



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

August 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 June 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"> “In Search of a Risk-based Flood Policy in Canada: Will We Learn from Intense Floods?” <i>Water News</i> (Summer 2014), www.kwl.ca/kbase/risk-based-flood-policy-canada “The Impact of Flood Hazard on Real Estate Values” (July 2014), www.ebbwater.ca/wp/the-impact-of-flood-hazard-on-real-estate-values October 10, 2014, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction will host a webinar related to flood mapping research (to attend, contact Tracy Waddington at twaddington@iclr.org)
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	Official launch took place July 15, 2014, with speakers from federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_flood.html)

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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's session proposal was not successful; staff will attend the conference.
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	The Working Group continues to refine the project description. The National Floodplain Mapping Assessment, commissioned by Public Safety Canada and released in June 2014, contains information relevant to this project.
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	The National Floodplain Mapping Assessment, commissioned by Public Safety Canada and released in June 2014, contains information relevant to this project. Public Safety Canada is reviewing the report and forming a working group to better understand the role of the federal government and other parties.
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, BC Chamber of Commerce adopted this policy: www.bcchamber.org/advocacy/policy/provincial_gov/environment/action_plan_needed_to_update_floodplain_mapping.html .

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Financial	<p>19. Conduct/commission research on:</p> <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. 	<p>BCREA, Fraser Basin Council, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Real Estate Foundation of BC</p>	<p>complete in May 2014</p>	<p>August 2014, BCREA provided hard copies of this research to Hon. Coralee Oakes, Hon. Steve Thomson and Hon. Suzanne Anton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Floodplain Mapping Funding Guidebook for BC Local Governments</i> (www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/2014-o5floodplainmapguidebook.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) <p>This project was funded, in part, by the Real Estate Foundation of BC (www.realestatefoundation.com).</p>