

Infrastructure and Buildings Working Group

IBWG Meeting 44

April 10, 2025 – 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET

Meeting Summary

1. IBWG Updates and Announcements	1
2. Presentations	1
A) Modernized Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)	2
B) Discussing the municipal resilience funding program “Accélérer la transition climatique locale” (ATCL)	3
3. IBWG Member Roundtable (Resources)	4
4. Events	6

1. IBWG Updates and Announcements

- For new members, please join the IBWG directory by completing this quick form:
<https://forms.gle/vgJqG1ayWKVUMTy48>
- Please note that the information shared in this form will be publicly available.
- The Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes (CBHCC) is seeking volunteers to serve on its code development committees for the 2030 code cycle. <https://cbhcc-cchcc.ca/en/volunteer-to-serve-on-a-code-development-committee/>
- Quebec’s 2025/26 Provincial Budget:
finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget_and_update/budget/documents/Budget2526_BudgetPlan.pdf#page=42

Polling Exercise Results:

What are the top three topic areas you would like to see explored in the IBWG?

1. Examples of Application of Climate Resilience Standards and Guides
2. Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Relief Programs
3. Infrastructure Standards and Codes; Local and Municipal Adaptation Initiatives (**tied**)

2. Presentations

[PDFs attached]

A) *Modernized Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)*

Speakers: Sheila Gordon, Manager, Resilience and Economic Integration Division of Public Safety Canada; Carly Benson, Manager, Resilience and Economic Integration Division of Public Safety Canada

Discussion

Dean: It seems there is funding for both recovery and prevention. Is that correct? If so, with 1:200 criteria prevention will be very expensive. Is there an anticipated split with funding between recovery and prevention?

SG: DFAA is a post-disaster program - it does not provide any *pre-disaster* funding (either for prevention or mitigation) - all funding flows once an eligible disaster happens. Once there is an eligible DFAA event, on top of funding for response and recovery costs, there is substantial opportunity under the new program for mitigation, risk reduction, and build back better in the affected area to ensure that we are rebuilding with greater resilience. Ensuring we do not continue to rebuild and develop in high-risk areas (i.e. the 1:200 flood plain) without adequate protections is a key part of the program to ensure we are keeping people safe from rising disaster risks. The 'mitigation envelope' is calculated for each disaster, as 25% of the response and recovery costs - creating a pot of funding that can be used to reduce the highest risks in the impacted area.

Kelly Montgomery: Just wondering if “build back better” includes energy efficiency measures (e.g. actions towards net-zero, clean energy)?

SG: If the upgrade offers greater resilience, and emission reduction, great- but must relate to increased resilience.

Chris Arthers: Perhaps an evolving topic: who would support Indigenous Nations in situations where Addition to Reserve are occurring within municipalities? Would this occur at Provincial or Federal level?

SG: DFAA meant to cover any costs that aren't going to another program- important we aren't leaving anyone out. Can't speak to the Indigenous programs going forward and where they land on this but whatever they don't cover, they can come to the DFAA. We are making sure no one is left behind.

Josh I: With Build Back Better, just confirming that it is funding to be above code? Or is it meant assist in meeting code requirements?

Carly Benson: Rebuilding to current codes and standards is covered as a standard cost under the program. Recognizing that sometimes assets were built under previous codes, so the cost the rebuild to current code is a standard. The additional resilience funding is meant to take the opportunity during reconstruction to go beyond codes and standards to reduce risk at the site level (or can contribute to moving the asset).

Bertrand Comte: Can the build back better funding be used to build back somewhere else (in an area with lower risks)?

SG: Yes, the build back better and/or mitigation funding can be used to support relocation of the asset/building to a lower risk area.

Matt Buckman, Canadian Urban Institute: Are the thresholds the minimum spend required by a PT before accessing funding in any given disaster? Second, how would end users like municipalities access the build back better funding? Would they apply through the PT and then PT applies to DFAA?

Carly Benson: Yes, a PT needs to meet the program's financial threshold for a disaster to qualify for the program.

Municipalities are funded through their provincial or territorial programs. The DFAA establishes what the federal program will cost-share with provinces and territories. Provinces and territories determine which aspects of the available federal resilience and risk reduction funding they want to include in their programs.

SmithKe: Can you give a flavor of how discussions with PTs on program alignment are going? Also, with the small pot of funding to credit PTs who have taken action in the pre-disaster period, presumably there is a way to confirm that those actions were not originally supported with federal funding (i.e., to avoid double dipping)?

Josée Méthot, IISD: How does drought fit into DFAA? Would more extreme droughts qualify?

SG: In terms of eligible hazards under the DFAA, long-term climatic trends and conditions are not covered by this program, but where there are sudden and significant impacts that reach the financial threshold such as the climatic conditions contributing to the intensity of a flood or wildfire, the program covers the response, reconstruction and recovery costs. More details can be found in the program Guidelines, available here: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/rcvr-dsstrs/dsstr-fnncl-ssstnc-rrngmnts/2025/dfa-gdlns-en.aspx>

B) *Discussing the municipal resilience funding program “Accélérer la transition climatique locale” (ATCL)*

Speaker: Jeanne Camirand, Coordonnatrice des programmes, Bureau de la transition climatique et énergétique (BTCE), Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec (MELCCFP)

Link: ATCL Le guide du volet 1: cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/environnement/publications-adm/plan-economie-verte/programmes/accelerer-transition-locale/guide-elaboration-plan-climat.pdf

Discussion

Q: How are Indigenous communities taken into account in the Program. For example, are they consulted as part of consultations led by the Regional County Municipalities (*municipalités régionales de comté* - MRCs)?

JC: Communities are encouraged to engage but the program leaves the approach to local government, considering existing agreements.

Q: Is it common for two neighboring communities to have significantly different climate plans?

JC: Using the risk assessment methodology provided by the guide, two neighboring municipalities might have slightly different local hazards, priorities and mitigation measures. Coordination would be required for two adjacent municipalities sharing the same infrastructure (e.g., a road). There is a guide for those projects submitted under Stream 2

Q: What are the program criteria to assess and select GHG mitigation projects for funding?

JC: Municipalities have to demonstrate the importance and rationale for the measures being proposed for funding. Projected GHG reduction estimates is one of the criteria. It should be noted that public transit projects are excluded from the ATCL program because they are funded by other programs and are very costly.

3. IBWG Member Roundtable (Resources)

This section provides updates on tools, workshops, publications and new adaptation and resilience strategies.

Joanna Eyquem: Intact Centre's Getting Nature into Financial Reporting.

- Release in French and English
- Link: [Getting Nature into Financial Reporting: Natural Asset Disclosures for Local Governments – Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#)
- Including accounting and sustainability standards (international and Canadian standards)
- Great resource for looking at the State of Play- share with your local governments!
- Infographics if you are short on time!
 - French - https://www.centreintactadaptationclimat.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CentreIntact_Inscrire_nature-dans-rapports-financiers_jan2025_IG-2.pdf
 - English - https://www.centreintactadaptationclimat.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/IntactCentre_Getting-Nature-into-Financial-Reporting_jan2025_IG.pdf
- **Coastal Project Option Appraisal Guide / Guide d'évaluation des options de gestion du littoral** (Standards Council of Canada project)
 - [Call for Participation / Invitation à participer \(bilingual\)](#)
- **A Coastal Communities Adaptation Toolkit for Canada / Une trousse d'outils d'adaptation pour les collectivités côtières au Canada** (NRCan project)

- Press Release - [English](#) / [French](#)
- Backgrounder - [English](#) / [French](#)
- **CanAdapt: Advancing a Climate-Ready Workforce Through Courses and Networks / CanAdapt : formations et réseaux pour développer les compétences du personnel en matière d'adaptation aux changements climatiques** (NRCan project)
 - Press Release - [English](#) / [French](#)
 - Backgrounder - [English](#) / [French](#)
 - <https://canadapt.network/>

Catherine Hallmich: Takeaways from the Dec 4 Knowledge to Action workshop

- HICC, with SCC and NRC hosted a workshop back in December with over 60 participants to gather ideas to increase the uptake of climate resilience standards and practice and identify additional knowledge gaps.
- A workshop summary report has been developed and will be translated into French. The **next step** will be to schedule a webinar in the coming months to discuss the findings and incorporate additional views into the report.
 - The report includes over **200 recommendations** for new standards, research, data, tools or training, as well as ideas to increase the uptake of existing guidance.
 - It includes short- and long-term actions grouped: **by themes** (including flooding, wildfire, extreme heat and permafrost thaw) and **by stakeholder groups** (including asset owners, insurers and funders, engineers and civil society).
- The summary report also includes the results from the IBWG survey, which point to the need for greater coordination among stakeholders and incentives to accelerate the uptake of climate resilience implementation, and a focus on helping communities with tailored guidance and tools.

Gillian Koh: SCC Updates- Publication of two new standards solutions specific to Northern infrastructure:

- A technical specification on climate risks-informed approach to asset management in northern regions. Update to the national standard: geotechnical site investigations for foundations of building or structure in permafrost zones.
 - Link: [Product | CSA Group](#)
- Also, SCC's first standard solution under our nature-based solutions workstream is published. It is a workshop agreement on nature-based solutions for water management.
 - <https://sustainabilitydigitalage.org/featured/new-report-explores-nature-based-solutions-for-water-management-in-canada/>

Harshan Radhakrishnan, EGBC: Engineers and Geoscientists BC Climate change strategy

- Engineers and Geoscientists BC is developing its organizational climate change strategy which will outline how the regulatory body intends to lead by example through its corporate and regulatory activities and how it intends to continue to support its registrants through the development of new programs and initiatives. An Intentions Paper has been released to enable registrants to express their support, concerns, and suggestions. Feedback gathered through the engagement process will be compiled into a “What We Heard” report and will help inform the development of the Strategy.
- More info here: <https://www.egbc.ca/Registrants/Registrant-Programs/Climate-Sustainability/Organizational-Climate-Change-Strategy>
- Of potential interest to this group: as part of the strategy development, EGBC conducted a Physical Climate Risk Assessment to evaluate potential climate risks to our office building and develop measures to enhance its resilience.

4. Events

Dan Sandink: Western U, ICLR and other are hosting the 10th International Conference on Flood Management at Western U in May 2026 - register here: <https://icfm10.com/>

Joanna Eyquem: Call for Participation in the Development and Review of the Coastal Project Options Appraisal Guide. Link: [Announcement: Call for Participation in the Development and Review of the Coastal Project Options Appraisal Guide – Climate Risk Institute](#)