



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca>

Municipalities:

*McBride
Mackenzie
Prince George
Valemount*

Electoral Areas:

*Chilako River-Nechako
Crooked River-Parsnip
Robson Valley-Canoe
Salmon River-Lakes
Tabor Lake-Stone Creek
Willow River-Upper Fraser
Woodpecker-Hixon*

Mayor and Council
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

January 17, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant Application –
Partnership Consideration**

Firstly, I want to thank City administration for responding to our December 5th, 2022 invitation letter and having City administration available to meet with other potential partner Indigenous and local governments in exploring the opportunities presented by UBCM's Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant Program. In follow up to our conversations regarding the program I offer the following information.

Grant Background:

The intent of the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream is to support local and first nation governments to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks through the development and implementation of:

- Accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face and the risks associated with BC's changing climate
- Effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate, and adapt to those risks.

All local governments and First Nations in BC are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake, and this can include a regional application where a number of eligible partners come together to propose a coordinated project. The grant funding can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$150,000 per eligible applicant. The deadline to submit an application is February 24, 2023. You can find more information regarding the grant program here: <https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2022-11/cepf-2022-DRR-CA-program-guide-Feb-intake-Nov2022.pdf>

Regional Approach:

Regional District Administration has discussed with your office the opportunity of pursuing a regional approach to the grant program which can be a number of member municipalities and Indigenous governments. The grant program indicates that coordinated regional approaches are strongly encouraged and higher application review scores will be given to regional projects.

The proposed approach would see Fraser Basin Council and BGC Engineering leading this project on behalf of partnering organizations. The initial phase would see a number of outcomes including undertaking foundational activities such as risk mapping, risk assessments/planning and providing a systematic inventory and risk prioritization of flood and steep creek geohazards including the susceptibility geohazards to climate change (Category 1 mapping). The assessment methodologies and tools developed from this phase can be leveraged to provide greater value than would otherwise be unavailable on any single project budget, as well as a consistent level of quality of information at the provincial level.

This phase will include the establishment of a steering committee comprised of representatives from each partnering government. The committee will enhance communication and share resources and local knowledge serving to build and strengthen the capacity of locally responsive disaster management by developing a better understanding of risk, governance, organizational roles, capacity, procurement, and change. A regionally focused steering committee will also be better positioned to utilize the deliverables from this phase to develop cohesive projects and leverage future funding opportunities.



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Base flood hazard mapping (Category 2) will be completed for select areas. The study will include regional scale hazard mapping, the identification of values/assets overlapping with hazardous areas, and an objective approach to prioritize hazard areas based on principals of risk management.

The work will include community engagement to incorporate traditional knowledge about geohazards, define assets of value from the perspective of First Nations, and incorporate place-based, indigenous understanding of risk priorities. The deliverables will provide the fundamentals of hazard exposure and risk that will be immediately applicable for risk management decision making, and that will support more detailed steps of each pillar of disaster management in future.

A project outline is attached to this letter.

Commitments:

The funding stream can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities up to a maximum of \$150,000 per participating government. It is anticipated that the project value will not exceed grant funding and no additional funding would be required by any of the partners. Regional District Administration is proposing that the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George be the lead government for applying, receiving and managing grant funding on behalf of partner governments.

Anticipated administrative resources needed from your office includes: review of grant submission, participation on the steering committee that will guide the project, in-kind support for community engagement and review and evaluation of documents developed prior to finalization.

Grant Requirements:

Regional District Administration are currently working alongside consultants to develop a grant application on behalf of the Regional District and partner governments. The Regional District Board will be considering support for this initiative at their January 26, 2023 Board meeting.

Should your organization wish to participate in the project the following resolution is required by the Regional District by February 13th:

THAT the City of Prince George supports the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George applying for, receiving, and managing grant funding on our behalf through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation program.

I am happy to meet with you should you wish to discuss further.

Respectfully,

Kenna Jonkman

Kenna Jonkman, MCIP, RPP
General Manager of Development Services

Telephone: 250-960-4400
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Enclosure: Collaborative Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation – Project Outline

COLLABORATIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Overview of project provided to Kenna Jonkman to inform Directors of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George.

January 11, 2023

BACKGROUND

Storm events and flooding pose serious risks to public health and safety as well as critical infrastructure, and other assets and values. Climate change is increasing the frequency of severe weather, leading to an increase in natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, debris flows and landslides. Some of these hazards can be slow in their onset, while others can happen rapidly. The associated risks however can be reduced, and resiliency increased using disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies to identify and reduce the risk of future natural and climate related disasters through:

1. The development of accurate foundational knowledge of existing natural hazards across a given geographic (or project) area and identify any additional risks associated with BC's changing climate.
2. The design and implementation of effective strategies to prepare or, mitigate and adapt to those risks.

“The Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream is part of UBCM’s Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.” Applications to the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream are being accepted by the Union of BC Municipalities until February 24, 2023¹.

The Fraser Basing Council² and BGC Engineering³ approached the Regional District of Fraser Fort George (RDFFG) to determine the Regional District’s interest in pursuing a regionally coordinated flood risk mapping project. Recent communication with neighboring local governments indicates there is a strong desire to move ahead with a regional project to identify hazards and potential values at risk. FBC is assisting the RDFFG to complete the UBCM application and once approved, FBC will assist with specific facets of project delivery. FBC has retained BGC Engineering to deliver a similar project in the Thompson-Okanagan; to capitalize on a well-established relationship, the lessons learned and efficiencies from Thompson-Okanagan project, BGC is also advising on the technical aspects of this proposal.

REGIONAL APPROACH

The area of interest for this project, and the focus of the foundational work (Tier 1 mapping described below) is the full extent of the RDFFG (Figure 1). Tier 2 mapping, which will focus on areas where developed values are found to be at risk, will be completed in collaboration with the local knowledge of the regional steering committee, which will be formed as part of this project. To this end, the following local governments are connecting for this project in order to advance long-term risk management goals and will work in collaboration to create a comprehensive regional project:

¹ [Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](https://www.ubcm.ca/)

² [Fraser Basin Council - Home](https://www.fraserbasincouncil.ca/)

³ [Home - BGC Engineering](https://www.bgcengineering.com/)

- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Simpcw First Nation
- The Village of Valemount
- The Village of McBride
- The District of Mackenzie
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- City of Prince George



Figure 1: The geographical boundary of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George.

Reducing the impacts of geohazards benefits from a collaborative approach between those with different roles and responsibilities but shared needs. A regionally coordinated approach to geohazards management is also required to maximize funding, effectively characterize hazards that cross jurisdictional boundaries and to implement steps of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Note: All partnering applicants are required to submit a local Council (or Board), Band Council (or First Nation or Treaty Nation) resolution, indicating clear approval for the primary applicant (RDFFG) to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf. Verbal commitments from partnering applicants should be obtained as soon as possible, and resolution letters of support must be received before February 24, 2023.

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project (Phase 1) will consist of foundational activities (risk mapping, risk assessments, planning), providing a systematic inventory and risk prioritization of flood and steep creek geohazards including the susceptibility of geohazards to climate change (Tier 1 mapping) (Figure 2). The assessment methodologies and tools developed

from this Phase can be leveraged to provide greater value than would otherwise be unavailable on any single project budget, as well as a consistent level of quality at the provincial level.

Phase 1 will also include the establishment of a steering committee comprised of representatives from each partnering local government. The committee will enhance communication and share resources and local knowledge serving to build and strengthen the capacity of locally responsive disaster management by developing a better understanding of risk, governance, organizational roles, capacity, procurement, and change. A regionally focused steering committee will also be better positioned to utilize the deliverables from Phase 1 to develop cohesive projects and leverage future funding opportunities.

Base flood hazard mapping (Tier 2) (Figure 2) will be completed for select areas. The study will include regional scale hazard mapping, the identification of values/assets overlapping with hazardous areas, and an objective approach to prioritize hazard areas based on principals of risk management. The work will include community engagement to incorporate traditional knowledge about geohazards, define assets of value from the perspective of First Nations, and incorporate place-based, indigenous understanding of risk priorities. The deliverables will provide the fundamentals of hazard exposure and risk that will be immediately applicable for risk management decision making, and that will support more detailed steps of each pillar of disaster management in future.

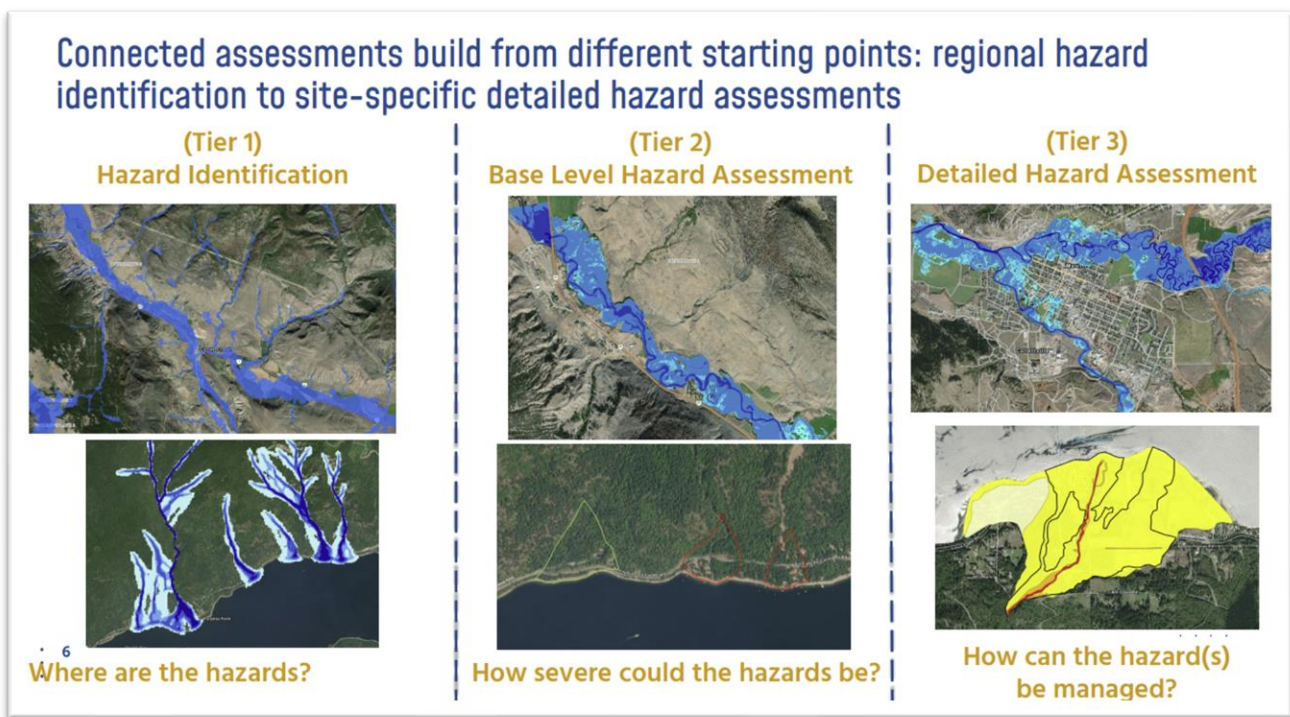


Figure 2: Displays the three Tiers of DRR mapping. Tiers 1 and 2 are included in the proposed scope of work.

DRR Mapping Described

Tier 1 hazard identification maps identify hazard-prone areas across large regions at a screening-level. This level of mapping identifies approximate flood extents over large areas from topographic data. It is intended to indicate areas for further study and can support/inform policy triggers. Tier 1 risk studies are typically used for following applications:

- Long-term Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy
- Data Gaps & Further Geohazards Assessments
- Geohazards Monitoring
- Policy Integration
- Training, Public and Stakeholder Communication
- Digital Information Sharing, Responsibility and Liability
- Multi-Stakeholder Resource Sharing

Tier 2 base level hazard maps inform understanding of flood hazard to larger areas and are a step towards the costly detailed flood mapping. This level of mapping displays hazard characteristics estimated for a given frequency, at a “base” level of detail that is cost-effective to prepare for larger areas using lidar data. Tier 2 mapping informs assessments of flood hazard and risk by Qualified Professionals as may be required in bylaws; it does not include freeboard and is not intended for identifying flood construction levels.

For information only, Tier 3 detailed flood hazard maps include multiple flood scenarios and flood construction levels. This level of mapping displays flood characteristics across a range of scenarios at greater detail than base level maps by including bathymetric survey data. Tier 3 mapping informs Qualified Professionals of flood hazard and risk and flood construction level maps aid in decision making for floodplain bylaws.

SUBMISSION & REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

The District of Fraser Fort George will be the primary applicant, submitting to the proposed project to the UBCM on or before February 24, 2023. The submission will be inclusive of the UBCM application form, resolutions from all partnering applicants clearly stating their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf, a detailed work plan and budget and maps.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SERVICES & TEAM

If approved, the Fraser Basin Council will provide the following services to the project:

- Contract management and coordination
- Development and coordination of a regional steering committee
 - Terms of Reference
 - Meetings, agendas, minutes, communication
- Reasonable updates
- Annual report
- Multi-year budget and planning
- Tracking of the identification of future opportunities for risk reduction and management

The FBC has assigned the following team to the proposed RDFFG DRR project.

Patience Rakochoy (Program Lead – Northern Interior)

Patience Rakochoy joined FBC in May of 2022 to act as the Northern Interior Lead for Air Quality. In this position, she supports the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR), and its members who are working to achieve desired air quality targets for the region.

Patience is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and holds a Master of Science in Forestry; she is an internal COR, BASE and ISEBASE safety auditor and holds an advanced drone pilot's licence with an ROC-A. She has worked in the BC forest industry for over 25 years providing her with a broad working knowledge of resource management in BC with a high-level of emphasis on forestry legislation, policy and practices. Her skills and knowledge cross multiple disciplines, including forest practices, stewardship, and monitoring, integrated resource management, hazard and risk-based assessments, and occupational health and safety.

Before joining the FBC, she was employed as an Assistant Manager for a local consulting firm. She was responsible for meeting company safety, quality and production goals, managing projects and budgets, coordinating human resources and providing leadership. Patience's experience with UBCM funding relates to wildland-urban interface management; she has overseen more than a dozen UBCM/FNESS interface projects.

Patience strives to be objective and tactical in her assessment processes and enjoys motivating, leading and/or supporting a team toward a common vision while systematically working through challenges to uncover favorable solutions.

E: prakochy@fraserbasin.ca

Tasha Peterson (Program Lead – Northern Interior)

Tasha Peterson is a Program Lead for the Northern Interior Region of the Fraser Basin Council (FBC), based in Prince George. In her role, Tasha is responsible for overseeing projects and secretariat duties on behalf of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, a collective of individuals who convene and initiate projects for the betterment of the watershed. Additionally, Tasha contributes and oversees project work for other FBC portfolios including *Emergency Management Planning for Okanagan Nation Alliance* and communication and engagement activities for *Landslide Impact on Flow Dynamics, Fish Migration and the Genetics of Fraser Salmon* project in partnership with Simon Fraser University and the Fraser Salmon Management Council.

Prior to joining FBC, Tasha spent over a decade in project management and public relations' roles in the education and tourism sectors, as well as a consultant for various other private and public organizations. Tasha was the lead on what was the largest content generation project between a tourism organization and Google in Canada, and has extensive experience managing large, decentralized teams of individuals in contracted roles.

Tasha holds a degree in Nature-based Tourism Management (formally known as Recreation Resource Management) from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), an Outdoor Educator certificate from the National Outdoor Leadership School and has her Public Relations Knowledge designation from the Canadian Public Relations Society. Tasha has also contributed to various research projects including those focused on visitor behaviour and impacts at specified locations in Antarctica, and Experiential Education for UNBC, and Juan de Fuca impacts for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

E: tpeterson@fraserbasin.ca

[Kim Menounos \(Regional Manager, Northern Interior Region\)](#)

Kim Menounos (RPF) is the Manager in the Northern and Interior Region of the Fraser Basin Council (FBC), based in Prince George. At FBC Kim oversees work supporting Climate Change and Air Quality; Watersheds and Water Resources; and Community Sustainability. Kim manages the Prince George Air Quality Monitoring Working Group, is Co-Chair of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, and leads First Nations engagement and facilitation of the Landslide Impact on Flow Dynamics, Fish Migration and Genetics of Fraser Salmon project in partnership with Simon Fraser University and the Fraser Salmon Management Council. Kim is also working to develop a funding program to support Indigenous management of caribou populations.

Prior to joining FBC, Kim worked on public engagement and consultation strategies, and her projects included an outreach strategy on outdoor education opportunities, the creation of a new provincial park, and the onsite management of a health research study. Kim also brings community health experience as the Healthy Community Environments Lead at Northern Health for 3 years. Her natural resource management career began as the first Urban Forester for the City of Prince George working on interface fires and managing the impacts of the mountain pine beetle outbreak on city parks and open spaces. Kim holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. Kim believes strongly in multi-stakeholder processes and collaboration as the pathway to sustainable, community-driven solutions.

In addition to the team members above, the following FBC staff have been identified as advisors to the project.

- [Terry Robert \(Director, Interior Regional Programs\)](#)

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- [Steve Litke \(Director, Water Programs\) Senior Advisor](#)

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- [Jenny Koss \(Assistant Program Manager, Flood Management\)](#)

E: jkoss@fraserbasin.ca

- [Mollie Hunt \(Assistant Program Manager, Flood Management\)](#)

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Please visit our website for further information on our project advisors:

[Fraser Basin Council - Our Staff](#)