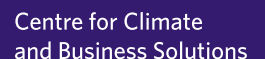




We are Thrilled to Announce the BC Climate Resilience Summit 2025 Program!

Since 2017, the **Understanding Risk BC (URBC) symposiums have been bringing people together in a way that fosters the necessary, interdisciplinary, 'all of society' approach to reducing risk and building resilience in Southwest BC.** The objectives of these Symposiums, and now, the BC CRS Summit, are in line with the priorities for action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), which was adopted by the BC government in 2018. These same priorities are in line with and in support of the National Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030 and its current focus on earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. The effort is to take a “demonstrate by doing” approach, so we thank everyone for being a part of this **journey** and contributing to the **solutions** for a more climate and disaster resilient BC (and beyond!).

The BC Climate Resilience Summit 2025 will be a 2 day event designed to foster cross-sectoral dialogue and continue to build this community of practice. It will bring together stakeholders from government, academia, insurance and finance, small and medium size businesses, and other key industries and sectors to explore cross-cutting themes in climate risk management, low carbon resilience, and disaster risk reduction. The summit will feature a lineup of leaders in the climate resilience space and result in a **communique** that clearly outlines needs and opportunities for advancing climate and disaster resilience in the province.





Day 1: March 3rd, @ UBC Robson Square & Vancouver Art Gallery Bistro

10:30am-12pm: Interactive Workshop: Mobilizing Blended Finance to Support the Health, Safety and Resilience of Residents Living in Apartments and Condos

Led by: Shauna Sylvester (UCI) & George Benson (ZEIC)

In 2021, BC experienced 619 deaths due to a serious heat dome that hit the province. Many of the individuals who died were trapped in older buildings that did not have adequate cooling. The majority of Vancouver residents live in apartments and condos, with 3 and 4 story buildings being the most prominent building archetype in the city. Many of these buildings were constructed in the 1950s to 1980s and require deep retrofits to create healthy and safe homes that can withstand natural hazards and are resilient to extreme and volatile weather patterns brought on by climate change.

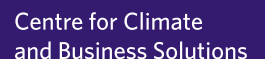
In this interactive workshop we will explore strategies to finance and fund retrofits in these multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs). We will build on the work of the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC), Urban Climate Leadership and dozens of private, public and nonprofit leaders who have been co-designing solutions to address the needs of residents living in apartments and condos.

1:30-2pm: Registration & Networking

2pm: Welcome to the Territory from Squamish Ocean Canoe Family & Welcome Remarks from Rebecca Bligh (City of Vancouver & Federation of Canadian Municipalities)

2:25pm: Level-set with Jessica Shoubridge (URBC & BC CRS Program Lead 2016-present)

» URBC Recap & Overview of BC CRS Agenda





2:35-3:50pm: Setting the Stage with Climate Science, Scenarios & Local to National Risk Assessment Showcase

Moderated by: Tamsin Mills, PINNA Sustainability

Tamsin will set the stage with reflections on how climate science and scenarios have evolved over the past ~12 years and how we are increasingly able to integrate climate projections into risk assessments in BC. She will also reflect on the various dimensions of risk assessments in BC, including upholding indigenous knowledge and the interplay between risk assessment and risk management under uncertainty.

Featuring:

- » **Eva Gnegy (ECCC)** from the Canadian Centre for Climate Services, who will speak to the importance of using future climate projection data instead of historical data when doing risk assessments. She will also discuss how the Canadian Centre for Climate Services are making future data usable in an accessible way.
- » **Julie Van de Valk (Public Safety Canada)**, who will speak to the Public Safety Canada-led effort to evaluate and operationalize Canada-wide flood hazard modelling to conduct national estimates of flood hazard and financial flood risk.
- » **Jamie Blackley (LGeo) & Maia Carolsfeld (Capital Regional District)**, who will speak to the mapping that was developed and employed for extreme heat modelling and planning in the second most populous region in the province.
- » **Tiegan Hobbs (Geological Survey of Canada)**, who will speak to the Canadian open-source seismic risk model (i.e. GEM, Risk Profiler), both present form and future directions.
- » **Micah Hilt (City of Vancouver)**, who will speak to the city-wide, parcel level seismic risk assessment that was developed building from the national model, and related policy directions moving forward for the City, especially seismic retrofit of privately held buildings.





3:55-4:40pm: Innovation Showcase

The innovation showcase will feature short (~5 min) presentations with opportunity for 1 question from the audience as speakers transition on/off stage. These presentations will feature everything from start-up pitches, to research showcases, to outlining case studies of building retrofits, and more!

- » Adaptation & Resilience Planning for NPOs in BC (Natalie Hill, SPUR Communications)
- » Realizing Resilient Buildings in B.C.: A Toolkit for Local Governments (Wilma Leung, BC Housing)
- » Business Continuity Laws in the Context of Climate Change in Canada, Australia and the UK (Marion Benkaiouche, SFU)
- » Climate Insights Tool (Josh Kelly, ICLEI)
- » Physical Climate Risk Assessment for Engineers and Geoscientists BC's Head Office (Laura Simandl, RDH Building Science)

4:40-5pm BREAK

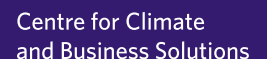
5-6pm: Closing Panel Discussion: Leadership in Climate Action Showcase

Moderated by: Kookai Chaimahawong (UBC Sauder)

Featuring: Don Iveson (The Co-operators), Ewa Jackson (ICLEI), & Shauna Sylvester (UCI)

Cities and urban regions are at the heart of climate action—where the impacts are felt most and where solutions can drive the greatest change. As the urgency for climate resilience grows, municipal leadership is proving essential in advancing both mitigation and adaptation efforts. But how can cities scale their impact, overcome implementation challenges, and harness the power of partnerships to drive meaningful progress?

Join us for this compelling Day 1 closing panel discussion at the BC Climate Resilience Summit, where leaders in climate resilience will share insights on what's working, what's next, and how Canadian cities can accelerate the path to net-zero while preparing for the climate realities ahead.





BC | Climate Resilience Summit 2025

Vancouver, Robson Square • March 3rd/4th

6-8pm: Wrap up & Welcome Reception!

Join us for the kick-off networking reception across the way from the main venue at the Vancouver Art Gallery Bistro. Light appetizers and one complimentary drink included + card bar.

With music courtesy of: **Ian Cromwell**. Ian is a classically trained violinist with 20+ years of experience performing with ensembles, symphonies, quartets, and as a solo artist. His musical versatility spans alternative, jazz, hip-hop, and R&B, delivering dynamic interpretations of rock and pop classics. He has graced numerous Vancouver stages, including Science of Cocktails, TED events, the Granville Promenade, Car Free Day, and the VSO Day of Music. Ian is also the founder and Executive Curator of Locals Lounge, a community incubator supporting Vancouver musicians.

Day 2: March 4th, @ UBC Robson Square

9-9:15am Registration + Networking, featuring “Fish out of Water” Dancers from Still Moon Arts

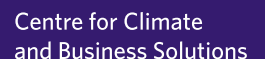
Beneath the city’s grid lies a web of buried streams that once nourished the land. The “Fish Out Of Water” are searching for their lost streams so they can return to spawn and again be part of the web of life invigorating the city with nature’s abundance.

Fish out of Water characters were created for Still Moon Arts by Isaac Rosen-Purcell with contributions from Carmen Rosen.

9:15-9:45am: Welcome from Jeremy Valeriote (MLA, West Vancouver, Sea to Sky) & Jessica Shoubridge (BC CRS Program Lead)

9:45-10:15am: Rising Physical Climate Risks: How to Keep Insurance Available and Affordable in the Housing Market?

Featuring: Maryam Golnaraghi, The Geneva Association





Given the rise in physical climate risks, how do we keep insurance available and affordable in the housing market? Get a sneak peak into a new Geneva Association report that will be published this spring, which looks into the underlying causes of rising risks at the property and local levels. Maryam will discuss the dynamics and interlinkages of housing valuation, cost of owning a home, mortgage and lending and insurance systems. She will offer concrete recommendations for how to reduce and prevent risks at property and local levels by providing incentives drawing examples from the US, Canada, Australia, Japan and the EU.

10:15-11:15am: Panel Discussion: Financing Resilience in BC

Moderated by: George Benson, ZEIC

Featuring: Ujala Qadir (Climate Bonds Initiative), Maryam Golnaraghi (Geneva Association), Sarah Miller (Canadian Climate Institute)

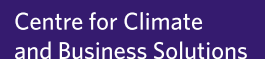
This session will build off Maryam’s talk, contextualizing some financial facts and considerations in BC vis-à-vis resilience. The panelists will offer their insights on and discuss the following:

- » Within the global context of insurance, financial market shifts, and other relevant factors, how resilient do you think British Columbia is today to the different stressors and opportunities?
- » Within the sectors you work in or work with, what are the top two, specific issues you’re most focused on right now that feel like the biggest barriers to resilience?
- » What’s one specific thing you think BC/or Canada, is doing well with regards to mobilizing finance for climate resilience, and one thing you think we should import or adopt from another jurisdiction or market?

11:15am-12pm: Innovation Showcase 2

The innovation showcase will feature short (~5 min) presentations with opportunity for 1-2 questions from the audience as speakers transition on/off stage. These presentations will feature everything from start-up pitches, to research showcases, to outlining case studies of building retrofits, and more!

- » Ontology for Carbon Emissions Reductions/Trading (Ashley Sarauer, Ontoly Carbon)
- » Low Carbon Resilience Retrofits: Tackling Building Decarbonization and Climate resilience in Tandem (Julianne Pickrell-Barr, PRISM engineering)





- » Urban Data Lake Initiative (Mike Kennedy, Sauder Climate Centre)
- » EGBCs Professional Practice Guidelines on One Water System Risk Management Planning in BC (Aline Bennett, WSP)
- » P4A Resilient Retrofits Database (Sharmalene, P4A)

12-1:15pm: LUNCH—Featuring “Fish out of Water” Dancers from Still Moon Arts & Catering via Lazy Gourmet

1:15-2:15pm: Panel Discussion: Housing as a Solution for Climate, Connection & Equity

Moderated by: Shaun Kaser (HICC)

Featuring: Don Iveson (The Cooperators), Darla Simpson (ZEIC), Alison Shaw (SFU ACT) & Betsy Agar (Efficiency Canada)

Given the national and provincial push to build more housing, how do we achieve these quantity goals, while not sacrificing quality? What are the challenges/opportunities in addressing resilience considerations in both the new and existing building stock? Where are the synergies for resilience and climate adaptation when driving towards net-zero buildings/retrofits? What is the role of NBs at both the community and parcel scale? This esteemed panel will offer their insights on these questions, and more, offering practical solutions from their respective housing-related portfolios.

2:20-3:20pm: Panel Discussion: The Climate Crisis is a Health Crisis

Moderated by: Ariana Cruz, CASCADES Canada

Featuring: Breanna Gregory (Vancouver Coastal Health), Craig Dedels (Vancouver Coastal Health | Provincial Health Services Authority), Tracie Jones (Fraser Health)

As extreme weather events become more frequent, healthcare organizations must proactively strengthen their capacity to withstand and adapt to climate-related disruptions. This session will explore strategies to enhance system resilience, ensuring operational continuity through three key areas: climate-resilient facilities and infrastructure, emergency management, and workforce education and training.

3:20pm: BREAK





3:45-4:45pm: Keynote Talk and Q/A with John Vaillant, Author of 'Fireweather: The Making of a Beast'

Moderated by: Justin Bull, UBC Sauder Centre

4:50-5:50pm: Panel Discussion: Transformations to Coexist with Wildfire in BC

Moderated by: Dr. Robin Freeman (SFU)

Featuring: Dr. Kelsey Copes Gerbitz (UBC), Eleanore Ho (Co-operators), James Whitehead (SFU), George Campbell (BC Wildfire Service and Boothroyd FN)

What are the transformational adaptations required to adapt to 'fire weather' in BC? This panel session will focus on ongoing efforts to implement wildfire mitigation at scale in BC.

5:50-6:50pm: Closing Panel Discussion: Risk Governance in BC—Unlocking the Capital & Partnerships Needed to Build a More Resilient Climate Future

Moderated by: Jessica Shoubridge, (URBC & BC CRS Program Lead 2016-present)

Featuring: Eliana Chia (Fraser Basin Council), Kris Holm (BGC), Corey Anderson & Rachelle Carey (Capital Regional District), Ethan Raker & Amy Kim (UBC DRRN)

Where are we seeing successes in more effective climate/disaster risk governance, and at what scales (e.g. regional, sub-regional, watershed)? What are the lessons learned and pathways forward for effective collaborations throughout the various phases of managing for increasing and cascading physical risks (e.g. assessing risk, reducing risk, preparing to respond/recover and build back better) and across the public- private-NPO and academic sectors? Hear from these BC-based practitioners about how a variety of "all of society" approaches are being taken to support a more climate resilient future in the province and its regions.

6:50pm: Closing, Call to Action & Gratitude

- » Synthesis of opportunities, challenges, and reflections from a cross-section of participants
- » A Call to Action for a Climate and Disaster Resilient BC: What does a resilient future look like in B.C. and where do we need to focus our efforts?

