

## Natural Hazards Policy

THAT the SLRD Board adopt a policy of not accepting responsibility for natural hazard mitigation, nor for natural hazard remediation except to the extent required by statute, as outlined in the Natural Hazards Policy dated November 4, 2011.

Date: November 4, 2011

Recommendation:

THAT the SLRD Board adopt a policy of not accepting responsibility for natural hazard mitigation, nor for natural hazard remediation except to the extent required by statute.

CAO Comments:

Who Votes: All \_\_\_ Participant \_\_\_  
Weighted Vote: No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_

Attachments

Report/Document: Attached \_\_\_ Available \_\_\_ Nil \_\_\_

Background:

Within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), there are a variety of natural hazards that pose a risk due to flooding, debris flow or damage from landslides. The SLRD has an existing policy for wildfire fuel management which is separate and apart from this policy.

The Regional District views these risks as being the primary responsibility of the Province of British Columbia. As such, the Province of BC should assume financial responsibility for any required mitigation to protect against these risks.

The SLRD has in the past and will continue to look favourably upon assisting the Province with any mitigation works in terms of providing oversight and management of professional engineers and contractors undertaking such work within the SLRD. However, any involvement by the SLRD will be on the condition and understanding that any required funding for mitigation and remedial work shall be the responsibility of the Province of BC.

Relevant Policy:

The Board of the SLRD recognizes that there are assets and values within its boundaries that are at risk of damage from natural hazards. The SLRD is prepared to plan for, respond to and recover from the impacts of these hazards as required by the Emergency Program Act and regulations, and to ensure that provisions of the Land Title Act (Section 86) are complied with in future developments.

However, hazard mitigation that involves the forecasting and monitoring of hazards and the development of engineering works to mitigate the impacts of the hazard is clearly the responsibility of the senior levels of government (see table below). This responsibility is associated with the level of professional staff required to forecast and monitor hazards and the significant investment required to develop engineering works, both of which are beyond the capacity of local government.

Based on legislative review, the SLRD holds to the position that hazard mitigation is the direct responsibility of the Province of BC. Therefore, the SLRD is not prepared to financially participate in any costs associated with minimizing risk from natural hazards through mitigation works.

**Relevant BC government legislation and programs respecting natural hazards:** BC MoE – Ministry of Environment, BC MoTI – Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC MoCSCD – Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development, BC MoFLNRO – Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, EMBC – Emergency Management British Columbia, Local Government - Local Authorities, Regional District, Municipality, City, Town, etc.

	Notes	Agency	Hazard	Aspect
1	Agreement respecting floodplain mapping in BC	BC MoE	Flooding	Identification
2	Sect. 82–85 Land Titles Act	BC MoE	Flooding Erosion	Management
3	Sect. 86 Land Titles Act	BC MoTI Local Government	All All	Management Management
4	Municipality Enabling and Validating Act	BC MoCSCD	Flooding	Management
5	Local Government Act Sect. 945, community plans Local Government Sect. 952, rural land use Local Government Sect. 970, non-conforming Local Government Sect. 976, development permit Local Government Sect. 978, tree cutting	BC MoCSCD	All All All All	Management Management Management Management
6	Local Government Sect. 969, floodplain elevation	BC MoCSCD BC MoE	Flooding	Management
7	Local Government. 734, geotechnical report	Building inspector	All	Management
8	Land Act Sect. 8 (inter-agency referral)	BC MoFLNRO	All	Management
9	Dyke Maintenance Act	BC MoE	Flooding	Mitigation
10	Flood Protection Program River Protection Assistance Program Fraser River Flood Control Program	BC MoE	Flooding Flooding Flooding	Mitigation Mitigation Mitigation
11	Disaster Financial Assistance Program Environment Management Act	EMBC BC MoE	Flooding/landslide All	Response/recovery Response

**Response Options:**

1. Adopt the policy recommendation as presented.
2. Amend the policy as determined by Board direction.
3. Not adopt a natural hazards policy at this time.

Submitted by:	L. Flynn, CAO
Reviewed by:	
Approved by:	

