

**Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Climate Action Secretariat**

**Managing Climate Change Risks: An Independent Audit Released 02/18**

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Initial PAC Meeting- 12/06/18

**Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Climate Action Secretariat**

Rec. #	OAG Recommendations	Action Planned	Target Date	Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup>	Action Taken <sup>2</sup>
1.	Undertake a province-wide risk assessment that integrates existing risk assessment work and provides the public with an overview of key risks and priorities.	The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) is currently leading a province-wide climate risk assessment that will produce both a framework for and a strategic assessment of climate-related risks that can be used to prioritize adaptation responses across government. The assessment will enable government to compare different climate-related risks, and compare those with other risks, to develop proportional responses to priority risks, and to identify potential situations where current response capacity may be exceeded. Findings will be consistent with risk disclosure standards, provincial risk management policy, and the framework can be used to iterate the assessment in the future.	Final draft for consultation December 1, 2018	Partially Implemented	Evaluating the human, financial, economic and natural risks from climate change; identifying options to reduce those risks; and improving the intelligence available to decision makers to manage those risk is identified as a key strategy within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's 2018/2019 - 2020/2021 Service Plan.

<sup>1</sup>The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) will request an update (i.e Assessment of Progress and Actions Taken column completed) on a yearly basis from the audited organization until all recommendations are fully implemented or otherwise addressed to the satisfaction of the PAC.

<sup>2</sup> This action plan and their subsequent updates have not been audited by the OAG. However, at a future date that Office may undertake work to determine whether the entity has accurately represented their progress in addressing the recommendations. The results of that work will be reported in a separate report prepared by the OAG.

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Detailed Action Plan - Prepared for the Select Standing Committee of Public Accounts

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2.	<p>Create an adaptation plan for B.C. that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly outlines government’s priorities, roles and responsibilities, and timelines</li> <li>• Identifies the necessary resources for implementation</li> <li>• Integrates with existing adaptation planning at the ministry level</li> <li>• Includes solutions for obstacles identified through the audit</li> <li>• Clearly outlines how government will work with local governments and include them in its development</li> <li>• Clearly outlines how government will work with first nations, and include them in its development</li> </ul> <p>Includes a requirement to refresh every five years.</p>	<p>CAS will develop and publish a provincial adaptation strategy by 2020. Public consultation is scheduled to begin June 2019.</p>	<p>Fall 2020</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>On May 17th, Government passed Bill 34, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Amendment Act. The legislative amendments require the province to publicly report on current and predicted climate risks, plans and actions to mitigate climate risks, and progress achieved towards mitigating climate risks. The province will report publicly every even numbered year starting in 2020.</p>
3.	<p>Provide staff with a continuing education program on climate change impacts and adaptation.</p>	<p>CAS has engaged the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) and Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team to scope opportunities for continuing education for professionals, including staff. CAS will seek to leverage federal funding through Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCan) Building Resilience and Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) program. CAS is currently exploring the opportunity to submit a proposal to NRCan for three years of funding through the BRACE program.</p>	<p>Proposals are due to NRCan in Fall 2018.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>CAS has signed a memorandum of understanding with NRCan to develop a plan for capacity building through the BRACE program.</p>

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5.	Consider climate change adaptation in its legislation, regulation, approvals and permitting processes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amendments to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Act</i> enable the provincial government to seek information from B.C.'s public sector organizations on their adaptation progress. Government will consult public sector organizations to bring forward the program over the next two years. The information collected from public sector organizations will help the province evaluate progress and inform necessary policy and program changes to support adaptation progress in BC's public sector.</li> <li>2. CAS is considering ways the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's policy on <i>Climate Change and Extreme Weather Event Preparedness and Resilience in Engineering Infrastructure Design</i> can be extended to other provincially funded infrastructure. Such a policy would require the public sector organizations to demonstrate they have considered future climate conditions and extreme weather events in the design of new and retrofitted public infrastructure projects.</li> <li>3. Capital projects funded through the Green Infrastructure Fund receiving over \$10 million will be required to complete a climate resilience assessment for the project. CAS will work with Infrastructure Canada, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on the design, implementation, and administration of the assessment of climate resilience.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2020</li> <li>2. 2020</li> <li>3. 2018</li> </ol>	Partially implemented	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Amendment Act added a new section to the legislation that enables the provincial government to specify categories of information that public sector organizations must report on relating to adaptation progress. It is expected this information will be included in the provincial adaptation progress report.</li> <li>2. The provincial government signed an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) with the Federal Government for the Invest in Canada Plan. Adaptation, resilience, and disaster mitigation is a sub stream of the Green Infrastructure Fund in the IBA.</li> <li>3. Reviewing, updating, and implementing legislation, policies, and programs to ensure B.C. is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change is identified as a key strategy within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's 2018/2019 - 2020/2021 Service Plan.</li> </ol>

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6.	Create a performance monitoring framework based on the goals, activities and outcomes outlined in the adaptation plan (see recommendation #2).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAS has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework that tracks B.C.'s readiness for adaptation and will begin roll-out with other ministries and select public sector organizations in early summer 2018.</li> <li>Amendments to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Act</i> created the legislative foundation for the province to regularly report on B.C.'s adaptation progress. The monitoring and evaluation framework will inform how the province will measure and report on adaptation progress.</li> </ol>	Fall 2018	Partially implemented	Improving performance monitoring and public reporting on climate risks, and efforts to reduce them is identified as a key strategy within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's 2018/2019 - 2020/2021 Service Plan.
7.	Improve public reporting, including providing detailed public reporting on adaptation when completing legislated reporting on mitigation.	The government will publish a public report on provincial climate risks and adaptation progress starting in 2020. The reporting requirements may be extended to public sector organizations.	Fall 2020	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Amendment Act</i> added a new part to the legislation that requires the province to publicly report on current and predicted climate risks, plans and actions to mitigate climate risks, and progress to mitigating climate risk. The province will report publicly every even numbered year starting in 2020.</li> <li>The provincial government has committed to report progress on adaptation through the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and the Carbon Disclosure Project's States and Regions platform.</li> </ul>

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16.	Create a clear, measurable plan to meet legislated targets, including clear accountabilities, emission estimates and baselines, resources, timelines, and interim targets. Government should also consider co-benefits with adaptation.	Government has directed the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to develop a strategy to meet carbon pollution reduction targets in his mandate letter and service plan. The strategy will consider adaptation co-benefits.	Fall 2018	Substantially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has established the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council to advise on pathways to the province's targets and report on progress every two years.</li> <li>Government passed legislative amendments to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target Act</i> that repeals the 2020 emissions reduction target and introduces targets for 2030 and 2040 (40% and 60% reduction from 2007 levels, respectively). The Act also clarifies the Minister's authority to establish other targets (interim and sectoral).</li> </ul>
17.	Publish information regarding its use of offsets within the provincial inventory to provide clarity and consistency with the progress to targets report.	Government will enhance the information in the 2018 progress-to-targets reporting regarding the use of offsets.	2018	Partially implemented	The Province is in the process of developing its 2018 Progress to Targets which will include enhanced information regarding the use of offsets

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Rec. #	OAG Recommendations	Action Planned	Target Date	Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>15</sup>	Action Taken <sup>16</sup>
5.	Consider climate change adaptation in its legislation, regulation, approvals and permitting processes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BC Flood and Wildfire Review (Abbott and Chapman report) has delivered recommendations on how to better plan for and respond to future flood and wildfire events. EMBC will look to addressing climate change related recommendations that are connected to EMBC activities and operations.</li> <li>2. In partnership with other ministries, EMBC's Planning Branch develops, maintains and implements emergency plans that address priority hazards. EMBC intends to apply a climate adaptation lens to the ongoing review and development of applicable hazard-specific plans, starting with the update to the BC Drought Plan and the BC Flood Response Plan (see Rec #9), expected for Spring and Summer of 2018.</li> <li>3. EMBC's Disaster Mitigation Branch will require funding applications to discuss climate change adaptation as a part of its funding approval process.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fall 2019</li> <li>2. Spring-Summer 2018</li> <li>3. August 2018</li> </ol>		Current DFA funding requires proponents to rebuild per current guidelines such as the Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines, which requires communities and individuals to consider effects of climate change and sea level rise.

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Rec. #	OAG Recommendations	Action Planned	Target Date	Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>15</sup>	Action Taken <sup>16</sup>
9.	<p>As part of their flood risk strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review roles and responsibilities for flood management in the province and clarify leadership</li> <li>• set clear objectives that target areas of high priority and/or high risk</li> <li>• link funding allocations to areas of high priority and/or high risk</li> <li>• assess current capacity to meet objectives and identify and fill gaps</li> <li>• tie flood mitigation funding for local governments to commitments to address risk at the local level</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EMBC will be providing approximately \$1M in funding to the Fraser Basin Council to develop a regional flood management strategy for the lower mainland. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in 2019.</li> <li>2. EMBC's Disaster Mitigation Branch (DMB) evaluates project applications for flood mitigation funding programs such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program (~\$75M) and the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (~\$23M). As part of its evaluation process, DMB will develop evaluation criteria to tie flood mitigation funding for local governments to commitments to address risk at the local level.</li> <li>3. EMBC is leading the update to the BC Flood Response Plan, which will clarify roles &amp; responsibilities for flood response in a changing climate.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. December 2019</li> <li>2. August 2018</li> <li>3. Fall 2018</li> </ol>		<p>Phase 1 of Flood Risk Strategy completed April, 2018. Phase 2 underway</p>

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10.	<p>Create a flood plain and hazard mapping program that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• incorporates the effects of climate change and land-use change</li> <li>• provides mapping standards with ongoing updates</li> <li>• has expertise available for local governments to draw upon</li> </ul>	<p><u>Background</u> – Legislative changes in 2003 and 2004 transferred responsibility for developing flood and hazard maps from the province to local governments. Since then, the role of the province has been to provide guidelines for local governments to consider, technical support, and funding when it becomes available. FLNRO, GeoBC, and EMBC have technical expertise that local governments can draw upon when developing flood hazard maps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EMBC’s Disaster Mitigation Branch (DMB) evaluates project applications for flood mitigation funding programs such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. As part of the application process, DMB will develop a supplemental questionnaire asking proponents how the effects of climate change will be incorporated into flood mitigation projects, including those projects that propose to develop flood and hazard mapping.</li> <li>2. Current mapping guidelines will be reviewed every 10 years (or when substantial new science dictates) to ensure effects of climate change are properly considered.</li> <li>3. Through funding support from EMBC, GeoBC is conducting and assisting with Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) mapping for Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan, and the Kootenays.</li> <li>4. EMBC is advocating for a federally funded floodplain and hazard mapping program.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. August 2018</li> <li>2. Ongoing</li> <li>3. Fall 2019</li> <li>4. Ongoing</li> <li>5. Ongoing</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2018, FLNRORD published an amendment to the <a href="#">Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines</a> to assist local governments in defining sea level rise planning areas.</li> <li>2. In 2017, Engineers and Geoscientists BC (with support from the Province) published <a href="#">Professional Practice Guidelines for Flood Mapping in BC</a>. This document requires professionals to consider the effects of climate change when preparing flood maps.</li> <li>3. In 2011, FLNRORD published <a href="#">Coastal Floodplain Mapping Guidelines and Specifications</a> to help coastal communities account for climate change (i.e. sea level rise) when mapping their floodplains.</li> <li>4. GeoBC has developed LIDAR mapping standards. LIDAR mapping is an important precursor to flood mapping.</li> <li>5. EMBC stresses the need for floodplain and hazard mapping at FPT meetingsmapping is an important precursor to flood mapping.</li> </ol>

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