



Navigating EDMA requirements

LMPN/RSPN Quarterly meeting
July 9, 2026



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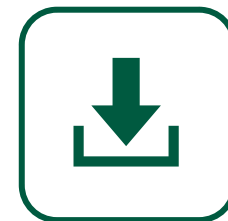
Canada

How to use this resource

This resource has been ~~co~~created by everyone in attendance at the meeting on July 9, 2026. It's complimentary to the meeting summary that can be found at <https://www.communityenergy.ca/rspr/> and includes downloadable graphics, links to additional resources, and more.

This resource can be shared with people outside the network.

You will also find useful resources and links, identified by these icons:



Downloadable resource for presentations & reports



External resource link



Exercise or take-away activity

Navigating EDMA requirements

– July 9, 2026

Meeting Objectives:

- Translate the forthcoming EDMA guidance into practical implications for local governments
- Create space for regional coordination and shared problem-solving
- Connect emergency management planning to community mobilization and activation, so the conversation doesn't stop at compliance

Meeting Highlights:

- **Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) requirement guidance is under development** to support implementation of BC's new legislation and regulations, expected to be shared January 2027 but will remain high-level.
- **Relationship building and trust building take time.** Early, ongoing and transparent relationships with Indigenous Nations and urban Indigenous communities are essential.
- **Regional Districts may have a role to play** to avoid duplication of risk assessments, make better use of shared data and provide useful foundational information for smaller member municipalities. Consider building from existing hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment work started by municipalities that can be used as models elsewhere in the region, and leave room for local context.
- Meeting attendees emphasized the **need for practical case studies** that identify strong components of existing assessments and create foundational building blocks that can be used as models in other municipalities or regional districts. Rather than presenting any one assessment as a perfect model, future resources could identify the strongest elements of different examples, such as climate analysis, vulnerable-population considerations, regional coordination, or Indigenous engagement. One example that was shared during this call was the Kanaka Bar Indian Band Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, which is available online here.



Complete summary can be found at
<https://www.communityenergy.ca/rspn>

EDMA overview & requirements

		Search 		Menu 
Local Governments	Mitigation	Requirements effective January 1, 2027 to prepare, maintain, and implement:	• risk assessments for hazards within their jurisdiction • emergency management plans • business continuity plans	Sections 47, 51-53, 55
	Preparedness			

Beginning **January 1**, local governments will be required under the **Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)** to complete **climate-informed hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessments**.

Poll – Section 51

(4) A risk assessment must be based on all of the following:

- (a) studies and surveys;
- (b) Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, if available;
- (c) changes in the local climate or extreme weather events that can reasonably be expected to result from a changing global climate;
- (d) other relevant information that is reasonably available from prescribed sources of information or any other source;
- (e) the results of the actions required under sections 54 *[consultation and coordination with local authorities]* and 55 *[consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples]*.

Poll – Section 51

(4) A risk assessment must be based on all of the following:

- (a) studies and surveys;
- (b) Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, if available;
- (c) changes in the local climate or extreme weather events that can reasonably be expected to result from a changing global climate;
- (d) other relevant information that is reasonably available from prescribed sources of information or any other source;
- (e) the results of the actions required under sections 54 *[consultation and coordination with local authorities]* and 55 *[consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples]*.

Poll – Section 52

Emergency management plans

52 (1) An emergency management plan must be prepared in accordance with this section and the regulations.

(2) Subject to the regulations, an emergency management plan must describe at least the following:

- (a) measures that are necessary or advisable for the purposes of each phase;
- (b) the roles, powers and duties of persons identified in the plan by name, title or position;
- (c) requirements for emergency resources;
- (d) procedures for engaging emergency systems;
- (e) the emergency management training and exercise programs that will be conducted;
- (f) measures to mitigate any adverse effects of an emergency on
 - (i) individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage, and
 - (ii) vulnerable individuals, animals, places or things;
- (g) measures to promote cultural safety;
- (h) any prescribed matters.

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2), the emergency management plan of a local authority must

- (a) include a plan for the evacuation and care of individuals and animals in the area within the jurisdiction of the local authority,
- (b) include a description of each area, if any, that is described for the purposes of section 120 [*consultation, engagement and cooperation with Indigenous peoples*] in one or more of the following:
 - (i) an agreement made under section 55 (1) (e) [*consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples*];
 - (ii) any other agreement with an Indigenous governing body, and
- (c) specify the Indigenous governing body in relation to each area described.

(4) An emergency management plan must be based on all of the following:

- (a) all applicable risk assessments that are available;
- (b) the results of the actions required under sections 54 and 55;
- (c) any prescribed matters.

Poll – Section 53

Business continuity plans

- 53** (1) A business continuity plan must be prepared in accordance with this section and the regulations.
- (2) A business continuity plan of a regulated entity other than a critical infrastructure owner must describe
- (a) the measures to be taken to ensure the continued delivery, during an emergency, of leadership and services necessary for the effective functioning of the regulated entity, and
 - (b) any prescribed matter.
- (3) A business continuity plan of a critical infrastructure owner must describe all of the following:
- (a) the essential systems, networks, facilities or assets, or parts of any of these that must continue to function effectively during an emergency, including
 - (i) the level at which services must be provided by the essential systems, networks, facilities or assets, or parts of these,
 - (ii) the measures to be taken to ensure the continued provision of the services, and
 - (iii) if the services are interrupted or discontinued, the targeted period for restoring them to the level referred to in subparagraph (i);
 - (b) any prescribed matter.

Poll - Section 55

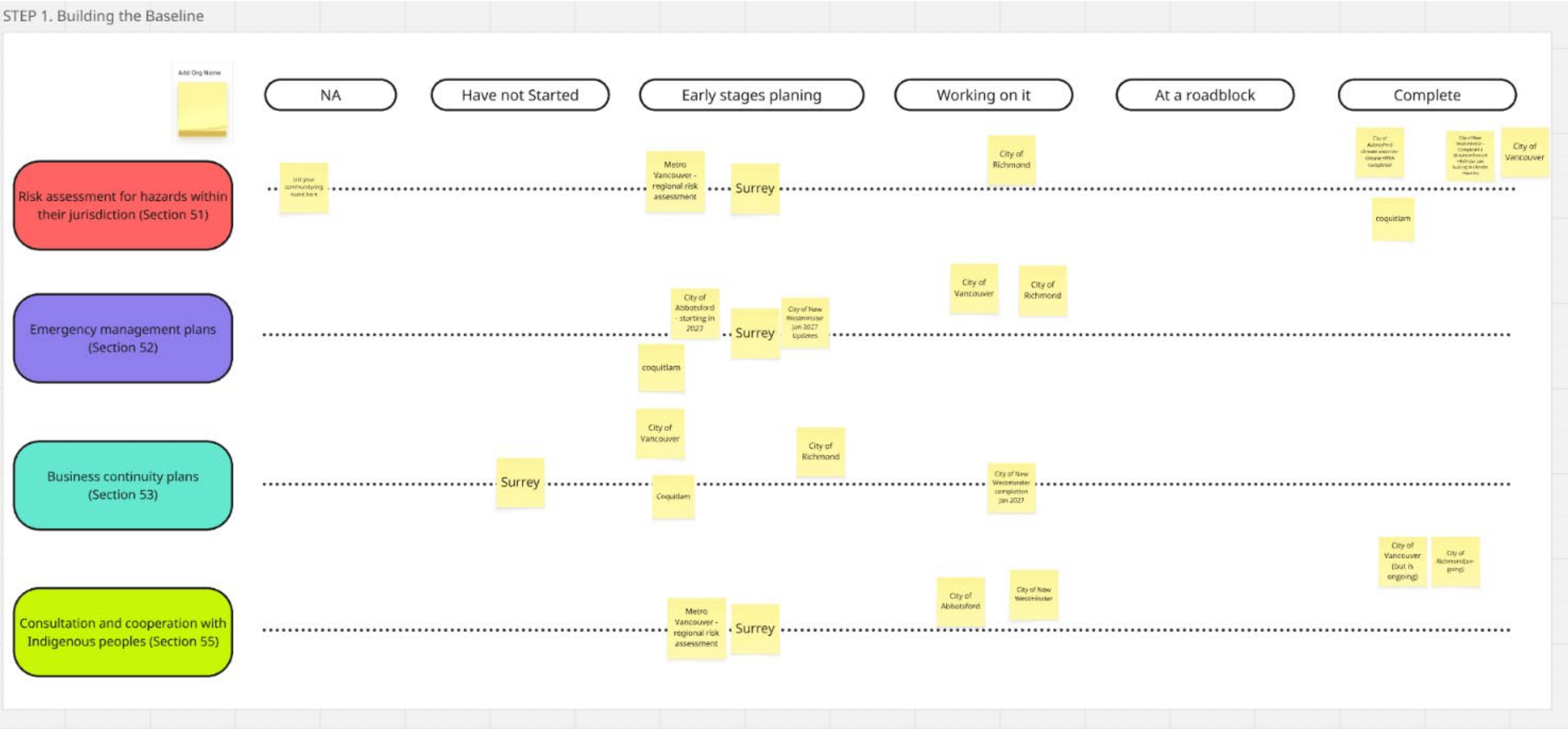
Consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples

55 (1) A lead minister, local authority, public sector agency or critical infrastructure owner that is required to prepare or review and revise a risk assessment or an emergency management plan must do all of the following, as applicable:

- (a) consult and cooperate, in accordance with the regulations, if any, with the following:
 - (i) each Indigenous governing body that acts on behalf of Indigenous peoples whose traditional territory or treaty area includes
 - (A) an area or people in an area that may be affected by a hazard that is required to be included in the risk assessment, or
 - (B) an area to which the emergency management plan applies;
 - (ii) without limiting subparagraph (i), in the case of a local authority,
 - (A) each Indigenous governing body that acts on behalf of Indigenous peoples whose traditional territory or treaty area includes an area that is within the jurisdiction of the local authority, and
 - (B) the Nisga'a Nation or a treaty first nation if the Nisga'a Lands or the treaty lands of the treaty first nation, as applicable, are adjacent to an area within the jurisdiction of the local authority;
- (b) consider
 - (i) any comments received from the Nisga'a Nation, a treaty first nation or an Indigenous governing body consulted in accordance with paragraph (a), and
 - (ii) the rights of the Indigenous peoples on whose behalf the Nisga'a Nation, treaty first nation or Indigenous governing body referred to in subparagraph (i) acts;
- (c) incorporate into the risk assessment or emergency management plan Indigenous knowledge, if available;
- (d) in the case of an emergency management plan, coordinate the plan with the plans, if any, of the Nisga'a Nation or a treaty first nation or an Indigenous governing body consulted in accordance with paragraph (a) to ensure that the plans can be implemented, and emergency measures taken under them, in an integrated manner;
- (e) in the case of an emergency management plan prepared by a local authority, make reasonable efforts to reach agreement respecting areas to be described in the plan for the purposes of section 120 [*consultation, engagement and cooperation with Indigenous peoples*] with each Indigenous governing body that acts on behalf of Indigenous peoples whose traditional territory or treaty area includes an area that is within the jurisdiction of the local authority.

(2) If a local authority enters into an agreement with an Indigenous governing body under subsection (1) (e), the local authority must provide to the provincial administrator a description of each area agreed to and the Indigenous governing body that is specified in the agreement in relation to each area.

Where does your community fall in this spectrum?



Provincial updates on Emergency and Disaster Management Act Materials

Presenter: Dave Aharonian, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is developing guidance for local authorities to accompany the Province's emergency management regulations.

Key updates

- The guidance is currently in development and is intended to support implementation of the new legislative requirements.
- The Province is targeting January 2027 for completion of the guidance, aligning with the anticipated release of the regulations.
- Initial work may be shared at the 2026 UBCM Convention, although plans are still being finalized.
- Local authorities will have opportunities to provide feedback through future engagement and consultation processes, with details to be shared as they become available.

What local authorities can expect

The Province noted that the guidance is expected to be high level and may not address all of the detailed implementation questions raised by local authorities over the past year. Recognizing this, EMCR is exploring opportunities to develop additional supporting resources and supplementary guidance to provide further clarity and practical direction where needed.

Key takeaway: Guidance remains on track for release alongside the regulations in January 2027. While the primary guidance document will provide broad direction, additional resources may be developed to address more detailed implementation questions from local authorities.

About EMCR and EDMA

EMCR (Emergency Management and Climate Readiness) is the provincial agency responsible for emergency management in B.C.

EDMA (Emergency and Disaster Management Act) is B.C.'s emergency management legislation, introduced in 2023. The guidance being developed by EMCR will help local authorities understand and implement EDMA requirements.

Update on guidance for local governments

The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (ECS) is working with Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), the ministry responsible for the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA), to develop guidance materials for local governments.

Local governments have raised many questions about EDMA requirements, including:

- What do these requirements mean in practice?
- How should risk assessments be completed?
- What level of engagement is expected with Indigenous communities and neighbouring jurisdictions?

Ideally, the Province would provide detailed, prescriptive guidance, including best-practice templates, clear frameworks, and a comprehensive FAQ. However, developing that level of direction has proven challenging, as EMCR has been cautious about being overly prescriptive and wants to ensure flexibility for different local contexts.

Current Status

EMCR, ECS, and other partners are currently developing guidance materials, with a particular focus on climate-informed hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessments.

The guidance is intended to help local governments understand:

- How to conduct risk assessments that meet administrative requirements.
- How to approach consultation and cooperation with Indigenous communities.
- How to work with neighbouring local authorities and other partners required under EDMA.

It is important to note that the upcoming guidance will not answer every question. The materials are expected to be relatively high-level and will point users toward relevant resources, examples, and case studies rather than providing a single prescriptive approach.

Opportunity to Learn from Early Adopters

There may be significant value in learning from communities that have already completed climate risk assessments, including **New Westminster, Richmond, and Abbotsford**. For example, New Westminster's work includes strong examples of:

- Assessing impacts on vulnerable populations through an **intersectional disadvantage** lens, which helps address EDMA requirements related to disproportionate impacts.
- Engaging Indigenous communities throughout the planning process using ongoing relationship-building, transparent communication, and feedback loops.

These examples could help inform future guidance materials and provide practical approaches for other local governments undertaking similar work.

First Nations Engagement under EDMA

Key Takeaway

- Focus on meaningful progress rather than perfection.
- Build on existing assessments and processes, engage Indigenous Nations as early as possible, and document good-faith efforts to collaborate and incorporate Indigenous perspectives.

Key Challenges

- Identifying which First Nations to engage can be difficult, particularly where jurisdictions overlap.
- Participants noted a need for clearer provincial guidance and resources to help local governments determine appropriate engagement.

EDMA's Intent

- Indigenous Nations should be involved early and throughout the assessment process, not consulted only after work is complete.
- The goal is meaningful participation and collaboration in identifying hazards, risks, and community impacts.

Relationship Building Matters

- Strong existing relationships make engagement easier and more effective.
- Where relationships do not exist, building trust and connections should be a priority.

Capacity and Information Sharing

- Some Nations may have limited capacity to participate.
- Traditional and Indigenous knowledge may be sensitive, requiring clear expectations around information sharing and use.
- Integrating Indigenous and Western knowledge is best approached collaboratively, though there is limited formal guidance on how to do this.

Examples and Emerging Guidance

- Meeting attendees emphasized the need for practical case studies that identify strong components of existing assessments and create foundational building blocks that can be used as models in other municipalities or regional districts. Rather than presenting any one assessment as a perfect model, future resources could identify the strongest elements of different examples, such as climate analysis, vulnerable-population considerations, regional coordination, or Indigenous engagement.
- One example that was shared during this call was the Kanaka Bar Indian Band Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, <https://indigenousclimatehub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Kanaka-Bar-.pdf>.

Hazard Assessments and Risk Reduction

Question About Mitigation Requirements

A participant asked whether EDMA will eventually require communities to include disaster risk reduction or hazard mitigation measures, beyond completing risk assessments.

- Current regulations focus on identifying and assessing risks.
- There is no specific requirement to develop or document mitigation actions.
- No expected legislative changes were identified that would introduce this requirement in the near future.

Purpose of Risk Assessments

The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions noted that the intent of the assessment process is to:

- Identify the key hazards and risks facing a community.
- Establish priorities for planning and investment.
- Inform the development of emergency management plans under EDMA.

Sharing Assessment Results

- Some communities are concerned about sharing assessments publicly once risks are identified.
- There is currently no requirement to publish assessment results.
- However, shared assessments could help communities learn from one another and provide useful examples of best practices.

Key Takeaway

Risk assessments are intended to help communities understand and prioritize risks. While mitigation and risk reduction planning are important next steps, they are not currently explicit requirements under EDMA.

Regional Climate Risk Assessment Discussion

The network discussed the role of regional districts in leading and coordinating Climate Risk Assessments. This would support more coordinated efforts, rather than having many small communities conduct separate assessments.

- Strong case for this model, with benefits including:
 - Shared climate projections, datasets, and consultant resources.
 - Reduced duplication of effort.
 - More coordinated engagement with First Nations and stakeholders, helping address capacity constraints and engagement fatigue.
 - Alignment with EMCR/EDMA's encouragement of **multi-jurisdictional approaches**.

A representative from **Metro Vancouver** said there is strong support for a regional-scale approach and that a year-long options analysis identified significant economies of scale.

Key challenge: balancing **regional-level hazards and analysis** with the **local knowledge and nuances** that individual municipalities still need to capture.

Metro Vancouver is exploring a model where a regional assessment serves as:

- A standalone regional product.
- A foundation or supplementary resource for local government assessments, especially for smaller communities with limited staff capacity.

The project will also explore opportunities for joint engagement, shared climate projections, and collaboration with First Nations through an EMJO-style approach.

Key Takeaway

There was broad support for regional assessments as an efficient and collaborative model, with Metro Vancouver viewed as a potential pilot whose lessons learned could inform similar approaches across the province. The Province of BC expressed interest in supporting and encouraging this model at the provincial level as the work progresses.

Indigenous Engagement & Regional Collaboration Discussion

Participants discussed whether there are concerns or barriers to a **regional approach for climate risk assessments**, but no major red flags were raised. Interest remained focused on collaboration, shared learning, and reducing duplication of effort.

A network member asked to hear more examples of how communities, local governments, and First Nations are responding to climate risks and building preparedness.

A representative from the **City of New Westminster** shared their experience developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan. In addition to reaching out to the over 30 Nations who have expressed interest in the lands and waters that New Westminster is located on, the City also coordinated engagement efforts with the urban Indigenous community. These relationship building efforts were often food based, through hosting informal Soup and Bannock gatherings, held outside of City specific venues. Feedback was tracked and reported back through “what we heard” reports, response tables, and follow-up communications to demonstrate how input was incorporated.

Key Themes on Indigenous Engagement

This discussion emphasized that meaningful engagement is built through **ongoing relationships, transparency, and feedback loops**, rather than one-time consultation events.

New Westminster highlighted:

- Starting engagement early.
- Maintaining consistent points of contact.
- Sharing the same information transparently with all interested Nations.
- Reporting back on how feedback was used.
- Continuing engagement throughout project development.

Next steps & support

Province of BC

- The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions plans to further explore and document what a **regional assessment model** could look like and share it with the Lower Mainland Network ahead of the next meeting.
- EMCR is planning to present upcoming guidance at **UBCM**, while also exploring other ways to engage local government staff who will be responsible for implementing the work.
- Participants highlighted the need for **practical case studies and examples**. The Province is aware of the need for this and has confirmed that developing and sharing strong case studies, including specific components that worked well in communities such as Saanich and New Westminster, is expected to be part of future EMCR guidance.

Reach out to LGCAP@gov.bc.ca with questions or further comments.

Lower Mainland Network

- Continue conversations on EDMA and Relationship Building.

Key Takeaway

The discussion reinforced the importance of relationship-based Indigenous engagement, peer learning, and practical examples. Participants expressed strong interest in continued regional collaboration and in developing case studies and guidance that communities can adapt to their own climate risk assessment work.

Questions or comments?

Not a part of the Lower Mainland Peer Network – reach out to join! Contact peernetworks@communityenergy.ca to join!

Additional Resources

Kanaka Bar Indian Band Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

<https://indigenousclimatehub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Kanaka-Bar-.pdf>

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Indigenous Relations – Truth & Reconciliation: In Practice

A Guide for Working in a Good Way

<https://www.slrd.bc.ca/media/file/a-guide-truth-and-reconciliation-in-practice>