

MANAGING EMERGENCIES

The Increasing Impact on our Communities



April 14, 2023
2023 AVICC AGM & Convention

PRESENTERS

MODERATOR:

- **Donna McMahon**, AVICC EA Representative and Director, Sunshine Coast Regional District

PANELISTS:

- **Ryan Wainwright**, Senior Manager, Emergency Management Cowichan
- **Gundaynuxv Travis Hall**, Heiltsuk Nation AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District,
- **Mark Brown**, Former CAO, Town of Qualicum Beach, currently the Acting GM, Infrastructure Services at the Sunshine Coast Regional District
- **Corey Anderson**, A/Senior Regional Manager, Vancouver Island Coastal Region, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)
- **Katie Olthuis**, Director of the Policy and Legislation, EMCR

How we got here...

A brief history of Emergency Management in BC



Ryan Wainwright
Senior Manager, Emergency Management Cowichan

The TL;DR of Emergency Management in Canada: Origin Story

- 1930s-1940s
 - Air Raid Precautions (special powers)
 - Civil Defence
- 1950s
 - Emergency Measures Organization
- 1960s-1970s
 - Project Phoenix
 - FLQ/War Measures Act
 - Emergency Planning Canada
- 1980s
 - *Emergencies Act and Emergency Preparedness Act (1988)*
 - Emergency Preparedness Canada
- 1990s
 - OCIEPEP
- 2000s
 - PSEPC (following September 11, 2001)
 - 2007 *Emergency Management Act* / Public Safety Canada

Emergency Management in BC: The Law...

- *Emergency Program Act (1996)*
 - Local authorities become responsible for managing emergencies within their jurisdictions:
 - Direction and control of emergency response
 - Emergency planning for preparedness, response, and recovery
 - Emergency management organization
 - Special powers and State of Local Emergency
- *Emergency Program Management Regulation*
- *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation*
- *Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation*
- **British Columbia Emergency Management System**

What does it all mean?

- The Emergency Program Coordinator – all singing, all dancing single point of failure
- Isn't emergency management the same as the fire department?
- Where are all the volunteers? We brought sandwiches!
- 50+ hazards, but sustained operational funding ain't one
- What we learned from 2017 onwards
- Regional approaches
- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and Sendai Framework

The Indigenous Experience

- Emergencies in Remote Indigenous Communities
- Ancient Knowledge
- Be Proactive, not Reactive
- Collaboration



Gundaynuxv Travis Hall, Heiltsuk Nation
AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District

Organizational Implications

- The Local Government Staff Experience
- Financial and Human Resource Implications
- Trusting the Experts



Mark Brown

Acting GM, Infrastructure Services, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Former CAO, Town of Qualicum Beach



Structure of the EPA

What does the Emergency Program Act (EPA) do?

- Identifies who has what authorities and responsibilities
- Defines emergency and disaster





EPA as foundation for Emergency Management

The EPA lays out the basis for emergency management

- The local authority is responsible for emergency management
- The local authority must have a plan
- The local authority can activate their plan and EMCR reimburses for the incremental cost to a community for that response
- If the local authority needs more powers to respond, EMCR supports their need for a state of local emergency (SOLE)





EPA Gaps

- 1. Missing legislative underpinnings to support effective collaboration**
 - Each community is isolated and must interact individually with EMCR
 - MJEMOs
- 2. Heavy focus on response**
 - The current EPA is very Response oriented and contingent on “imminent”
 - Shift needed to support all four phases of EM
 - Expanded focus on mitigation





Shifts in New Legislation

- Inclusion of Indigenous peoples
- Well rounded four phase framework
- Clear hazard-focused risk assessment and planning requirements
- Imbedded “all of society approach”
- Increased opportunities for collaboration
- Enhanced response and recovery powers





New Powers and Tools

Available upon
Royal Assent

- **Multi-jurisdictional Emergency Management Organizations (MJEMOs)**
 - Local authorities will now be able to choose to establish or join a multijurisdictional emergency management organization. These can include local authorities, Indigenous governing bodies, and the province.
- **States of Local Emergency (SOLE)**
 - SOLE declarations will last 14 days and can be extended for periods of 14 days each with approval of the Minister or LGIC
- **Recovery Powers**
 - Local authorities will now be able to declare a Recovery Period and use recovery powers, if required, following a SOLE.
 - Recovery Periods will last 90 days



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New Responsibilities

Phased
Implementation

Emergency Management Planning

- Prepare/maintain a risk assessment with respect to the hazards within a local authority's jurisdiction, which considers climate change, equity denied populations, and available Indigenous knowledge
- Local authorities will be required to have business continuity plans
- Emergency Management plans will be required to include actions for all four phases of emergency management, use available Indigenous knowledge, and include actions to address risks to equity denied populations

Consultation and Collaboration

- Local governments will need to engage with other relevant parties when preparing emergency management plans
- When developing risk assessments and emergency management plans, local authorities must also make reasonable efforts to consult and co-operate with Indigenous governing bodies and coordinate emergency management plans
- Local governments will be responsible for collaborating with Indigenous Governing Bodies and other relevant parties as prescribed during response and recovery operations



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Regulations

There are **three main regulations** under the existing *Emergency Program Act*, which will be **modernized**:

1. Emergency Program Management Regulation
2. Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation
3. Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation

In addition to the modernization of existing regulations, **two new subject areas** are proposed:

1. Compliance and enforcement
2. Critical Infrastructure





Frequently Asked Questions

- How is the new legislation addressing issues of overlapping jurisdiction and crown lands?
- What does it mean to “consult and cooperate”?
- What is an Indigenous governing body?
- How do we know when requirements have been met? What are the details of new local government responsibilities?
- We have concerns about our capacity to implement the new legislation. Will there be funding provided to local authorities?





Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

- Discussion Paper on Local Authority Regulation
 - To be released later in 2023 – updates to come
- DFA Regulation Engagement – updates to come
- **Target:** Legislation comes into force 2023
- **Target:** Regulations come into force over 2023 and 2024



QUESTIONS?

Huy ch q'u

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