



# Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Planning Guide

## *Step Three – Building a Resilience Plan*

Office of Applied Research  
Justice Institute of British Columbia  
715 McBride Boulevard  
New Westminster, BC V3L 5T4  
Tel: 604-528-5590 Fax: 604-528-5715  
www.jibc.ca

Published 2015.  
Printed in Canada.

This work is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 license, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

 Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

## Step Three Building a Resilience Plan - Introduction

---

Your *Disaster Resilience Plan* is a road map that describes where you want to go and how you intend to get there, based on your resilience assessment (Step 2) and the areas you have targeted for improvement in your *Integrated Disaster Resilience Profile*. Creating the Plan involves setting goals, comparing where you are now, identifying ways of reaching those goals and achieving your community's vision of future resilience.

Like most kinds of planning, disaster resilience planning involves a set of activities. These activities may include some or all of the following:

- identification of a vision (the ideal future)
- identification of goal(s)
- identification of actions or strategies to reach goals
- development of a work plan

The planning process continues as you implement the Plan, regularly check the progress you've made, adjust goals and actions when necessary, and continue to take action until the desired changes have been made.

Here is a summary of the activities for this Step:

### **Activity 1 – Setting a Vision**

In this activity you will take steps to create a vision of your community's disaster resilience which will lead directly to considering the shorter term steps - the goals - that will help you reach your community's vision.

### **Activity 2 – Developing Goals**

Once your vision is set, you will identify develop goals for your community's resilience. Your goal or goals will be based on the results of the assessment of your community's risk and resilience.

### **Activity 3 – Identifying Resilience Strategies**

In this Activity, you will identify strategies that will help your community to reach its goals. These strategies will lead to actions to determine ways of reaching your goals.

### **Activity 4 – Writing the Resilience Plan**

At this point in the planning process, your team will already have much of the information you need to put together a *Disaster Resilience Plan*. Your plan should clearly define the tasks to be accomplished, along with who will be doing the work, and a schedule for completing the tasks.

## Activity 1: Setting a Vision

In terms of planning, a vision defines a future state you would like to reach. A vision is a long-term view that describes how your community would like to be. Features of an effective vision statement are:

- vivid and clear picture
- realistic
- in tune with community values and culture

Creating a vision of your community's disaster resilience leads directly to considering the shorter term steps - the goals - that will help you reach your community's vision.

There are various methods for creating your community's resilience vision. Your team may choose to write a short statement that describes your community as highly resilient. You can also engage in a "visioning exercise" with others in the community to develop a broader, more wide-ranging vision. An approach called "Appreciative Inquiry" is a strength-based approach which builds on existing community capacity and helps the community move towards achieving its vision.

## Resources

For information on creating a community disaster resilience vision, refer to the following resources in the *Resilience Resource Guide*:

- Working Together – Creating a Community Vision

### Activity Summary:

The community has completed a vision for becoming disaster resilient.

Complete

### Notes:

---

---

---

---

## Activity 2: Developing Goals

Goals are statements of what you want to accomplish. Your goal or goals will be based on the results of the assessment of your community's risk and resilience.

One way of establishing goals is to work backwards from the vision. If your vision of a resilient community looks towards the future in 10 years, what major milestones or goals would you need to achieve in five years? Two years? One year?

It is important that goals be concrete and specific enough so that progress towards them can be measured. The more specific the goals are, the clearer they are to everyone, and the more measurable they are. Goals should be worded in such a way that everyone can tell when they are reached. They don't have to include numbers, but should always include target dates for completion.

Your Hazard Custom Report and your Aboriginal Custom Report should help guide the development of your goals, as they are a snapshot of where you are today. Your vision is a statement of where you want to be in the future. What are the gaps between the two? Which of those gaps are the most important for your community to close? Set goals that will help close them.

### Activity Summary:

Goals for disaster resilience developed based on the community vision.

Complete

### Notes:

---

---

---

---

### Activity 3: Identifying Resilience Strategies

Strategies determine ways of reaching your goals. They are actions that get you to your goals. The first step is to prioritize which areas of resilience you want to address. Some areas of resilience will be related to reducing disaster risk, such as those suggested by **the Hazard Resilience Index** (HRI) and some dimensions in the Disaster Management category of the **Aboriginal Resilience Index** (ARI). Other areas of resilience, such as those suggested by the Resource section of the website, will be related in more subtle but equally important ways. For example, increasing community member's participation in community events can be critical in recovering from disaster. Increasing their trust of local government can help with their willingness and ability to follow directions during a disaster.

The *Aboriginal Resilience Strategies (ARS) report* and the *Hazard Resilience Strategies (HRS) report* will provide you with a list of strategies to address each of the dimensions or hazards you have rated or entered to date.

Once you have created the report, you will have the option to create an 'Action Plan' by targeting specific strategies that will enhance disaster resilience in your community.

Important considerations as you review your resilience profile are:

1. Implementing strategies to address this area of resilience would improve our day to day lives and our disaster preparedness.
2. Implementing strategies to address this area of resilience is under the community's control
3. Failure to implement strategies to address this area of resilience would result in:
  - Increased deaths and/or injuries to residents and/or visitors
  - Significant economic and/or property loss
  - Significant ecological destruction
  - Significant threat to community survival (economic, cultural, physical)
  - Significant health threats to the community
  - Loss of critical community resources and/or infrastructure
4. Resources (time, money, people) are available to address this area of resilience
5. Addressing this area of resilience is in keeping with our community vision and goals

There is an opportunity to get creative in thinking about resilience strategies. One approach is to simply look at your resilience profile to see what should be priority areas to work on. However, sometimes you can see links between two or more characteristics of resilience. For example, an action for increasing community engagement might be to initiate monthly community potluck dinners. A strategy to reduce fire risks might focus on removing underbrush from around key community buildings. A strategy that addresses both of these may have a greater impact.

A combined resilience strategy might involve developing a community event that encourages volunteers to help remove undergrowth around the Community Hall and their own homes that concludes with a community dinner. This would promote community engagement and awareness in resilience activities, while reducing immediate fire risks.

To identify effective strategies it is important to assess them for their practicality. There are many things that could be done to reach your goals, but you must evaluate them in terms of their cost, the need for volunteers, or other resource issues. You should make sure that your strategies can be accomplished with the resources available to you. Finally, the strategies should address both short and longer term goals.

To start, review your *Integrated Disaster Resilience Profile Template* and those resilience characteristics you have marked as important (e.g., starred) in the ARI and the HRI. Simply considering how you would make these characteristics present in the community may suggest an immediate strategy for improvement, particularly when considering the Disaster Management and

Hazard Resilience sections. You can also review the *Aboriginal Resilience Strategies* resources on the resources page. It provides many further suggestions for characteristics of resilience related to the Community Resource and Disaster Management sections in the ARI.

## Resources

For more information on resilience enhancement strategies, refer to the following resource included in the *Resilience Resource Guide*:

- HRI- Hazard Resilience Strategies
- ARI - Aboriginal Resilience Strategies

### Activity Summary:

Resilience Strategies identified.

Complete

### Notes:

---

---

---

---

## Activity 4: Writing the Resilience Plan

At this point in the planning process, your team will already have much of the information you need to put together a *Disaster Resilience Plan*. You have a clear picture of your community and its features, you have considered and recorded the hazards your community faces, and you have assessed your community's disaster resilience. Based on all of this information, you have identified a goal or goals and strategies (or actions) for reaching your goals. From these building blocks, you can develop a work plan that clearly defines the tasks to be accomplished, along with who will be doing the work, and a schedule for completing the tasks.

There is no particular format you should use, but the plan should include the following:

- a brief summary of the information you gathered throughout the process
- an explanation of how resilience factors were prioritized
- the action plan itself, including timelines, responsibilities, necessary resources, and milestones

The main purpose of the plan is to convince your community of the need for increasing resilience, and to gain their commitment to its implementation.

Once you have completed your plan, you will need to take it out into your community to get commitment to the plan's implementation. At the same time, you may also wish to share your plan with other stakeholders and seek their support for some or all of your strategies to improve disaster resilience. These stakeholders could include representatives in local and/or regional governments, community leaders, Elders, or business owners who are not already involved, or even neighbouring communities in the region. The information you have collected and the plan you have made will be a valuable resource and can be used to set local, regional, or provincial/territorial policy on building community disaster resilience.

### Activity Summary:

Disaster Resilience Plan developed.

Complete

### Notes:

---

---

---

---