



Jing Niu, Environmental Planner.  
Mareike Mimi Miller, Asset Management Analyst  
1450 K.L.O. Road  
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4

Telephone: (250) 469-6235  
rdco.com

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jeniffer Bellingham, Intergovernmental Affairs & Title and Rights Director; Colleen Marchand, Territorial Stewardship Division, Cailyn Glasser, Natural Resources Manager;

**FROM:** Jing Niu, Environmental Planner; Mareike Mimi Miller, Asset Management Analyst

**DATE:** January 23, 2023

**SUBJECT:** RDCO Disaster Risk Reduction Integrated Planning Project for Climate Action

---

**Purpose:** To initiate consultation between Westbank First Nation, the Okanagan Indian Band, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and the Regional District for RDCO climate action planning.

### Details:

Climate action planning is about increasing Regional District's resiliency through a changing climate. While the RDCO is committed to baseline greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and supporting policies (Regional Growth Strategy, Climate Action Charter), the Regional District needs a cohesive plan to achieve these commitments and prepare our community.

The proposed project aims to help the Regional District identify systematic approaches to reduce projected climate risks and emissions through an integrated strategy that embeds climate preparedness, hazard reduction, and sustainability throughout policy, planning, and decision-making. The project would help RDCO advance resilience and sustainability goals while saving money and optimizing capacity.

To facilitate this process, RDCO staff has prepared a Union of British Columbia (UBCM) grant application to support climate action planning for the region. Specifically, the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DDR-CA) aims to support risk reduction from future disasters due to natural hazards. This funding stream prioritizes consultation with First Nations and provides an opportunity for the Regional District to strengthen early and continuous consultation throughout the climate action planning process.

Through project initiation, the Regional District would be pleased to consult on the following conceptual components of its climate action planning project:

*Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment:* Conduct a regional quantitative climate risk and vulnerability assessment (RVA), identifying the risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities of climate change including the impacts of extreme weather events on the RDCO's service delivery, regional ecosystems, and citizen populations using a data-informed approach that meets the best practices of international climate change

adaptation programs. The RVA will include the following components: background & contextual analysis, energy and emissions inventory, climate projections of impacts and hazards, vulnerability assessment, and hazard assessment.

*Risk Mapping:* Development of a series of maps that include but not be limited to existing infrastructure & development, future infrastructure & development, susceptible buildings / residences, demographic data (i.e., age of residents or low income), water resources, current climate related risks (including health and social vulnerabilities), climate related risks under different RCP climate scenarios, probabilities of hitting risk thresholds over set periods of time in different RCP scenarios. Risks may include but not be limited to: extreme heat, flooding, extreme precipitation events, drought, smoke.

*Integrated Plan Development:* compilation of data and analysis from previous activities, identification of possible actions and strategies to address identified risks, stakeholder engagement to inform prioritization of recommended actions, and final development of report. Within these tasks, the adaptive capacity of the RDCO will be examined as will a cost and benefit analysis of identified actions, including damage costs, broad economic impacts, and social costs like health costs, environmental costs and financial costs, high-level costs of recommended actions, the detailed costs of inaction, and co-benefits.

*Engagement:* the proposed integrated planning approach is collaborative by design, meaning RDCO local governments, regional sylix/Okanagan communities, and other groups most likely to be affected by climate-related risks (e.g., vulnerable populations, major infrastructure owners) will be critical stakeholders throughout the plan development. The project will include engagement with local stakeholders through a variety of means including: background research and information gathering, including traditional knowledge and cultural perspectives; inclusive and responsive communication; goal setting and action planning workshops; inclusive and responsive communication; information sharing through digital means; and collaborative identification of risks and possible mitigation and adaptation opportunities, including shared approaches and resourcing.

The DDR-CA grant application must be submitted to UBCM prior to February 24, 2023. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the undersigned if there are any questions, comments, or feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

*Jing Niu*

Environmental Planner, Community Services

*Mareike Mimi Miller*

Asset Management Analyst, Engineering