



What We Heard

Partner engagement
(June-July 2020) for
B.C.'s Climate Preparedness
and Adaptation Strategy

May 2021

Prepared for: B.C. Ministry of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Prepared by: R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

B.C. has committed to develop a Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (“the Strategy”) that will work to advance a climate resilient society that is prepared for, and adapting to, the impacts of a changing climate. The Strategy will build on B.C.’s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment, which examined some of the greatest risks to B.C. as a result of climate change. It will also build on the significant amount of work already underway by early leaders within government and across communities to adapt to climate change.

In June and July of 2020, a series of partner engagement workshops was held to collect feedback on the strategy from the following groups:

- Academic and environmental non-governmental organization groups;
- Industry and professional associations;
- Federal partners;
- Local governments from rural, urban, and medium-sized communities;
- Young leaders; and
- A cross-sectoral workshop session.

The groups discussed proposed actions under seven thematic areas within the strategy: 1) Preparing for Extreme Climate Risks; 2) Building a Shared Path with Indigenous Peoples; 3) Supporting Equitable, Climate-Resilient Communities; 4) Sustaining Natural Resources, Species and Ecosystems; 5) Building Resilience into our Economy and Infrastructure; 6) Leading the Way in the Provincial Sector; and 7) Developing Foundations for Ongoing Success.

From these discussions, a number of key themes and concerns arose that groups felt should be applied to all actions and priority areas. These were:

- Acknowledging the disproportionate impact that climate change will have on Indigenous communities and peoples, and engaging with Indigenous Nations in a nation-to-nation relationship that acknowledges and values their knowledge systems and approaches to managing ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Adopting an equity lens that acknowledges the disproportionate impacts of climate change on different populations and includes an intersectional approach that considers gender, race or ethnicity, class and income, and other factors that lead to societal inequalities;
- Needing to build support and buy-in among groups throughout the province, particularly within communities to build support for local government actions, and among industry groups (including small businesses);
- Taking a regional approach to actions at the sub-provincial level, acknowledging that many actions may not be feasible for small communities to undertake independently but could be doable at the regional level, with funding and support from the Province;
- Incorporating conservation and protection of ecosystems and species as a solution (among others) to challenges caused by climate change, such as use of urban forestry, carbon sinks, and restoration of natural shorelines; and

- Sharing data and information at a provincial level, including analysis and interpretation, to ensure that all groups have access to valid and reliable data on climate change that is understandable and actionable.

In addition, each group identified priorities for the provincial government that would support them in acting on climate adaptation in a holistic and coordinated manner. A series of main actions and suggestions for the Province emerged across all groups. These were:

- Changing funding approaches to be more stable over time, more accessible to a greater number of groups, and in higher amounts to support the ambitious actions needed to respond to climate change;
- Providing provincial leadership on education and awareness about climate change and adaptation;
- Providing a province-level coordination contact or unit to support partners implementing climate adaptation actions in a holistic and complementary manner;
- Creating coordinated data and information sharing, to support all partners working from the same base of data and priorities;
- Providing provincial support (both funding and in-kind) for regional approaches to adaptive actions;
- Adopting a whole-of-government approach, ensuring that adaptation and GHG reduction priorities are incorporated to all ministries' and organizations' service plans and priorities;
- Providing provincial leadership on priorities, policies, decisions and actions, to better support smaller partner organizations as well as support complementary approaches province-wide;
- Making greater efforts to include all voices and impacted groups in preparing for climate change;
- Leveraging existing resources and research available on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the province; and
- Acting urgently on climate change.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Background to the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy	1
1.2	Partner Engagement Workshops	1
1.3	Next Steps.....	1
2.	Partner Engagement METHODS	3
2.1	Methods	3
2.1.1	<i>Online Questionnaire.....</i>	<i>3</i>
2.1.2	<i>Digital Workshop Sessions.....</i>	<i>4</i>
3.	FINDINGS.....	6
3.1	Theme One – Preparing for Extreme Weather and Climate Risks	6
3.1.1	<i>Criteria for Prioritizing Actions in the Area of Extreme Weather and Climate Risks.....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.1.2	<i>Specific Climate Risks and Extreme Weather Events.....</i>	<i>8</i>
3.2	Theme Two – Building a Shared Path with Indigenous Peoples	11
3.3	Theme Three – Supporting Equitable, Climate Resilient Communities	13
3.4	Theme Four – Sustaining Natural Resources, Species and Ecosystems.....	15
3.5	Theme Five – Building Resilience into Our Economy and Infrastructure.....	16
3.6	Theme Six – Leading the Way in the Provincial Public Sector.....	18
3.7	Theme Seven – Developing Foundations for Ongoing Success.....	18
3.8	Supporting Partners	19
4.	SUMMARY	24
4.1	Key Themes	24
4.2	Key Priorities.....	25

1. INTRODUCTION

This What We Heard report summarizes the findings of a series of eight virtual workshop sessions and an online questionnaire conducted in June and July of 2020 regarding British Columbia's proposed Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. Input from this engagement was used to help identify key goals and priorities for the Strategy, including actions to be implemented in 2021-22 and proposed actions for 2022-25.

1.1 Background to the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy

B.C.'s commitment to develop a Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy falls within the Province's broader CleanBC plan. The Strategy will work to advance a climate resilient society that is prepared for the impacts of a changing climate. It will build on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment, which examined some of the greatest risks to B.C. as a result of climate change. It will also build on the significant amount of work already underway by early leaders within government and across communities to adapt to climate change.

The Province took a broad approach to engagement including the initiatives described below:

July 2019	Regional Engagements with Indigenous Nations and Organizations
Dec 2019	Established BC-First Nations Leadership Council Technical Working Group on Climate Change
Nov 2019 - Jan 2020	Climate Ready BC: Public engagement
Jan 2020	Provincial Forum with Indigenous Nations and Organizations
Jan 2020	Established Indigenous Climate Adaptation Technical Working Group
June - August 2020	Partner and Indigenous Engagement (separate but concurrent online workshops)

1.2 Partner Engagement Workshops

In June and July 2020, engagement was conducted with partner and interest groups, through virtual workshop sessions and an online questionnaire. Separate engagement sessions were held concurrently with Indigenous Nations (read a summary of this engagement in the [Indigenous Perspectives report](#)). The purpose of this engagement was to collect input for the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, such as selection of priority actions and specific actions that support the needs and concerns of their sector or group.

The eight workshop sessions were themed and conducted with representatives from the following sectors: academics and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); federal government agencies and organizations; industry professional associations; urban local governments; rural local governments; medium-sized community local governments; and young leaders. In addition to these groups, one cross-sectoral workshop was conducted with representatives from a variety of groups participating.

1.3 Next Steps

The draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and phase 1 actions for 2021-22 will be released in Spring 2021. Once released, a final online public engagement will be conducted to gather input on the proposed actions and how the public would like to see them implemented in 2022-2025. This input will be used to finalize actions and inform the implementation plan for 2022-2025, which is expected to be released in Spring 2022.

2. PARTNER ENGAGEMENT METHODS

2.1 Methods

2.1.1 Online Questionnaire

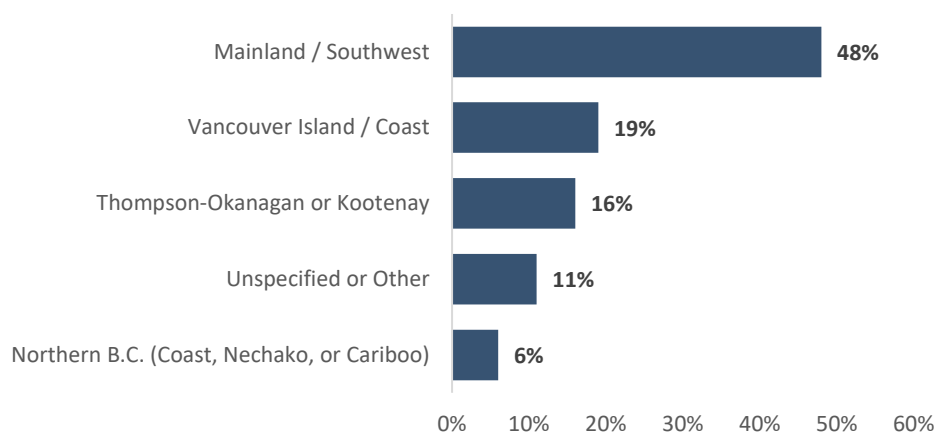
The *Working Together for a Climate Ready B.C. Questionnaire* was sent to external partners across various sectors and included invitees of the engagement workshops (described in **2.1.2** below). The survey asked respondents for their feedback regarding action prioritization, as well as input on any actions or priorities they felt were missing. For each of the seven thematic areas within the Strategy, respondents were asked to comment on:

- Their level of support for the associated options;
- Their top priorities for implementation in the next three to five years;
- Significant challenges (not asked for all themes);
- Any other actions of high priority that the Province should consider; and
- Additional comments.

The survey was open from June 4 to July 31, 2020. During the survey period, 86 participants answered at least one survey question related to the Strategy, and of those, 65 participants completed the entire survey. Respondents were free to skip any questions they wished; all responses that included an answer to at least one question about the Strategy are reported on here.

Nearly one-half of all respondents (48%) were from the Lower Mainland/Southwest region of the province. Representation from elsewhere in B.C. (except the Northeast, which was not represented among survey respondents) and other regions is illustrated in **Figure 2.1** below.

Figure 2.1 Survey Respondents, by Region



Source: *Working Together for a Climate Ready B.C. Questionnaire* (2020)

A variety of sectors were also represented in the responses. The most-represented group was local government (n=28), followed by academic or research organizations, and youth organizations (n=10 each). **Table 2.1** below summarizes all respondents’ reported sectors.

Table 2.1 Survey Respondents, by Sector

Sector	Number of Respondents
Local government	28
Academic / research	10
Youth organization	10
Public sector organization	9
Other	7
Natural resource industry	6
Other non-governmental organization	4
Community organization	3
Professional association	2
Environmental organization	2
Business	2
Federal government	1
Indigenous organization	1
Unspecified	1
Total	86

Source: *Working Together for a Climate Ready B.C. Questionnaire* (2020)

2.1.2 Digital Workshop Sessions

Partner engagement workshops were held on the following dates, for the following groups:

- June 8, 2020 – Young leaders
- June 11, 2020 – Federal partners
- June 15, 2020 – Academics and NGOs
- June 18, 2020 – Rural Local Governments
- June 25, 2020 – Urban Local Governments
- July 14, 2020 – Industry and Professional Associations
- July 16, 202 – Medium-sized Local Government
- July 23, 2020 – Cross Sector Workshop

All workshop sessions were held in a virtual format, to minimize risk of spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate participation from representatives throughout B.C. An equity-focused workshop was also scheduled but cancelled due to lack of participant capacity. Sessions were moderated by representatives from Simon Fraser University’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. All workshop sessions included the following elements:

- A presentation on the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy for B.C.;
- A Q&A session about the Strategy for participants;

- Breakout discussions in smaller groups, during which participants discussed two key questions:
 - What are priority actions that the provincial government should take?
 - What actions can the provincial government take that would support the needs and concerns of partner group (e.g., youth, local government, etc.)?
- A final exit questionnaire that invited additional feedback about all seven of the themes covered in this engagement series.

During breakout discussions, each group was assigned one of seven themes to discuss. The following themes were available for discussion during each of the workshops:

1. Preparing for extreme weather and climate risks;
2. Building a shared path with Indigenous peoples;
3. Supporting equitable, climate resilient communities;
4. Sustaining natural resources, species and ecosystems;
5. Building resilience into our economy and infrastructure;
6. Leading the way in the provincial public sector; and
7. Developing foundations for ongoing success.

Not all workshop sessions included breakout groups discussing all themes; theme assignment was based on workshop size, and participant interest in the theme. Findings from these workshops and breakout groups are discussed in **Section 3** below.

3. FINDINGS

Workshop participants were invited to provide input on one or more of seven themes, while survey participants were given the opportunity to provide responses on all seven themes (although they had the option to skip questions or themes as they wished). Findings from the survey and discussions are shared below, organized by theme. Note that tables at the top of each section summarize which workshop groups commented on that particular theme.

3.1 Theme One – Preparing for Extreme Weather and Climate Risks

Survey respondents were asked to provide their feedback on a number of specific actions related to preparing for extreme weather and climate risks (e.g., preparing for wildfires, preparing for flooding, etc.). Similarly, workshop attendees were invited to discuss preparing for these climate risks in small breakout groups according to their interest in the topic. The table below summarizes which workshop groups had breakout discussions on this topic.

Academic/NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

Major areas of discussion in these workshop groups were a variety of topics or proposed action areas to address extreme weather and climate risks including:

- Wildfire;
- Extreme heat;
- Flooding and sea level rise;
- Drought and water scarcity;
- Ocean acidification;
- Disaster risk reduction;
- Working in partnership;
- Building and infrastructure; and
- Advancing equity.

In addition to discussion of these specific action areas, workshop participants discussed criteria that should be used to prioritize actions. Input from workshop participants is summarized below.

3.1.1 Criteria for Prioritizing Actions in the Area of Extreme Weather and Climate Risks

Acknowledging that adapting to climate change will be an ambitious and long-term project, with limited resources available in the short to medium term, participants offered criteria or rationales that should be applied when deciding which actions should take priority. A total of five partner groups specifically discussed how to prioritize actions: academic/NGOs, federal partners, local governments for medium-

sized communities, rural local governments, and young leaders. There were some differences in priorities among groups, which are described below.

Multiple groups offered specific considerations or criteria that they believed should be a factor in prioritizing actions. While some groups made unique suggestions, there was overlap in many suggestions. **Table 3.1** below summarizes the criteria put forward, and which groups suggested them.

Table 3.1 Recommended Criteria for Action Prioritization, among Groups

Criteria	Groups Recommending
Environmental justice or equity lens	Academic/NGO Rural government Young leaders
Actions that leverage and build upon existing community strategies for climate priorities	Medium-sized local government Rural local government Young leaders
Feasibility of implementation	Academic/NGO Rural government
Whether action(s) would result in multiple benefits	Academic/NGO
Cost effectiveness	Academic/NGO
Actions within the exclusive mandate of the provincial government (i.e., actions that would not otherwise be taken by other sectors)	Academic/NGO
Advancing people’s health	Rural government
Evidence-based decision-making models	Rural government
Approach actions on a “capability-by-capability” basis, rather than “hazard-by-hazard”	Federal partners
Focus on future, rather than existing, concerns or impacts	Federal partners

Multiple participant groups (academic/NGOs, federal partners, medium-sized community local governments, rural local governments, urban local governments) emphasized the importance of data in climate adaptation actions. Specifically, concerns raised related to data included:

- The need for the collection of more basic data on climate events and trends (e.g., sea level rise, major storm occurrences) to support evidence-based decision making;
- The importance of these data being accessible to a wide variety of groups (e.g., local governments, industry, farmers); and
- The importance of data being shared with the public in an accessible and easy-to-understand manner, but supported by strong data (i.e., the “data policy pyramid” approach).

Other Considerations

Some groups raised concerns not specifically related to either prioritization criteria, or specific climate risks listed by moderators.

Local governments (for both rural and medium-sized communities) raised concerns about local perception and reaction to climate adaptation strategies. They noted that it will be important to promote local community “buy-in.” Areas of concern in generating buy-in included whether actions promote local economic development, and whether the actions align with local / community values. Local governments also highlighted the opportunity of Province-led climate adaptation actions to support broader collaboration to address climate risks; in particular, groups noted opportunities to support and fund

regional-level networks to address risks like wildfires, needed funding for local governments to collaborate with Indigenous Nations on local climate action, and opportunities for greater collaboration and complementarity between provincial and local climate action. Finally, both rural and medium-sized local governments noted a need for provincial leadership in identifying priorities for climate action, to be used as a rubric applied to prioritizing climate actions by local government.

Federal government participants noted a few areas that they believed were not sufficiently addressed in the Strategy. These were:

- Irrigation as a key adaptive strategy for farmers, with more importance placed on water scarcity; and
- Nature-based solutions as an overarching approach for many of the climate risks identified and should therefore be prioritized.

3.1.2 Specific Climate Risks and Extreme Weather Events

Groups were invited to discuss the Strategy's proposed actions related to a number of specific climate risks and extreme weather events, such as wildfires, extreme heat, and sea level rise. The comments and suggestions made are summarized below.

Wildfires

There was strong support among survey respondents for both actions proposed related to reducing wildfire risks: over 85% of all respondents supported, or strongly supported, both 1) partnering with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to expand the use of cultural and prescribed burning, and 2) building on programs like FireSmart BC to raise public awareness about wildfire prevention and response. Survey respondents also identified the importance of land use management in reducing wildfire risk, such as through forestry and forest management, and agriculture as a tool for land management.

Among the six partner groups that discussed Theme 1 (*Preparing for extreme weather and climate risks*), all groups identified public awareness and preparedness as a major priority for action. Specifically, they recommended:

- Improving household emergency preparedness (four groups);
- Educating the public about prescribed burning and its benefits (four groups);
- Planning for and responding to insurance and compensation challenges associated with communities in high-risk areas (three groups);
- Studying, and educating the public about the health impacts of wildfires (three groups).

Survey respondents echoed the concerns of the workshop groups regarding the wide-ranging impacts of wildfires (e.g., human health impacts, risks to infrastructure), and indicated that more could be done in the Strategy to highlight these concerns. Public education was also a key theme related to wildfire risks among survey respondents, along with concerns for Indigenous sovereignty in land management (e.g., traditional uses of controlled burning).

Four workshop groups specifically mentioned the FireSmart program, although support for it was mixed. For example, rural local governments indicated a need for more FireSmart workshops to be held annually,

to better educate the public and local leaders around wildfire risk, but medium-sized local governments expressed some concern around its efficacy.

Extreme Heat Events

Five of the six groups specifically discussed the issue of extreme heat events, and survey respondents provided feedback on the proposed actions. Support was strong for both actions (developing a B.C. heat alert response system, and taking projected increased heat into account when designing buildings), although the latter was a higher priority among survey respondents.

Among all workshop groups, primary concern was for the health impacts of extreme heat on residents, especially marginalized and elderly populations. Specific concerns and strategies discussed by groups included:

- Developing and promoting extreme heat information and warning systems (four groups);
- Expanding on the action of building design to incorporate considerations for adapting existing buildings to extreme heat, and potential nature-based mitigation such as urban forestry/tree planting (three groups);
- Supporting local governments in developing behavioural strategies for individuals during extreme heat events, as what will work best may vary by community (e.g., cooling centers) (three groups); and
- Increasing capacity in health care to respond to extreme heat-related issues (one group).

Survey respondents emphasized, in their open-ended comments the need for holistic development that prioritizes cooling efforts, including nature-based solutions and urban greenspaces as well as community-level design and development decisions (e.g., support for retrofitting older buildings, incorporating natural infrastructure into urban design).

Flooding and Sea-Level Rise

About half of all survey respondents answered questions related to flooding and sea level rise (n=43-44, varying by question). All six workshop groups discussed flooding and sea level rise actions during their workshops, to varying degrees.

The majority of survey respondents supported, or strongly supported, all three proposed actions related to flooding and sea level rise (creating a B.C. Flood Risk Strategy, expanding floodplain mapping, and expanding the River Forecast Centre). Among these three strategies, expanding floodplain mapping was rated as the highest priority, with more than one-half of respondents ranking this as their top priority.

Among workshop group participants, the most common concern was identifying communities and regions at increased risk of flooding – three of the five groups expressed support for expanded floodplain mapping, although there were also some concerns identified related to data quality and the application of this mapping to identifying specific communities/populated areas at risk.

Coordination among various levels of government, and with other groups and sectors, was identified as a major concern related to this Strategy area. Participant groups noted concerns related to regional coordination (e.g., for diking), coordination with local Indigenous Nations, and coordination with industry (e.g., fisheries and aquaculture, use of agricultural irrigation tools for water capture and flood mitigation).

Survey participants also rated perceived challenges to integrating climate change into flood management. The items reported as challenging were:

- Financial resources (52% identified as a challenge);
- Staff capacity (43% identified as a challenge);
- Limited data and information (43% identified as a challenge);
- Lack of policy guidance (38% identified as a challenge);
- Limited predictive models (30% identified as a challenge); and
- Other (20% identified as a challenge).

“Other” challenges identified by participants included lack of political will to incorporate adaptation into decision-making, and resistance to implementation by the general public or local residents.

Two workshop groups noted expanding the River Forecast Centre as very important. These groups noted that the Centre supports the creation and broader adoption of new guidelines and actions, but also commented that these recommendations need to be matched with funding.

Drought and Water Scarcity

Over 90% of survey participants reported supporting each of the three proposed drought and water scarcity actions in the Strategy (piloting water supply and demand management plans where water scarcity impacts are likely, increasing knowledge of how climate change will impact water availability and quality, and strengthening the provincial drought management program).

Four of the six groups specifically discussed the issue of drought and water scarcity in the Strategy. There was some variety in the relative importance placed on this issue among different groups; for example, urban governments felt this was a lower priority than other issues such as flooding, while participants in the rural government group noted that water scarcity was a major risk and priority issue for single-source communities.

Two partner groups reported that more data, particularly watershed mapping, is needed to more effectively respond to, and mitigate, the challenges of drought and water scarcity. It was also noted by two groups that data collection and analysis would help governments and other groups and sectors better understand the links between drought, water availability, and wildfire risk.

Survey respondents noted that other issues or priorities should be considered and incorporated into water scarcity and drought preparation or response actions. These included water conservation programs and actions, use of nature-based solutions for water management and protection (e.g., key line design, ecosystem restoration), and increasing drought response capacity (e.g., storage and infrastructure solutions, understanding impacts on food security).

Reducing Risks from Ocean Acidification and Enhancing Marine Resilience

Slightly more than three-quarters of survey respondents supported each of the actions related to ocean acidification: expanding monitoring of ocean conditions on the B.C. coast (77% supported), and developing an ocean acidification action plan (81% supported).

Three groups touched on the issue of ocean acidification and actions promoting marine resilience. One group (academic/NGO participants) emphasized the need to support research and action plans – rather than just monitoring activities – such as short-term forecasting models to better understand the biological implications of ocean acidification.

Multiple groups noted the impacts of ocean acidification on food security, and the need to work with multiple levels of government (e.g., BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) to reduce these impacts. Local governments (urban and medium-sized communities), however, both noted that addressing this issue was outside of their mandate.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Six separate actions were proposed under the “Disaster Risk Reduction” section of Theme 1 in the Strategy, and all had support from a majority of survey respondents. Proposed actions, and their associated support, were:

- Developing further information, tools and guidance for including climate change considerations in disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning (95% support);
- Developing a new approach to prioritizing climate-related risks, supporting risk reduction and recovery (84% support);
- Exploring ways to address human health, mental health and addictions-related impacts of severe weather events and climate change (79% support);
- Exploring ways to use nature-based solutions to protect against the impacts of extreme weather (95% support);
- Creating programs to support local governments in reducing current and future exposure to hazards (88% support); and
- Collaborating with the federal government and Indigenous governments to create and coordinate equitable programs for disaster risk reduction that meet the diverse needs of Indigenous communities (88% support).

Four groups commented on disaster risk reduction in the Strategy. Of these, three (academic/NGO, federal partners, and medium-sized local government groups) indicated that risk reduction is more of a priority than preparing for extreme weather. Two groups specifically emphasized the risk of disaster risk reduction becoming reactive, rather than proactively looking to the future and planning for likely risks. These groups advised that developing more informational resources and tools is a top priority, and that actions will flow from these. Three groups also promoted the importance of nature-based solutions in disaster risk reduction. Survey respondents raised two additional issues: the need to provide resources for actions to be implemented at a regional level, and the need to include health impacts in research and planning for disaster risk reduction approaches.

3.2 Theme Two – Building a Shared Path with Indigenous Peoples

Twenty-five survey participants responded to questions regarding *building a shared path with Indigenous peoples*, and five of the eight groups discussed this theme (summarized below).

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓	✓	✓			✓		✓

Most survey respondents reported being in support of each of the proposed actions related to building a shared path to climate resilience. These included:

- Developing tools to bring the changing climate into government-to-government relationships (92% support);
- Creating opportunities for Indigenous-led research and innovation, connecting knowledge and decision-making to the land (84% support);
- Exploring ways to protect and preserve cultural heritage resources in a changing climate (76% support);
- Promoting collaboration among Indigenous communities for peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, development of guides and tools, and sharing information (84% support);
- Defining learning outcomes and developing curriculum for K-12 schools, other educational institutions, and practicing professionals in the province that address the changing climate and Indigenous values and epistemologies (88% support); and
- Exploring ways to address the human, spiritual, mental health and addictions impacts of severe weather events and climate change (92% support).

Academic/NGO and rural government groups indicated that the Province needs to take responsibility to engage with Indigenous Nations in nation-to-nation dialogues. Academic/NGO representatives emphasized the importance of understanding urgent community needs and working in partnerships with Indigenous Nations. Similarly, cross-sectoral workshop participants cautioned against engaging with Indigenous communities from a colonial mindset or framework that limits Indigenous communities’ abilities to advocate for their own interests. This priority was also reflected among survey responses, where several participants referenced the importance of meaningful collaboration with Indigenous nations that provides redress for systemic power imbalances. The youth group in particular stated the importance that B.C.’s justice system defend the rights of Indigenous peoples involved in activities to protect traditional territories. Rural government representatives identified the impacts that ongoing provincial treaty negotiations can have on land-use planning. The federal participants indicated that partnerships would need to be strategic and well-considered to ensure the best outcomes. Youth and cross-sector participants indicated that partnerships should be built on listening rather than telling Indigenous communities how responses to climate change will occur. All groups that commented on this theme, with the exception of federal partners, identified ways in which the Province could do more to engage with and support Indigenous Nations in meaningful nation-to-nation negotiations and partnerships.

Some groups noted that there were barriers to meaningful participation by Indigenous communities due to lack of funding. Academic/NGO and rural participants pointed out that a new funding model is important so that reliable and sustainable funding can be developed. Participants in these groups indicated that new funding models would show serious support for engaging with Indigenous Nations in government-to-government relationships, and that additional funding is needed for local Indigenous communities to engage with local governments on processes such as regional parks and trails strategies.

One option noted for alternative funding sources and models included resource revenue sharing; participants also stated that competitive and merit-based funding create an unequal playing field among Indigenous communities.

Rural governments also called for funding to support economic development and employment opportunities for Indigenous Nations to participate in implementation of the Strategy, whether in capital project or strategic capacities. This was echoed by cross-sector participants who indicated that Indigenous communities need tools and resources to independently manage long-term projects. Youth participants indicated that climate reparations should be paid to communities that have contributed the least to climate issues but are impacted the most.

Academic/NGO, cross-sector and rural participants indicated the importance of Indigenous perspectives overall, saying they “offer us a critical lifeline to unwind the damage of short-term and miasmatic western thinking when it comes to our interdependence with natural systems and the environment.” Academic/NGO participants indicated that “First Nations communities are leaders in climate action”, and that they do a great deal of work on the ground. Rural participants indicated that priority should be given to an approach where Indigenous knowledge systems inform how we become more climate resilient together. This emphasis on centering Indigenous knowledge was reflected in survey responses, where action 2 (creating opportunities for Indigenous-led research and innovation) was rated as a “top two priority” by 71% of respondents, and action 5 (defining learning outcomes and curricula that incorporate Indigenous values and epistemologies) was rated as a “top two priority” by 58% of respondents.

A few survey respondents also noted the need to support existing adaptation work and programming in Indigenous communities. These respondents urged the Province to support, and make use of (with permission), these existing programs rather than creating new ones. For example, many Indigenous communities were noted to already have established learning outcomes and curriculum for K-12 schools that incorporated Indigenous values and epistemologies in discussions of a changing climate.

3.3 Theme Three – Supporting Equitable, Climate Resilient Communities

Between 37 and 41 survey participants responded to questions about actions which included working in partnerships (*n* varied by survey item). Seven of eight workshop sessions featured breakout discussions on this topic, as illustrated in the table below.

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

The overarching themes emerging from these discussions were the importance of an equity lens in climate adaptation actions, needed support for regional collaboration, and the importance of community input on developing actions and strategies for climate-resilient communities. There was strong support among survey respondents for all six of the proposed actions:

- Incorporating climate change considerations into policy, planning and budgeting, and asset management practices (100% support);
- Facilitating a sustained regional collaborative approach to understanding and managing climate risks (100% support);

- Developing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health programs to address the human impacts of severe weather events and ongoing climate change (82% support);
- Building community programs to deliver basic public health needs during extreme weather events (92% support);
- Developing a B.C. food security plan addressing individual and household food security, food distribution in times of crisis, Indigenous food sovereignty and access to traditional food sources (92% support);
- Ensuring emergency plans and climate preparedness and adaptation strategies are inclusive (95% support);
- Incorporating future climate design factors into building codes (100% support);
- Improving risk assessment and management approaches for drinking water systems, wastewater systems, and watersheds (97% support);
- Working to better understand the disproportionate effects that climate change has on distinct populations (81% support); and
- Working with partners to expand extreme weather responses for shelters and programming (87% support).

All seven of the groups emphasized the importance of an equity lens when developing and implementing climate adaptation and GHG reduction strategies, and 95% of survey respondents supported or strongly supported inclusive approaches to emergency plans and adaptation strategies. Groups identified the need for an intersectional approach to examining policy impacts, perhaps guided by the federal GBA+ framework. Populations potentially disproportionately impacted by climate change included Indigenous peoples, populations who are unhoused or housing insecure, people with existing health and/or mental health issues, and people and families with low incomes. All groups emphasized that the Strategy actions could collaborate with, and benefit from, other government efforts that address inequities (e.g., finding homes for people without homes/housing insecure, addressing longstanding inequities faced by Indigenous peoples). A couple of the groups also identified the crucial concern of food security in a changing climate, emphasizing the need to develop strategies that will protect the most at risk from food insecurity.

Six of the groups identified the value in broader, regional collaboration; in particular, many groups identified concerns about the ability of small communities to take on major Strategy actions, and the opportunities for these communities to benefit from support from larger cities, or larger regional networks. It was felt that this approach will become more important over time as small communities, which may not have the resources to address the impacts of climate change, continue to address the impacts.

Multiple groups identified the need to center local communities when developing strategic actions to build “climate-resilient communities.” Participants acknowledged that local risks and community needs will vary throughout the province, therefore decentralizing the planning process for climate resilient communities will ensure that strategies meet local needs. The academic/NGO group suggested “a meaningful bottom-up approach to planning should be complimented with top-down funding mechanisms to deliver on priorities, directed by communities’ unique experiences,” while the youth leaders group suggested awarding provincial contracts to regional firms and businesses rather than

through a competitive RFP bidding process. Several survey respondents highlighted this issue as well, noting that there will be regional specificity to implementing adaptation actions, as well as the need to support Indigenous sovereignty in these processes.

Youth participants cautioned that actions to support climate resilient communities need to be very specific to account for interconnections between climate, society, health, economy and equity. Further, the cross-sector group stated that studying a problem for years is not the same as doing anything about it. Instead, they said the focus should be on supporting collaboration efforts between organizations that have already studied the issues impacting equity in communities. This support for broad-based adaptation approaches that consider all aspects of society was reflected in the survey, as well: 100% of respondents supported, or strongly supported, incorporating climate change considerations into a broad range of policy and planning approaches, and a few open-ended comments emphasized the need to focus on actions, especially preventative and proactive actions, to address the threats to communities in B.C. rather than only focusing on research and/or reacting to extreme weather impacts after the fact.

3.4 Theme Four – Sustaining Natural Resources, Species and Ecosystems

Between 37 and 38 survey respondents commented on the theme of *sustaining natural resources, species, and ecosystems* (n varied by survey item). Six of the eight workshop groups featured breakout discussions on this theme, as summarized below.

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Survey respondents showed high levels of support for all proposed actions under this theme:

- Developing tools and approaches for integrating climate change knowledge into the management of species, ecosystems, and natural resources (89% support);
- Developing approaches to map, protect, and restore corridors connecting natural areas, wildlife habitats, and other areas important to biodiversity (86% support);
- Improving monitoring, modeling and research to identify natural resources, species and ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change (84% support);
- Continuing to build provincial understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation solutions for parks and protected areas (81% support); and
- Determining specific climate change impacts and potential adaptation measures for priority species such as salmon, moose and caribou (86% support).

Discussion topics within this theme emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to ecosystem protection, and how effective management and protection of ecosystems can support greenhouse gas reductions. Three groups also discussed the involvement of First Nations and other Indigenous communities in conservation and management; these groups acknowledged the value of Indigenous knowledge systems, and recommended an approach to sustaining natural resources that works collaboratively with Indigenous Nations and values their distinct knowledge systems. Some survey respondents also highlighted the need to include human health concerns within the management of

ecosystems, such as considering human health impacts of watershed health and other climate change impacts.

Federal partners, youth leaders, and academic/NGO participants all identified the potential for effective ecosystem management to help reduce the impacts of climate change. For example, carbon sinks, wetlands, and at-risk ecosystems can play a crucial role in carbon capture and storage; management of these lands for the express purpose of both conservation *and* reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be prioritized and possibly included in legislation.

Issues related to forestry were raised by three groups. The impact of forestry, from a holistic perspective, was noted as being significant – wood bio-fuel, wood frame buildings, forested watershed, and habitats for fish and wildlife are just some of the outcomes or uses impacted by forestry policy and actions. Participants suggested that forestry be included in the Strategy to a greater degree.

Again, concerns about the limited resources of small communities were raised by local government representatives. Rural participants noted specifically that the data they collect in isolation is not sufficient for decisions to be made on sustaining natural resources, species and ecosystems. Coordination could include a centralized body to share ideas, and perhaps bring different sectors together. For example, youth noted that forestry and agricultural sectors are both major carbon emitters but the forests and farms which these sectors tend are negatively impacted by those same carbon emissions. It was felt that these sectors need to be brought together as part of a coordinated solution; industry and professional association participants indicated that it is possible to achieve both protection of ecosystems and a stable economy by prioritizing an approach that acknowledges the relationships between these systems. Survey respondents emphasized the need to take “decisive action” on protecting ecosystems and species; comments included the need to increase the “actionability” of options (focusing on actions rather than additional research and data collection), and reallocating resources towards legislation development rather than research.

Three groups raised the issue of partnership with Indigenous Nations in addressing this theme. Two groups (academic/NGO, and urban local government participants) highlighted the need to work in partnership with Indigenous Nations and incorporate the areas and/or species which they consider to be high priority into conservation and protection efforts. In contrast, participants from the industry and professional associations group suggested that this is an area which the provincial government has “primary jurisdiction” and needs to show “greater leadership and less facilitation.”

3.5 Theme Five – Building Resilience into Our Economy and Infrastructure

Between 42 and 43 survey respondents answered questions related to building a resilient economy and infrastructure (*n* varied by survey item). All eight workshop groups featured breakout discussions on this topic.

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Among survey respondents, support for all proposed actions related to this theme was high.

- Collaborating with business and industry, including Indigenous enterprises, to identify key climate change risks and develop tools to manage them (88% support);
- Working with the agriculture sector to build its resilience to climate-change impacts (91% support);
- Developing guidance to ensure climate change and future climate projections are accurately incorporated into environmental assessment and permitting processes (91% support);
- Working with Indigenous governments and local governments to strengthen transportation and communications infrastructure (90% support);
- Working with the forestry sector to ensure a resilient and diverse forest economy (81% support);
- Working with industry, local governments and Indigenous governments to identify ways that contaminated sites management and remediation can take the changing climate into account (86% support);
- Increasing support for provincial decision-makers to consider the changing climate in provincial land use planning and forest management initiatives (91% support); and
- Exploring and building on the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force to assess climate-related risks to food security in B.C. and promote innovative approaches to address those risks (90% support).

Many identified the importance of working *with* industry and business, to promote buy-in and develop realistic strategies. Other issues identified by participants included promoting safety and equity, and the importance of agriculture for addressing food security issues. Survey respondents provided a number of comments on the agriculture sector, such as the importance of supporting small, sustainable, and/or nature-based agricultural operations rather than the current focus on agri-tech.

Several groups raised different points related to the importance and/or benefits of collaborating with industry. These included:

- The major impact of industry on emissions, and the importance of their buy-in to make any substantial change (from the cross-sector group);
- Industry's involvement in land-use decisions and the impacts on surrounding environments (from the rural government group); and
- The broader financial impact of decarbonizing the economy and moving towards a sustainable economy (e.g., pension funds, insurers, credit unions) (from the industry and professional associations group).

Four groups (academic/NGOs, the cross-sectoral group, federal partners, and youth) noted that building a more resilient economy must also include approaches that promote equity and address worker health and safety concerns; one participant referred to this as a “values shift...away from a growth/consumption economic model.” There are opportunities to include considerations for co-benefits in these actions that address concerns such as wealth inequality and worker protections, and many participants in these workshops advocated for an approach that acts on these opportunities. Some survey participants also highlighted the need for greater industry accountability and transparency in collaborations with industry, including greater provincial regulation of industries and more stringent enforcement of these regulations. Further, a few survey respondents specifically noted the absence of workers in the proposed actions and

recommended that changes be made to ensure that worker safety and dignity is included in the Strategy’s actions related to the theme of resilient economies and infrastructure.

3.6 Theme Six – Leading the Way in the Provincial Public Sector

Twenty-nine survey respondents provided responses to questions on the topic of leading the way in the public sector, while three of the workshop groups provided feedback on this topic.

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓		✓					✓

Among survey participants, there was strong support for all six of the proposed actions:

- Assessing current and future climate risks to all public sector buildings (83% supported);
- Working with health partners to assess climate risks to health services and develop approaches for addressing them (97% support);
- Supporting the private sector to adopt fiscally responsible climate change risk assessment methodologies and resilient design solutions (through pilots and learning on public sector projects) (83% support);
- Sharing climate adaptation best practices across public sector organizations (93% support);
- Modernizing the public sector capital planning and approval process by requiring consideration of future climate in decision making (100% support); and
- Updating existing PSO reporting requirements to include climate risk management actions (90% support).

The primary theme that emerged from workshop discussions was the importance of capitalizing on, and learning from, past and ongoing activities. Academic/NGO participants commented on the existing precedents from the public sector that could serve as a start point to build onto. An additional theme that emerged among youth participants was the need to increase accountability by enforcing existing regulations and closing loopholes. This was also mentioned by survey respondents; many noted the need for better support for implementation of climate actions, such as knowledge translation of successful initiatives across sectors, and ensuring consistent approaches across ministries.

3.7 Theme Seven – Developing Foundations for Ongoing Success

Twenty-seven survey respondents provided feedback on the theme of developing foundations for ongoing success, while five of the eight workshop groups included discussion on this theme.

Academic-NGO	Cross Sector	Federal Government	Industry Prof. Associations	Local	Rural	Urban	Youth
✓		✓		✓	✓		✓

Survey participants reported strong support for all eight of the proposed actions associated with this theme:

- Building the Province’s capacity to respect Indigenous knowledge in decision-making and policy (89% support);
- Working in partnership with Indigenous governments, organizations and peoples to find solutions to climate change challenges within Indigenous ways of knowing (93% support);
- Developing a provincial “climate lens” to ensure that climate impacts are considered as part of all major decisions (96% support);
- Expanding provincial and local stream flow, groundwater, snow, climate, and ecosystem monitoring networks in partnership with Indigenous governments and communities, local governments and others (100% support);
- Working with health partners, in collaboration with Indigenous governments, communities and organizations, to conduct a climate change health, mental health, and addictions risk assessment for B.C. (93% support);
- Developing tools, guidance, and mapping to support decision making for a wide variety of users (93% support);
- Developing funding sources for provincial, Indigenous, and local government programs to understand, monitor, and manage climate risks (100% support); and
- Supporting the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium to expand its climate data, research, modeling, and training services (89% support).

Themes that emerged from workshop discussions stressed the importance of collaborative information sharing, knowledge exchange, and consistent funding. Additional themes highlighted the need to provide tools for implementation and evaluation of initiatives/actions (including a clear and measurable definition of success), and the need to help smaller communities build capacity to support ongoing success.

Academic/NGO, local government, and federal government participants emphasized the need for coordinated and collaborative actions, with plans and policies that span multiple communities and jurisdictions. Some groups noted that collaboration was necessary to address gaps in resources and capacity at the local or community level. Academic/NGO participants also noted that in addition to the implementation of collaborative, multi-jurisdiction actions there is a need to focus on culture change because “people act on things when it becomes personally relevant to them”.

3.8 Supporting Partners

At the end of the workshop, each group was asked a slightly different summary question about the actions, supports, collaborations and priorities the provincial government should take when engaging with partners. The table below provides an overview of identified actions or priorities for the Province and identifies which partner groups advocated for each of these supports. Discussion of each of these actions follows the table.

Table 3.2 Overview of Supports and Actions for the Provincial Government, by Partner Group

	Academic-NGO	Cross-Sector	Federal Partners	Industry Prof. Associations	Local Gov'ts	Rural Gov'ts	Urban Gov'ts	Youth Leaders
Change funding approaches	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Provide provincial leadership on education necessary to mitigate and adapt to climate change	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Coordination unit or contact in provincial government		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Coordinated data sharing			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Provincial support for regional approaches to adaptation actions	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Adopt a whole-of-government approach		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Provide provincial leadership on priorities, decisions, policies and actions	✓					✓	✓	
Make greater efforts to include all voices and impacted groups, especially marginalized communities		✓				✓		✓
Leverage existing research and resources			✓	✓				
Act now on climate change	✓	✓						

Changes to Funding Approaches

One of the most commonly raised concerns was regarding funding approaches to support climate adaptation; six of the eight workshop groups raised concerns related to this issue. Within this broad area, a number of concerns related to funding were brought up. These included:

- The need for more funding, generally, to support partner groups (particularly local governments) in implementing effective climate adaptation actions;
- Suggestions for changes to funding approaches to ensure greater stability of funding over time, rather than bidding and grant processes that do not guarantee funding for the long term; and
- The need for the expansion of funding opportunities to include a larger variety of partner groups (e.g., NGOs, Indigenous communities, other potential partner groups), and for funding to be available for a greater number of actions and approaches to climate adaptation (e.g., studies, updating of building codes and regulations, green infrastructure).

Provincial Leadership on Education

Six of the eight workshop groups identified provincial leadership on education and awareness-raising as a crucial action needed to support climate adaptation. Local government participants (from communities of all sizes) identified a need for public education, communication, and messaging around climate adaptation that should be led by the provincial government. It was noted that this type of education and messaging would be crucial to building local support for action on climate adaptation that would be taken at the local and regional levels. Multiple groups believed that more could be done to effectively communicate key messages about the threats that climate change poses to communities, how climate change will impact residents' lives in the future, and what actions are needed to reduce and minimize these impacts.

Coordination Unit in Provincial Government

Several groups suggested that a single point of contact within the provincial government for support on climate adaptation would be beneficial for a variety of groups and sectors. The role or duties envisioned for this unit included:

- Responding to questions and inquiries from all partner groups (e.g., Indigenous communities, local governments, industry) related to B.C.'s changing climate and adaptation;
- Disseminating updates to policies and actions to relevant groups and sectors;
- Collecting and disseminating feedback to relevant provincial partners; and
- Providing other coordination and support between provincial ministries and groups or sectors, as needed.

Coordinated Data Sharing

Concerns about data collection, sharing, and interpretation were raised by a number of workshop groups. These groups suggested that the provincial government could play a key role in creating and supporting a coordinated data collection, interpretation, and dissemination approach. Many groups noted that they lacked the resources or expertise to engage in these activities but would make use of these resources if made available at the provincial level. Data of interest included climate monitoring, performance measurement of climate mitigation and adaptation programs, messaging and key takeaways from studies and reports from throughout the province, and other relevant data.

Provincial Support for Regional Approaches

Many groups, especially local governments, repeatedly highlighted their concern that climate change impacts are felt at a regional level, and actions must be coordinated at a regional level. For that reason, there was wide support for the provincial government to provide support for regional coordination; supports in these cases could include funding for positions needed to support regional coordination among local governments, increased funding for existing regional organizations, and in-kind support in the form of provincial contacts participating in regional action plans and providing information, guidance, and collaboration with the provincial government.

Adopt a Whole-of-Government Approach

Several workshop groups highlighted the importance of adopting a broad-ranging, whole-of-government approach to climate adaptation that recognizes and acts on opportunities for co-benefits (i.e., opportunities for other sectors or social issues to see progress). Some examples of actions suggested by participants that would fall within such a whole-of-government approach included:

- Meaningful action on reconciliation through actions such as B.C.'s justice system defending the rights of Indigenous peoples involved in activities to protect traditional territories, and moving away from competitive grant-based funding systems for Indigenous climate actions; and
- Taking action to address challenges faced by populations who are unhoused or housing insecure.

These actions may not only address a major public health issue but could also incorporate adaptation actions such as updates to building codes and reducing the vulnerability of people without homes to extreme weather events.

Provincial Leadership on Priorities, Actions, and Policies

Three groups raised the need for provincial leadership to identify priorities and policies on climate adaptation. These groups noted that there is a need for greater clarity on which actions and strategies are of higher priority than others, to support decision-making at the local level. Particularly for local governments and other partners (e.g., Indigenous Nations, industry, NGOs) that may have limited resources to implement actions, clarity on which actions are of the highest priority and are expected to be most impactful are needed to harmonize action throughout B.C.

Greater Efforts to Include Marginalized Voices

A few groups indicated that there still is not sufficient inclusion of marginalized communities and voices in the Strategy and/or in climate action items. Some participants noted that it is precisely the most marginalized groups (e.g., people who are unhoused or housing insecure, low-income individuals and families, Indigenous communities, youth) who will be disproportionately affected by climate change and therefore their voices in planning for adaptation are crucial to an inclusive, equity-minded strategy.

Leverage Existing Resources

A couple of groups noted that there are considerable resources related to climate adaptation and reducing GHG emissions that already exist. Participants urged the provincial government to make use of these existing resources, to reduce duplication and act more efficiently on climate change.

Act Now

A couple of groups emphasized the urgency to address climate change and its anticipated impacts.

4. SUMMARY

4.1 Key Themes

Partner groups and survey respondents provided feedback on seven thematic areas for action under the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:

1. Preparing for extreme weather and climate risks;
2. Building a shared path with Indigenous peoples;
3. Supporting equitable, climate-resilient communities;
4. Sustaining natural resources, species and ecosystems;
5. Building resilience into our economy and infrastructure;
6. Leading the way in the provincial public sector; and
7. Developing foundations for ongoing success.

From this feedback, a few key themes emerged that could be considered guiding considerations or principles when developing and implementing actions under the Adaptation Strategy. Many of these themes emerged in discussion of the different actions or concerns listed above. These emergent themes were:

- Acknowledging the disproportionate impact that climate change will have on Indigenous communities and peoples, and engaging with Indigenous Nations in a nation-to-nation relationship that acknowledges and values their knowledge systems and approaches to managing ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Adopting an equity lens that acknowledges the disproportionate impacts of climate change on different populations and includes an intersectional approach that considers gender, race or ethnicity, class and income, and other factors that lead to societal inequalities;
- Needing to build support and buy-in among smaller groups throughout the province, particularly within communities to build support for local government actions, and among industry groups (including small businesses);
- Taking a regional approach to actions at the sub-provincial level, acknowledging that many actions may not be feasible for small communities to undertake independently but could be doable at the regional level, with funding and support from the Province;
- Incorporating conservation and protection of ecosystems and species as a solution (among others) to challenges caused by climate change, such as use of urban forestry, carbon sinks, and restoration of natural shorelines; and
- Sharing data and information at a provincial level, including analysis and interpretation, to ensure that all groups have access to valid and reliable data on climate change that is understandable and actionable.

4.2 Key Priorities

In addition, each group identified priorities for the provincial government that would support them in acting on climate adaptation, in a holistic and coordinated manner. From across all groups, a series of main actions and suggestions for the Province emerged. These were:

- Changing funding approaches to be more stable over time, more accessible to a greater number of groups, and in higher amounts to support the ambitious actions needed to respond to climate change;
- Providing provincial leadership on education and awareness about climate change and adaptation;
- Providing a province-level coordination contact or unit to support partners implementing climate adaptation actions in a holistic and complementary manner;
- Creating coordinated data and information sharing to support all partners working from the same base of data and priorities;
- Providing provincial support (both funding and in-kind) for regional approaches to adaptation actions;
- Adopting a whole-of-government approach, ensuring that adaptation and GHG reduction priorities are incorporated into all ministries' and organizations' service plans and priorities;
- Providing provincial leadership on priorities, policies, decisions and actions, to better support smaller partner organizations as well as support complementary approaches province-wide;
- Making greater efforts to include all voices and impacted groups in preparing for climate change;
- Leveraging existing resources and research available on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the province; and
- Acting urgently on climate change.