

Integrated Flood Management Planning

Background

The [B.C. Flood Strategy](#), released in March 2024, describes Integrated Flood Management Plans/Planning as “plans that outline the preferred combination of measures for managing flood risk, including both structural and non-structural approaches.”

The B.C. Flood Strategy identifies several actions focused on promoting and enhancing the use of IFMPs to increase flood resilience across the province, including:

Action 2.4: Promote integrated flood management planning

To strengthen support and guidance for responsible authorities on the integrated flood management planning process, the Province will:

- Draw on subject matter experts, First Nations and local governments with experience to share best practices or examples regarding objective setting, approaches, scope, and outcomes of IFMPs
- Develop guidance on the process and modelling content for IFMPs
- Explore the development of IFMPs through provincial funding programs for flood planning and specific initiatives to support its adoption

Action 2.7: Update provincial technical guidance

[Develop] Integrated Flood Management Planning Guidelines: These guidelines will provide a framework for identifying community values and priorities in integrated flood management planning. They will include guidance on meeting the minimum expectations for flood risk management, incorporating both structural and non-structural approaches, climate change considerations, and integrating community land use planning processes.



What We Heard

Engagement feedback¹ in developing the B.C. Flood Strategy identified that participants:

- Communicated a need for public education on flood risk and provincial funding support for community engagement and training
- Stated that First Nations Rights and Title holders and local governments need to work together on setting priorities and take action at a regional and/or sub-regional level

Why Integrated Flood Management Planning?

Integrated Flood Management Planning is used to identify strategies and actions for long-term flood resilience in an area with shared or connected flood risks, such as a watershed or river basin.


In B.C., many watersheds and river basins involve multiple authorities and communities, including one or more First Nations or local governments. Provincial agencies and other stakeholders, like infrastructure owners also have roles and interests in flood management. Therefore, the IFMP process should include meaningful community engagement.

Additionally, the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) requires local governments to consult and collaborate with First Nations in developing risk assessments. This collaboration will help better understand risks and provide support to those in shared watersheds to work together towards flood resilience.

IFMPs aim to manage and reduce the risks associated with flooding while maximizing the benefits of floodplains. Key purposes include:

- **Risk Reduction:** Minimize the potential damage and loss caused by floods to human lives, property, and infrastructure
- **Sustainability:** Ensure that flood management strategies support sustainable development, balancing social, economic, and environmental objectives

¹ Alderhill. What We Heard Report 2022: Summary of First Nations and Local Government Engagements on the B.C. Flood Strategy Intentions Paper (Fall 2022). Available at: [Alderhill WWHR FINAL Mar-2023.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/socdev/infrastructure/flood/wwhr/FINAL_Mar-2023.pdf).

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- **Resilience Building:** Enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems to floods through proactive planning and adaptive strategies
 - **Resource Optimization:** Utilize water and related resources efficiently, recognizing the multiple uses and benefits of floodplain areas
 - **Collaboration:** Promote cooperation and collaboration among First Nations, local governments, and various stakeholders, including local communities, governments, and organizations, to ensure comprehensive and effective flood management
 - **Maximize Co-Benefits:** Protect and enhance natural ecosystems and biodiversity, recognizing the role of natural systems in mitigating flood risks
 - **Policy Alignment:** Align flood management policies with broader land and water management policies to ensure coherence and effectiveness

Purpose of Engagement

The [B.C. Flood Strategy](#) was released in March 2024. This engagement will specifically explore opportunities to promote IFMP and inform the development of new provincial guidance for IFMP.

Target Audience

First Nations and local governments, non-governmental organizations, agriculture, industry, community leaders, and residents in British Columbia who are involved or interested in developing IFMPs to enhance community flood resilience.

Next Steps

The [Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions](#) have completed foundational research on this topic over the past year and will publish their reports in the near future. Results from this engagement session will help the Province develop guidance and communications to support communities, which will be part of the implementation planning for the B.C. Flood Strategy.