Evaluation of BC Flood Policy Performance for Coastal Areas in a Changing Climate

Getting Climate Ready
Fraser Basin Council
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Overview

1. Project Purpose
2. SLR Challenges and Impacts
3. Project Elements
4. Engagement Process
Project Purpose

• Conduct in-depth analysis of BC’s Flood Policy Performance

• Objectives:
  1. Document existing BC Flood Policy for coastal areas
  2. Identify climate sensitivity of existing policy
  3. Policy analysis engagement
  4. Identify strengths, gaps and challenges in BC Flood Policy
  5. Document policy elements that hinder effective adaptation to sea level rise in coastal areas and propose policy alternatives
  6. Work toward mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into government’s flood hazard management regime
Key anticipated coastal impacts
Sea Level Rise

1998 high tide level

1743 high tide level
Coastal Erosion
Flooding due to increased storm frequency and intensity
Habitat Changes – e.g. loss of intertidal habitat, wetlands, “coastal squeeze”
EXPERTS URGE US TO PREPARE... FOR RISING SEA LEVELS...

KITSILANO BEACH

NO BEACH
Policy Evaluation Framework

Step 1: Identification of Criteria & Evaluation Methods

Step 2: Identification of BC Flood Policy (Legislation, Regulations, Plans, Programs & Policies)

Step 3: Climate Sensitivity Review

Step 4: Application of Criteria & Evaluation to Identified Legislation, Regulation, Policies & Programs

Step 5: Gap Analysis & Implementation Barriers

Step 6: Recommendations and Proposed Policy Alternatives
Evaluation Criteria

1. Purpose
2. Authority
3. Effectiveness
4. Collaboration
5. Resilience
6. Funding
7. Implementation/Monitoring
8. Public Awareness/Education
What is B.C. Flood Policy?

1. Legislation
2. Regulations
3. Programs and Plans
Legislation

Local Government Act
- Regional Growth Strategy
- Official Community Plan
- Zoning
- Development Permit
- Floodplain Bylaw

Community Charter

Land Title Act

Land Act
Gatekeepers

- **Local Governments**
- **Approving Officer**
  - Land Title Act
  - Bare Land Strata Regulations
- **Building Inspector**
  - Community Charter
- **Inspector of Dikes**
  - Dike Maintenance Act
Other Tools

- Covenant
- Statutory Right of Way
- Easement
- Land Acquisition
- Land Trust
Emergency Program Act

• Preparedness
  – Local Governments and Emergency Management BC

• Response
  – Local Governments and Province

• Recovery
  – Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance

• Mitigation
Programs

• Public Education

• Flood Protection Program
  – Living Water Smart ($100 Million)


• B.C. Flood Response Plan
Sensitivity Review - BC Flood Policy

Much of BC Flood Policy not sensitive to climate change.

Medium Sensitivity:
- Regional Growth Strategies
- Official Community Plans
- Zoning Bylaws
- Development Permits

High Sensitivity:
- Flood Construction Requirements
- Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation
- Cost-sharing programs
Other Policy Implications

Implementation of BC Flood Policy largely through local governments

- Staff resources
- Technical resources (e.g. flood hazard mapping)
- Financial resources
- Liability
Engagement Process

1. Tri-Cities
2. South Fraser
3. North Shore
4. Capital Region District
5. Deep Bay
Project Elements

- **Feb 2013**: Identification of Criteria & Evaluation Methods
- **Mar 2013**: Policy Inventory
- **Apr 2013**: Climate Sensitivity Review
- **Fall 2013**: Policy Analysis and Engagement
- **Oct 2013**: Gap Analysis & Implementation Barriers
- **Dec 2013**: Final Report, Recommendations & Policy Alternatives
Questions?