

## REPORT TO PLANNING & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

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**SUBJECT**     Regional Emergency Management Partnership – 2024 Annual Report

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide the Planning and Protective Services Committee with the 2024 Annual Report (Appendix A) of the work of the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP) in the Capital Regional District (CRD) for information.

### **BACKGROUND**

REMP is an intergovernmental entity that was established in 2016 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of BC through Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and the CRD on behalf of the 13 member municipalities, the three electoral areas, and First Nations communities, to enhance regional emergency management by providing regional planning on priority emergency management activities; the REMP does not have an emergency response role. The REMP Steering Committee, co-chaired by EMCR's Assistant Deputy Minister Monica Cox and the CRD's Chief Administrative Officer Ted Robbins, sets the direction for REMP's work. The REMP's regional planning initiatives are supported by integrated working groups consisting of all levels of government, First Nations, and partner agencies.

One of the key elements of the REMP is the establishment of a regional concept of operations that can be initiated at the onset of a regional emergency, to support enhanced regional situation awareness, regional priority setting, resource sharing, joint public messaging and decision making on regional issues, while ensuring that local autonomy is respected and maintained.

The REMP does not have authority under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)*; therefore, each member government is responsible for developing and implementing their own emergency management plans. However, municipal representatives and agency stakeholders share emergency management and coordination information through two regional commissions established through the CRD to further aid in regional emergency coordination, the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LGEPAC) and the Regional Emergency Coordinators Advisory Commission (RECAC). REMP, LGEPAC and RECAC collaborate and integrate information for improved regional emergency management coordination. In this jurisdictionally complex region, the REMP serves as conveners, facilitators and relationship builders in support of the vision of a disaster resilient region.

The REMP 2024 Annual Report was presented to the Minister for Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, the Honourable Kelly Greene and the CRD Board Chair, Cliff McNeil-Smith, at the annual REMP Policy Group meeting on April 14, 2025.

### **2024 Annual Report Highlights**

The annual report provides an overview of the REMP governance structure, the 2024 initiatives, a look ahead to the 2025 business plan and 2024 year-end financial statements. A summary of the 2024 initiatives and 2025 business plan is highlighted below.

### *Regional Exercise Strait Flush*

On June 26, 2024, REMP conducted a functional Emergency Operations Centre exercise called Exercise Strait Flush, which used a low-impact tsunami advisory event affecting the region. The exercise brought together seven local authority emergency programs to test communication protocols between emergency programs and the public. The exercise revealed strengths in informal communication channels but also identified areas for improvement.

### *Regional Forum on Climate Change*

On December 2, 2024, REMP hosted its annual Regional Forum on Climate Change at the University of Victoria. This in-person event brought together the capital region's emergency practitioners and subject matter experts to explore the intersection of climate change and emergency management. The forum featured presentations from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, the CRD Climate Action Program and EMCR.

### *Extreme Heat Information Portal*

The Extreme Heat Information Portal, launched on April 10, 2024, was led by the CRD with support from GeoBC and REMP throughout the project. REMP's participation in this collaboration involved supporting initial engagement to establish the project scope and participating in review groups to refine the final product. The resulting interactive tool identifies areas most vulnerable to extreme heat by analyzing demographic and built environment factors. The portal provides residents, planners and emergency managers with essential information to better understand and address heat-related risks, guiding urban planning, emergency preparedness and investments in cooling infrastructure.

### *Community Visits*

Throughout June and July 2024, REMP conducted virtual community visits with the capital region's 13 municipalities and three electoral areas to strengthen collaboration and ensure alignment with the needs of emergency programs across the region. These discussions aimed to gather insights into local priorities for the remainder of 2024, identify projects for inclusion in the 2025 Business Plan and explore potential topics for a regional forum.

### *2025 Business Plan*

REMP met with communities to discuss regional priorities for consideration in REMP's 2025 Business Plan. Tabletop exercises were selected for REMP's 2025 Business Plan due to their effectiveness in improving peer collaboration and communication in realistic hazard scenarios. Other proposed work included updating the Tsunami Alert Communication Plan, Regional Communications Framework, updating Disaster Mutual Aid Framework, supporting *EDMA* regulations once developed and, as appropriate, assisting with Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding (pending Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission guidance) and hosting regional forums. Beyond these immediate priorities, suggestions for future projects included updating the region's Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, identifying water and fuel resources, and developing a mass care plan.

### *REMP's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan*

The REMP's 2024-2027 strategic plan (Appendix A to the Annual Report) outlines a vision for a disaster-resilient region. Rooted in disaster risk reduction, shared accountability, and evidence-based decision-making principles, the plan emphasizes a proactive, multi-sectoral approach to

identifying, assessing, and mitigating hazards while building community capacity. By prioritizing innovation, inclusivity, and flexibility, REMP aims to effectively address diverse needs, viewing planning as a continuous improvement process that fosters community resilience.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Service Delivery Implications*

The REMP initiatives contribute to a greater emergency management collaboration within the region and with the provincial ministries through EMCR.

### *Financial Implications*

The 2025 budget has been approved by the REMP Steering Committee and the CRD Board.

### *First Nations Implications*

The REMP Steering Committee includes three ex-officio members from T'Sou-ke First Nation, Tseycum First Nation, and Songhees First Nation. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation staff also participate in the Steering Committee, to guide how the partnership can strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities. The CRD will be actively engaging First Nations in support of the *EDMA* requirements.

### *Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

The REMP activities align with the Board's priority "We envision increased regional co-operation in protecting public safety and preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies", and aligns with the following corporate priority:

*7a-1 Support CRD Board in exploring more comprehensive regional coordination of emergency services, including an assessment of regional hazards, risks & vulnerabilities*

## **CONCLUSION**

The Regional Emergency Management Partnership continues with a number of initiatives to help improved regional cooperation in emergency management. The 2024 Annual Report is attached for information.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This staff report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager Protective Services
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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: 2024 Annual Report – Regional Emergency Management Partnership in the Capital Region