



## CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

Encompassing the Coastal Communities of Ocean Falls, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Oweekeno and the Bella Coola Valley

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P.O. Box 186, Bella Coola, B.C., V0T 1C0

Telephone 250-799-5291 Fax 250-799-5750

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Courtney Kirk, CAO, Emergency Program Coordinator;  
Bridget Horel, CEDO, Emergency Operation Centre Director

**Meeting Date:** February 8, 2018

**Subject:** Emergency Operations Centre Report



### RECOMMENDATION:

*THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District receive the Emergency Operations Centre report.*

### CCRD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS:

#### **Tsunami Warning:**

On Tuesday January 23rd 2018 a Tsunami Warning, originating from a 7.9 magnitude earthquake in the Pacific Basin near Kodiak Alaska, was issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center for coastal communities in four of the five Tsunami Zones in BC (Zone A, B, C, and D). The Tsunami warning impacted communities in the Central Coast located in Tsunami Zone B (Bella Coola, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Ocean Falls, and Wuikinuxv) [maps enclosed for Directors' ease of reference].

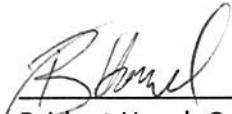
Tsunami Warnings are the highest level of tsunami alert. Provincial emergency notifications advised that a tsunami had been generated and might impact low lying coastal areas in the identified zones. Local governments in these zones were urged to activate their emergency plans and immediately begin evacuation of identified areas at risk for tsunami impacts.

In accordance with the Regional District's emergency plans (developed in 2005 and 2007) for emergency response coordination, CCRD communities located within Zone B conducted tactical evacuations of low lying areas. Some community members also self-evacuated.

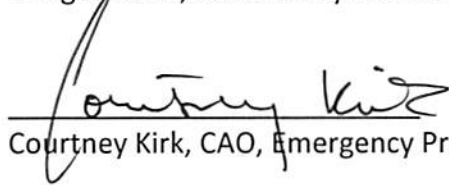
Although a tsunami was generated by this event, additional information and analysis identified that it no longer posed a threat for coastal areas of BC and the Tsunami Warning issued for coastal areas of BC was cancelled Jan 23, 2018 at 4:12 am.

Administration generated a statement reviewing the CCRD response that is posted on the CCRD website and Facebook page. Additional information can be found on the EMBC Website and at the National Tsunami Warning Centre.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer, EOC Director

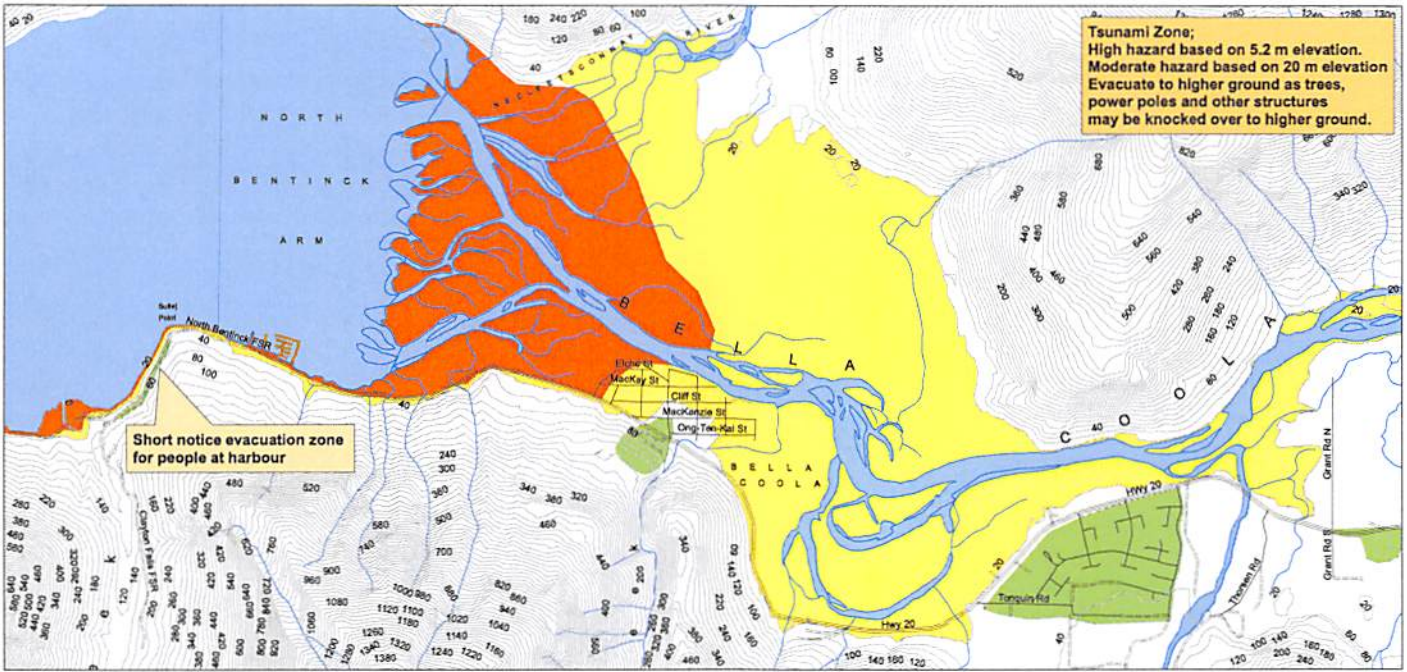


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Courtney Kirk, CAO, Emergency Program Coordinator

# Bella Coola Tsunami Hazard



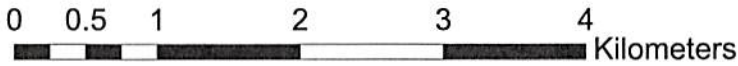
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1:25,000

Base map: 103A-020

January, 2018



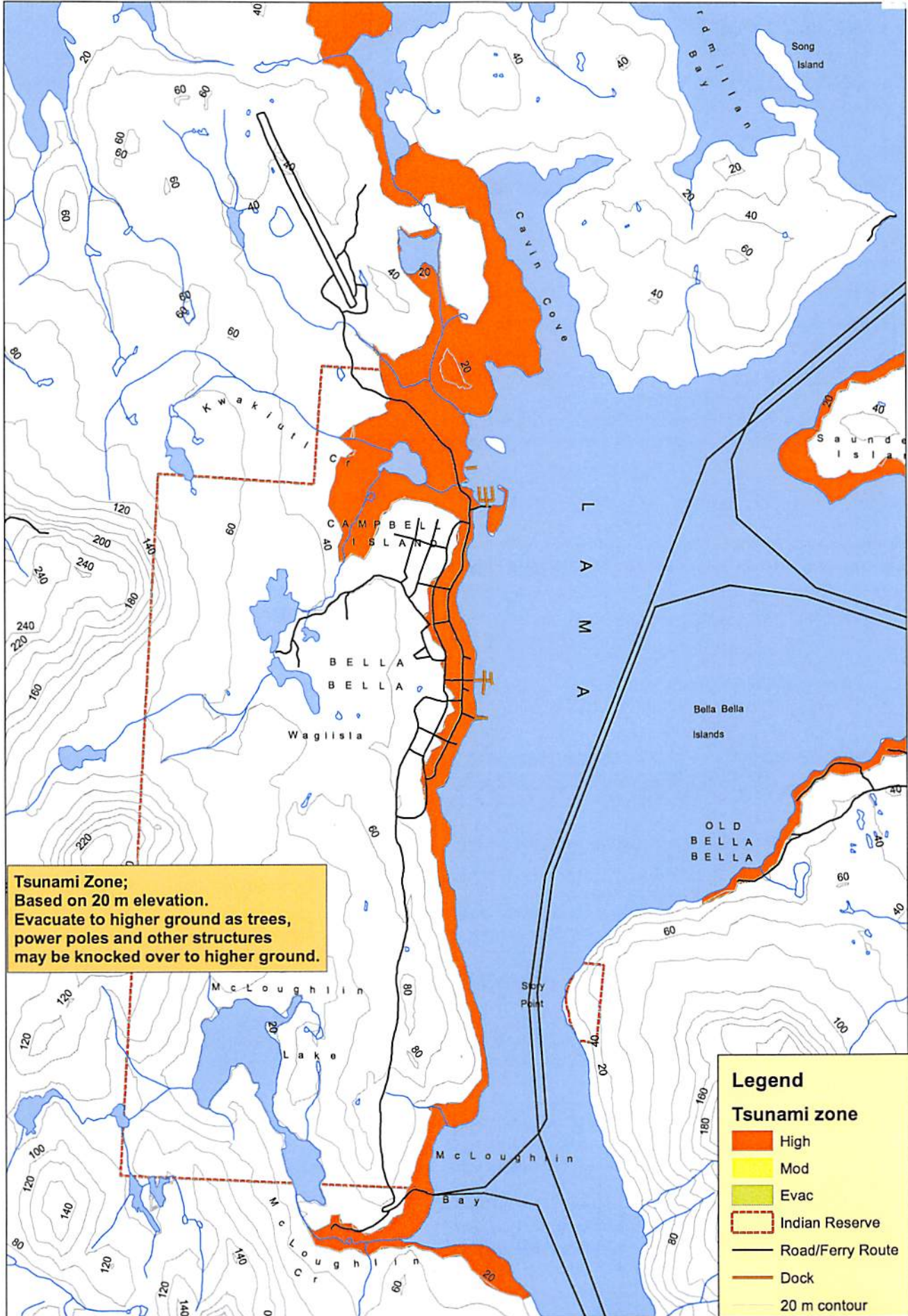
## Legend

### Tsunami zone

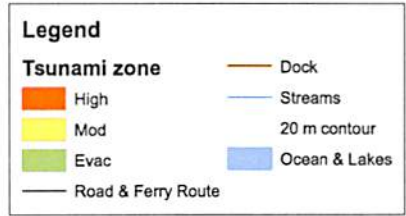
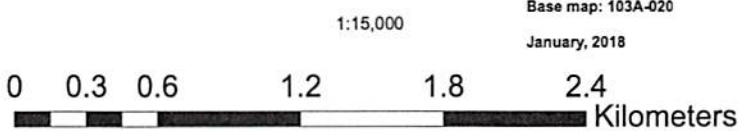
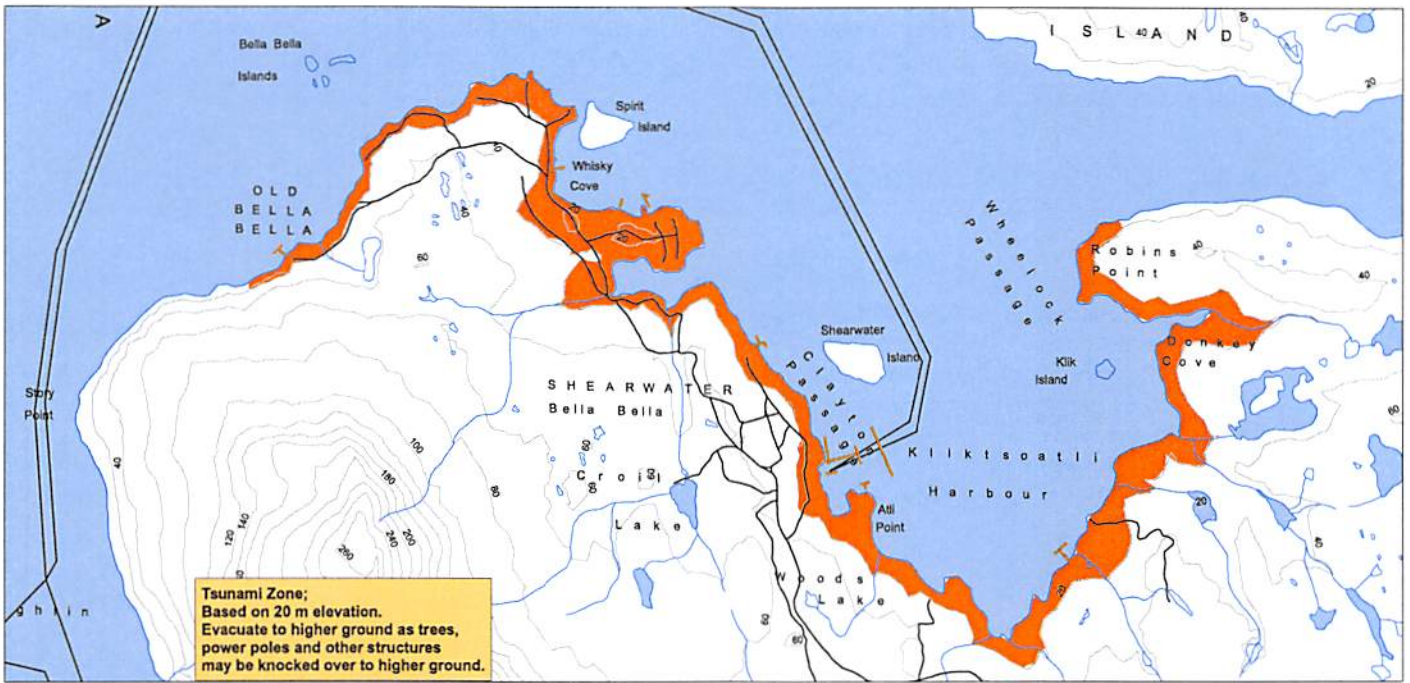
- High
- Mod
- Evac
- Dock
- 20 m contour
- Streams
- Ocean & Lakes
- Road & Ferry Route



# Bella Bella Tsunami Hazard



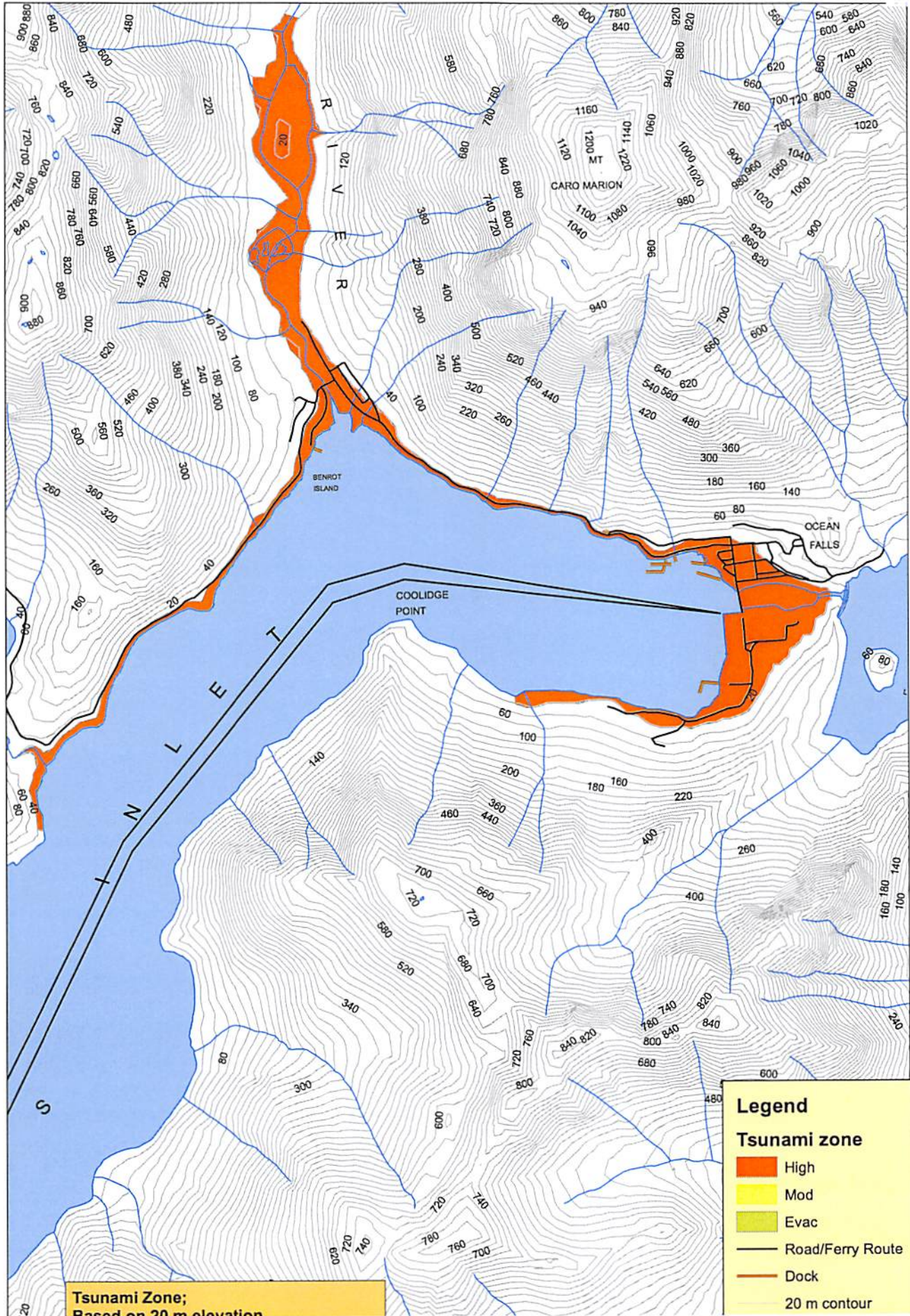
# Denny Island Tsunami Hazard



# Ocean Falls Tsunami Hazard



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Telephone 250-799-5291 Fax 250-799-5750

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Courtney Kirk, CAO, Emergency Program Coordinator  
Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer

**Meeting Date:** February 8, 2018

**Subject:** Emergency Program Coordinator February Report



**RECOMMENDATION**

*THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District receive the Emergency Program Coordinator Report, dated February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.*

*THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District receive the Interagency Emergency Council meeting notes, dated December 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, and the Connectivity meeting notes, dated December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.*

**CCRD EMERGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHTS**

**October Flooding/High Water Events:**

The Ministry of Transportation has notified the CCRD of consultation taking place with property owners at Jourdenais Road regarding project details and scope of their plans to armour the Bella Coola river bank in this area. The CCRD applied for funds through EMBC to make a contribution toward the site assessment work being conducted through MOTI to answer slope stability questions worrying property owners in the area whose properties were eroded during the October 2017 high-water event. Meetings have already taken place between MOTI and some affected property owners. Administration has been told these conversations will continue through to at least February 9<sup>th</sup>. Administration has offered to help facilitate and host meetings if helpful to MOTI in advancing the project.

**Sub-regional Interagency Emergency Council – Bella Coola Valley meetings:**

On December 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 a Bella Coola Valley Interagency Emergency Council meeting was held at Snootli Creek Hatchery.

At the CCRD's request there were representatives from several local and provincial agencies. Provincial representatives joined in person and by conference line and included staff from Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forest Lands

and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Citizen's Services, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Interagency Emergency Council also benefited from the attendance of special guest M.L.A. and Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Management Jennifer Rice, Nuxalk Nation elected Chief Wally Webber and the complete CCRD Board of Directors. Minutes attached.

A second meeting, focused on connectivity and emergency communications, was held on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017. Minutes attached.

### **Town Hall:**

A community Town Hall meeting was held in Bella Coola at the Moose Hall on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with MLA Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Management, accompanied by key staff from Emergency Management BC, the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Ministry of Citizen's Services. The full CCRD Board of Directors, the CAO and CEDO were also in attendance.

The focus of the town hall was primarily to address concerns about flooding in the Bella Coola Valley, and provided an opportunity for the public to ask questions of representatives from several provincial ministries and local government.

### **Emergency Training:**

The EMBC sponsored EOC Essentials training (previously scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>) and the CORE training (previously scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>) have both been postponed. Administration is in conversations with EMBC and Nuxalk College to identify new dates (potentially between March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>) and conversations are underway about possible opportunities to host emergency operations trainings in different locations within the CCRD.

Emergency Management BC has invited the CCRD's Emergency Program Coordinator and emergency program representatives from the Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk and Kitasoo Xai'xais Nations to participate in a marine emergency response training exercises to be held in Victoria on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (see attached outline of the scenario that will be drilled). EMBC agreed to provide the CORE training to the participants on February 26<sup>th</sup> to maximize the capacity building opportunity and value of the following day's tabletop training exercise.

### **Funding Applications:**

Four different funding applications have been submitted to support Emergency program work in 2018. Below is a summary of these applications to date:



- **National Disaster Mitigation Program – Stream 1** funding application for Bella Coola River and Tributaries Flood Risk Assessment  
Status: Successful at Provincial level and pending approval at Federal level.
- **UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Bella Coola Valley Flood LiDAR Survey and Orthoimagery**  
Status: Successful
- **UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Social Services Training and Equipment**  
Status: Successful
- **UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre Training and Equipment**  
Status: Submitted Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Other grant funding sources have been earmarked as potential sources to finance the CCRD's emergency preparedness needs. However, additional human resource support is required in order to undertake any further grant funding applications and to assist with the administration of any successful project proposals.

#### **Shared Emergency Program Coordinator Position:**

Director Sam Schooner, Area E attended the Nuxalk Nation's January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regular Chief and Council Meeting accompanied by the CAO/ Emergency Program Coordinator who presented to Nuxalk Chief and Council on the potential benefits of sharing a standalone Emergency Program Coordinator to coordinate emergency management activities both on and off reserve. Discussion was had about the merits of developing the proposal and Council provided leave to its Administration to work with the CCRD to investigate a possible structure, protocol and potential funding strategies to resource a pilot shared position. Unfortunately, to date EMBC indicates there is no mechanism through EMBC, the new bilateral agreement, or INAC to support in financing the potential shared position. Irrespective of the challenges in identifying third party funding for the pilot position and development of a new protocol, Administration continues to work with Nuxalk Nation representatives on developing the potential joint initiative.

#### **Mutual Aid Agreement:**

Nuxalk Nation representatives approached the Regional District to open discussion around updating the current Bella Coola Valley volunteer firefighter mutual aid agreement. Hopefully this very important opportunity to improve fire suppression services for all constituents in Areas C, D, and E may be pursued with the assistance of a shared Emergency Program Coordinator with the Nuxalk Nation (potential position outlined above).

Irrespective of the outcome of the potential establishment of the shared Emergency Program Coordinator Position, Administration will prioritize negotiations around the mutual aid agreement within current human resource constraints. Status updates and director engagement in the dialogues will be forthcoming.

#### **EMBC Provincial After-Action Debrief 2017 Wildfire Season:**

The CAO/Emergency Program Coordinator attended the final provincially hosted After Action Debrief session on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Kamloops as did Area E Director Sam Schooner representing the CCRD. Also in attendance was Nuxalk Nation Councillor Blair Mack.

Participants came from provincial ministry, municipal governments, regional districts, First Nations and support agencies. The session on January 23<sup>rd</sup> focused on First Nation's feedback on the 2017 wildfire response. The session on January 24<sup>th</sup> focused on Local Government and First Nation feedback on the 2017 wildfire response, with particular emphasis on Communication; Policy and Procedure; Leadership and Culture; Capability, Capacity and Training; and Materials, Resources and Technology.

Breakout sessions were held throughout the day where British Columbia officials solicited recommendations in each of the key themes from participants to help populate an upcoming recommendation report to be authored by George Abbott. Essentially, the information gathered in the debrief sessions will inform the Provincial After Action Report and Improvement Plan to enhance EMBC's response efforts in supporting communities in the future.

In addition to providing feedback specific to our region respecting potential improvements to wildfire response, Director Schooner, Councillor Mack and the CAO/EPC Kirk used the opportunity to share the idea of local governments and First Nations sharing emergency program coordinators to streamline on and off-reserve emergency management. Inquiries were also made about possible funding sources if the Regional District and Nuxalk Nation proceed with a pilot shared Emergency Program Coordinator position.

A First Nation Recognition Dinner was held on the evening of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, which was attended by CAO/EPC Kirk and Councillor Mack.

#### **Wildfire Recovery:**

An initial outline for the Wildfire Recovery Plan has been submitted to EMBC as per the provincial wildfire recovery framework requirements. For additional information on wildfire recovery please refer to the Community Economic Development Officer Report included in this agenda package.

**Outer-Coast Emergency Management:**

Administration is working to develop a budget and identify revenue sources to foster the interagency emergency council approach in the outer coast communities and to host a community meeting on Denny Island to discuss steps for new service establishment under the Local Government Act. Details will be forthcoming throughout the budgeting process for the Board's consideration.

**Potential CCIRA Emergency Management Protocol Discussions**

Director Travis Hall brought Administrations attention to a potential gathering at the end of March 2018 of the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA) to discuss a protocol agreement around emergency response. Administration will approach CCIRA about whether or not the CCRD's participation is welcome. Information will be forthcoming to the Board of Directors as it is gathered.

**Emergency Program Committee bylaw revisions:**

To further both the 'Emergency Preparedness' and 'Governance' 2018 Strategic Priorities, Administration will continue to develop revisions to the *Emergency Measures Regulatory Bylaw no. 325, 2000*. Among other new potential initiatives, recommended revisions will be informed by the current groundwork in establishing sub-regional interagency emergency councils.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer



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Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer, Emergency Program Coordinator



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## BCV Interagency Emergency Committee Meeting Notes

Date: December 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

Location: Snootli Creek Hatchery

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

### Meeting Participants

#### *Elected Officials*

Meeting Chair Sam Schooner, CCRD Area E Director

Allison Sayers, CCRD Board Chair, Area C Director

Frank Johnson, CCRD Area A Director

Travis Hall, CCRD Area B Director

Gary Brown, CCRD Area D Alternate Director

#### *Elected Officials – Special Dignitaries*

Chief Wally Webber, Hereditary and Elected Chief, Nuxalk Nation

Marhsall Hans Jr, Councilor, Nuxalk Nation

Jennifer Rice, MLA for North Coast, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness

#### *Local and Provincial Attendees*

Wilma Mack, Executive Director Nuxalk Nation

Tony Fiala, Senior Regional Manager EMBC NEA

Stephen Phillips, Ministry of Citizen Services/Network BC

Russ Hilland, Bella Coola Watershed Society

Sergeant Rick Skolrood, RCMP Bella Coola Detachment

Marlene King, Cultural Leader Nuxalk College

Maddy Laberge, Health Emergency Management BC (by telephone)

Lotte Flint-Petersen, Hydrotechnical Engineer, EMBC Disaster Mitigation Branch

Leslie Harestead, Administrator at Bella Coola General Hospital

Lawrence Northeast, Coordinator Nuxalk College

Kerry Phillips, Bella Coola Field Office, MFLRNORD

Kasey Foyston, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (by telephone)

John Willis, Rangers and Department of Fisheries and Oceans

James Hindley, Central Coast Communications Society

Heather Ross, BC Ambulance

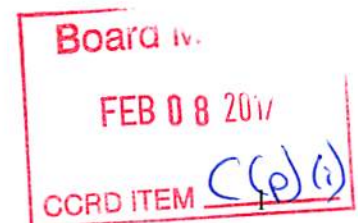
Haakon Hammer, Snootli Creek Hatchery, DFO

Devin Girard, Central Coast Communications Society

Dennis Tippie, Snootli Creek Hatchery, DFO

Debbie Alexander, Regional Manager EMBC NEA

David Brown, Central Coast Communications Society



Carl Harestad, Maintenance Coordinator Bella Coola General Hospital  
 Brian Epps, Senior Regional Specialist, Water and Dike Safety MFLNRORD  
 Bonnie Cahoose, First Nations Health Authority  
 Bill van Egteren, Department of Fisheries and Ocean  
 Andrew Stapelton – Bella Coola Fire Department  
 Alan Stebbing, Senior Environmental Emergency Response Officer (by telephone)

*CCRD Staff, and Contractors:*

Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer/Emergency Program Coordinator  
 Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer/EOC Director  
 Wendy Kingsley, Administrative Assistance, ESS Director Designate  
 Hans Granander, Contractor Updating Emergency Plans  
 Jessie MacDonald, Contract Recovery Manager/Grant Writer  
 Caitlin Thompson, Contractor Wildfire Recovery

*Some invitees were not able to attend the meeting. Notes are detailed to provide a comprehensive overview of the meeting*

1. **Welcome by the Chair, Sam Schooner, Director Area E**
  - Opening Prayer by Marlene King and Lawrence Northeast
  - Sam Schooner shared the intent of bringing everyone together
  - Acknowledgement of special guests and elected officials
2. **Intro of Emergency Management BC (EMBC) by M.L.A and Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Management, Jennifer Rice**  
 EMBC is housed within the Ministry of Public Safety. Mike Farnworth is the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. [See Ministerial Mandate Letter.](#)

Emergency Management BC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including planning, training, testing and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness. Significant factors in emergency planning were stressed including:

- risk assessment and review of past events and experiences that have impacted the region
- the need to work with key stakeholders to prepare for the impacts of climate importance of liaising with First Nations and Indigenous people
- the need to understand what communities face in emergencies and what is required to support resiliency.

*Intro of the Provincial Staff:*

Tony Fiala, Senior Regional Manager EMBC NEA  
 Debbie Alexander, Regional Manager EMBC NEA  
 Lotte Flint-Petersen, Hydrotechnical Engineer with knowledge about floods and flooding  
 Stephen Phillips, Ministry of Citizen Services/Network BC with  
 Brian Epps, Senior Regional Specialist, Water and Dike Safety MFLNRORD  
 Kasey Foyston, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (by telephone)  
 Alan Stebbing – Ministry of Environment Emergency Program, Response Officer (by telephone)

### 3. Provincial roles and lines of communication during a state of emergency

Debbie Alexander shared that Emergency Management BC is responsible to British Columbians for leading the management of provincial-level emergencies and disasters and supporting local agencies and governments within their areas of jurisdiction. To illustrate the types of emergencies and which ministry plays lead response, three areas were the focus for this meeting - flooding, wildfire, and oil spills.

Once there is a task number, EMBC can support with supplies and human resources (i.e. Public Information Officers).

#### a) Flooding

**Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) & Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) have a lead role** and EMBC provides support to local governments. When there is the expectation of a flood, the River Forecast Centre will put out high streamflow advisory or a flood watch depending on the situation. When the advisory reaches flood watch, the local government can call EMBC and ask for a task number.

Lines of communication: Local government/First Nations raise concern with EMBC; EMBC consults with MOTI and/or MFLNRORD and then liaises with the local government to assist with coordination of efforts to mitigate or prevent flood damage. EMBC will facilitate conference calls with local authorities, First Nations, the river forecast centre, local RCMP, health representatives, and other bodies to ensure that all parties receives the same information.

EMBC has the authority to deploy assets and resources during emergency response. Sandbags, Hesco Baskets, and sandbagging machines are Provincial resources that can be made available. Other flood control and protection systems, such as Tiger dams, are a new resource that EMBC has been able to acquire. Subject matter experts can be requested under a task number and made available for consultation/training through EMBC. In consultation with the local authority, EMBC can request a flyover that would include flood observers, assessors, and specialists from MFLNRORD. Availability of some assets is not limited to emergency response, such as sandbags.

##### i. MFLNRORD

Brian Epps added additional information in regards to the [BC Flood Response Plan](#) which describes the methodology the provincial government will utilize for coordinating activities to manage a flood event MFLNRORD is involved with flood forecasting, technical resources and specialists, and providing regulatory approvals.

The fishing needs of the Nuxalk Nation are being affected by the sediment loads. Community members expressed interest in having the river cleaned up so that areas are more accessible.

Epps explained that from a regulatory perspective, debris removal can happen quite easily as a flood prevention options, if everyone is in agreement (DFO, local community, First Nations). For instream works there are engineering and environmental reports that are required. MFLNRORD may refer to DFO during this process and engage in consultation

with First Nations. In a non-emergency situation, MFLNRORD would be the contact for debris removal, typically undertaken when there are few fish in the rivers. MFLNRORD works to ensure that efforts will not have adverse effects on a neighbouring property, other water users, and the environment, fish habitat (requires engineering studies). Approval of an application for debris removal may take 2-3 months.

ii. MOTI

Kasey Foyston (by phone) shared the four projects underway since the October 23-27 high water/flood events. MOTI will be consulting with the Nuxalk Nation. The Ministry's focus will be on saving the highway and the highway right of way. The information below was provided by Kasey in a follow-up email:

*Concerning the flood damage from the high water event in October 2017, we currently have four different areas in the valley that we are looking at and have mitigation plans for. IRL will be constructing 3 sites (Eagle Creek, Wright/Tweedsmir Creeks, and Mack road culvert installation), and the Ministry will undertake the larger project at Bella Coola river/HWY 20. Currently, IRL is working on Eagle Creek. They plan for five days of construction to remove the debris bedload, and following this will move to Wright/Tweedsmir for another estimated five days construction once permits from are in place. It should be noted that both these sites are located on an alluvial fan, therefore should not be expected that channel modifications will remain functional indefinitely.*

*Wright Creek/ Tweedsmir Creek*

- *Construction waiting for Parks approval*
- *Bedload under bridge already cleared away*
- *Re-establishing creek beds and construct rock weirs to divide water flow between both channels*
- *Construct catch basins for future debris build up*
- *IRL completing works, under MOTI guidance*

*Eagle Creek*

- *Currently under construction*
- *Bed load already cleared from under bridge*
- *IRL to complete the works under MOTI guidance*
- *Removing bedload and construct weirs up stream to mitigate future flooding*
- *To construct catch basins for future debris build up*

*Bella Coola River/HWY 20 east of Jourdenais road*

- *Large scale project*
- *In the planning phase*
- *Ministry to undertake this project*
- *Geotech and hydrotech engineers involved to determine best course concerning mitigation of future erosion*
- *The goal is to initiate remedial repairs prior to freshet*
- *Aerial surveys lined up for this and other construction areas*

- *In process of consulting with First Nations*
- *Works may include arming the south bank and other measures to prevent further erosion to bank*

*Mack Rd.*

- *To install 1200mm culverts on west side driveways*
- *To re-ditch both sides of Mack road*
- *Works intended to aid water flow and prevent debris building up and blocking smaller culvert entrances.*
- *To be completed by IRL as time permits.*

MOTI hopes to have a temporary fix soon to get the Bridge at Salloompt back to its load-bearing weight. They are waiting for the bridge engineers.

**Conversation around mitigation:**

There is an interest from the community to have the likelihood of flooding and other disasters assessed and then to have changes made before events happen.

Dike Maintenance Act and the Water Sustainability Act provide standards and guideline that influence decisions and plans for mitigation.

MFLNRORD received an application in 2013 for funding from the CCRD. After preliminary assessments MFLNRORD agrees that work needs to be done to enhance, repair, and extend the dike. A full engineering study would be required.

A need was identified to discuss priorities of the community for projects such as this. The CCRD would have had to borrow upwards of a million dollars which would have resulted in tax increases and the referendum that was held regarding the airport dike failed in 2013.

Lotte Flint-Petersen, former Deputy Inspector for Dikes, explained that a regulated dike must have a "Diking Authority" and the maintenance costs of the dike must be covered going forward by the local authority. There are funding opportunities to cover the initial construction costs of the dike. A regulated dike must have the Diking Authority in place along with Operational and Maintenance plans for the dike. This is to ensure its integrity is preserved and it can function as intended and provide flood mitigation to the area behind the dike.

Flood mapping will help determine the areas at risk of flooding. The flood mapping would show the one in 200 years return period flood event. Mapping can identify areas where sediment levels are high and help to determine which areas require attention.

*For information on the funding options currently available to support mitigation, please see notes under section 11.*

b) Marine Oil Response

Alan Stebbing from Ministry of Environment (by phone) explained that Marine Spill Response is led by Coast Guard federally but that the Province is involved when the shore is affected. If there is a significant event MOE contacts EMBC to coordinate a call with the



local authorities in the area that will be affected. If an incident occurs, an on-call EMBC regional duty manager will contact the local authorities and First Nations communities to share updates.

MOE becomes the lead agency in regards to spills and will deploy resources in a couple of different roles including:

- i. Monitoring
- ii. Augmenting the responsible party (will step into this role very quickly if needed and if the potential for a spill is high)
  - Deploying specialists, such as shoreline cleanup assessors or communications officers, to work with partners.
  - Becoming a part of Unified Command during an incident. This occurred during the Nathan E Stewart, where the Heiltsuk Nation, the Coast Guard (Federal Lead), the Ministry of Environment (Provincial Lead), and Kirby Marine (Responsible Person) formed unified command to deal with the incident
  - Taking over the response to a spill when a responsible person is unable, unwilling or unidentified. This will include ensuring a spill is cleaned up and then seeking cost recovery.

#### 4. **Update on Jake Shearer incident**

Travis Hall, CCRD Area B Representative, explained that the Jake Shearer Incident occurred off of Goose Island, an area rich in resources, important for the Heiltsuk Nation. Hall noted that the incident and the clean-up standards have a significant impact on village sites and livelihoods.

With Nathan E Stewart (NES) spill and the Jake Shearer incident as examples, there was discussion of Nation to Nation response and the need for collaboration with First Nations.

NES revealed a lack of training for responders that negatively affected the community.

The Jake Shearer incident highlighted the use of unsuitable transport in coastal waters.

#### 5. **Introduction to proposed Indigenous Marine Response Centre in Heiltsuk Territory –**

Travis Hall noted that the proposed Marine Response Centre would improve communications with the Nations and address concerns/issues relating to marine traffic along the Coast. The waters are challenging in the area and the Marine Response Centre would allow for equipment to be on-sight, would ensure that a timelier response, and would use local knowledge of the region and local expertise.

Additional information is available at: [http://www.heiltsuknation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/HTC\\_IMRC-Report\\_Nov-15-2017.pdf](http://www.heiltsuknation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/HTC_IMRC-Report_Nov-15-2017.pdf)

#### 6. **Introduction to the upcoming Emergency Operation Centre Essentials training (to be held in Bella Coola at the end of Jan 2018) and Core training.**

The EOC Essentials course is put on by the Justice Institute of BC and is geared towards anyone who would be working in the EOC. The course covers the emergency planning cycle and the roles and responsibilities of the different EOC functions.

The [Core training](#) program is for a broader audience including elected officials, First Responders, people involved with the emergency planning committee, etc. The Core provides an overview of: emergency management in British Columbia; the various emergency management programs and the roles and responsibilities of the people involved; and the systems, processes and structures for mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and disasters.

There can be up to 24 participants in the EOC essentials and the Core is unlimited.

There is interest in having these courses offered on the outer coast as well. EMBC noted that they are looking at having trainings hosted in communities that they have not held them before.

#### 7. **Update on connectivity initiatives impacting CCRD**

Stephen Phillips provided an update on his role in working to improve communications infrastructure (particularly broadband) and working with small internet service providers (ISPs) and groups. Network BC is encouraging a regional approach to connectivity problems. It was suggested that communities that work together to develop a regional strategy, to serve a broader set of communities, have a better chance of getting funded.

Stephen identified that there are a couple of projects that have been put forward for funding and they have the support of the Province. These would help to create redundancy in coastal communities. Currently the Province is waiting to hear back from the Federal government and are anticipating that an announcement about these projects will be made soon.

Conversation around the table:

- The internet coverage map looks accurate on Network BC but the cell coverage maps on Network BC show that the extent of cell reception is larger than it is.
- None of the Ministries can login if there is no internet.
- Efforts underway to increase redundancy in the region.
- Nuxalk Nation has just doubled their Bandwidth and is working with Telus for fibre optic and improved cell service.
- It is important to expand cell service to the hill.
- There was a lot of concern around connectivity during the wildfires. From a firefighting perspective, if communications were lost between those working directly on the fire and the helicopters it would be very concerning.

#### 8. **Review of updated Bella Coola Valley Emergency Plan draft**

Hans Granander, consultant working on the plans, gave an update on revisions. He is working to have the full EMBC template and to develop an "Emergency Response Manual" which is meant to be a step-by-step guide for responding to an emergency.

A draft document was made available for review and comment. The document provides a broad summary of the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, and resources available. The feedback from people in this meeting will help to adjust/revise the draft document.

The hope of the CCRD is to use the shorthand version to plan a tabletop exercise in the spring and potentially involve youth to test the user friendliness of the document.

EMBC staff identified that a one pager for the Evacuation Plan would be an excellent addition to the "Emergency Response Manual" as this will also help PREOC support the community during an emergency situation.

**9. Update on wildfire Emergency Social Services (ESS) debrief Prince George**

Wendy Kingsley, ESS Director Designate, was at an After Action Review to discuss ESS during the Wildfires. Wendy explained that the Province is working to digitize the ESS systems and further the ESS Modernization Project. There will still be paper as some communities may prefer to use paper forms. The intent is to make the whole process easier for everyone.

**10. Update on wildfire recovery initiatives**

Jessie MacDonald, Wildfire Recovery Manager, described her role as assisting in the transition from response to recovery. She will be talking to businesses and non-profits to get an understanding of the economic impacts resulting from the wildfires. A few early recovery needs have been identified and the CCRD website now has a page with Wildfire Recovery Resources posted.

Recruitment and training for local wildfire fighters was brought up by the group and the importance of having people with local knowledge work on the fires was discussed.

**11. Update on status of funding applications and new emergency management fundraising initiatives**

Lotte Flint-Petersen, with the EMBC Disaster Mitigation Branch, described that there are two funding streams for mitigation efforts.

- i. The [National Disaster Mitigation Program](#) (risk assessments, mapping, planning, and small scale structural works) is run by Public Safety Canada. This funding is 50% Federal and 50% Provincial.

The CCRD has applied to stream 1 funding. The CCRD application which has been successful through to the Province level is now being reviewed at the Federal level. The Province is fairly confident that the CCRD application will be successful.

- ii. The [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) (risk assessment, mapping, and flood mitigation planning) is administered through UBCM. This funding is Provincial.

The CCRD has submitted an application for flood risk mapping. There has been a technical review and the application has been recommended for consideration by the UBCM evaluation committee. The UBCM evaluation committee is reviewing the applications and an announcement should come soon. The Province is fairly confident that the CCRD application will be successful.

Sam Schooner closed the meeting with an acknowledgment of the people in the room who have taken the time to come to the meeting and to visit the community.



P.O. Box 186, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0  
Phone (250) 799-5291 Fax (250) 799-5750 Email: info@ccrd-bc.ca

*Encompassing the Coastal Communities of Ocean Falls, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Oweekeno and the Bella Coola Valley*

Connectivity Meeting  
Date: December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Location: Forestry Building  
Time: 9:00am -11:00am

**Meeting Participants**

- Marshall Hans Jr, Councilor, Nuxalk Nation
- Debbie Alexander, Regional Manager EMBC NEA
- Tony Fiala, Senior Regional Manager EMBC NEA
- Stephen Phillips, Ministry of Citizen Services/Network BC
- Roman Mateyko, Executive Director Ministry of Citizen Services (by phone)
- Dave Jephcott, Heiltsuk Economic Development Corporation/Waglisla Cablevision (by phone)
- Carl Harestad, Maintenance Coordinator Bella Coola General Hospital
- James Hindley, Central Coast Communications Society
- Devon Girard, Central Coast Communications Society
- David Brown, Central Coast Communications Society
- Keith Hamilton, Nuxalk Development Corporation, EDAC Member
- Kerry Phillips, Bella Coola Field Office, MFLRNORD
- Wilma Hallam, Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Member

*CCRD Staff and Contractors*

- Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer/EOC Director (meeting chair)
- Hans Granander, Contractor Updating Emergency Plans
- Jessie MacDonald, Contract Recovery Manager/Grant Writer
- Caitlin Thompson, Contractor Wildfire Recovery

**1. Welcome**

Meeting was opened with acknowledgment that the meeting was taking place on Nuxalk Nation traditional territory. Special guests from EMBC, Network BC, and from the local Internet Service Providers were welcomed followed by a round of introductions.

**2. Projects Impacting the CCRD**

Stephen Phillips and Roman Mekayko from the Ministry of Citizens Services provided an update on proposed projects related to connectivity. There are two joint connectivity projects of which one will directly impact the CCRD. Both projects have passed the Provinces technical evaluation and are now with the federal government for a decision regarding funding.

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 CCRD ITEM (c)(ii)

The intent of these projects is to enable permanent solutions to bring capacity and resiliency to areas along the coast. The Province is anticipating to hear details about the success of the proposed projects in the near future but cannot discuss the proposal details at this time.

Update: January 17, 2018 the joint project 'Connected Coast' has been formally approved and announced. See the [press release](#) for more information.

There was discussion about the [Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission's establishing a universal service](#) objective such that Canadians, in urban areas as well as in rural and remote areas, have access to voice services and broadband Internet access services, on both fixed and mobile wireless networks.

CRTC is currently working to get feedback on how the funding to support this service objective will roll out.

Communities have expressed a need for backbone infrastructure to bring service to rural and remote communities as well as a need for upgrades to existing infrastructure.

Ministry of Citizens Services wants to see good infrastructure for rural and remote communities as well.

### 3. **Low Tech Emergency Communications**

#### a) **EMBC – Amateur Radio Backup Communications**

Debbie Alexander identified that there are very few amateur radio (Ham radio) operators in the Central Coast and that EMBC would like to establish communication links between PREOC and Ham radio operators for times when there is limited communications.

Debbie will follow up with EMBC amateur radio representatives on potential funding for Ham radio equipment in the Emergency Operations Centre and for training of those interested in becoming operators.

An EMBC amateur radio representative could be part of a follow up emergency communications meeting that focuses on emergency communications at the "low tech" level.

#### b) **Broadcasting Emergency Updates/Information**

Nuxalk Radio has experience with emergency broadcasting and may be interested in amateur radio. Heilstuk now has a radio station as well and this can be used for emergency broadcasting.

There is a need for improved infrastructure for radio communications in an emergency too. For example, Nuxalk Radio can broadcast clearly to 4 mile but does not have communications infrastructure to get the information to a larger geographic area.

Central Coast Communication Society (CCCS) has worked closely with Nuxalk radio (91.1) and are interested in putting up radio repeaters on towers.

**e) VHF Radio Communications within the Bella Coola Valley.**

The Coastal Wildfire Centre (contact Kerry Phillips) dispatches throughout Vancouver Island and has radio contact information for a number of emergency management bodies.

RCMP is moving from analog to digital for their radio communications.

RCMP perspective – it would be good to have Radio hardware in place for interagency communications with handheld radio. The RCMP will be going digital and there is concern that the analog will be lost in this process. Police operations require both.

The CCRD Emergency Plan Updates look at communications as well. There are multiple groups doing different work in the valley and the central EOC acts as a coordinating body in an emergency. It is important for the Emergency Plan to include identification of who has radio communication in the event that phone and internet go down.

CCCS is interested in setting up radio repeaters and the Bella Coola Community forest has a repeater for radio that can communicate to many other communities in the region.

Bella Coola Hospital has SAT phones now and emergency communications within the community can be more of an issue than with the outside world. It was identified that it is important to have conversations about “low tech” emergency communications to ensure there are solutions for when the phone and internet have gone down.

Further discussion around systems to be put in place for low tech communications in emergency situations will be discussed in more detail at a subsequent Interagency Emergency Committee meeting.

**4. Central Coast Communications Society (CCCS)– Presentation**

James Hindley and Devon Girard from local ISP CCCS did a presentation on current infrastructure, gaps, possibilities to address these gaps, and efforts to ensure communications can be maintained during emergencies.

CCCS maintains several off-grid sites with independent power systems (mostly solar and wind) that are unaffected by valley power outages. The wireless infrastructure hosted at these sites will remain active in the event of a valley-wide power outage, and could be used to provide in-valley connectivity in the event of a backhaul/fibre disruption. A multi-party video chat application has been deployed on a local server that can run without access to the wider internet, which could be matured to serve as a local communications platform during an emergency situation.

CCCS has looked at usage as well as the upgrades required to provide faster internet speeds to residents and businesses.

There are currently a lot of areas that do not have cell coverage in the Bella Coola Valley. CCCS presented maps showing current cell coverage. With upgrades there is a possibility to increase the cell service coverage for all of 4 mile and continuing on the highway to provide cell up the valley.

Currently, a key challenge is the limitations of existing broadband backbone infrastructure (i.e. Telus broadband in the Bella Coola Valley). Improvements to Telus infrastructure will hopefully be increasing the speeds, and CCCS would like to be prepared with upgrades to last mile equipment infrastructure so that the local ISP can continue to be a distributor.

A fibre assessment, to examine what it would take to run fibre to individual houses, was done by CCCS. At this time, the costs are prohibitive. CCCS is exploring an alternate system with the hopes to improve both speed and coverage at a lower cost.

**5. Nuxalk Nation – Plans for future growth**

Nuxalk Nation is interested in improvements to connectivity as well. Currently the cell service on 4 mile is a concern and efforts are underway to improve this. Accessibility is also about affordability and affordable options for community members and businesses are important. There are public safety issues when there is limited cell and the frequency of disasters is increasing the level of concern.

**6. Waglisla Cablevision– Plans for future growth**

Dave Jephcott, Heiltusk Economic Development Corporation (HEDC), shared efforts of Waglisla Cablevision, the local ISP and HEDC business responsible for cable and internet services in Bella Bella.

Currently the Village of approximately 1600 people has a single microwave dish that gives 100mb per second download for the entire Village. There are several challenges with this low level of internet connectivity. For example, community members cannot do distance education because the internet communications is too poor.

Waglisla is working with Telus to increase speeds to 500mb per second and have identified the need for underground fibre. There is a desire to get to get a physical connection between the mainland and Bella Bella. This can also open up opportunities in Ocean Falls related to power generation.

Jephcott shared that Telus has a product called Smart Hub which will convert cell service into data. It was noted that Telus will not come into communities without being invited by the local ISPs. The Smart Hub product could also benefit Denny Island.

**7. Meeting Close**

There was a desire to continue both the conversations around radio broadcasting (including VHF) and connectivity (internet and cell). At this time, no dates were set for these future meetings.

NWE Region

# Exercise Oceanic Down 2018 Provincial TTX Scenario

NEA Region

VIR Region



**Ship evacuation**

**Response communities**

Google



# Ex Oceanic Down 2018

## TTX Scenario

- Cruise ship disaster in the October time frame
- Ship proceeding south from Alaska, not yet cleared Cdn customs
- 3500 passengers and crew, 90% international citizens
- Explosion in engine room causes catastrophic fire and loss of power
- Joint Rescue Coordination Centre launches rescue op involving Coast Guard, DND, US Coast Guard, merchant vessels, Coastal Guardians and local vessels of opportunity
- Ship rapidly evacuated, dozens of deaths, hundreds of injured, persons landed on various islands North of the site
- Immediate response to assist with evacuation, deal with casualties and the dispersion of survivors across small communities
- Follow on response needed to recover all passengers and remains from the scattered communities and relocate to lower mainland
- Whole of Government response will be necessary due to isolated location, poor weather, magnitude and complexity of problem