

Fraser Basin Community Adaptation Case Study: Prince George

THEME: COMMUNITY ADAPTATION

LOCATION: Prince George, BC

STATUS: Complete

WEBSITE: www.princegeorge.ca

Project Description

In many regions of British Columbia, climate change is expected to increase the frequency or severity of natural disturbances such as severe weather events, droughts, floods and forest fires. The Prince George region is already experiencing some of these impacts, including two decades in which winter minimum temperatures have been higher than in the past and have contributed to the recent Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic. This epidemic resulted in dead pine trees across vast areas, increasing the forest fire risk and leading to the loss of forestry-related employment for many residents. In addition, severe erosion and ice-related flooding has caused extensive damage along the Nechako River, resulting in the relocation of some residents away from the riverbank.

This project addresses these climate change impacts by building the capacity of community decision-makers to identify climate change vulnerabilities, priorities for action and suitable adaptation options, and to integrate adaptation into existing planning and decision-making processes.

Goals

- » Identification and documentation of the key climate change vulnerabilities affecting the City of Prince George
- » Increased capacity of community decision-makers, staff and key stakeholders to identify climate change vulnerabilities, priorities for action and suitable adaptation options
- » Recommendations to community decision-makers on suitable adaptation options
- » Incorporation of climate change adaptation measures into community planning processes.

Results & Key Products

- » Adaptation strategy included within the City of Prince George Official Community Plan <http://mypg.ca/progress/Pages/DesigningtheOutcomeOCP.aspx>
- » Updated rainfall intensity duration frequency (IDF) curves and stormwater analysis and management guidelines for stormwater infrastructure and facilities that are resilient to climate change
- » Simplified climate change adaptation information and social media tools, available online, to enhance public engagement and understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation in Prince George www.princegeorge.ca and www.retooling.ca
- » Case Study Report: Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in Prince George, BC. www.princegeorge.ca/environment/climatechange/adaptation/pages/default.aspx
- » Detailed technical map of climate change impacts on natural areas in Prince George.

Decision-makers involved

Community stakeholders, staff and elected officials from the City of Prince George.



Decisions Influenced

This case study focuses on integrating adaptation into community plans and planning processes. Adaptation issues include decisions related to floodplain management and planning, stormwater management, water supply, infrastructure and riparian areas management.

Collaborators

City of Prince George,
Fraser Basin Council &
University of Northern British Columbia.

Project Lead

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FUNDERS



Natural Resources
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Fraser Basin Council

For more information
about the Regional
Adaptation Collaborative
visit: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca