



2020 CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Website Archive

The following is a text-based archive of the 2020 Climate Change Accountability Report websites as published on December 16, 2020.

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Climate action and accountability

Putting CleanBC into action

The Copper Mountain mine is showing that clean industry is the way of the future with its new high-powered electric trolley system.

Through [CleanBC](#), the Province works with a range of partners to reduce emissions, create opportunities and manage risks from our changing climate. Learn more about B.C.'s progress and actions.

Each year, government publishes a climate change accountability report with the latest details on CleanBC actions and information on B.C.'s progress to our greenhouse gas targets.

Highlights from the 2020 Climate Change Accountability Report

- Made cleaner options more affordable with rebates under CleanBC's [Go Electric](#) and [Better Homes and Better Buildings](#) Program
- Improved availability of electric and hybrid vehicles to ensure all new light-duty vehicles are zero-emissions by 2040
- Started infrastructure and energy projects through the [CleanBC Communities Fund](#), [CleanBC Industry Fund](#) and [BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative](#), among many others
- Worked with the federal government to significantly expand the clean electrical grid to provide clean electricity to B.C. communities, businesses, and industry
- Increased stringency of B.C.'s Low Carbon Fuel Standard to 20% by 2030
- Completed a first of its kind [climate risk assessment](#) for B.C. and contributed millions to help reduce wildfire, flooding, and drought
- Launched the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan to prevent, reduce and recycle plastics in our communities and environment
- Achieved [10 years of carbon neutrality](#) across 128 provincial public sector organizations

[Read the 2020 Accountability Report](#)

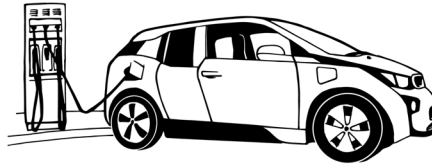
[2020 Supporting Materials](#)

[Climate Action Legislation](#)

Getting results with CleanBC **CleanBC at work**



Check our latest progress and actions to reduce emissions.



Business, governments and communities are putting CleanBC into action. Read their stories.

Preparing for a changing climate



Learn how B.C. is working to strengthen the resilience of our communities, ecosystems and economy in the face of climate change.

Climate action reporting



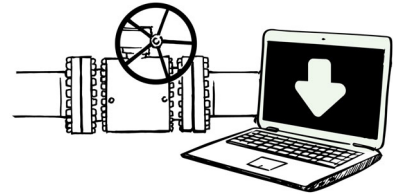
Get more detailed results from our annual Climate Change Accountability and CleanBC Methodology Reports.

Climate Solutions Council



Learn about the independent Climate Solutions Council that provides advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth.

Data and inventories



View B.C.'s provincial greenhouse gas emissions inventory as well as those from industrial facilities, local governments and more.

Getting results with CleanBC



Since early 2019, we've worked with many organizations, governments and communities to put our CleanBC plan into action. We've seen several early signs of success, but we know that reaching our targets won't be easy and will take increased effort. The most recent GHG information for 2018 shows B.C.'s emissions have increased. While these results do not yet include many new actions from CleanBC, they reinforce the importance of our plan and taking strong action to address climate change. We continue to work on new areas for greenhouse gas reductions while improving current programs.

Follow our progress below. Or for more detailed information, read the [2020 Climate Change Accountability Report \(1.89 MB\)](#).

On this page:

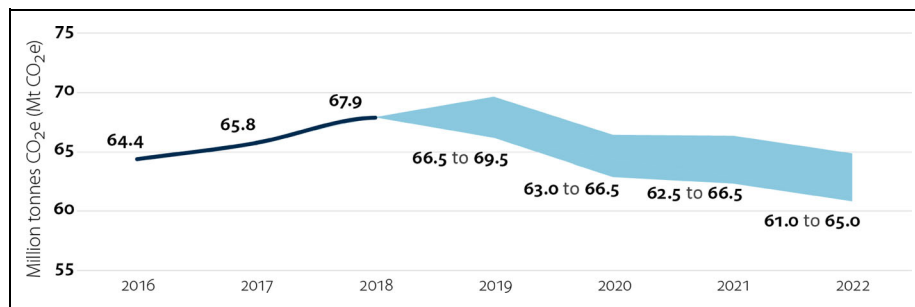
- [Emissions performance](#)
- [Climate-related spending](#)
- [Leading actions in 2019-2020](#)

Emissions performance

Our most recent GHG information, [from 2018](#), shows B.C.'s 2018 net emissions have increased 6% since 2007, our baseline year. With up to a two-year lag for GHG data, the results do not yet reflect many of the expected impacts from CleanBC, which was released December 2018.

The trend reinforces the need for continued strong action. We're collaborating with our partners on new reduction opportunities to support our current plan but also future policies.

Based on updated modelling, B.C.'s emissions are expected to stabilize or slightly increase in 2019, before decreasing in 2020 due in part to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emissions may level off in 2021 as B.C.'s economy begins to recover and then continue a downward trajectory in 2022 as more CleanBC policies start to take effect.



Climate-related spending

B.C.'s carbon tax has increased from \$30 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2017 to \$35 per tonne in 2018 and to \$40 per tonne in 2019. The carbon tax was to increase to \$45 per tonne in 2020 and \$50 per tonne in 2021. In response to COVID-19, B.C.'s carbon tax remains at \$40 per tonne until 2021, when it will increase to \$45 per tonne and then increase to \$50 per tonne in 2022.

Table 1: Carbon Tax Revenues, Illustrating Tax Increase Impacts, by Fiscal Year

| \$ Millions | Actual 2018/19 | Actual 2019/20 | Q1 Forecast 2020/21 |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Carbon tax rate, \$ per tonne | \$35 | \$40 | \$40 |
| Total carbon tax revenue | 1,465 | 1,682 | 1,560 |
| Annual revenue growth | 210 | 217 | (122) |
| Revenue growth due to base (i.e. changes in consumption) | 1 | 12 | (122) |
| Revenue growth due to rate increases | 209 | 205 | - |
| Revenue growth due to rate increases - Cumulative Totals | 209 | 414 | - |

Note: The carbon tax did not increase in 2020/21. Revenues associated with a cumulative rate increase are nil.

Table 1 outlines the total carbon tax revenues and the total incremental carbon tax revenues due to rate increases. Revenue forecasts for 2020/21 account for the carbon tax remaining at \$40 per tonne as a COVID-19 relief measure. Table 1 shows that government is expected to collect \$414 million in incremental carbon tax revenue due to rate increases that began after 2017/18 (when government collected \$1.255 billion in carbon tax revenues).

Table 2: Spending on Climate Related Initiatives by Fiscal Year

| \$ Millions | Actual 2019/20 | Forecast 2020/21 and StrongerBC |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Climate Action Tax Credit | 252 | 302 |
| CleanBC – operating and capital | 185 | 235 |
| StrongerBC | - | 225 |
| Other operating spending | 246 | 233 |
| Transit projects and other capital | 120 | 345 |
| Total clean spending | 803 | 1,341 |

Note: Amounts in each year are not cumulative and totals may not add due to rounding. The list may not capture all climate-related spending by government and may expand in subsequent reports.

Table 2 outlines the expenditures for the carbon tax rebates and measures to reduce climate pollution and address climate change risks. It shows that government spent a total of \$803 million on climate-related initiatives in 2019/20 and is expected to spend up to \$1.341 billion in 2020/21 based on investments announced in previous provincial budgets and Stronger BC (September 2020).

Spending on climate-related initiatives includes CleanBC operational and capital spending since *Budget 2019*. It also includes other operating spending outside of CleanBC such as the First Nations Clean Energy Business fund, the Forest Carbon Initiative, and other spending related to adapting to climate change events. Capital spending includes the expansion of Vancouver’s Broadway Subway and other major projects.

For more detail, please see the carbon tax revenue section in chapter 2 of the [2020 Accountability Report \(PDF 1.89 MB\)](#).

Leading actions for 2019-2020

Since the release of CleanBC, we’ve taken action across all key sectors, from transportation to industry to buildings and communities. Read the full list of actions taken over 2019-2020 in the [2020 Climate Change Accountability Report Supporting Materials \(PDF\)](#).

Clean transportation

Bring down the price of clean vehicles

Complete

- Mandated 100% of new cars to be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by 2040
- Continued rebates for cleaner heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles under [Go Electric](#)



- Expanded the charging network with home and work charging stations, as well as public fast-charging stations and additional hydrogen fueling stations
- Provided support for innovation and growth in the electric vehicle sector through the CleanBC Advanced Research and Commercialization (ARC) program

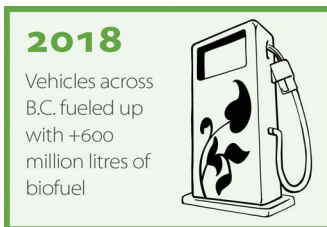
In Progress

- Enable private investment in charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure to get more stations faster

Speed up the switch to cleaner fuels

Complete

- Increased the Low Carbon Fuel Standard to a 20% reduction in average carbon intensity from 2010 levels by 2030

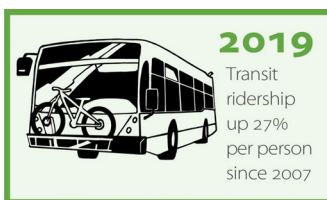


In Progress

- Two new strategies for future innovations - the B.C. Hydrogen Strategy and the B.C. Bioenergy Strategy - are expected to be released in 2021
- Renewable fuel production, such as co-processing of organic compound feedstocks with fossil crude at the Parklands Refinery in Burnaby and a biomass-to-fuels process at Tidewater Refinery in Prince George, are helping to increase B.C.'s production of low-carbon fuels
- On-going support of policies, programs and initiatives that recognize low-carbon fuel suppliers, support investments in clean fuels and vehicles, and make low-carbon alternative fuels more affordable

Improving how we get around

Complete



- Released a long-term strategy, Move, Commute, Connect, to increase active transportation use for British Columbians of all ages and abilities
- Introduced active transportation infrastructure grants program, with shared funding for 23 infrastructure projects and 21 network plans in 2020-2021
- Expanded the BC Transit and TransLink fleets with compressed natural gas, diesel-electric and fully electric busses that create low or no emissions

- Launched the BC Ferries Island Discovery vessel on route from Powell River to Texada Island, the first of a series of hybrid-electric ships designed to be fully electric in the future

In Progress

- TransLink committed to achieve an 80% reduction in GHG emissions from operations by 2050, and to use 100% renewable energy in all operations by 2050
- BC Transit has a target of creating a fully electric fleet in all vehicle classifications by 2040
- Electrification of the Arrow Park III inland cable ferry. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has set a goal of electrifying its inland fleet by 2040

Where we live and work

Better buildings



Complete

- The first intake for the CleanBC Building Innovation Fund funded 13 projects, totalling \$1.65 million
- Supported building energy efficiency requirements through local adoption of the BC Energy Step Code
- Advanced the development of 11 innovative low-carbon building projects as part of the Net Zero Energy Ready Challenge

In Progress

- Improve the BC Building Code in phases leading up to “net-zero energy ready” by 2032
- Adopt new standards for building upgrades, based on the model National Energy Code for existing buildings by 2024
- Increase efficiency standards for heating equipment and windows
- Increase use of mass timber to help drive economic growth and reduce our carbon footprint.

Support for better buildings

Complete

- Expanded rebates to make heat pumps affordable and make homes more comfortable through building envelope upgrades through the

CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings programs

- Launched CleanBC Better Homes Low Interest Financing to provide loans with interest rates as low as 0% for switching to heat pumps
- Supported the Reframed Lab for retrofit demonstration projects on up to five multi-unit residential buildings

In Progress

- Provide \$1.1 billion over 10 years for social housing to improve living conditions, energy efficiency, and reduce emissions. Government has already invested nearly \$150 million in energy efficiency improvements
- Provide \$50 million a year for the Carbon Neutral Capital Program to support energy efficiency retrofits for schools, hospitals, universities and colleges, and government buildings – more than tripling the previous amount
- Improve building energy information available to buyers and renters

Support for communities Complete

- Invested approximately \$63 million in federal and provincial funding for eleven community projects under the first intake of the CleanBC Communities Fund with more project approvals anticipated soon

In Progress

- Invest \$46.5 million (cost shared with the federal government) in clean infrastructure, energy and transportation projects under the second intake of the CleanBC Communities Fund
- Help remote communities reduce their dependence on diesel with \$16.5 million in support for renewable energy project development in 2020 through the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program
- Support First Nations in developing clean energy projects through the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative

Reduce waste Complete

- Released the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan consultation paper in 2019. In September 2020, the Province approved plastic bans in five local governments and is expanding beverage container recycling and regulation of single-use plastic items.

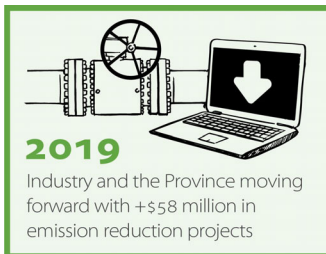
- Supported 13 new projects under the cost-shared Organics Infrastructure Program, expected to expand capacity at compost facilities by up to 110,000 tonnes of organic waste per year

In Progress

- Continue to respond to and implement the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, including programs to reduce plastics pollution and improve recycling in B.C.

Cleaner Industry

Reducing pollution and supporting jobs



Complete

- Released new emissions benchmarks under the CleanBC Industrial Incentive Program to encourage cleaner industrial operations by reducing carbon tax costs for low emission facilities
- Launched the CleanBC Industry Fund, closing a second call for innovative projects in June 2020
- Established new regulations to reduce methane emissions from upstream oil and gas operations by 45% from 2014 levels by 2025
- Established MOU with partners such as the Business Council of BC and the federal government to help reduce emissions and take advantage of the growing demand for lower-carbon products and solutions

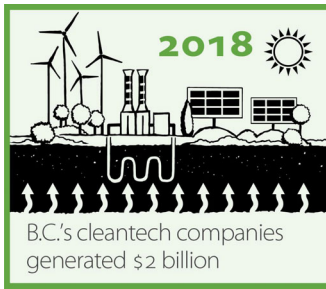
Industrial electrification

In Progress

- Increase access to clean electricity for large operations with new transmission lines and interconnectivity to existing lines
- Issue the final report on the comprehensive review of BC Hydro, with actions to keep rates affordable, encourage more clean electricity and support economic development
- Expand clean electricity transmission to planned natural gas production in the Peace region

Technical innovation

Complete



- The Emerging Economy Task Force and B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner Reports include recommendations that build on the opportunity to leverage B.C.'s green economy through CleanBC.
- The Food Security Task Force report released in 2020 includes recommendations to establish B.C. as an agri-food leader, by developing an agricultural technology incubator-accelerator and establishing an agritech institute.

In Progress

- Ensure a regulatory framework for safe and effective underground CO₂ storage and direct air capture

Help people get the skills they need

Making sure British Columbians can lead the clean transition

Complete

- Supported training on the B.C. Energy Step Code provided by B.C.'s housing and construction industry
- Together with partners, supported training to help automotive technicians and electricians prepare for a growing EV sector

In Progress

- Develop a CleanBC Job Readiness Plan that outlines potential training and job opportunities expected to arise as CleanBC is implemented

CleanBC at work



Over the last two years, organizations, businesses, governments and communities have put the [CleanBC plan \(PDF\)](#) into action by helping reduce air pollution, creating jobs, and tackling climate change while preparing for its impacts.

Sustainable and affordable community housing on Kanaka Bar traditional territory



The Kanaka Bar Indian Band, also known as T'eqt'aqtn'mux or "the crossing place people," are showing that you do not have to compromise sustainability for affordable community housing.

A new housing development, aptly named "The Crossing Place" supports the Band's vision of affordable housing combined with energy self-sufficiency and being a zero-emissions community. With supporting funding from [the CleanBC Communities Fund](#), the Crossing Place will use a hybrid of solar panels, small wind turbines and micro-hydro to maximize the use of clean electric space and water heating.

The four-acre development sits on Lower Kanaka lands, with an adjacent six acres dedicated solely to food production, processing, and storage. Once completed, the development will have up to 40 units, a community amenities space, as well as a resilient source of clean energy and food security available for community members and Kanaka Bar residents regardless of age and background.

“Affordable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient housing has been a Kanaka priority for many years,” said Chief of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band, Patrick Michell. “The Crossing Place will ensure the comfort and well-being of our community and regional residents, all while respecting the environment,” he added.

Clean energy improves operations at B.C. mine

A mine in Princeton B.C. is showing that clean industry is the way of the future with their new high-powered electric trolley system for large mine-haul trucks. The Copper Mountain pilot project will help prove the effectiveness of trolley technology in British Columbia for wider use. The project also plays a pivotal role in B.C.’s move to a low-carbon economy by replacing diesel used by the haul trucks to transport mine material to a surface processing facility with clean electricity. This will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



“We produce high-quality minerals, while minimizing our impact on the environment. With the success of this trolley project, we will see a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 30% to 50%,” said Gil Clausen, president and CEO of Copper Mountain Mining Corporation.

Through the CleanBC Industry Fund, \$2 million is being put toward the installation of the trolley system and supporting upgrades to four of the company’s trucks to be compatible with an overhead trolley system that is planned to be installed on a new

laneway on a steep section of the mine-haul road. This is expected to reduce local air pollutants and 55,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (CO2e) which is equal to taking 20,000 cars off the roads for a year.

Future-proofing B.C. Homes to Climate Change



BC Housing is leading a multi-stakeholder project to increase the resilience of our homes in the face of a changing climate. The Mobilizing Building Adaptation and Resilience project provides homeowners and construction industry professionals across British Columbia with new tools and resources for design, construction, renovation and training for increasing the climate resilience of our buildings.

MBAR develops new knowledge through pilot projects in a wide range of building types, from single family homes to apartments and healthcare campuses. The project looks at ways to adapt design and construction so owners and residents can remain comfortable and safe in the face of extreme weather such as hotter summers, colder winters and heavy rainfall. Improving building resilience also helps communities and homeowners to recover more quickly after shocks such as earthquakes or flooding.

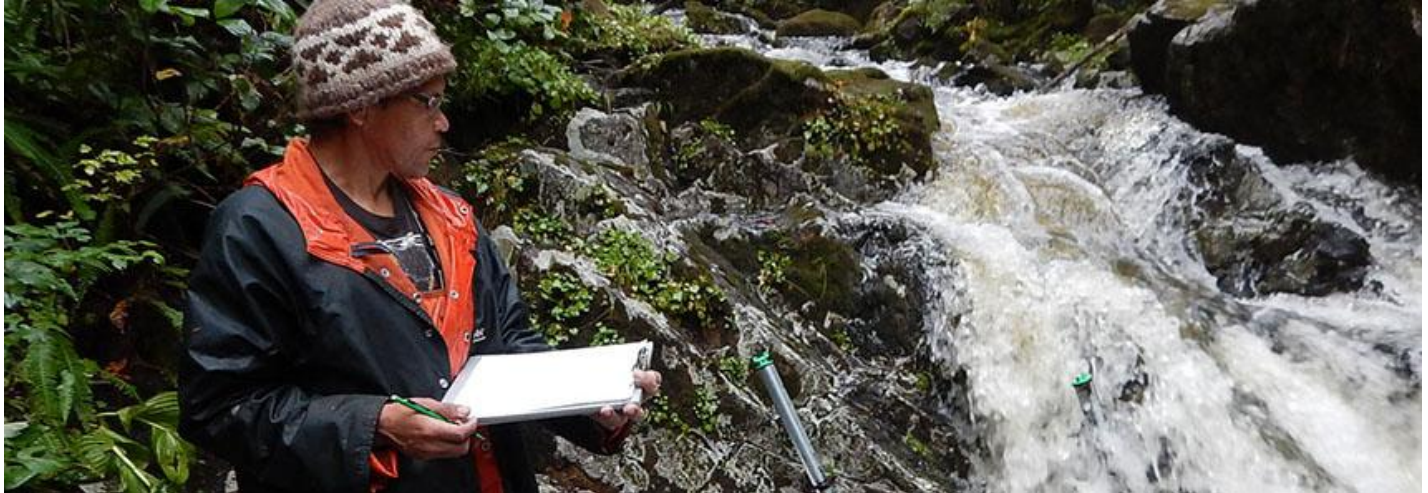
Resources currently available include guides on overheating design, how to do energy modelling using future climate models, and how to identify hazards. Resources are free to download from the BC Housing Research Centre Library at <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/library>

Innovation heats up B.C. hospitals



The BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital campus is achieving significant advances in energy efficiency through waste heat recovery. Two retrofit projects are using the naturally-occurring thermal energy available in their buildings to heat themselves. When completed, the projects are expected to reduce carbon emissions at the campus by more than 1,000 tCO₂e, which represents close to a 10% reduction for the entire hospital campus and is equivalent to removing over 200 passenger vehicles from the road indefinitely. The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) is applying a unique technology called Thermal Gradient Header, which allowed PHSA to integrate standard heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment into a new design in a way that facilitates reuse of thermal energy that would otherwise be wasted. When completed the two projects will result in over \$500,000 in incentive funding from FortisBC, which will be used to support more energy conservation and carbon reduction projects at the campus.

Preparing for a changing climate



Preparing for climate change strengthens our capacity to anticipate and respond to sudden events like wildfires, floods and heatwaves, while also helping us to respond to changes that happen more slowly like loss of habitat and rising sea levels. By planning ahead and acting early, we can be ready for the challenges and new possibilities the changing climate may bring.

Read the full list of actions taken over 2019 to 2020 in the [2020 Supporting Materials \(PDF\)](#).

Investments made to better prepare the province for climate-related risks include:

- **Community Preparedness:** As of 2019-2020, the Province invested \$69.5 million in the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), which supports local governments and Indigenous communities to reduce their wildfire and flood risk and effectively respond to emergencies.
- **Wildfire:** As part of a \$60 million commitment, the Community Resiliency Investment Program provided approximately \$13 million in 2019-2020 to help local governments and First Nations reduce wildfire threats around their communities. Funding was also provided to the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. for wildfire risk reduction, among other efforts.
- **Flood:** The Province provided funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and the National Disaster Mitigation Program toward 62 flood risk reduction projects totaling \$32.6 million.
- **Drought:** We established a government-to-government partnership in February 2020 with the Cowichan Tribes to ensure long-term water sustainability for the Koksilah watershed and developed a water sustainability plan for the area.
- **Agriculture:** B.C. invested \$2.3 million in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program and Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Program to support the completion of 348 EFPs and the implementation of 323 BMP projects that contribute to GHG emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and climate

adaptation. The [Food Security Task Force findings and recommendations report](#) released in 2020 includes recommendations for using technology and innovation to continue strengthening our agriculture sector while adapting to climate change.

- **Forestry:** B.C. and the Government of Canada are jointly investing \$290 million over five years in B.C.'s forests to take action on climate change, which will support projects like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC under the [Forest Carbon Initiative](#) (FCI). Through FCI, B.C. has provided grants in the range of \$1-3 million to help First Nations communities and local mills turn wood waste into products, reduce emissions and create jobs. B.C. is also developing a Climate Change Informed Species Selection tool to rank tree species for suitability to future climate and related economic costs and benefits.

Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

B.C.'s draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy helps to ensure we stay safe and respond effectively in a changing climate. It builds on the [2019 Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment](#), which examined some of the greatest risks to B.C. as a result of climate change. And it outlines actions needed to prepare for these risks.

The strategy highlights the actions the Province is taking in 2021 to 2022 to help prepare for the impacts of climate change. It also presents a suite of proposed actions for 2022 to 2025.

[Learn more about the draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) and the draft Principles to Guide the Province of B.C.'s Work on Climate Preparedness and Adaptation.