



February 5, 2021

His Worship Robert Vagramov
Mayor, City of Port Moody
Email: rvagramov@portmoody.ca

Dear Mayor Vagramov:

Thank you for your letter dated November 27, 2020, addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, concerning flood risk mitigation and the resolution passed by the City of Port Moody. I am responding on behalf of Premier Horgan.

The Province supports natural/green flood mitigation infrastructure and fish-friendly design as approaches to flood risk reduction that also provide environmental co-benefits. The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is committed to supporting nature-based solutions for disaster mitigation efforts, as he assured the Lower Mainland Local Government Association during their meeting in this year's Union of BC Municipalities meeting.

Flood mitigation funding programs such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), and Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program support a broad range of flood mitigation projects, including green infrastructure. Furthermore, these programs require all applicable environmental permitting to be met, and they specifically include a priority for fish-friendly design in evaluation criteria.

The Province continues to support funding opportunities for green flood infrastructure and habitat restoration as part of an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction. As a current example, the City of Grand Forks, with funding from BC and Canada, is currently implementing a substantial flood recovery and mitigation project that is built around extensive use of natural infrastructure and wetland restoration.

Since 2018, the Province has funded the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), including flood planning intakes and structural flood mitigation funding. We encourage communities to apply to the February 26, 2021, intake for flood risk assessments, mapping, and mitigation planning. This funding can support the design and costing for natural flood mitigation projects like those being identified by the Resilient Waters Project, as mentioned in your letter.

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Going forward, British Columbia remains committed to environmental sustainability and will seek opportunities to enhance ecosystems, adapt to a changing climate, create green jobs, and advance Indigenous reconciliation while improving public safety. We will continue to work with the federal government and our provincial ministries to support these shared interests and promote co-benefits through current and future investments in flood mitigation and economic recovery.

Another example of this focus is the initiation and planned engagement in 2021 toward a new BC Flood Strategy, which is intended to provide strategic direction for flood management in the Province. We are also pleased to see natural flood mitigation infrastructure being advanced in the work to date by the Fraser Basin Council, local authorities, and First Nations on the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy.

If you have any questions on the above flood mitigation funding programs or the incorporation of green infrastructure in flood risk reduction initiatives, please feel free to reach out to Andrew Giles, Director, Disaster Mitigation, by email at Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards
Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

pc: The Honourable John Horgan, Premier
 The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
 The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Foods, and Fisheries
 The Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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