

# BC Housing's Climate Adaptation Framework

## Why is Climate Adaptation Needed?



**Hotter and Drier Summers**



**Warmer and Wetter Winters**



**Increased Risk of Flooding**



### IMPACT AREAS:

- ▶ Health and safety of tenants & building occupants
- ▶ Increased building maintenance & repair costs
- ▶ New demands on employees & resources

British Columbia's annual average temperature increased by 1.4°C, and is expected to continue to rise over the decades to come. Warming of temperatures is linked to climatic changes such as an increase in the number of summer days above 25°C, more frequent and intense wind and rain storms, and severe flooding\*.




BC Housing is concerned about the impacts of climate change and the potential damage to our buildings, the likely increases in costs related to building repairs and emergencies, and a new demand on our employees and resources. Most importantly, we're concerned about the possible affect climate change will have on the health and safety of tenants.

A climate adaptation framework allows us to take a proactive approach to identifying, prioritizing and addressing climate risks. We believe more can be achieved by working with our employees, tenants and partners to enhance the resilience of communities across British Columbia. These actions also align with our livegreen Sustainability Plan, which will integrate planning activities from our Climate Adaptation Framework beginning 2017/2018.

BC Housing develops, manages and administers a range of subsidized housing options across the province. We also license residential builders, administer owner builder authorizations and carry out research and education that benefits the residential construction industry, consumers and the affordable housing sector.

\* To read more about climate change impacts in BC, visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/adaptation/impacts>

# Climate Adaptation Framework

| <br><b>STRATEGY PILLARS</b>   | <b>CLIMATE ADAPTATION GOALS</b>  | <b>ACTIONS</b>  |
|--|--|---|
|  <p><b>Integrated Decisions</b></p> <p>Integration of financial, social, and environmental considerations in planning and decision making</p> | <p>Integrate climate resilience considerations into our core business activities</p>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Monitor insurance costs and claims, as well as emergency response reports for climate related impacts on social housing</li> <li>▶ Monitor and review resources and staffing given the increased pressures</li> <li>▶ Establish community partnerships and share knowledge</li> <li>▶ Integrate climate risk assessment within our Enterprise Risk Management program</li> <li>▶ Identify specific climate risks mitigation actions and policies across business areas</li> <li>▶ Monitor and evaluate implementation of climate adaptation actions</li> </ul>   |
|  <p><b>Housing Excellence</b></p> <p>Innovation in the design, construction, renovation and management of housing</p>                        | <p>Upgrade existing housing and design new developments to withstand climate change impacts</p>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Create a better understanding of climatic hazards related to our social housing portfolio by completing a Portfolio Exposure and Vulnerability Analysis</li> <li>▶ Integrate the Building Vulnerability Assessment Tool into existing facility condition index evaluation processes and capital planning for existing social housing</li> <li>▶ Ensure safe, comfortable temperatures for tenants in existing social housing units by responding to risk of overheating during extreme heat events</li> <li>▶ Incorporate resilient design principles into BC Housing's standards and resources for new construction of social housing</li> <li>▶ Be a leader, through research and education activities, to help facilitate new residential construction to be more resilient to impacts of climate change</li> </ul> |
|  <p><b>Change Agent</b></p> <p>Guiding and supporting others in taking actions towards sustainability</p>                                   | <p>Make tenants safe and prepared by strengthening community resilience to the impacts of climate change</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop a heat response guidelines, program and committee</li> <li>▶ Integrate community resilience actions within the existing tenant support and community development programs</li> <li>▶ Respond to flood risks</li> </ul>   |