

Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/04/2024

EMCR Mandate Letter Commitments – Progress Overview

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- Since the creation of the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in December 2022, significant progress has been made on delivering its mandated priorities, including:
 - Supporting urgent coordinated government response to communities in times of emergency, including supporting response and recovery in communities around the province affected by flood, drought, and the unprecedented wildfire season in summer 2023.
 - Enhancing focus on preparedness to ensure communities are ready for urgent response and incorporating lessons learned from previous emergencies. Examples include working across the B.C government to implement improvements from lessons learned from the 2021 Atmospheric River and 2023 Exercise Coastal Response. The Ministry also co-chairs the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies, which was created to develop action-oriented recommendations to improve preparedness and response for the anticipated 2024 emergency season.
 - Completing work to collaboratively develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation. The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* came into force in November 2023 and represents B.C.’s first land-based legislation that aligns with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. B.C. now has the most comprehensive and progressive emergency management legislation in Canada.
 - Advancing B.C.’s commitment to the Sendai Framework by leading the development of a provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), and in collaboration and consultation with First Nations partners, local authorities, and other partners, which will be publicly released in Summer 2024.
 - Partnering with Indigenous Peoples at all stages and levels of our work. Examples include a new Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society, BC Wildfire Service, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to ensure collaboration in all phases of emergency management, and providing \$18 million to First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts to support the implementation of Indigenous engagement requirements.
 - Leading cross-ministry coordination of our government’s work to enhance B.C.’s resilience, through investing in the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund which helps First Nations and local authorities prepare communities for the risks of natural hazards and climate change and lessen the effect before disasters happen, and improving transparency and awareness of resilience initiatives and existing risks

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through the ClimateReadyBC platform.

Background:

- EMCR is leading on five mandate letter commitments and supporting on three additional commitments. This note provides an overview of progress to date.

1. Emergency Response – Lead Ministry

- EMCR was directed to prioritize supporting coordinated government emergency response to communities; reviewing emergency response systems to ensure they are prepared; and incorporating lessons learned from previous emergencies.
- Recent examples of supporting communities include:
 - Delivery of Seasonal Hazard Preparedness sessions to brief local government and First Nations partners, critical infrastructure providers, non-profit organizations, and federal and provincial agency representatives on forecasted hazards and associated risks.
 - Working with communities such as Cache Creek, West Kelowna, and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District to understand flood mitigation assets and looking to pre-stage assets in areas of increased risk.
 - Working with Semiahmoo First Nation and Seabird Island First Nation to support Emergency Operations Centre activities in response to separate Dangerous Goods Incidents that impacted fisheries values and sites of archaeological interest.
 - Coordination by EMCR in response to the closure of Highway 4 on Vancouver Island, including information sharing between ministry leaders, coordination calls with all affected Indigenous governing bodies, regional districts, and communities, and coordinated critical services delivery calls to maintain essential fuel, medication, and food supplies.
- Other response work being undertaken by EMCR includes:
 - Enhancing key programs such as Emergency Support Services and Disaster Financial Assistance to improve accessibility and operating efficiency to better support communities and individuals impacted by disasters.
 - Implementing findings and recommendations for continuous improvement from the Atmospheric River and Exercise Coastal Response After Action Reviews.
 - Co-chairing the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies with the Ministry of Forests, which was created to develop action-oriented recommendations to improve preparedness and response for the anticipated 2024 emergency season.

2. Partner with Indigenous Peoples – Lead Ministry

- EMCR was directed to prioritize including First Nations from the beginning of its work at all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation.

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- EMCR, BC Wildfire Service, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner have signed a LOU with First Nations' Emergency Services Society to strengthen cross-agency collaboration, improve service to Indigenous Peoples, and to advance Indigenous-led approaches in emergency management.
- EMCR introduced modernized emergency management legislation developed in collaboration with First Nations partners and has developed guidance materials for internal and external audiences to support meeting Indigenous engagement requirements outlined in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.
- EMCR continues to work with First Nations partners to develop regulations associated with the new Act.

3. Emergency Management Legislation – Lead Ministry

- EMCR was directed to prioritize introducing co-developed emergency management legislation that aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* was introduced in October 2023, and received royal assent in November 2023.

4. Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment – Lead Ministry

- EMCR was directed to prioritize leading the co-development of a provincial-level disaster and climate risk assessment that integrates climate and disaster risk, in partnership with the ENV. This assessment will support a subsequent province-wide risk reduction plan and subsequent regional assessments.
- EMCR completed the risk assessment methodology, and in collaboration with First Nations partners and through engagement with partners, selected hazards to assess for the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments (coastal and riverine flooding, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, earthquake, and a scenario of cascading and compounding risks).
- The provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment underway and will be publicly released in Summer 2024.

5. Enhance Resilience through Building Back Better, Coordination, and Information Sharing – Lead Ministry

- EMCR was directed to prioritize leading cross-ministry coordination of provincial work to enhance B.C.'s resilience, including building back better from recent disasters, providing guidance to ministries on prioritizing risk reduction and resilience initiatives, and developing new tools for the public on existing risks and work to improve resilience.

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- In 2023 the Province committed \$180M to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), bringing the Province's total investment to \$369 since 2017. In 2023, CEPF provided funding for more than 425 projects, including 137 disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation projects, and 290 preparedness projects.
- EMCR launched ClimateReadyBC, a publicly accessible disaster and climate risk reduction resource hub that incorporates lessons learned from past emergencies, builds capacity and resilience to face current challenges, and prepares communities to mitigate risk from future disasters. The platform provides mapping tools, risk and resilience data, and other resources to support communities.

6. Emergency Preparedness and Food Security Strategy – Support Ministry

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) mandate letter directed AF to prioritize working with EMCR to develop an emergency preparedness strategy for food security.
- Actions to support the strategy are under development. AF staff are working closely with partner ministries, including EMCR, to ensure a coordinated approach to developing the strategy. Questions on this topic should be referred to AF.

7. Wildfire Prevention and Management – Support Ministry

- The Ministry of Forests (FOR) mandate letter directed FOR, with the support of EMCR, to strengthen the BC Wildfire Service's focus on wildfire prevention and management year-round, including cultural and prescribed fire.
- FOR staff are working closely with partner ministries, including EMCR, on wildfire prevention and management. Questions relating to this file should be referred to FOR.

8. Flood Strategy and Plan – Support Ministry

- The Ministry of Forests (FOR) mandate letter directed FOR, with the support of EMCR, to strengthen the province's flood response through completing B.C.'s Flood Strategy and starting work to create a BC Flood Resilience Plan.
- In October 2023, FOR transferred the responsibility of B.C.'s Flood Strategy and flood planning to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRs).
- WLRs staff are working closely with partners, including EMCR, to strengthen the Province's flood resilience. Questions relating to this file should be referred to WLRs.

Contact: Alex Chandler Corporate Services Division	Mobile: ^{Government Financial Information}
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/05/2024

EMCR Service Plan Overview

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The 2024/25 – 2026/27 EMCR Service Plan is consistent with government’s strategic priorities and EMCR’s ministerial mandate.
- Key goals are:
 - Goal 1: B.C.’s strategies and systems reduce the impacts of climate-driven hazards and other emergencies and disasters.
 - Goal 2: Indigenous Peoples are true partners and leaders in emergency and disaster risk management.
 - Goal 3: B.C. has modernized and enhanced emergency management in all four phases (prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover).
- Key activities and strategies to be undertaken to deliver on these goals include:
 - Championing evidence-based approaches across the B.C. government to identify and reduce disaster risk and climate risks and invest in disaster risk reduction (e.g. Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments).
 - Leading provincial coordination for disaster risk reduction and climate readiness initiatives to improve awareness and transparency, increase resilience, and build back better from disasters (e.g. Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan)
 - Including First Nations during all phases of emergency management, including all levels of planning, decision making, and implementation (e.g. Multi-lateral service agreement for the delivery of emergency management services on reserve lands).
 - Better shaping the delivery of services to Indigenous Peoples to consider both the needs and cultural perspectives of individual members and communities (e.g. Multi Agency Support Teams).
 - Modernizing B.C.’s emergency and disaster risk management legislation (e.g. Supporting the implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*).
 - Supporting Indigenous communities, local authorities, and individuals to access the

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- tools and resources needed to manage emergencies and disasters in alignment with local conditions and needs (e.g. ClimateReadyBC).
- Supporting urgent coordinated government response and recovery to communities in times of emergency (e.g. Emergency Support Services; Disaster Financial Assistance).
 - Performance measures to support goals include:
 - Provincial and regional risk assessments developed.
 - Number of new Indigenous Emergency Management Agreements.
 - Percentage of eligible communities onboarded and utilizing the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool.
 - Percentage of complete Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) private applications processed within 90 days.

Background:

Purpose of the Service Plan

- The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA) provides the legislative framework for B.C. government planning, reporting, and accounting. It requires three-year service plans and annual service plan reports be made public annually.
- The service plan is intended to provide the public a high-level overview of the ministry's purpose, strategic direction, key priorities, and the results it expects to achieve with the use of its financial resources.

Changes to the 2024/25 Service Plan compared to 2023/24

- The 2024/25 Service Plan Goals and Objectives remain unchanged from 2023/24.
- New Key Strategies for 2024/25:
 - Objective 1.1: "Develop a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Plan that assesses risk priorities and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities."
 - Objective 1.1: "Update the Province's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, inclusive of all four phases of emergency management, to better prepare British Columbia for disasters and emergencies in partnership with ministries, Indigenous governments, local authorities, and critical infrastructure partners."
 - Objective 1.2: "Implement the recommendations of the Premier's Expert Task Force

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- on Emergencies and enhance preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery to better support people on the front lines of emergencies.”
- Objective 2.1: “Develop, negotiate, and implement new emergency management government-to-government agreements with Indigenous governing bodies enabled through the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.”
 - Objective 2.2: “Provide coordinated provincial, federal, and Indigenous partner emergency management services through the Multi Agency Support Team initiative.”
 - Objective 3.1: “Support regulated entities in implementing new Indigenous engagement obligations required under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.”
 - Objective 3.2: “Continue to expand the ClimateReadyBC platform with new and current hazard data and resources to guide the public and communities on disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports.”
 - Objective 3.3: “Enhance awareness and modernize Emergency Support Services and Disaster Financial Assistance to improve accessibility and operating efficiency to better support communities and individuals impacted by disasters.”
- Removed 2023/24 Service Plan Key Strategies:
 - Objective 1.1: “Lead cross-ministry coordination to develop a comprehensive, online resource for people and communities to access information on disaster and climate risks and initiatives to improve resilience.”
 - ClimateReadyBC has launched and is now represented as a new strategy under Objective 3.2.
 - Objective 1.1: “Support the Ministry of Forests, in collaboration with local, federal and Indigenous governments, to strengthen the province’s flood response through the completion of B.C.’s Flood Strategy and start the work to translate the strategy into action through the BC Flood Resilience Plan.”
 - Combined with the strategy of providing guidance to ministries.
 - Objective 2.1: “Create an Indigenous engagement suite of tools to support internal staff and external partners that meet engagement, consultation, co-operation, and co-development requirements.”
 - Considered complete as the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program has launched, and Interim Indigenous Engagement Requirements Guidance was published.
 - Objective 2.1: “Support the development of emergency management, capacity

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- building, and disaster risk reduction partnerships that include Indigenous communities, local authorities, and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.”
- Combined with other strategies.
- Objective 2.2: “Work with Indigenous partners to develop new Emergency Support Services (ESS) policies and training to support culturally safe and inclusive approaches.”
 - Included in Objective 3.3.
 - Objective 2.2: “Support self-determination and decision-making by working with Indigenous organizations to provide culturally safe emergency management services and supports to Indigenous communities that enable in-person connection with community leaders, knowledge keepers and recovery leads.”
 - Combined with other strategies.
 - Objective 3.1: “In partnership with key ministries, complete work to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation that aligns with the B.C. Government’s commitments to the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.”
 - Considered complete as the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* received royal assent in 2023/24.
 - Objective 3.2: “Deliver disaster mitigation and preparedness programs and funding that incorporate future climate scenarios, climate adaptation, and support development of local plans that reflect a changing climate.”
 - Revised to a ClimateReadyBC focused strategy.
 - Objective 3.2: “Support First Nations and local authorities in building preparedness, response, and recovery capacity through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and continue to enhance provincial coordination, liaison, and information sharing capacity.”
 - Combined with other strategies.
- New and revised Performance Measures for 2024/25:
 - Revised Performance Measure 1.1: “1.1 Provincial and regional risk assessments developed”
 - “... and implemented” has been removed.
 - New Performance Measure 2.1: “Number of new Indigenous Emergency Management Agreements”
 - Tracks the number of new agreements between Indigenous governing bodies and the Province enabled by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

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- New Performance Measure 3.2: “Percentage of complete Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) private applications processed within 90 days”
 - Tracks the improvements to DFA processing times enabled by the DFA Digital Portal, moving from a paper-based system to digital.

- Removed Performance Measure for 2024/25:
 - Performance Measure 2.1 from 2023/24 has been removed: “Percentage of First Nations attending First Nations Emergency Management Partnership Tables”
 - Removed due to the bi-lateral service agreement negotiations and uncertainty whether the Partnership Tables will occur in 2024/25. The future use of a performance measure relating to the Partnership Tables will be reviewed for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Contact: Alex Chandler Corporate Services Division	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2024/25 Estimates Note Overview

Budget 2024/25 Overview

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- *Budget 2024* provides for incremental investment of \$18.00 million over three years.
- This includes a base budget increase for the Ministry of \$12.411 million over three years and one-time capital funding of \$0.292 million in 2024/25 which provides for the permanent staffing of 35 positions which were previously temporary seasonal positions. This will allow the ministry to:
 - Reduce the reliance on seasonal staff to support Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre activation in light of more frequent and longer duration events.
 - Improve emergency communications capacity to support preparedness and execution of public communications related to evacuation alerts and orders.
 - Better support Local Authorities in their preparation and administration of the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program.
 - Provide the resources required to build out and administer the provincial Disaster Recovery Framework and policies.
 - Position the Disaster Finance Assistance (DFA) team to effectively surge up when an emergency is declared.
 - Provide timely review of Disaster Financial Assistance program appeals recognizing the need highlighted by the Ombudsperson.
- *Budget 2024* also confirmed access to Contingencies funding to provide for the broadening of support for evacuees by funding specially trained Service BC call centre agents to provide support to evacuees in assessing information and emergency support services.
- The Ministry was also approved to provide up to \$76.600 million to the City of Abbotsford to support the Barrowtown Pump Upgrade project – this was announced on February 15, 2024.
- *Budget 2024* also including funding for disaster risk reduction investments including:
 - The Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program - \$83 million (AGRI)
 - Cowichan Weir - \$14 million (WLRS)
 - Saint Mary Lake - \$10 million (WLRS)
 - A Municipal Water Metering Pilot - \$50 million (MUNI)

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Background:

- EMCR has two voted appropriations (reference Estimates page 67 – 70)
 - Ministry Operations (Vote 21) - This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Emergency and Disaster Management Operations, Climate Readiness Programs, and Executive and Support Services.
 - Emergency Program Act (Vote 22) - This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Emergency and Disaster Management Act and Financial Assistance.
- The Ministry service plan financial summary below details the estimates budget for each core business line:

(\$000s)	2023/24 Restated Estimates ¹	2024/25 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2026/27 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	32,416	39,033	38,633	38,633
Climate Readiness Programs	18,429	28,429	38,429	38,429
Executive and Support Services	13,739	11,585	11,584	11,584
Emergency and Disaster Management Act	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Financial Assistance	6,420	6,420	6,420	6,420
Total	101,004	115,467	125,066	125,066
Capital Expenditures				
Emergency and Disaster Management Operations	524	548	53	53
Total	524	548	53	53

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Key Facts and Figures:

Budget 2024:

Budget 2024 provides additional operating funding of \$12.411 million over the next three years and one-time capital funding of \$0.292 million in 2024/25:

Initiative	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Totals
Operating	(\$millions)			
Response capacity (25 FTEs)	\$2.951	\$2.951	\$2.951	\$8.853
Community Recovery/DFA capacity (10 FTEs)	\$1.186	\$1.186	\$1.186	\$3.558
Totals	\$4.137	\$4.137	\$4.137	\$12.411
Capital	\$0.292	Nil	Nil	\$0.292

Prior Year budget decisions:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Totals
	(\$millions)			
Budget 2023				
Enhanced capacity, disaster mitigation program, EDMA implementation	\$27.937	\$37.537	\$37.537	\$103.011
Budget 2022				
Wildfire Services and Prevention	\$7.431	\$7.431	\$7.431	\$22.293
Budget 2020				
GSAR	\$6.433	\$6.433	\$6.433	\$19.299
Totals	\$41.801	\$51.401	\$51.401	\$144.603

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Budget by expense type:

Vote 21	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	(\$millions)		
Salaries & benefits	\$40.263	\$40.262	\$40.262
Operating costs	\$11.598	\$11.198	\$11.198
Government Transfers	\$38.178	\$48.178	\$48.178
Other expenses	\$0.032	\$0.032	\$0.032
Recoveries	<\$11.024>	<\$11.024>	<\$11.024>
Totals	\$79.047	\$88.646	\$88.646

Vote 22	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	(\$millions)		
Operating costs	\$23.700	\$23.700	\$23.700
Government Transfers	\$12.720	\$12.720	\$12.720
Totals	\$36.420	\$36.420	\$36.420

Capital	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	(\$millions)		
Office Equipment	\$0.003	\$0.003	\$0.003
IMIT Equipment	\$0.111	Nil	Nil
Vehicle Replacement	\$0.050	\$0.050	\$0.050
New Vehicles	\$0.384	Nil	Nil
Totals	\$0.548	\$0.053	\$0.053

Contact: Alex Chandler Corporate Services Division	Phone: 778-698-1542	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/06/2024

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan / All-Hazard Plan

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) leads and coordinates the cross-government work to strengthen the Province’s ability to prepare for emergencies and disasters to protect British Columbians.
- The Province’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is the emergency plan for government that includes:
 - All-Hazard Plan: overall provincial operations, governance, and responsibilities.
 - Lead ministry hazard emergency management plans.
 - Support and functional annexes.
- As part of the implementation of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act, EMCR is updating the All-Hazard Plan as a first step to update the CEMP. This update will reflect lessons learned from previous disasters in addition to new provincial requirements, including:
 - Be done in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies
 - Consulting local authorities
 - Be based on Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, if available
 - Support cultural safety
 - Consider intersectional disadvantage
 - All four phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- The updated All-Hazard plan will clarify and define important themes across hazards and phases of emergency management, such as roles and responsibilities, communication, and coordination.
- EMCR is engaging with and seeking feedback from First Nations, local authorities, and emergency management partners in Spring 2024 on the All-Hazard Plan and will finalize the update ^{Advice/Recommendations}

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Background:

- Under the Emergency Program Act (EPA) key ministers had planning obligations in relation to specific hazards and the Minister of EMCR was responsible for the preparation of Provincial emergency plans. These requirements were clarified and expanded through EDMA along with the introduction of new statutory rules for a province-wide emergency management plan—referred to in EDMA as the "comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP)."
- Though the term "CEMP" was not used in the EPA, EMCR did refer to the provincial network of emergency plans as the "comprehensive emergency management plan" previously. The new structure, mandated by EDMA, sets the stage for consistency and oversight in the implementation of all future emergency plans for the Province.
- EDMA mandates certain requirements for the CEMP, including that it must apply throughout BC and that it must include the emergency management plans developed by lead ministers. Through rules prescribed in regulation, the Provincial Administrator will be required to make the CEMP public when it is complete.
- EDMA also sets out requirements for lead-minster plans and requires that ministers take emergency measures identified in the CEMP.
- The Ministries regulation, which is in development, will complete the scheme for the CEMP, including assigning Lead Ministers with hazard assignments that dictate which hazard plans the minister must create under the CEMP within four years.
- The current All-Hazard Plan was drafted in 2012 and outlines the response framework for emergency and disasters in B.C. to coordinate provincial integrated response. It includes roles and responsibilities, intergovernmental integration, hazard information, and governance concepts.
- Engagement with First Nations and local authorities relating to the All-Hazard Plan will begin in April 2024 and will set the stage for engagement on hazard-specific planning in the coming years. The All-Hazard Plan will also include content related to the implementation of consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs), as outlined in EDMA.

Contact: Katie Robb Disaster Risk Management	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/25/2024

Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The Province is committed to mitigating the impacts of disasters such as wildfires and floods on people and communities across British Columbia.
- For every dollar invested in disaster mitigation, \$7 to \$10 can be saved in post-disaster recovery costs. To realize these savings and make wise investments in disaster mitigation, we first need to assess current and future disaster and climate risk.
- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) is a joint mandate of the Ministries of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Environment and Climate Change Strategy and will assess risks from hazards, including wildfire, flood, extreme heat, drought, and earthquake, at the provincial and regional levels.
 - Data, analysis, and other products from the DCRRA will be made public through ClimateReadyBC – a one-stop, online platform designed to help guide the public and communities on disaster and climate readiness strategies and supports.
- The assessment is being developed in collaboration with First Nations and Modern Treaty Nations, taking a distinction-based approach, and through engagement with Indigenous organizations, all levels of government, industry, critical infrastructure owners, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other key partners.
- Results from the assessment will inform a provincial disaster and climate risk reduction plan.

Background:

- The provincial phase of the DCRRA is underway and will be completed in ^{Advice/Recommendations} the regional assessments will be completed in ^{Advice/Recommendation}
- An updated and modernized assessment of disaster and climate risks across B.C. is critical for the Province to strategically prioritize risk reduction and climate adaptation investments and develop policies and programs to strengthen the Province's resilience.
- A Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for B.C. was published in 2019. This was the first provincial-scale assessment of climate risks in Canada, and the first assessment of risks in B.C. since the Provincial Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment in 1997.

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- The DCRRA is building on lessons learned through the 2019 climate risk assessment by including collaboration with First Nations and Treaty Nations, equity-focused analysis, engagement with key partners and diverse populations, and outputs that provide value to communities.
- As of late March 2024, the DCRRA has convened subject matter experts to discuss disaster and climate risk and resilience in British Columbia through the lens of priority hazards and how they impact what we value. This knowledge is being informed by climate change science, geospatial analysis, and local knowledge and will uphold Indigenous Knowledges and Sciences where available.
- Forthcoming regulations under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act will require regulated entities to undertake risk assessments that consider equity, climate change, and use the best available local and Indigenous knowledge. The DCRRA will support regulated entities – including provincial ministries, local governments, and critical infrastructure owners – to meet these requirements with data and a scalable risk assessment methodology.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy have aligned legislative and government commitments:
 - In 2018, B.C. adopted the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that provides guidance for using an all-hazards approach and considering climate change when assessing disaster risk and resilience.
 - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for meeting the Climate Change Accountability Act requirements of assessing and publicly reporting on climate risks every five years, with the next report due in 2025.

Key Facts and Figures:

- The Ministry has budgeted approximately \$7,525,000 million over three years for costs associated with delivery of Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments.

Fiscal Year	Budget
2023 - 2024	\$2,175,000.00
2024 - 2025	\$2,875,000.00
2025 - 2026	\$2,475,000.00
Total	\$7,525,000.00

Contact: Dominique Sigg Disaster Risk Management Division	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/26/2024

Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Funding Programs

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supports First Nations and local authorities to advance disaster risk reduction through several funding programs, including provincial programs and federal/provincial cost shared programs. Research confirms that for every \$1 invested in mitigation, \$7 to \$10 can be avoided in post-disaster recovery costs.
- Through *Budget 2023* the Province increased EMCR's base budget for mitigation and preparedness by \$5 million for 2023/24, \$15 million for 2024/25, and \$25 million for 2025/26 onwards.
- The Province has also provided contributions to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) totaling \$369 million since its creation in 2017. The program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and supports First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate.
- The Province also contributes to disaster risk reduction through provincial grants, and joint federal/provincial funding programs such as the Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) streams of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and the recently completed National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).
- Since 2017, approximately \$298 million in provincial funding has been provided to First Nations and local governments supporting more than 2,000 projects across the province.

Background:

- In Budget 2023, the province increased EMCR's base disaster mitigation and preparedness budget to develop a new program to provide consistent and ongoing funding opportunities to communities. The program, which is under development, will support communities in addressing risks from climate change and natural disasters.
- Across all funding programs, the Province has provided:
 - Approximately \$50.6 million for approximately 1,500 emergency preparedness projects: equipment and training for Emergency Operations Centers, Emergency Support Services, and Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments; public notification and evacuation route planning; extreme temperatures risk mapping,

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assessment, and planning; and Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training.

- Approximately \$ \$248 million for just under 570 disaster mitigation projects, including:
 - \$214 million for 476 flood risk reduction projects throughout B.C.
 - \$369,000 for four projects that address extreme temperatures
 - \$1.9 million for two projects that address drought
 - \$29.6 million for over 70 projects that address all hazards such as climate adaptation plans, and Hazard and Risk Vulnerability Studies
 - \$2.1 million for 13 projects that address avalanche, seismic, and tsunami risks

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

- The Province has provided a total of \$369 million to the CEPF since its establishment in 2017. As of March 25, 2024, approximately 1,900 First Nations and local government projects have been approved for funding through the CEPF totaling approximately \$213.9 million.
- EMCR announced funding for more than 340 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) projects in the 2023/24 fiscal year totaling \$104.7M, including 144 Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Projects, and 348 Preparedness projects.
- The Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation funding stream was announced in 2022. This new all hazard stream replaces hazard-specific funding streams for flood and extreme temperature.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation Stream (partnership with Infrastructure Canada)

- COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Sub-Stream (2020):
 - \$53.4 million (provincial funding \$9.5 million) for 23 projects
 - \$10M for individual communities; \$20M joint flood mitigation
- Green Infrastructure Sub-Stream (2022): flood mitigation infrastructure
 - \$81.865M (\$37.5M provincial)
 - \$10M for individual communities; \$20M joint flood mitigation
 - Project selection is complete, and the federal government is expected to announce funded projects shortly.
 - Two Green ARDM projects have been announced to date for a total of \$11 million. More announcements are forthcoming.

EMCR's Disaster Mitigation Program Grants

- Since 2017, the program has funded 29 projects totaling approximately \$43.2 million in provincial funding through ad hoc grants and year end funding.

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- Funded projects include flood mapping, structural flood mitigation (dikes, pump stations, etc.), seismic projects (micro zonation mapping, and earthquake early warning), and avalanche risk assessments.

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) – Partnership with Public Safety Canada

- 114 projects for approximately \$53 million (provincial funding of \$20.8 million).
- No further intakes of the NDMP are expected.
- The NDMP was established in 2016 to provide funding for projects that included non-structural mitigation (flood risk assessments, flood mapping, and mitigation planning) and small-scale structural mitigation (upgrading existing diking structures to improve resilience).

Infrastructure Canada Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

- EMCR works closely with other ministries and all levels of government to support disaster risk reduction programs including Infrastructure Canada’s Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF).

Additional Information:

- Appendix 1 provides a summary of total investments to date by funding program.
- Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of total investments by hazard.

Contact: Heather Stober Disaster Risk Reduction	Mobile: 778-698-4026
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Appendix 1 – Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Funding Summary*

DMAP Program	Funding Stream	Number of Approved Projects	Total Actuals to Date
CEPF	1 Flood Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Mitigation Planning (stream retired – projects now captured under DRR-CA). To ensure communities have accurate knowledge of the flood hazards they face and to develop effective strategies to mitigate and prepare for those risks.	128	\$17.0M
	2 Emergency Support Services Equipment & Training To build local capacity to provide emergency support services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of ESS equipment.	474	\$13.5M
	3 Emergency Operations Centres & Training To build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve an EOC and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises.	455	\$12.2M
	4 Structural Flood Mitigation (stream retired – projects now captured under DRR-CA) To prevent, eliminate or reduce the impact of flood and geological hazards through construction of structural mitigation projects	52	\$31.4M
	5 Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning To develop Evacuation Route Plans that provide information for local governments, First Nations, and community members on the recommended evacuation routes for the community in the event of an emergency.	119	\$3.7M
	6 Extreme Temperature Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (stream retired – projects now captured under DRR-CA) To ensure accurate knowledge of risks associated with extreme heat and how these will change over time, and to develop effective response plans and strategies to prepare, mitigate, and adapt.	47	\$2.4M
	7 Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Equipment & Training To build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training.	344	\$17.5M
	8 Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility Training To support eligible applicants to enhance cultural safety and humility in the delivery of local emergency management programs and services.	44	\$1.4M
	9 Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation To support eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate related risks	221	\$114.9M
	Total	1,884	\$213.9M
ARDM	Covid- 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream For communities to complete disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects	23	\$9.5M
	Green Infrastructure Build or modify infrastructure (including natural) to prevent, mitigate, and protect against floods and related hazards.	Pending (2 announced, 14 approved but not announced)	\$11 M announced
	Total	25	\$21M announced
NDMP	Flood risk assessments, mapping, mitigation planning, and non-structural mitigation	114	\$20.8M
Grants	DMU Grants Cost share NDMP flood projects and non-eligible ARDM project expenses	15	\$5.9M
	End Of Year Grants Provincial priority disaster risk reduction projects, including seismic projects	13	\$5.6M
	Large Scale – Grand Forks	1	\$31.7M
	Total	29	\$43.2M
Total	2052	\$298M	

*Numbers vary from 2023 due to 2024 inclusion of all hazards and removal of cancelled and withdrawn projects.

Appendix 2 – Project Breakdown by Hazard Type for Preparedness and Mitigation

The below table summarizes projects funded by the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation funding programs at EMCR since 2017. These are projects that were approved for one of the funding programs and not subsequently withdrawn or cancelled.

Hazard Type	Number of Approved Projects	Total Actuals to Date
All-hazard	1163	\$60.3M
Avalanche	2	\$0.1M
Extreme Heat/Extreme Temp	51	\$2.7M
Fire *	344	\$17.5M
Flood	476	\$214
Seismic	2	\$0.3M
Tsunami	12	\$1.6M
Drought	2	\$1.9M
Total	2052	\$298M

*Fire refers to funding provided to volunteer and composite fire departments for equipment and training in support of structural fires, not wildfires, which are funded through Ministry of Forests.

2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/25/2024

Earthquake Early Warning

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The federal government is developing the Canadian Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system for areas of moderate-to-high seismic risk, including Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Sea to Sky Corridor, Sunshine Coast, the north coast and Haida Gwaii.
- Once launched, the federal government will be able to issue alerts in B.C. to mobile devices, radio, and television to warn of a potentially harmful earthquake – giving people crucial seconds to take protective measures such as “drop, cover and hold on” before shaking begins.
- The Province is a committed partner in the development of Canada’s new EEW system anticipated for launch this spring. The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness’ role is to support public education on EEW and coordinate public alerting.

Background:

- Earthquake early warning systems consist of an array of seismic sensors that detect the first waves of an earthquake and issue a notification before damaging secondary waves arrive. Essential and valuable protective actions that reduce the impacts of an earthquake (e.g., instructing people to drop, cover, and hold on, halting surgeries, opening bay doors at fire halls, or stopping trains) can be automatically triggered within the few to tens of seconds of a notification.
- In 2019, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) secured funds to develop a Canadian Earthquake Early Warning Program in areas with high seismic hazards and where there is critical infrastructure of national significance.
- The implementation of the Canadian EEW system will be carried out in phases, with the initial phase focusing on public alerting. Subsequent phases will involve the integration of technical partners and the implementation of automated actions, such as opening bay doors and stopping trains, to enhance response capabilities.
- If an EEW alert is issued, the message automatically sent to mobile devices, radio and television will state, “*Earthquake Detected – Drop, Cover and Hold On – Protect Yourself – Natural Resources Canada*” in both English and French.

Earthquake Early Warning Sensors

- The Canadian EEW system relies on a network of seismic sensors that will detect the first

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waves of an earthquake and has potential to issue automated alerts.

- As of late March 2024, Natural Resources Canada has installed 74 of the 96 core sensor stations slated for B.C.
- The core system will be complemented by an extended sensor network run by partners including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Connected Coast, and Great Bear Rainforest – Coastal First Nations. To date, at least 17 out of these additional 91 stations have been installed.

Alert Ready

- The Canadian EEW system is complementary to, and will not replace, B.C.'s use of Alert Ready. NRCan has a separate and automated access to Alert Ready.
 - If an earthquake meeting NRCan's thresholds is detected, NRCan's automated system will issue a wireless alert to the impacted area.
 - If an EEW alert is issued, EMCR Operations will begin assessment and response processes as usual.

Oceans Network Canada's Early Warning System

- Prior to NRCan establishing the Canadian EEW System, the Province partnered with Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) to develop an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone
- The Provincial investment of over \$6 million supported ONC to do valuable work to advance science around earthquakes in B.C and early warning. This research continues to be important.
- NRCan is the authoritative source for earthquake information and early warning. They have the authority to release alerts to the public through the National Public Alerting System in Canada.

Key Facts and Figures:

- There are approximately 5,000 earthquakes across Canada each year and approximately 4,000 of these occur in British Columbia.
- There have been four magnitude-7.0 or greater earthquakes in the past 130 years in southwest B.C. and northern Washington state.
- On Jan. 26, 1700, the west coast of North America experienced a massive megathrust (magnitude 9.0) earthquake with a subsequent tsunami.
 - If a similar earthquake were to occur today, the Canadian EEW system could deliver up to four minutes of warning to coastal B.C. communities before the strongest shaking begins.

Contact: Amanda Broad Disaster Risk Management Division	Mobile: ^{Government Financial Information}
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/04/2024

Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) enhances catastrophic earthquake preparedness in collaboration with partners through the ongoing development of plans, training, exercising, public education, agreements, and investments in seismic mitigation.
- In 2022, EMCR updated the Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS) that details how the Province will lead and coordinate immediately following a catastrophic earthquake and articulates the roles and responsibilities of emergency management partners.
- The Province builds and maintains response capabilities for a catastrophic earthquake through regular exercises with First Nations, local and Federal governments, non-government organizations, and senior government leadership. Successful exercises were conducted in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2023. In 2023, this included Exercise Coastal Response, a large-scale, provincial catastrophic preparedness exercise that included over 1,500 participants and 50 agencies. The current exercise program 2023 to 2028 includes a continuation of tabletop and live play activities to improve provincial disaster preparedness.
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is leading the development of a national Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system and anticipates launching the system this spring. The Province is a committed partner in the development of the system. EMCR's role is to support public education on EEW and coordinate public alerting. The public education campaigns raise awareness to the system and the important protective actions people need to take (drop, cover and hold on) when they receive an alert on their phones, TV, or radio.
- The Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) will be delivered later this year and will examine provincial risks resulting from a major earthquake scenario, among other hazards. The DCRRA will inform future updates to PEIRS, and the next catastrophic exercise.
- EMCR's public education program – known as PreparedBC – is responsible for sharing earthquake preparedness information through regular social media posts and campaigns, information at public events and booths, and webinars. The PreparedBC Earthquake and Tsunami Guide has been updated this year to include information about EEW and steps individuals can take to be more prepared for damaging earthquakes.

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Background:

- The Province is committed to planning for catastrophic seismic events in BC following the release of the Office of the Auditor General’s Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness Report (2014) and the BC Earthquake Consultation Report (2014), both of which identified shortcomings in BC’s earthquake preparedness.
- In 2015, EMBC published the Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP), the predecessor to the Provincial Earthquake Immediate Response Strategy (PEIRS), which outlined the government’s planned response immediately after a catastrophic earthquake.
- In 2016, EMCR established a multi-year exercise program to improve preparedness for complex emergency events that require a multi-jurisdictional response. EMCR also partners with the BC Earthquake Alliance each October to encourage broad participation in ShakeOutBC – the province’s largest earthquake drill. Provincially led exercises were conducted in 2016, 2017, 2018 and a large-scale catastrophic earthquake exercise in 2023.
- Senior government leadership is provided with communication tools, access to systems and means to connect immediately after a Catastrophic event. Processes and procedures are in place to help facilitate decision making and build situational awareness.
- Every ministry has identified the critical services they provide and has business continuity plans and programs in place to recover business despite the hazard. Consideration for catastrophic planning is included in their development. Each Ministry has a Ministry Operations Centre (MOC), which would activate to support their ministries should business continuity plans be overwhelmed. In the event of a catastrophic earthquake, all MOCs would activate in support of government continuity.
- The province has approved more than \$1.6 billion for seismic upgrades or replacements at 63 schools since 2017 and more than \$5 million annually for seismic retrofits and upgrades to existing structures and new bridges and highways.

Contact: Katie Robb Disaster Risk Management Division	Mobile <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 03/06/2024

Provincial Disaster Preparedness

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- As part of the implementation of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act, EMCR is updating the All-Hazard Plan as a first step to update the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and working with ministries responsible for hazard-specific risk assessments, emergency management plans and business continuity plans.
- The new legislation also regulates entities for emergency management training and exercising, ensuring that they are included in emergency plans and programs. EMCR provides leadership and guidance for emergency management training and standards and works closely with technical training institutions and emergency management training providers to build provincial capacity for emergency response and recovery operations.
- Within the contracted services from post-secondary service providers, local authorities and First Nations communities can access training, consisting of emergency management, emergency support services, and search rescue training. During the 2023/24 fiscal year this amounted to over 225 courses, reaching more than 8,500 participants.
- EMCR has a Multi-Year Provincial Emergency Management Exercise Program outlining key exercise priorities based on known hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities. The intent of this Program is to incrementally test key core capabilities, identify areas requiring follow-up action for continuous improvement and strengthen the preparedness of ministries responding to a wide range of hazards before disaster strikes.
- Successful exercises were conducted in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2023. In 2023, this included Exercise Coastal Response, a provincial catastrophic preparedness exercise that included over 1500 participants and 50 agencies. The current exercise program 2023 to 2028 includes a continuation of tabletop and live play activities to improve provincial disaster preparedness.
- EMCR also manages the Provincial Business Continuity program to support alignment to core policy and legislative requirements by providing leadership and guidance across ministries, including support to Business Continuity Advisors within each ministry to reduce risk to critical government services and ensure continuity of operations.

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- EMCR also regularly conducts after action reviews to incorporate lessons learned from exercises and disasters into emergency management programs, policies, and plans.

Background:

- Work on the CEMP commenced following the release of EDMA and is expected to culminate with a revised All Hazard Plan by ^{Advice/Recommendations}
- Partners included in the delivery of training including the Justice Institute of BC, ICS Canada, Rescue Canada, and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.
- Business continuity plans of ministries are tested internally on an annual basis and EMCR leads bi-annual cross-government exercises to enhance provincial preparedness.
- EMCR provides support to First Nations, local authorities, and other agencies by creating publicly available tools, templates, and guidance to guide preparedness efforts across the province.

Contact: Katie Robb Disaster Risk Management	Mobile: ^{Government Financial Information}
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2024/25 ESTIMATES NOTE

Last updated Date: 02/13/2024

EDMA Introduction

Key Messages/Suggested Response:

- Under B.C.'s new emergency management framework, people and communities are safer and better prepared for the increasingly severe emergencies and disasters the Province is experiencing due to climate change.
- B.C.'s new Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) has a focus on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, recovery and climate adaptation and is the most comprehensive and forward-looking emergency management legislation in Canada.
- EDMA became law on November 8, 2023. New powers and tools are now available to the Province and local authorities, while many of the new obligations will be brought into force by regulation.
- The first regulation, the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation (EDMR), was effective November 15, 2023. This regulation was designed to ensure there were no gaps in civil liability protections for volunteers.
- We know some communities are concerned about capacity and some people are concerned about the preservation of rights and freedoms. These powers within the legislation that should be used only when absolutely necessary.
- The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is supporting local authorities, First Nations and search and rescue organizations in implementing the new legislation including the development of new tools, guidance and templates, capacity funding for Indigenous engagement, providing advice and answering technical questions.

Background:

Public safety providers / search and rescue

- The EDMA provides eligibility for protection from legal proceedings, and enables employment protection, for volunteers registered with the Provincial Administrator. In addition, Ground Search and Rescue Groups who are authorized as a Public Safety Provider (PSP) are also provided protection from legal proceedings.

