



PREFACE

The creation of this *Resilience Pathways Report* has convened and connected more than 70 experts to explore the interactions of disaster and climate risk on socioeconomic development in British Columbia. Knowledge and insights from this compilation have direct linkages to national disaster risk reduction and climate change frameworks. The report provides a platform for experts to share their strategic insights on risks, vulnerabilities, capabilities, and opportunities to design pathways to a resilient future.

The strategy and process used to develop the *Resilience Pathways Report* was inspired by and aligned with the Sendai Framework's systemic approach to risk management, including an emphasis on the whole of society's roles and collaborations among all actors. While many of the findings and recommendations have national relevance, the design and development process of the report can be tailored for use in other provinces.

The frequency and costs of disasters have been escalating in BC and across Canada. These continue to increase as the population grows and the climate changes. In addition, experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic, recent wildfires, floods, and the 2021 heatwave have made evident the complexity of disasters and their cascading impacts across the built environment, social systems, and the natural environment. We are also reminded that disasters have disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable and further exacerbate the existing and systemic inequalities in our society.

There is an urgency to take action to better manage the disaster and climate risks. The report highlights successes, challenges, and gaps and provides recommendations for strategic and proactive approaches to mitigate and adapt to natural hazard risks that take into account the impacts from climate change and the drivers of risk. Many of the recommendations and actions in the report could also be evaluated as options for other areas across the country. The report demonstrates the importance of engaging and empowering actors in all sectors.

This initiative led by NRCan, with support from Defence Research and Development Canada's Canadian Safety and Security Program, points the way toward a more resilient province and country. With the whole-of-society approach, the audience for the report includes practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and decision makers in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. On behalf of NRCan, I commend the editors, authors, and contributors for this informative report.

SONIA TALWAR

Director, Geological Survey of Canada (Pacific)
Natural Resources Canada