

# Resilience & Emergency Preparedness

The ability to anticipate, manage, and recover from major shocks and disasters is an essential part of being a resilient city. Whether it is an earthquake, climate change, economic inequality, or aging infrastructure, cities like Vancouver are tackling the most pressing issues of our time.

## Did You Know?

Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive, no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

There is a 1 in 4 chance of a major earthquake in Vancouver within the next 50 years?

Vancouver City Council has declared a climate emergency and is at a pivotal point in terms of the need to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change

The 2019 Global Risk Report identifies natural disasters, extreme weather and the failure of climate mitigation as among the most significant threats to global stability. With 70 per cent of the world's population expected to live in urban areas by 2050, cities are on the front lines of these trends and challenges; cities will also be the source of many solutions.

Fostering resilience and finding local solutions to these shocks and stresses demands collaboration and creativity. It requires us to take a holistic and inclusive approach to understanding the drivers of risk in our community and anticipating future trends.



# Resilient Vancouver

A resilient future for the City of Vancouver is inextricably linked to reconciliation with and among the Indigenous Peoples of this land, who have been here since time immemorial and continue to have thriving, living cultures. Thus, the Resilient Vancouver strategy starts with the acknowledgement that what is now known as Vancouver is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

The Resilient Vancouver strategy is aimed at enhancing the capacity of our neighbourhoods, our government and our buildings and infrastructure to serve our diverse communities today, to reduce chronic stresses, and to withstand and recover from inevitable shocks. The strategy acknowledges that our challenges will evolve over time, and that we must be forward thinking and adaptive to thrive in an era of rapid change.

It focuses on three priority areas:

## Thriving and Prepared Neighborhoods

Neighbourhoods are at the intersection of social and economic life, and are where shocks and stresses play out in the lives of our residents. When disaster strikes, our communities need to rely on each other, yet too many residents report a lack of understanding of how to help themselves, much less their neighbours. As such, the Resilient Vancouver Strategy aims to cultivate community connections, stewardship and pride, to empower communities to support each other during crises and recover after disasters, to transform the way communities

understand risk and prepare for local hazards, and to strengthen social and cultural services and assets. Did you know? There are currently 25 Disaster Support Hubs located throughout the city which serve as designated locations where you can initially gather to coordinate with other members of your community.

## Proactive and Collaborative City Government

The magnitude of the challenges Vancouver is facing exceeds what any one entity or group can solve alone. Thriving in a rapidly changing future requires the collaboration and commitment of people and groups as diverse and complex as the city itself.

## Safe, Adaptive Buildings, and Infrastructure

From earthquakes to climate breakdown, Vancouver's buildings and infrastructure, and the essential services they provide, face multiple evolving pressures and must transform to serve the changing needs of the community. With respect to major disasters, the failure of buildings and infrastructure threatens lives, housing supply, affordability and the national economy.

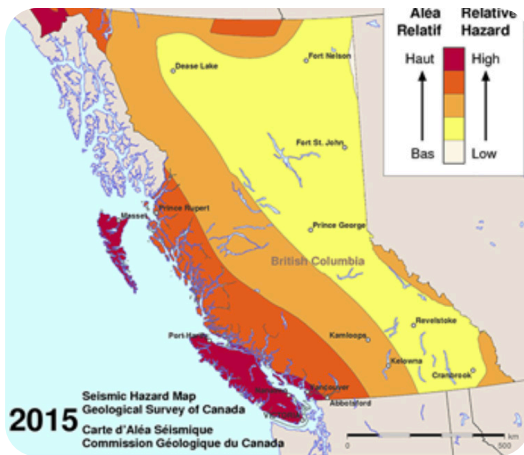


Fostering Resilience at Multiple Scales



# Earthquake Preparedness Strategy

Vancouver is located in active earthquake region that could be impacted by an earthquake at any moment. Earthquakes happen without warning, and may be so strong that you will not be able to run or crawl. You may be knocked to the ground. In 2013, the City developed the Earthquake Preparedness Strategy to better understand the risk and reduce the impact of a major earthquake in Vancouver. The Christchurch Earthquake in 2011 guided much of the



strategy and has highlighted the importance of things like informal community groups, for example, that emerged to save lives, support each other, and work collectively towards recovery.

Personal preparedness is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play. Planning for emergencies doesn't need to be hard, and having a plan with your family and loved ones is key. For example, you can prepare by creating emergency safety kits filled with supplies that you will need if you are forced to evacuate your home.

Want to learn more about how to prepare yourself, your family, and your pets for an emergency? Sign up for a free City of Vancouver emergency preparedness workshop at <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/free-emergency-workshops.aspx>

# One Water

Recognizing growing pressure on our natural and built water systems, Vancouver is taking an integrated “One Water” approach to ensure the long-term resilience and sustainability of water resources, and the health of our residents and environment.

One Water looks at the full water cycle in all its forms: drinking water, wastewater, rainwater, surface water, and groundwater. This means the City is collaborating across departments to make water-related deci

sions that benefit the community, economy, and the environment.

For instance, the City is reimagining how we use nature-based solutions that capture and clean polluted rainwater with the help of plants to reduce flooding and prevent harmful substances from entering our waterways.

Be sure to keep up with the ‘**Shape Your City**’ website for updates and opportunities at [www.shapeyourcity.ca](http://www.shapeyourcity.ca)

