



# COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM

Working Alongside Communities to Strengthen Disaster Resilience

## OVERVIEW

**Disasters in British Columbia are increasing in severity and frequency.** As a result, BC communities and government partners at all levels are actively seeking to manage and mitigate risk of future disasters. Communities with high levels of disaster resilience are well positioned to withstand future crises and are better equipped to recover from any residual impacts.

The Community Assistance Team is a two year pilot project designed to **support communities through disaster planning.** The initial pilot project aims to partner with communities to **build action plans** that identify local risks and vulnerabilities. The Community Assistance Team will also support community requests for assistance during response and recovery operations.

The outcome of this project is to share accurate, data driven information with governments and other key stakeholders and partners, as we collectively strive to **build stronger, more resilient communities.**



# SERVICES

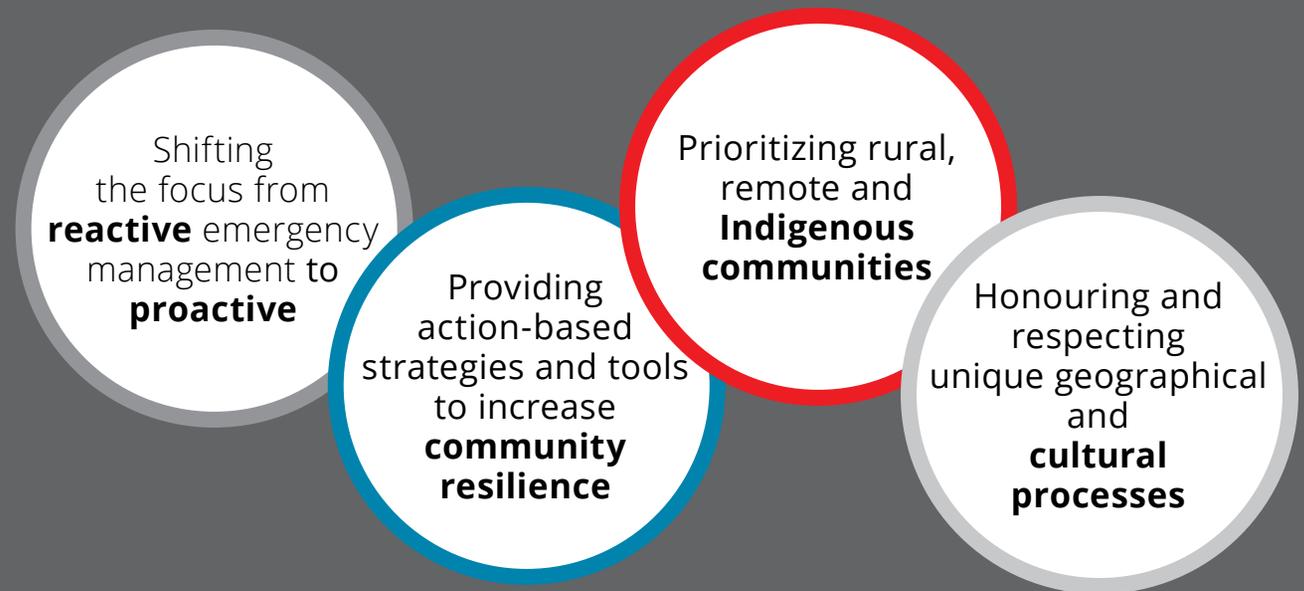
This specialized team will **work alongside communities** to identify and assess vulnerabilities and risks in order to co-create an action plan tailored to the specific needs of the community. The team engages inclusively with community members to leverage the diverse strengths and perspectives found at the local level. The processes and outcomes completed through this project are complementary and supportive to existing assessment processes and disaster planning in BC.

The Community Assistance Team focuses on action-based resilience planning to strengthen local capacity and capability. The process values **community engagement** to facilitate the understanding of the needs, strengths, vulnerabilities and diversity unique to each community. Depending on the needs identified, additional CRC services and resources will be offered to individuals, operational units and communities as they develop and implement action-oriented solutions.

# APPROACH

The Community Assistance Team takes a strength-based approach that seeks to maximize the inclusion and participation of the community to create quality engagement and effective disaster resilience outcomes. The approach is designed to be flexible and scalable, meaning it can be adapted to meet the needs of rural, urban, and suburban communities. Effective communication and consultation underpin every aspect of the Community Assistance Team's approach.

The team is comprised of leaders in community engagement and assessment processes. These subject-matter experts have experience in a wide range of partner and stakeholder engagement including government, non-government organizations, Indigenous communities, and leadership as well as at the community level.





# PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE RECOVERY



In the **Preparedness Phase**, the Community Assistance Team helps guide the process, from start to finish, by providing subject matter experts; resources; action-based tools; and an assessment process built on best-practice. The process is led by the community and action-based resilience plans are tailored to the risks, needs, values and capacity of each community.

In the **Response Phase**, the team can provide support to Emergency Operations Centers with advanced planning and community engagement expertise.

The team can also support the transition to the **Recovery Phase** by providing assessments and facilitating linkages to recovery programming.

# PROCESS



# CAPACITY

Following the initial assessment, the Community Assistance Team will identify additional supports that may benefit the community and draw on a range of services and resources available from both the Canadian Red Cross as well as other agencies and organizations around the province. This will ensure the community is able to address a variety of unique vulnerabilities and needs identified during the assessment process. In addition, the team will leverage best practice from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement including the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments.

# SUPPORT



Flexible and adaptable to address unique community needs



Emergency Planning and resilience-building tools



Community and Partner Engagement throughout



Emergency Operations Centre Support



Facilitation of additional resources and supports