

Integrated Partnership  
for Regional Emergency  
Management in  
Metro Vancouver



# IPREM 2024 Annual Report

February 21, 2025

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# Message from the Co-Chairs

We are pleased to present the IPREM 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights the partnership's accomplishments with our local, provincial, and regional partners.

2024 proved to be a busy year for emergency management in the region, which saw several impacts from a changing climate. Many Metro Vancouver communities rallied in response to these emergency events, including extreme heat, two major landslides, and an atmospheric river event.

Between July and early August 2024, IPREM staff conducted virtual meetings with fourteen local emergency programs throughout the Metro Vancouver region. These meetings provided an opportunity to connect with staff overseeing or involved in their respective emergency programs, exchange information on key priorities and challenges, and confirm regional planning priorities for the current and upcoming year.

Metro Vancouver communities were also focused on understanding the Indigenous Engagement Requirements outlined in emergency management legislation. IPREM supported a workshop in June that highlighted emerging regional priorities, including new legislation and relationship building, which continue to be recognized and fostered.

In late November, IPREM hosted a workshop that brought together communications and emergency management experts from the Metro Vancouver region and provincial and regional partners to discuss and explore roles, responsibilities, and functions in regional disaster communications, and resources required to support coordinating consistent public emergency messaging across the region. Information gathered during this workshop will be used to provide a foundation for coordinating the region's public messaging around multi-jurisdictional emergencies.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of Policy Group Co-Chairs Minister Bowinn Ma and Board Chair George Harvie for their support of the partnership. We welcome Minister Kelly Greene and Board Chair Mike Hurley as the new Co-Chairs to the IPREM Policy Group.

We also want to extend our gratitude to Deputy Minister Tara Richards, for her March 2022 to November 2024 tenure as Provincial Co-Chair on the IPREM Steering Committee and congratulate her on her appointment as Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Replacing her in the role is Monica Cox, Assistant Deputy Minister of Partnerships, Engagement and Legislation within the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

Above all, we extend our gratitude to our partners for their dedication and hard work over the past year. In particular, we recognize the emergency management community for their support of IPREM's vision of a disaster-resilient region. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in the years ahead.



**Serena Lusk,**  
**Local Co-Chair**  
*Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Richmond*



**Monica Cox,**  
**Provincial Co-Chair**  
*Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Emergency  
Management and Climate  
Readiness*

# 2024 Annual Business Plan Highlights

IPREM’s Business Plan Highlights from 2024 stem from the ongoing commitment to identify emergency management planning gaps and support communities within the Metro Vancouver region with building resilience as we move through an ever-evolving emergency management landscape.

IPREM set out to provide opportunities for sharing emergency management experiences and inspire multi-disciplinary action across the region through implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA). This was accomplished by sharing EDMA updates and resources with the region including progress on regulation development, liaising with the Union of BC Municipalities Local Government Advisory Committee on Emergency Management Regulations, sharing information on funding related to Indigenous Engagement Requirements, and sharing guidance materials on the Evacuation and Local Recovery Period.

To ensure effective governance and efficient resources to achieve our goals, IPREM initiated a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and gained approval of IPREM’s 2025 Business Plan. To solidify ongoing operations, IPREM held three Steering Committee meetings, including one in-person session hosted in Richmond. A digital ratification of our 2024 Business Plan from the Policy Group helped to pave the way for further refinement of our planning purposes moving forward.

IPREM successfully met several of the 2024 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets and made progress on key initiatives. Notably, we continued to advance the development of the Regional Disaster Communications Strategy and made strides in the implementation of the 2024-2028 Regional Exercise Program.

## Key Achievements:

- Conducted 14 community meetings to strengthen collaboration.**
- Initiated the IPREM MOU review through a facilitated scoping session.**
- Hosted a regional workshop on public information coordination.**
- Shared professional development opportunities with emergency management practitioners.**
- Coordinated input on EDMA regulation development.**
- Reviewed external engagement processes.**

# IPREM 2024 Regional Collaboration

## IPREM 2024 Regional Project Highlights

Project	IPREM Activity
<b>Regional Disaster Communications Strategy</b>	Hosted a workshop to collect information on the roles and responsibilities associated with public information sharing to support a regional roles and responsibilities matrix.
<b>IPREM Regional Decision Making for Emergencies</b>	Completed editorial and graphic revisions to the model to align with exercise feedback and new legislation.
<b>2024-2028 Regional Exercise Program</b>	Led a working group to develop scenarios that could be used for future exercises involving cross-jurisdictional evacuations.
<b>IPREM Memorandum of Understanding Review</b>	Facilitated a roundtable discussion to review the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of the partnership and to establish future direction for a comprehensive review.

## Regional Disaster Communications Strategy

Regional communication has been identified within IPREM’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan as an ongoing gap for the Metro Vancouver region. The purpose of the Regional Disaster Communications Strategy is to provide a foundation for the Metro Vancouver region’s emergency management communicators, practitioners, and regional partners to come together and coordinate public messaging around multi-jurisdictional emergencies.

The strategy builds off IPREM’s previous work on regional communications such as, the 2019 Regional Communications Workshop (embedded within the 2018-2021 Regional Exercise Program) and the Regional Information Flow Diagram (as part of the COVID-19 Regional After-Action Review Interim Report Two).

### *Desired outcomes*



Increased regional capacity for public information



Increased efficiency and effectiveness of public information



Increased reach of public information



Consistent messaging for regional and sub-regional emergency events

On November 28, 2024, IPREM hosted a workshop that brought together communications and emergency management experts from the Metro Vancouver region, the Province, and regional partners, to discuss and explore roles, responsibilities, and functions in regional disaster communications, and resources required to support coordinating consistent public emergency messaging across the region.



Devon McDonald, Response Information Section Head, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, delivers a presentation on Crisis Communication Principles and Best Practices at the November 28, 2024 IPREM Regional Disaster Communications Workshop.

Participants received a presentation from a subject matter expert in response information from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR). The presentation provided an overview of best practices in Crisis Communication, current research in the field, and how EMCR has incorporated this into its work. This engaging presentation highlighted the importance of planning and preparing crisis communication to strengthen cross-jurisdictional collaboration and align messaging.

## IPREM Regional Decision Making for Emergencies

In 2012, IPREM developed the Regional Decision-Making for Emergencies model. This framework supports local authority Chief Administrative Officers, subject matter experts, and provincial emergency management with assessing emergency events and coordinating decisions efficiently and effectively.

In 2024, IPREM engaged a contractor to convert existing model material, including graphics into

### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Collect information on the roles and responsibilities associated with regional public information emergency communication.
2. Draft a regional roles and responsibilities matrix.

### KEY THEMES AND FINDINGS

- The importance of strengthening relationships across practitioners in emergency management and communications.
- There is a strong desire to collaborate and share regional resources.
- More investigation is required to determine what coordination mechanism would work best for the region.

a Microsoft Word format to support current and future revision using internal resources. Additional editorial and content updates were made to the model to reflect modernized legislation.

## Emerging Priorities

IPREM staff engaged with provincial and local planning teams for the FIFA World Cup 2026 to assess regional emergency planning requirements, identify potential gaps, and explore collaboration opportunities. Key areas of focus included regional coordination for group lodging and temporary accommodation for evacuees, particularly in consideration of tourism-related constraints during the event.

## Regional Engagement

IPREM’s three primary goals in 2024 centered on regional engagement, delivering on several ongoing projects, and continuing to strengthen the partnership through the improvement of internal processes, capacity, and governance.

### Regional Engagement Highlights



The image consists of three vertical panels illustrating regional engagement highlights. The first panel on the left shows a group of six diverse people sitting around a round table, reviewing documents. Above them are icons for a bar chart, a target, and a lightbulb. The middle panel features a grid of icons representing communication and strategy, including a speech bubble, a person, a target, a lightbulb, and a globe, all interconnected by lines. The third panel on the right shows two people sitting at a table with a laptop, with a presentation screen in the background. Below the panels are three bolded captions: 'HOSTED 14 COMMUNITY MEETINGS', 'ORGANIZED REGIONAL DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY WORKSHOP', and 'SUPPORTED INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS WORKSHOP'.

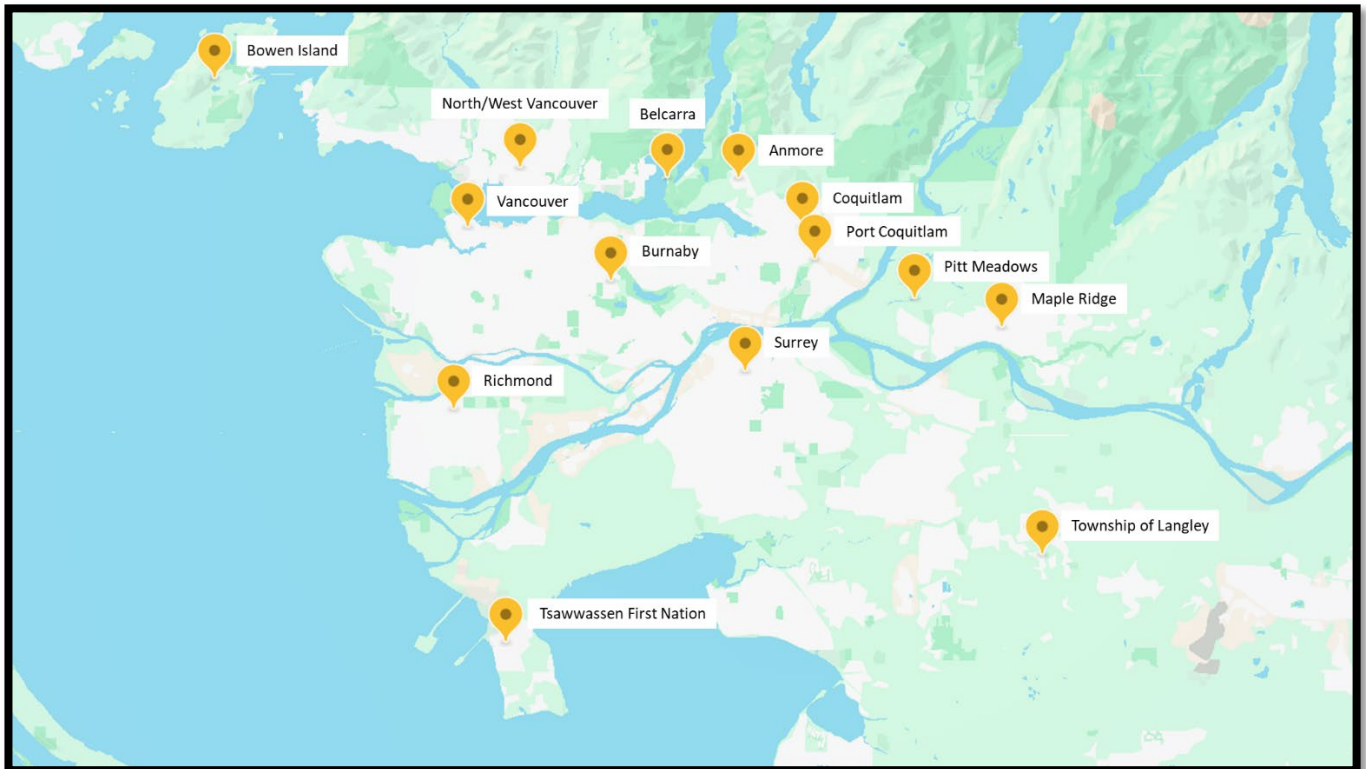
**HOSTED 14 COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**ORGANIZED REGIONAL DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY WORKSHOP**

**SUPPORTED INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS WORKSHOP**

## Community Engagement

Between July and early August 2024, IPREM staff held virtual meetings with 14 local emergency programs across the Metro Vancouver region. These meetings provided an opportunity to connect with emergency management practitioners, exchange information on key priorities and challenges, and confirm regional planning priorities for the current and upcoming year. A formal business planning session was also held virtually on August 14, to confirm priorities for the upcoming year and provide a second opportunity for local emergency programs to provide feedback on the partnership's plans for 2025.



Throughout 2024, communities across the region expressed strong support for the initiatives proposed by IPREM. Key focus areas included the development of a regional disaster communications strategy, updates to the regional decision-making model, execution of multiple regional emergency exercises, and support for the implementation of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)*. Many communities expressed interest in participating in these exercises, recognizing them as valuable opportunities to enhance preparedness and foster stronger relationships among emergency management professionals.

Emergency Support Services emerged as a critical area of focus due to the increasing scale and complexity of emergency events. Recent large-scale apartment fires and preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup underscored the need for enhanced coordination and capacity assessments at both local and regional levels.

Communities raised concerns regarding the clarity of EDMA, particularly its evolving local government emergency management regulations. Many sought guidance on how these regulations would impact their emergency programs and highlighted capacity constraints as a significant implementation challenge. Additionally, Indigenous Engagement Requirements were identified as an area needing further clarification. IPREM committed to relaying these concerns to the relevant authorities.

IPREM continues to serve a critical role in addressing Metro Vancouver's unique risk profile, which includes a diverse population spread across 21 municipalities, 1 Treaty First Nation, and 1 Electoral Area. Given the complexity of multi-jurisdictional emergencies and the significant resources required to manage them, IPREM continues to bridge a key gap in regional emergency planning. By providing structured collaboration opportunities at both provincial and regional decision-making levels, IPREM ensures that communities can coordinate effectively on emergency management strategies.

## Regional Participation

Throughout the year, IPREM actively participated in various opportunities to engage with partners, emergency management practitioners, and subject matter experts. These discussions and presentations help IPREM stay informed about emerging regional concerns, align strategies and solutions, and remain up to date on developments in emergency management.

In 2024, IPREM participated in the Metro Vancouver Post-Disaster Potable Water Distribution Exercise. The exercise explored the complex considerations and decision-making process employed following a large-scale seismic event which compromises the regional and municipal water transmission network. A key goal of the exercise is to develop draft potable water distribution plans that can be refined and scaled as necessary for future use.

IPREM also participated in the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Southwest forum and provided facilitation support. The forum served as a platform to share information regarding the IER funding program, allowing participants to gain a better understanding of available resources and application processes.

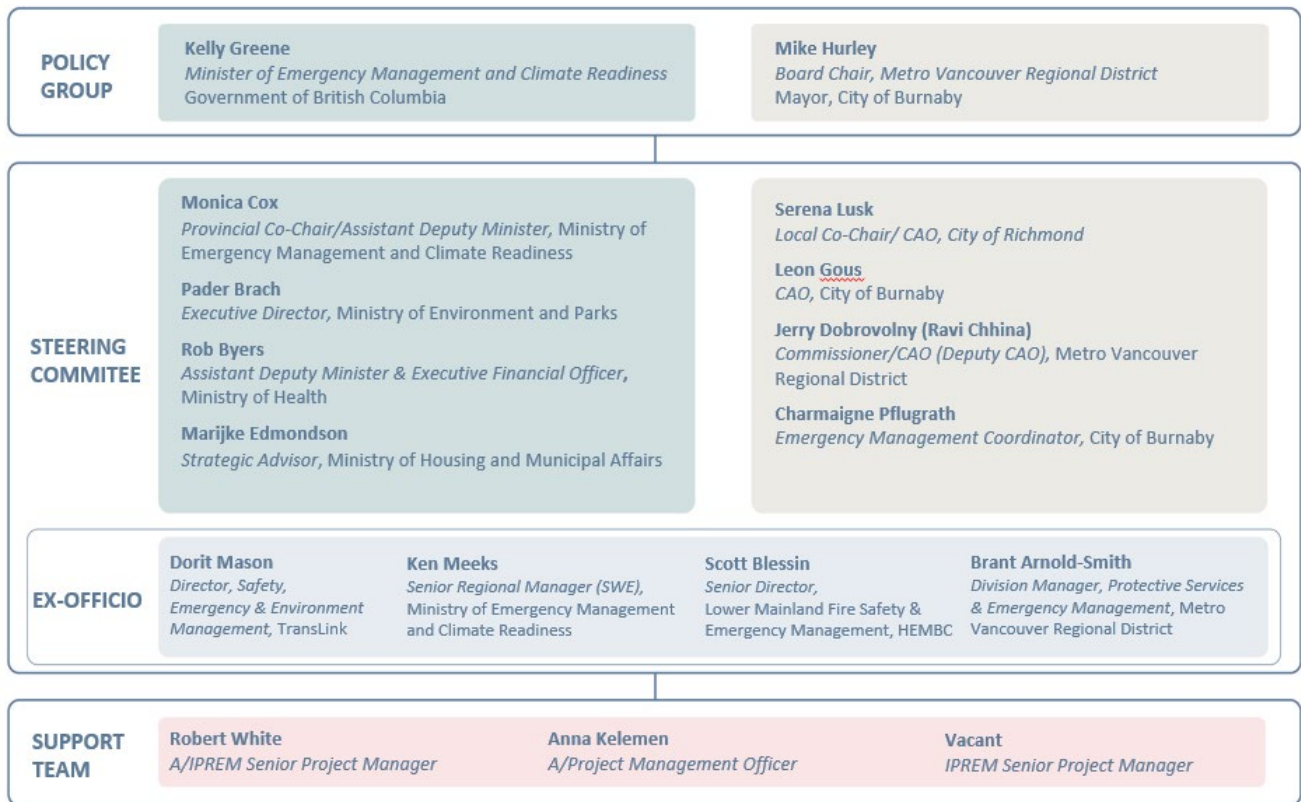
Further reinforcing its commitment to regional collaboration, IPREM Staff attended four Regional Emergency Planners Committee (REPC) meetings. The Committee is composed of local authority and emergency management partners in the Metro Vancouver region who meet to share information and to collaborate around emergency management planning initiatives.

# Strengthening the Partnership

Through regional coordination, strategic exercises, and after-action reviews, IPREM remains committed to developing and refining emergency management plans, enhancing preparedness, and strengthening partnerships across Metro Vancouver. Looking ahead, IPREM will continue to focus on fostering resilience, improving coordination, and ensuring that communities are well-equipped to respond to and recover from emergencies

## Organizational Chart

Governance Structure as of December 2024:



# 2024 Year-End Financial Statement

## Revenue

Metro Vancouver Regional District Contribution	192,030
Provincial Contribution	192,030
Funding From Reserve (Metro Vancouver Regional District)	58,564
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 442,624</b>

## Expenditures

<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	173,566
<b>Consulting/Professional Services:</b>	
Regional Decision Making for Emergencies	4,940
Regional Disaster Communication Strategy	5,763
<b>Travel</b>	308
<b>Other Related Items</b> (workshop supplies, catering, etc.)	859
<b>Metro Vancouver Administrative Services</b>	9,121
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 194,577</b>

*Note: Unspent funds are transferred to Discretionary Reserves held by the Metro Vancouver Regional District and are used for future IPREM initiatives.*