



ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PATHWAYS REPORT

BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR BC

This first edition of the Resilience Pathways Report (2022) seeks to better understand disaster and climate risk interactions with socioeconomic development in BC and to identify gaps, challenges, and recommendations for the way forward.

The Resilience Pathways Report is aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030's systemic approach to risk management, with emphasis on the whole of society and collaborations among all actors. More than 70 experts from a wide range of institutions and disciplines have contributed. The articles herein cover a diverse set of topics, organized to allow for comparing and digesting information across hazards, sectors, and risk management issues, and include both findings and recommendations.

Those interested in this report will include practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and decision makers in various fields, who can and are taking action for reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change impacts in public and private sectors. Considering that the BC Emergency Program Act (EPA, 1996) modernization process is ongoing, we hope that the findings and recommendations of the Resilience Pathways Report will serve as a timely contribution to the new Act and the policies and programs designed for implementation.

The success and value of this report comes from sharing knowledge effectively with a broad audience as well as addressing how we change the approach to disaster and climate risk management from “business as usual” to collaborative and responsive, which will help us build a resilient future for BC.

Resilience Pathways was initiated through the Canadian Safety and Security Program-funded Disaster Risk Reduction Pathways Project, led by Natural Resources Canada. Sage On Earth Consulting designed the initiative and supported the authors throughout the process, including with technical review of the articles. Uncover Editorial and Design undertook editing and design of the report.

The full report, and individual articles, are available at DRRPathways.ca/Report and at www.geoscan.nrcan.gc.ca.

CONTINUING THIS INITIATIVE

This initiative, as a bi-annual endeavour, provides an up-to-date strategic resource on the current issues that need attention from risk management actors and decision makers. It will be an effective mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress over time in implementation of the *Sendai Framework*, *Modernized EPA*, and *BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy*.

The continuation and sustainability of this initiative requires funding, a dedicated editorial team, and leadership support from a provincial or federal governmental or strong non-governmental entity. The editorial team welcomes expressions of interest from any governmental or non-governmental entities interested in hosting the next edition.



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