

Disaster Prevention and Management

Reduce the risk of disasters and increase community resiliency in BC

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

We face a stark choice: continue with ineffective disaster relief or embrace a preventative, people-centered approach that builds resilience and reduces future costs. Our strategy is grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Sendai Framework, addressing all phases of disaster management—prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. We are committed to investing in nature-based solutions and climate resilience to better prepare communities for extreme climate events and support their recovery from disasters.

Indigenous communities are often on the front lines of floods, landslides and wildfires—and they must be integral partners and leaders in emergency management. We will ensure Indigenous involvement from the outset, engaging First Nations at every stage of planning, decision-making and implementation. We will also strengthen relationships across all levels of government, which is essential for building climate resilience and mitigating disaster risks and impacts.

Our province is already feeling the impacts of climate change—and costs are escalating. We will take decisive action now to protect our communities, safeguard our environment and ensure a sustainable future. The time for meaningful climate action is now. Together, we can build a safer, more resilient British Columbia for everyone.

PROBLEM DEFINITION:

British Columbia is on the front lines of the climate crisis. Across the province, communities are grappling with unprecedented wildfires, droughts, floods, and heat domes. These extreme weather events are not just environmental issues—they are urgent crises that threaten our health, livelihoods, infrastructure and economy.

The reality is clear: extreme weather will become more frequent and severe as the climate crisis worsens. We cannot afford to delay. Immediate action is essential

to prepare our communities, enhance resilience, and secure our collective future. Investing in climate resilience and adaptation is not just a necessity—it is a moral obligation.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Adopt the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Ensure there are enough paid, trained professionals available to manage disasters from mitigation to recovery.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships between First Nations, local governments and emergency management agencies, including BC Wildfire Service.

Mitigation

- Shift from reactive disaster response to proactive resilience building and climate action, including habitat restoration and biodiversity protection.
- Utilize nature-based solutions to protect and conserve ecosystems while augmenting natural assets with green infrastructure.
- Implement measures to reduce risks at the local level, linking to Wildfire and Watershed Security planks for further details.
- Invest in initiatives like a Youth Climate Corps and Watershed Security Fund to bolster community resilience and environmental protection.

Preparedness

- Ensure local authorities and First Nations have the capacity, resources, and authority to prepare and respond effectively to emergencies.
- Provide ongoing funding and resources for First Nations and local governments to conduct comprehensive hazard risk and vulnerability assessments.

- Foster community engagement and participation before disasters occur to strengthen preparedness.
- Utilize local expertise to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Response

- Ensure timely and accurate information is communicated to the public during emergencies.
- Ensure reception centers are accessible and supports are available for all evacuees. Ensure economic, cultural, and practical needs are met for evacuees.
- Identify and address gaps in the emergency support system. Develop a plan to assist individuals facing long-term displacement due to disasters.
- Prioritize responses to extreme weather events that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and Indigenous Peoples.

Recovery

- Emphasize the “build back better” approach to recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.
- Rebuild buildings and infrastructure to withstand potential disasters and climate change impacts. Prohibit construction in disaster prone areas.
- Integrate mental health support and address long-term displacement issues.

Securing Funding

- Negotiate with the federal government to create a dedicated funding stream for community resilience projects, including neighbourhood-level emergency preparedness and resilience-building programs.
- Connect carbon tax revenue directly to community climate action initiatives, including diking system improvements and wildfire prevention measures.

