

# APPENDICES

## Appendix A: SUMMARY OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Floods affect everyone, and therefore everyone should work towards reducing the affects. Both federally and provincially, there is legislation designed specifically to help various levels of government plan for and respond to floods.

### Individuals

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Regardless of governmental involvement, the first line of defence against floods always rests with the individual. All homeowners, landlords and individuals, although not mandated by legislation, have a responsibility to protect their homes and families to the greatest extent possible. It is up to each individual to know what to do in an emergency. Individuals living in flood prone areas should be aware, or made aware, of that fact so they can take appropriate precautions in regard to their living arrangements and their planned response to a flood event. Refer to available Individual and Family Preparedness information in PART 1, Section 4.

### Local Authorities

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Under the BC Emergency Program Act (*BC EPA*, 1996), Local Authorities include:

- all municipalities;
- regional districts if they have been granted the powers of a municipality;
- under the Municipal Act; and
- national parks if an agreement has been made between the Government of Canada and the province.

As of June 1998, 15 regional districts in the province have been granted the powers of a municipality.

Local authorities, for their jurisdictional area:

- must prepare a local emergency plan (*BC Emergency Program Act*, Section 6(2));
- must establish and maintain an emergency management organization (*BC Emergency Program Act*, 1996, Section 6(3));

- may cause the plan to be implemented (*BC Emergency Program Act, 1996, Section 8(1)*);
- may declare a state of local emergency (*BC Emergency Program Act, 1996, Section 12(1)*); and
- may do all acts and implement all procedures that it considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster (*BC Emergency Program Act, 1996, Section 13(1)*).

Flooding is included as one of the water-related hazards under the *BC Emergency Program Act, 1996*.

### **Diking Authorities**

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As of June 1998, 90 Diking Authorities own and operate public diking systems in British Columbia. Under common law, and in accordance with relevant legislation and/or other agreements, the responsibility for operation and maintenance, including inspection and emergency response, is with these organizations.

The *BC Dike Maintenance Act* is the legislation that covers the operation and maintenance of public dikes. Other legislation relative to public dikes include, the *BC Drainage, Ditch and Dike Act* and the *BC Municipal Act*. The *Municipal Act* allows municipalities to undertake diking and drainage through local by-laws and improvement districts.

All Diking Authorities must have a flood response plan and this plan should be integrated with the Local Authority emergency response plan.

### **Provincial Agencies**

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Under the *BC Emergency Program Act 1996*, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) is identified as the key ministry for floods, and is responsible for coordinating the provincial government's response to floods. As such, MOTH has developed emergency plans and procedures that set out the manner in which

and the means by which the government will respond to the hazard. This is the *BC Flood Plan*, April 1998

Under the *BC Emergency Program Act*, the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP) are identified as the main support ministries for floods, and are responsible to provide services, in cooperation with MOH. Other support ministries/crown corporations include: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Finance and Corporate Relations, Forests, Government Services, Health, Municipal Affairs, Social Services, BC Ferry Corporations, BC Hydro/BC Rail, BC Systems, BC Transit, and BC Buildings.

### **Federal Government**

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The Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC) is the federal agency responsible for flood planning and response. Its mission is to safeguard lives and reduce damage to property by fostering better preparedness for all emergencies in Canada.

*The Emergency Preparedness Act (Canada)*, provides legislation for civil emergency preparedness, and related cooperation between federal and provincial/territorial governments. *The Emergencies Act (Canada)* enables the federal government to provide for safety and security of Canadians during national emergencies, including public welfare emergencies, public order emergencies, international emergencies, and war.

The *Federal Policy for Emergencies* serves as a guide for the development of civil emergency preparedness plans within the federal government. The policy sets out the responsibilities of federal departments and agencies as they relate to emergency planning and response, and emphasizes close collaboration and co-operation among federal institutions, and between federal and provincial/territorial governments and municipal authorities. This collaboration and cooperation is a key role of EPC.

To fulfil its mission, EPC participates in a wide range of activities to ensure that Canada is prepared to deal with all types of emergencies. To support these activities

EPC maintains a small regional office in each provincial capital, that is intended to ensure the compatibility of federal planning efforts with the provinces and municipalities, and to facilitate joint exercises. The EPC regional offices also assist in identifying significant emergencies and coordinating emergency response and mitigating the effects.

EPC administers the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. These arrangements are intended to assist the provincial/territorial governments where the cost of responding to a disaster is greater than the provincial/territorial government reasonably could be expected to bear.

EPC also administers the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, through which the federal government, in consultation and cooperation with provincial/territorial governments, carries out or contributes to projects that encourage a reasonably uniform emergency response capability across Canada. This program involves resource commitments from the federal and provincial/territorial governments.

### **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

NGO's, such as the Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, Salvation Army provide some forms of assistance during emergency events.



**Sandbag Protection at Nicomen Island**