

BC | Climate Resilience Summit 2026

Vancouver, Robson Square | March 2-3

We are Thrilled to Announce the BC Climate Resilience Summit (BC CRS) 2026 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 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 BC Climate Resilience Summit 2026 will be a 2 day event designed to foster cross-sectoral dialogue and collaborative actions. It will continue to build this community of practice. It will bring together colleagues and collaborators from government, academia, insurance and finance, business and industry, and other key 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 continue to articulate the needs and opportunities for advancing climate and disaster resilience in the province. 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!).



Day 1: March 2nd, @UBC Robson Square & Vancouver Art Gallery Bistro

9am: Registration & Networking

10am: Welcome & Level-set with Jessica Shoubridge (URBC/BC CRS Program Lead 2016-present)

10:30am: The DCRRA... and Beyond!

Moderated by: Tamsin Mills (Pinna Sustainability)

Featuring: Dominique Sigg (Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness), David Hewson (KPMG), Tamsin Lyle (Ebbwater Consulting), Kris Holm (BGC Engineering) & Twyla Kowwalcyk (Associated Engineering)

The province released their multi-year climate and disaster risk assessment this past fall. Hear key highlights from this effort from provincial representatives before diving into the regional scale risk assessments. Hear from the consultants involved in the regional work regarding the variety of approaches currently being applied to undertake climate and hazard risk assessments. They will share their methods, successes, and lessons learned, and discuss the opportunities and advantages of working at the regional level.

11:45am: Innovation Showcase

This session will showcase short (~5 min) 'Ignite style' presentations with opportunity for 1-2 questions from the audience as speakers transition on/off stage. These presentations will feature everything from maps, models, collaboration tools, associated storytelling, and more!

- » **CanAdapt: A Fast Track for Canada's Climate Practitioners** (Stephanie Gagnon & Rik Logtenberg, Climate Risk Institute)
- » **The Nootka Sound Salmon and Watershed Assessment Tool** (David Teran & Morgan Hocking, Trinity Consultants)
- » **Building Operational Readiness and Decision-support for Interior Health** (Jamie Blackley, Licker Geospatial Consulting Co.)
- » **User-Informed Future Fire Weather Projections: An Interactive Tool** (Carrington Pomeroy, Canadian Centre for Climate Services)
- » **Empowered Voices Project** (Sherry Da, BC Native Women's Association Lead—Keepers of the Circle)



12:45pm: LUNCH 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. 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.

1:45pm: AI and Climate Risk: Innovation, Liability, or Leap of Faith?

Moderated by: Deborah Harford (ACT, Simon Fraser University)

Featuring: Richard Carter (BGC Engineering), & David Slade (Engineers and Geoscientists BC)

Artificial intelligence has become a powerful factor shaping our understanding and decisions about geohazards in a changing climate—but what does that mean in practice? This panel explores AI from three complementary perspectives: a technical practitioner using AI in real-world climate resilience projects; a representative from Engineers and Geoscientists BC discussing professional responsibility, risk, and the responsible use of emerging technologies; and a climate action leader reflecting on long-term stewardship through the lens of the Seven Generations principle. Together, they'll explore how AI can support smarter decisions today while protecting communities, ecosystems, and future generations.

2:45pm: Fireside Chat: When Do We Press the Big Red Button on Climate Damages?

Moderated by: George Benson (The Zero Emissions Innovation Centre)

Featuring: Matt Price (Executive Director, Investors for Paris Compliance)

Together these two will unpack Investors For Paris Compliance's report *Climate Damages & Canada's Looming Home Insurance Crisis: Who Pays?* They'll explore how rising climate losses are driving insurance premiums higher, straining public budgets, and threatening system stability—and what attribution science, litigation, and legislation could mean for cost recovery.

3:15pm: BREAK



3:30pm: Keynote & Fireside Chat with Richard Ireland, Mayor of Jasper

Keynote: Community Climate Resilience in Action: Reflection on Jasper's Response to Wildfire

Fireside Chat Moderated by: Kookai Chaimahawong (UBC Sauder, Centre for Climate and Business Solutions)

Featuring: Sarah Henderson (BC Centre for Disease Control) & Rik Nelson (Councilor, City of Nelson)

Mayor Ireland will reflect on Jasper's experience responding to wildfire and place it within the broader reality that no community is immune to climate-related risk. The session will emphasize the role that preparation, planning, and strong partnerships played in Jasper's response and recovery. It will also highlight how those foundations enabled the community to mobilize in ways that were both effective and, in many respects, atypical. He will speak to the importance of collaboration across governments, agencies, and community organizations in navigating an evolving emergency and its aftermath and conclude with recommended actions to strengthen community resilience, emergency response and long-term recovery in a changing climate.

Building on Mayor Richard Ireland's reflections on Jasper's wildfire response, this panel brings together leaders who have navigated climate emergencies in real time from wildfire to extreme heat to floods, and made consequential decisions under pressure. We'll move beyond crisis response to what comes next: how leaders shift from managing disruption to building long-term resilience.

The discussion will explore decision-making with incomplete information, what preparedness measures truly mattered, where coordination helped or hindered action, and what panelists would do differently. We'll close with practical reflections on where limited public and private resources should be deployed now, and how moments of crisis can catalyze lasting structural change rather than simply restore the status quo.

5pm: Closing Reflections for Day 1

5:30-8pm 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 & one complimentary drink included + card bar.



Day 2: March 3rd, @UBC Robson Square

8am: Registration & Networking

8:30am: Welcome & Overview of Day with Jessica Shoubridge (URBC & BC CRS Program Lead 2016-present)

8:35am:  Hazard in Focus: Earthquakes

Protecting Communities Through Earthquake Risk Reduction: Vancouver's Progress in Policy, Programs & Research

Moderated by: Micah Hilt (City of Vancouver)

Featuring: Carlos Molina Hutt (University of British Columbia), Monrit Chatha (City of Vancouver & The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute—British Columbia Chapter)

This panel pulls together three practitioners working to advance seismic risk reduction in Vancouver and beyond. With experience ranging from academic research to private sector engineering consulting to government policy development, the panel will discuss the current state of seismic risk reduction in B.C. with a special focus on what lessons can be taken from the seismic space to guide climate resilience work. The panel looks beyond preparedness, considering key points of collaboration as well as challenges and gaps in B.C.'s work to reduce its considerable seismic risk. There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions & contribute.

9:35am: Vital Connections & Resilient Homes: Strengthening our Built Environment in Support of Community Resilience

Moderated by: Ian Mauro (Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions)

Featuring: Tamara Mosqueda (Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction) & Dylan Clark (Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions)

The real test of resilience isn't whether infrastructure *survives* a flood, wildfire, or earthquake—it's whether people can still turn on the lights, access health care, and remain safe in their homes. As hazard events grow more frequent and intense, British Columbia must strengthen both its lifeline systems and its building stock to truly enable communities to shelter in place. This session will showcase ICLR's *Resilient Homes Task Force* alongside insights from the PICS report *Vital Connections*, exploring complementary approaches to improving resilience across B.C.'s built environment. We'll examine how infrastructure is currently managed in B.C. and across Canada, and identify practical steps to enhance reliability, affordability, and long-term performance.



10:35am: BREAK

10:50am: Introduction to City Studio & A Song

Featuring: Pablo Zacarías (City Studio)

This session will introduce the CityStudio Vancouver collaboration model for cross-pollination between students, faculty, City staff, and community members to co-create solutions to challenges in our city and communities, as part of a whole-of-society approach.

Pablo will perform an improvised song created live during the event, incorporating themes, words, and ideas contributed by the audience. This interactive musical moment will weave together the group's experiences and insights from the Summit into a unique, one-time-only performance.

11:10am: Hazard in Focus: Floods

Integrated Flood Risk Management Ingredients: Governance, Financing, and Delivery Across Gray, Green, and Social Solutions

Moderated by: Sahar Safaie (Arcadis)

Featuring: Roni Deitz (Arcadis), Andrew Giles (River Forecast Centre & Flood Safety, Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship), Julie Van De Valk (Public Safety Canada) & Lina Azeez (Watershed Watch Salmon Society)

Flood risk in British Columbia is a governance challenge spanning jurisdictions, ecosystems, and communities. This panel examines how floodplain management can move toward integrated, fish-friendly solutions. Using New York City's coastal program as a case study, panelists will explore governance, investment, and balancing infrastructure with ecosystem needs. Drawing on Lower Fraser and First Nations experiences, discussions will address provincial mapping, federal flood areas, disaster assistance, and insurance—highlighting gaps between government roles. The session closes with a call to action: stronger alignment from governments and proactive leadership from consultants and local authorities in advancing solutions that reduce flood risk while strengthening ecosystems and communities.

12:25pm: LUNCH



1:10pm: Trouble in the Headwaters: Film Preview & Fireside Chat

Moderated by: Daniel J. Pierce (Ramshackle Pictures)

Featuring: Dr. Younes Alila (University of British Columbia), & Carie-Anne Hancock (BGC Engineering)

Join us for a special screening of *Trouble in the Headwaters*, a compelling film that digs into the real story behind the devastating 2018 floods in Grand Forks, B.C. It follows Dr. Younes Alila, professor of forest hydrology at The University of British Columbia, as he investigates the upstream impacts of clear-cut logging in the Kettle River watershed. Following a condensed version of the film, the filmmaker will host a discussion with Carie-Anne and Younes about the prospects of landscape level risk assessment and management and how local and regional practitioners can use evolving information and knowledge in their ongoing work.

2:10pm: Hazard in Focus: Wildfire

An All-of-society Approach to Wildfire Resilience: What will it Really Take?

Moderated by: Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz (Wildfire Resiliency Consortium of Canada)

Featuring: Jessica Shoubridge (Thrive Consulting), Melanie Stutt (Emergency Services Coordinator, Simpcw First Nation), Nick Soverel (Frontera Forest Solutions), Marc Adduhan (Flash Forest) & James Whitehead (Simon Fraser University, Mitigating Wildfire Initiative)

This session will combine storytelling, audience engagement and panel discussion to highlight the baseline situation of wildfire risk in BC (and beyond), and the ongoing work across sectors of society to reduce risk and build wildfire resilience. It will showcase the variety of tools we have in the "all of society" toolbox to transform our approach to managing wildfire risk; from fostering cross-cultural dialogue, to transforming our forestry sector, to changing simple things in fire response approaches- we will empower everyone to participate in terms of highlighting a path forward for community resilience and regenerative economics in an era of ongoing and escalating 'fire weather'.

3:25pm: BREAK



3:40pm: Innovation Showcase

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- » **Climate Data for Contaminated Sites: A User-Tailored Application** (Eva Gnegy, Canadian Centre for Climate Services)
- » **Who Gets the Power? Using Systems Thinking to Govern AI for Climate Resilience** (Amir Albadvi, Urban Resilience and Sustainability Alliance, University Canada West)
- » **Who's Your City: Using Climate Analogues to Explore Flood Risk in 2050** (Ha Lin Wang, Simon Fraser University)
- » **Mapping Biodiversity and (Im-)perviousness of Vancouver's Core** (Dr. Christine Thuring, Green Roof Infrastructure Network of BC)

4:40pm: Keeping Canada Insurable

Moderated by: Don Iveson (The Co-operators)

Featuring: Franziska Niegemann (BC Financial Services Authority), Alison Ashcroft (Municipal Finance Authority of BC), & David Leibl (Wawanesa Insurance)

Climate impacts are no longer theoretical—they're showing up as higher insurance premiums, withdrawn coverage, stranded assets, and growing public liabilities. This panel asks a simple but uncomfortable question: when climate risks materialize, who actually pays? Is it households, through rising insurance premiums and taxes? Is it private capital—if returns are high enough? Or is it ultimately the public sector, when markets retreat? Bringing together perspectives from insurance, private capital, and the public sector—including financial regulation—this discussion will explore how climate risk is priced, transferred, regulated, and, when necessary, absorbed across insurance markets, investment decisions, and public institutions.

5:40pm: Closing Thoughts & Reflections

- » **Featured Reflections: A synthesis of opportunities, challenges, and reflections from a cross-section of participants**

