
UPDATE

For Immediate Release
2021PSSG0014-000257
Feb. 12, 2021

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Emergency Management BC

Six communities in southwestern B.C. benefit from flood-mitigation funding

VANCOUVER – Six communities throughout southwestern B.C. have been approved to receive their share of more than \$8.5 million in provincial emergency preparedness funding.

The funding will support structural flood-mitigation projects, improving the communities' ability to be resilient and prepared in an emergency.

Funding for projects in Vancouver, Abbotsford, Squamish, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Lil'wat Nation and Pemberton has been approved through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund's (CEPF) structural flood-mitigation stream. This current funding stream targets projects to prevent, eliminate or reduce the impacts of flood hazards. Successful applicants for the latest round of funding hail from throughout B.C.

"This program illustrates collaboration at its best," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "The benefit of a funding program like this one is that it directly responds to the needs communities identify as important to mitigating flood risk. Through this program, we can better work with local and regional governments to protect public safety through important local projects."

Since the September 2017 Budget Update, communities and governments in B.C. have received more than \$60 million through the CEPF. Funding for the Structural Flood Mitigation component of the CEPF was announced at the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) convention in September 2017. This funding is part of a \$69.5-million plan designed to help communities prepare for, and respond to, disasters.

"This program has gone a long way toward increasing British Columbia's resiliency in the face of potential flooding," said Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. "This kind of mitigation is one step toward better prepared communities, and we're pleased to be able to help provide the resources needed to improve emergency preparedness right across this province."

For example, Abbotsford has been approved to receive \$750,000 to investigate and repair a sinkhole at a section of the Matsqui Dyke, which is also an important access road to the local wastewater treatment plant nearby.

"Our government has invested in a full repair to the Matsqui Dyke Sinkhole," said Pam Alexis, MLA for Abbotsford-Mission. "Maintaining the Matsqui Dyke is important for local infrastructure and for public health and safety. The CEPF is a great resource to help manage and reduce risks to our communities."

The CEPF is a suite of programs designed to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First

Nations communities and their residents. The Province provides the funding, which is administered by UBCM and divided into seven streams:

- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning
- Emergency Support Services
- Emergency Operations Centres and Training
- Structural Flood Mitigation
- Evacuation Route Planning
- Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training
- Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training

The next deadlines to apply for this program are:

- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning – Feb. 26, 2021
- Emergency Operations Centres and Training – March 26, 2021

Learn More:

More information on how to apply can be found on the UBCM website:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund.html>

A backgrounder follows.

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BACKGROUND

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Southwestern B.C. proposals approved for CEPF Structural Flood Mitigation projects

Abbotsford

Matsqui Dyke Sinkhole Full Repair Project
Total approved funding: \$750,000

Lil'wat Nation

Pole Yard Dike Upgrade Phase 2
Total approved funding: \$750,000

Pemberton

North Arm outlet replacement, Riverlands Culvert gate replacement; Green River Miller Creek hydrometric gauge install
Total approved funding: \$614,847

Squamish

Jimmy Jimmy (Judd) Slough culvert replacement
Total approved funding: \$750,000

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Lillooet River sediment removal lower reach; mass-flow monitoring system – Mt. Cayley discharge into Squamish River
Total approved funding: \$720,000

Vancouver

Southlands Tide Gates Replacement Program
Total approved funding: \$750,000

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