



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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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

September 16, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council:

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

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is looking continue partnership with Indigenous and local governments by applying for a second regional grant through UBCM's Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant Program.

Grant Background:

The intent of the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream is to support Indigenous and local 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 per eligible applicant. The deadline to submit an application is October 4, 2024. You can find more information regarding the grant program here: [Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation | Union of BC Municipalities \(ubcm.ca\)](https://www.ubcm.ca/disaster-risk-reduction-climate-adaptation)

Regional DRR-CA 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 may be given to regional projects.

The proposed approach would see Fraser Basin Council and BGC Engineering leading this project on behalf of partnering organizations.

Existing Project:

The Regional District, along with partner governments, including the City of Prince George, received funding under the DRR-CA program in 2023. This project will deliver the following:

- a) systematically characterize clear-water flood, steep creek and landslide hazards and hazard exposure across the RDRFG in a format amenable to risk assessment;
- b) complete a regional risk assessment, delivered using approaches that will enable updates in the future; and
- c) provide recommendations to inform next steps of risk management decision making, including policy, regulation, emergency management, and mitigation planning in recognition of a changing climate.



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The Regional District has partnered with the following governments on this project:

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
McLeod Land Indian Band
City of Prince George
District of Mackenzie
Village of McBride
Village of Valemount

The Regional District has entered into contract with Fraser Basin Council and BGC Engineering Ltd. for this project. Fraser Basin Council is responsible for project management and BGC Engineering Ltd. are the technical experts that will deliver mapping and risk analysis information. The Regional District and the City of Prince George, along with other partners are already collaborating on a project under this funding model.

Proposed DRR-CA Project:

The Regional District is looking for support from existing partner government to apply for funding to advance work in the following areas:

- a) Climate hazard and regional risk assessment (DRR-CA Category 1):
 - Characterize regional climatic drought, hydrologic drought, and extreme heat hazards. Hazard characterization will consider projected effects of climate change, at the limit of resolution of current information (e.g. current climate models and streamflow projections).
- b) Decision process development (DRR-CA Category 2):
 - Complete regional (all project partners) review of language, policies, and procedures around the use of hazard maps and information in policy and bylaws, given the findings of the current regional disaster risk assessment.
 - Provide policy recommendations related to natural hazards in the project areas, with the objective of fostering consistent, risk-informed, development decisions. As part of the engagement process, a supplementary objective would be to build staff capacity to interpret hazard and risk maps and use that information to make hazard and risk policy decisions; and public engagement to update on the work done to date and address questions and feedback.

Proposed project roles and responsibilities are:

- RDRFG as lead applicant in association with the same project partners (subject to their confirmation, including the City of Prince George, District of Mackenzie, Village of McBride, Village of Valemount, the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, and the McLeod Lake Indian Band).
- Fraser Basin Council as coordinator including convening the current project advisory committee and overseeing the work if the application is successful.
- BGC Engineering Ltd. leading discussion about proposed technical scope of work, and completing the work if the application is successful.
- City of Prince George, as a partner government, be responsible for, review of grant application, participate on the project steering committee, in-kind support for community engagement and review and evaluation of documents developed prior to finalization.



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Commitments:

The funding stream can contribute 100% of the cost of eligible activities for all participating government. It is anticipated that the project value will not exceed \$1,000,000 and 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 gave support for the project at their September 12, 2024 meeting.

Should your organization wish to participate in the project the following resolution is required by the Regional District by October 31, 2024:

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 Community and Development Services

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Enclosure: Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant 2024-2025 Program and Application Guide.