



ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

For Local & Regional
Governments in BC





Economic Recovery for Local/Regional Governments in BC

The core capability of economic recovery for local and regional district governments in British Columbia integrates the expertise and resources of local municipalities, regional districts, economic development organizations, and the private sector to facilitate pre- and post-disaster recovery efforts. These efforts aim to sustain and rebuild businesses, employment, and economic opportunities, fostering resilient and viable communities. Economic recovery for these governments is a multifaceted process involving municipal and regional government leaders and departments, federal and provincial public sector agencies, nonprofits, and businesses working collaboratively to make efforts to rebuild local economies.

In British Columbia, the private sector's pivotal role in economic recovery is providing essential rebuilding services and participating in recovery planning, ensuring community-wide involvement and efficiency. Enhancing local government capacity for disaster recovery involves proactive pre-disaster planning, which prepares businesses, individuals, and organizations to act swiftly when an incident occurs. Pre-disaster economic recovery plans, developed in coordination with municipal and regional planning bodies and economic development organizations, are critical in reducing recovery time and ensuring timely response efforts.

Economic recovery coordination for local governments involves collaboration between chambers of commerce, regional development organizations, neighbouring Indigenous communities, and local authorities to tackle issues such as access to capital, market uncertainty, and rebuilding strategies. These local entities and provincial and federal agencies must ensure timely access to financial resources, infrastructure, housing and business rebuilding, and community resilience. By aggregating and sharing data on economic impacts and working closely with local stakeholders, recovery efforts can be streamlined to address emerging needs, ensuring a balanced recovery that considers the health of local economies, housing, and workforce sectors.

Critical Tasks

- Collect, analyze, and integrate data on economic impacts to identify challenges and obstacles to economic recovery.
- Develop and implement economic recovery strategies that engage private sector stakeholders, foster information sharing, and create problem-solving networks.
- Ensure that recovery and mitigation plans address economic challenges while upholding individual rights and equity across the community.
- Coordinate available resources to support local and regional economic recovery priorities, addressing capital access and market uncertainties.
- Coordinate economic recovery efforts with Indigenous communities to ensure that plans consider cultural priorities.

Lead Organization, Key Partners and Roles

The following are just some key partners a Municipal and regional government should engage for economic recovery following a disaster. Each community's situation may be different in how economic development is managed, and as such, the following is only an example and should be designed by the community for the community.

- **Lead Organization:** The economic development department or the agency responsible for the day-to-day economic development programs and those involved in business engagement.

Municipalities and Regional Districts in British Columbia should partner with various organizations and agencies to enhance their economic recovery efforts, drawing on a broad range of knowledge and external resources. Key partnerships should include, but are not limited to:

Provincial Government Agencies

- **Emergency Management BC (EMBC):** Provides guidance, funding, and coordination for disaster recovery efforts, offering municipalities and regional districts vital resources for rebuilding and resilience planning.
- **Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation:** This ministry supports economic development and recovery through funding programs, policy advice, and technical assistance.
- **Ministry of Municipal Affairs:** Offers funding and resources for local governments to rebuild infrastructure, recover economically, and increase resilience to future disasters.

Goal-
Plan
Action

- **Provincial Crown Corporations:** Entities like BC Hydro and ICBC can repair critical infrastructure, restore essential services, and support financial recovery.

Federal Government Agencies

- **Public Safety Canada:** Offers funding programs like the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) to help municipalities and regional districts cover eligible recovery costs.
- **PacifiCan:** Provides economic support, including grants and loans for rebuilding local economies and supporting businesses.
- **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC):** This agency assists with rebuilding housing stock and ensuring long-term housing resilience post-disaster.
- **Infrastructure Canada:** Provides funding for critical infrastructure repairs and long-term improvements to prevent future economic losses due to disasters.

Private Sector Partners

- **Local and Regional Businesses:** Engaging with businesses is crucial for restoring local economies. Businesses can provide services, employment opportunities, and investments in rebuilding. They can also play a key role in defining the area's economic impact to help justify the need for external support.
- **Chambers of Commerce and Business Improvement Associations:** These organizations represent local business interests and can help facilitate communication between the public and private sectors, supporting access to resources and funding for economic recovery.
- **Large Corporations and Industry Partners:** Companies with regional operations, such as those in natural resources, manufacturing, or tourism, can offer critical expertise, resources, and financial support.

Financial Institutions

- **Community Futures:** Offers loans, advice, and support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, helping local economies recover.
- **Credit Unions and Local Banks:** These institutions provide access to financial products that can help rebuild businesses and infrastructure post-disaster, including low-interest loans, payment deferrals, and financial recovery programs.
- **Insurance Companies:** Partnering with insurers helps facilitate the quick processing of claims and ensures that individuals and businesses receive the funds they need for recovery. The Insurance Bureau of Canada should be a key partner in ensuring that claims are processed in a timely manner and that businesses are aware of the insurance they need to purchase.



Nonprofit and Charitable Organizations

- **Canadian Red Cross:** Provides short-term relief and long-term recovery funding, supporting affected businesses and infrastructure projects.
- **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):** FCM offers disaster recovery guidance, resources, and funding programs through initiatives like the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP), helping communities rebuild and become more resilient.
- **Local Community Foundations:** These organizations can help pool local philanthropic resources to fund community-specific recovery projects.

Indigenous Governments

- **Partnerships with Indigenous Nations:** Collaborating with Indigenous communities on shared economic recovery initiatives strengthens regional efforts. Indigenous governments can provide unique insights, traditional knowledge, and land management expertise that are valuable during recovery.
- **First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS):** An Indigenous-led organization offering emergency management and recovery assistance, often partnering with municipalities and regional districts to enhance resilience efforts.

Academic Institutions and Research Bodies

- **Universities and Colleges:** Partnering with academic institutions brings research expertise, workforce development programs, and data analysis capabilities that can support long-term economic recovery and resilience planning.
- **Community and Regional Planning Departments:** Local governments can collaborate with university planning programs to access expertise in sustainable development and disaster mitigation.

Regional Economic Development Organizations

- **Regional Development Agencies:** NDT, ETSI-BC, and ICET can provide funding, technical expertise, and coordination for rebuilding efforts, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- **Economic Development Organizations (EDOs):** These bodies focus on rebuilding business and employment in communities, offering access to resources, networking opportunities, and strategic planning assistance for economic recovery.
- **Infrastructure Partners**
- **Transportation and Infrastructure Companies:** Partnering with logistics, transport, and construction companies ensures rapid restoration of critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public utilities, essential for business recovery.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (P3s):** Collaborating with the private sector on large infrastructure projects can leverage additional financial and technical resources for recovery and resilience efforts.

Utilities and Essential Services Providers

- **BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Telecommunications Companies:** These entities are essential partners in restoring critical utilities like electricity, gas, and communication systems, which are vital to economic recovery efforts.

Community and Cultural Organization

- **Local Nonprofits and Social Enterprises:** Engaging local nonprofits helps ensure that recovery efforts meet the needs of vulnerable populations, which in turn supports broader community and economic resilience.
- **Cultural and Heritage Organizations:** Incorporating cultural recovery into economic rebuilding efforts helps restore tourism, local identity, and community spirit.

Provincial and National Economic Development Organizations

- **British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA):** BCEDA has extensive experience in economic recovery and in helping communities develop short—and long-term economic recovery plans. This service is provided on a fee-for-service basis and may be funded by the Red Cross or the Province of BC. In some cases, corporate partners will provide financial assistance for BCEDA initiatives to support local communities.

By leveraging these partnerships, municipalities and regional districts can effectively coordinate resources, reduce recovery times, and strengthen the resilience of their local economies. Collaboration between public, private, nonprofit, and Indigenous partners will be crucial for rebuilding stronger, more sustainable communities.

