

Modernized Emergency Management Legislation in BC

For Local Government Leadership Academy EOS 2023
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Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness



Mandate Letter Priorities

- Support urgent coordinated government response to communities in times of emergency and review systems to ensure they are prepared for urgent response, incorporating lessons learned from previous emergencies
- Complete work to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation that aligns with our government's commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to strengthen our ability to protect people and communities from disasters and emergencies.
- Advance B.C.'s commitments to the Sendai Framework by leading the development of a provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment that builds on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk
- Establish Indigenous Peoples as true partners and leaders in emergency management by including First Nations from the beginning and at all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.
- Lead cross-ministry coordination for our government's work to enhance B.C.'s resilience, such as our work through the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, the BC Flood Strategy, and other cross-government efforts, including work to build back better from recent disasters





Shifts in New Legislation

- Inclusion of Indigenous peoples
- Well rounded four phase framework
- Imbedded “all of society approach”
- Clear hazard-focused risk assessment and planning requirements
- Addressing gaps in the definition of emergency
- Increased opportunities for collaboration



Current Local Authority Powers

- Power to declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) and extend a SOLE with Minister approval
- Must prepare and maintain an emergency plan, and exercise related power to implement local emergency management plans and measures during a SOLE
- Ability to use emergency powers
- Responsibility to establish an emergency management organization (EMO)
 - Power to delegate any of a local authority's powers and duties to the committee, emergency management organization or coordinator, excluding the power to make a state of local emergency (SOLE) declaration



New for Local Authorities

- **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, First Nations, 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





New for Local Authorities

- **Emergency Management Planning**

- Local governments will be required to prepare and maintain a risk assessment with respect to the hazards within their jurisdiction. They will need to consider climate change, risks to equity denied populations, and available Indigenous knowledge
- Local authorities will be required to have business continuity plans
- Local government Emergency Management plans will be required to include actions for all four phases of emergency management, all available Indigenous knowledge, and action to address risks to equity denied populations

- **Engagement and Consultation**

- The modernized legislation will require engagement with other relevant parties when preparing emergency management
- 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



Recent Local Government Engagement

June – December: Meetings with FWAC

September 13-15: UBCM Convention

October-December: Bilateral Engagement with Emergency Management Practitioners

November 7-10: Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference

December 7: REMP Forum: Engagement on Local Authority Regulation Development

January 11: IPREM Forum: Engagement on Local Authority Regulation Development

February 3: Review of the consultation draft with the UBCM Presidents Committee



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Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

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

Thank You

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