the Lower Mainland.	Fraser Basin Council and others	ongoing since 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

Category	Action	Potential Partners	Proposed Timeline	Status
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regional assessment of risk and vulnerability will require coarse mapping, and will involve some estimates of flood extent
High-level	6. Submit an expression of interest to conduct a workshop on updating floodplain maps at the 2014 UBCM Convention.	BCREA	June 2014	BCREA is reaching out to local governments that are working on or have completed floodplain mapping projects, to collaborate on a session proposal for the UBCM Convention.
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	begin by March 2015	<p>The Working Group continues to refine descriptions for two separate projects: assessing floodplain mapping data and developing best practices.</p> <p>A Public Safety Canada project may provide insights on work done in BC.</p>
Technical	10. Recommend the provincial government develop, and update every five years, guidelines and specifications to reflect current technologies and realities, improve consistency, build technical capacity to support utilization of a broader suite of technical tools (e.g., floodplain mapping, scenario analysis, risk assessment, etc.) and stress the need to integrate climate change into planning. Mandating the guidelines would likely increase their effectiveness and consistent application. Any new guidelines would complement existing guidelines.	Working Group	ongoing since April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During BCREA's Government Liaison Days conference in April 2014, REALTORS® from around the province met with 57 MLAs, and this was one of three recommendations presented; submission available at www.bcrea.bc.ca/government-relations/flood-protection. May 2014, the BC Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution recommending the provincial government develop guidelines.

Category	Action	Potential Partners	Proposed Timeline	Status
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	ongoing since September 2013	April 2014, BCREA Government Liaison Days conference focused on floodplain maps.
Political	16. Consider ways to engage the business community (e.g., Chambers of Commerce) to strengthen and diversify the voices that are recommending action on floodplain mapping/ management.	BC Chamber of Commerce and others	ongoing since November 2013	May 2014, the BC Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution recommending the provincial government work with stakeholders on floodplain mapping, develop guidelines and clarify liability and access to emergency funds.
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	ongoing since October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions continue with provincial government representatives. May 2014, the BC Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution recommending the provincial government clarify liability. Deborah Carlson of West Coast Environmental Law on liability and climate change: www.wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/should-water-managers-put-their-head-sand-about-climate-change-or

Category	Action	Potential Partners	Proposed Timeline	Status
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	complete in May 2014	May 2014, with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC (www.realestatefoundation.com), BCREA published two documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Floodplain Mapping Funding Guidebook for BC Local Governments</i> (www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/2014-05floodplainmapguidebook.pdf) – compilation of the limited options available and exploration of some interesting possibilities, and <i>Floodplain Mapping Backgrounder</i> (www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/2014-FM-backgrounder.pdf)