



Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy

Briefing for Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice – July 25, 2022



Emergency
ManagementBC

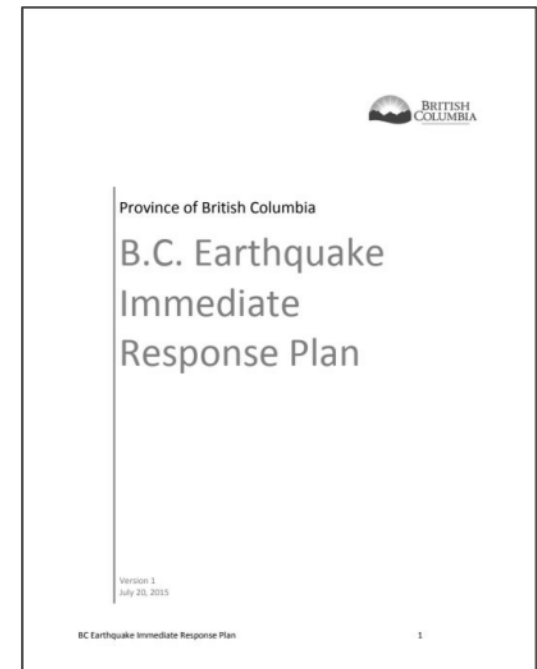
Agenda

- Background
- Approach
- Overview of Revisions
- Next Steps
- Discussion



Background

- **2014 OAG Report on Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness and BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report**
- **BC Earthquake (EQ) Immediate Response Plan (IRP) published in 2015**
- **Key 2015 IRP contents:**
 - Two scenarios and respective anticipated impacts
 - Roles & responsibilities, including leadership and integration of provincial government, agencies, and partners
 - Lines of effort: logistics, ESS/mass care, critical infrastructure, volunteer coordination, strategic communications
- **Linkages to:**
 - Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
 - Exercise Coastal Response 2016 (EXCR 2016)
 - Catastrophic Earthquake Response and Recovery Centre (CERRC)
 - Post-Disaster Facility concept
 - Ministry Catastrophic Response Actions



Approach to Updating the IRP

- **Key drivers:**

- Inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and evolving service agreements
- Lessons observed: EXCR 2016 and recent major events (e.g. fires, floods, COVID-19, and atmospheric rivers)
- Adoption of UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Changes in ministry/partner roles and responsibilities

- **Research:** reviews, jurisdictional scans, and examination of best practices to modernize the IRP

- **Engagement:**

- Internal engagement (Catastrophic Preparedness Working Group est. June 2021, includes all ministries)
- External engagement (First Nations, Indigenous agencies, local authorities, federal partners, and other partners)
- Executive (internal ministry briefings, ADMC and DMC Disaster Risk and Emergency Management)

Revision Highlights

- **New title, clarified purpose** – “Immediate Response Plan” (IRP) to “Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy” (PEIRS), reflecting strategic-level guidance on coordination and integration
- **Incorporation of Indigenous considerations** – provincial commitments under service agreements, and roles of Indigenous support agencies
- **Equity considerations** – application of GBA+ and incorporation of considerations for populations with vulnerabilities
- **New concepts** – incorporation of proactive approach to immediate response
- **Updated/added sections** – all ~80 ministry and agency roles and responsibilities updated, EMBC roles and responsibilities updated, and two new sections added: surge capacity; recovery; no new responsibilities for First Nations or local authorities

Scenarios and Anticipated Impacts

Scenario 1: 7.0M EQ in Georgia Strait

- Primarily impacting lower mainland and Nanaimo
- Over 10,000 buildings permanently uninhabitable
- 2,000 lives claimed, 1,000 critically injured

Scenario 2: 7.3M EQ in S Vancouver Island

- Almost 7,000 buildings uninhabitable
- 1,000 lives claimed, 500 critically injured

Anticipated Impacts

- Human impacts e.g. displacement, psychosocial/mental health, vulnerability, individual/community isolation
- Infrastructure, critical services, supply chains, economic activity, environment



Substantive Revisions

- **Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Services** – shift from “mass care”; identifies cultural safety and GBA+ considerations; revisions to functional/service groupings; recognizes diversity of coordination levels that will evolve over time and roles of community/NGO-led sites/services
- **Logistics** – integrates “whole of society” and proactive approaches; clarifies roles of staging areas/community points of distribution; addition of acquisition of critical resources
- **Roles and Responsibilities** – updated to reflect new ministry/organizational mandates and structures
- **Surge Capacity** – dedicated section on staffing/human resources; identifies potential sources of qualified staff; addresses volunteer coordination and convergent volunteers

Minor Revisions

- **Governance** – reflects changes to BC's EM/DRR governance structures, cross-ministry governance committees, and CERRC concept; identifies key Indigenous and regional partnerships to be engaged in response
- **Situational Awareness** – describes how information will flow across agencies primarily utilizing the EMBC Common Operating Picture
- **Strategic Communications** – minor revisions to reflect developments in the Joint Information Centre (JIC) concept and government's communications structures
- **Critical Infrastructure** – expanded roles for CI owners/operations; expanded details re: CI coordination; addition of CI restoration
- **Recovery** – stand-alone section, expands on existing content, drawing substantially from the Interim Recovery Framework; no new policy or procedures established

Next Steps

- **August** – PEIRS publication and implementation
- **February 2023** – Exercise Coastal Response 23



Discussion



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