

Empowering Municipalities: Funding and Capacity Development for Climate Resilience

Canada-Chile Commission for Environmental Cooperation | 9 October 2025 Katherine Trajan – Project Director, *Adaptation in Action, Green Municipal Fund*



Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

On the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples

Known for its mild climate, but now facing hotter, drier summers

Key climate risks: heat, wildfire, drought, sealevel rise





The Green Municipal Fund (GMF)

- Founded in 2000 by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through investments from the Government of Canada.
- GMF exists to enhance the quality of life for people in Canada by accelerating a transformation to resilient, net-zero communities.

funding

funding + capacity development

capacity development



Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation

The Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) is a **\$530M** initiative set to fund over **1,400 activities** to equip communities with funding, training and tools to **build long-term climate resilience** by 2032.



Climate-Ready Plans and Processes: Climate risk assessments, adaptation planning and integration of resilience into municipal systems.



Adaptation in Action: Feasibility studies and projects that reduce climate risks.



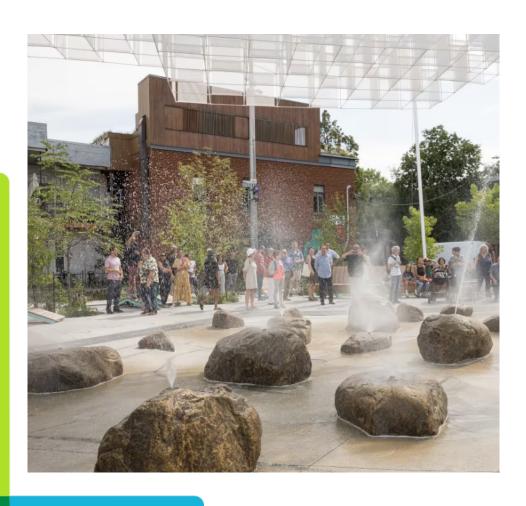
Residential Resilience Financing: Innovative local financing models that support climate resilience at the community level.

To date, LLCA has dispersed:

- **\$5.2M** to support 70 communities through Climate-Ready Plans and Processes
- **\$16.1M** for 30 Adaptation in Action implementation projects
- \$1.1M for 17 Adaptation in Action feasibility studies
- \$13M to deliver adaptation training to local governments



Why Local Adaptation Matters



Local governments are on the front lines of climate change.

Municipalities provide the services and plan, build, and maintain the infrastructure that people depend on

Adaptation is cost effective - For every dollar invested in climate adaptation measures in Canada, there are long-term savings of \$13 to \$15

It's about protecting people, places, and prosperity



Why Equity?

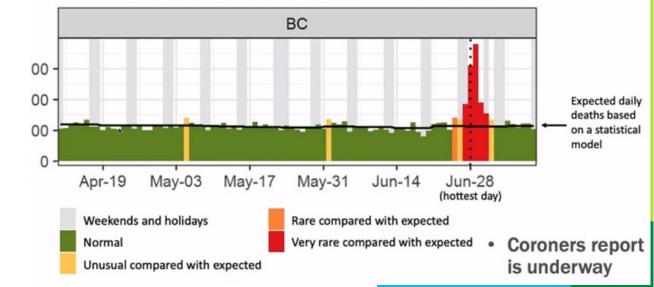
The 2021 heat dome resulted in 619 heat-related deaths

- 98% occurred indoors at home
- 91% were on at least one chronic disease registry
- 90% were over 60 years of age
- 56% lived alone
- 33% lived in neighbourhoods that were most socially deprived



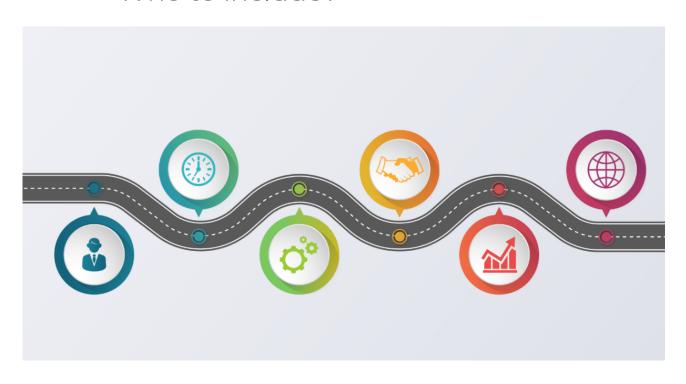


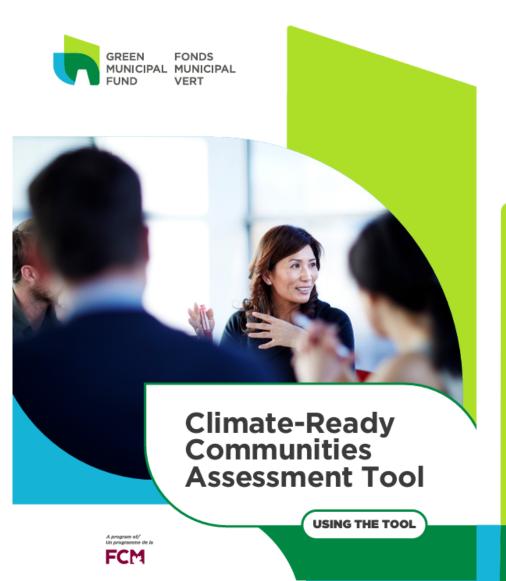
There were hundreds of deaths during the heat dome across British Columbia



Adaptation is a journey, not a destination

- Where to start?
- What's effective?
- How to prioritize?
- Who to include?





Success Stories

- Municipal Leadership in Action

Montreal Capital Budget Allocation

The City of Montreal has committed to dedicating 10% to 15% of its tenyear capital expenditure program to investments related to adaptation to climate change, particularly in natural and hybrid infrastructures, by 2030.







Jasper: A Story of Preparedness

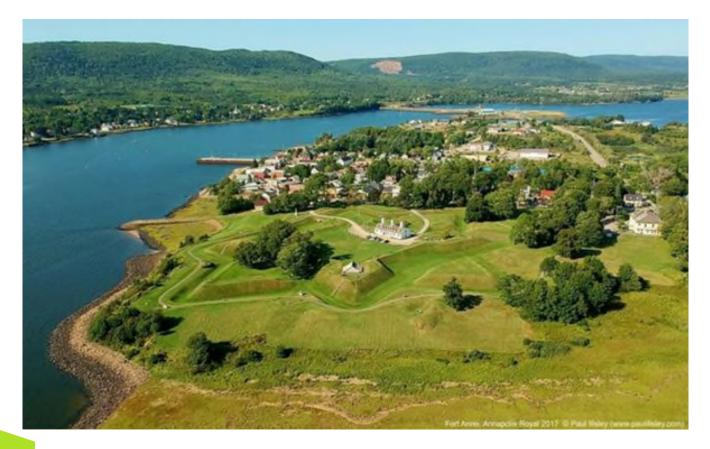
Wildfires cannot be avoided, but catastrophic results can be.

FireSmart planning saved critical infrastructure during the devastating 2024 wildfire





Coastal Resilience in Annapolis Royal





Coastal erosion is threatening community infrastructure

Restoring native salt marshes to reduce wave impacts and strengthen ecosystems

Vancouver's Equity-Centered Climate Risk Assessment

















CENTERING EQUITY

The assessment included extensive engagement with disproportionately impacted communities to better-understand equity within the context of disasters and emergencies.

For each climate-related hazard, a vulnerability analysis was used to identify which communities, ecosystems and infrastructure are at highest risk of negative impacts – this was used to guide development of this strategy and prioritization of actions.



Building resilient communities for the future



