



PATRICK WEILER

Member of Parliament

West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

[f /PatrickBWeiler](#) [@PatrickBWeiler](#) [@PatrickBWeiler](#)

Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca patrickweiler.ca



Emergency Preparedness: Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.

From the record breaking 2023 wildfires, the devastating 2021 atmospheric rivers, and the deadly heat dome, we have seen how the climate crisis has worsened natural disasters in BC and requires that we adapt to keep our loved ones and communities safe. With the number of climate-related disasters increasing, the financial cost to families, communities, and governments is increasing. The federal government has spent \$7.9 billion in financial support since the creation of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program in 1970, with three quarters of funding distributed in the past 10 years alone. It is more important than ever to mitigate risks and ensure we are all prepared for the natural disasters and emergencies we may face.

This newsletter will help you **Be Prepared. Know Your Risks** by highlighting the federal government's emergency preparedness programming and outlining local community resources on the North Shore and Bowen Island that you should be aware of. Visit our website at patrickweiler.ca or scan the QR Code for links to all of the resources listed in this newsletter.



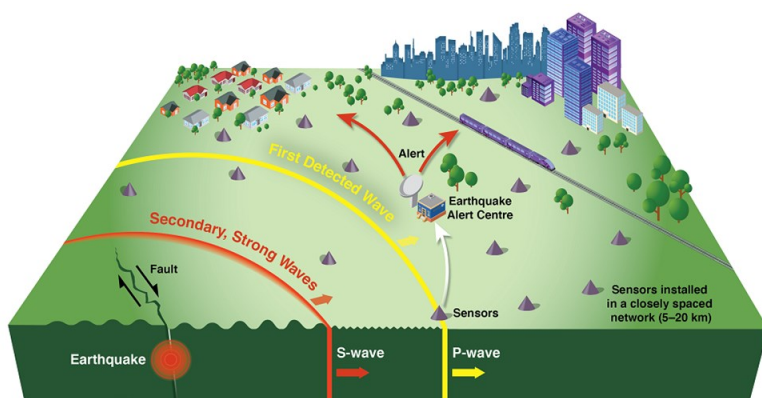
FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- \$6.5B** Launching Canada's First National Adaptation Strategy, supporting flood mapping, funding climate resiliency infrastructure, and more
- Investing in Canada's Humanitarian Workforce to ensure our ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy support to Canadians in need
- 2x** Doubling tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search & rescue volunteers from \$3,000 to \$6,000, saving them up to \$900 per year
- Funding the training of over 1,000 firefighters in 2023 while investing in firefighting equipment procurement and satellite monitoring of fires

Local Emergency Preparedness Investments

Enhancing Canada's Earthquake Early Warning System

Being situated in the most earthquake-prone area of Canada, coastal British Columbians know that earthquake preparedness will save lives, protect key infrastructure systems, and reduce property damage. To help get prepared, we announced in 2022 the installation of an earthquake sensor in Horseshoe Bay that is the first of a critical early warning system for earthquakes in British Columbia. The EEW system allows for split second decisions that can communicate coming earthquakes, mitigate damage and ensure emergency response can be expedited.



Graphic: How the EEW system works in Canada

Strengthening Community Resilience in Lions Bay

Municipalities are on the frontlines in responding to the effects of climate change. As extreme weather events increase in frequency and severity, municipalities need the resources and funding to manage emergency situations to protect both people and properties. That is why through a \$1 million federal investment, we announced enhancements to Lions Bay's emergency building, a 2-storey addition that expands the apparatus bays and retrofit the Emergency Operations Centre, BC Ambulance, and Search and Rescue Services.

Photo: 2021 Lions Bay emergency building funding announcement



GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

3 Steps to Get Prepared



1. KNOW THE RISKS

Knowing the risks in your region can help you prepare, including wildfires and earthquakes. For more information on federal resources, please visit [GetPrepared.ca](https://getprepared.ca)



2. MAKE A PLAN

Every household needs an emergency plan. When an emergency occurs, your family may not be together so plan how to meet or contact each other, and discuss what you would do in different situations.



3. BUILD A KIT

In the case of an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. Include water, canned and packaged foods, flashlights, cash and IDs. Make sure it is easy to carry.

BC Provincial Government Resources:

- **EmergencyInfoBC.ca** for emergency updates
- **BCWildfire.ca** or the BC Wildfire app for wildfire and fire ban information
- **DriveBC.ca** for road conditions
- **ESS.gov.bc.ca** for evacuation and emergency support services
- **PreparedBC.ca** to help you prepare for emergencies
- **PreparedBC hazard map** to see what emergencies could happen near you
- **Interactive Emergency Ready Planner** for customized home emergency plans

North Shore Emergency Management & Bowen Island Emergency Program

North Shore Emergency Management and Bowen Island Emergency Program work to plan, coordinate, and test emergency and disaster response services. Sign up for **Alertable**, their alert programs that sends out alerts for all types of emergencies. You can download the Alertable app for iOS or Android smartphones.

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

On April 6th, I joined community members at the opening of the newest search and rescue (SAR) station in North Vancouver and to highlight Budget 2024's doubling of the volunteer firefighter and search and rescue tax credits. This measure that will benefit organizations such as North Shore Rescue, which conducts search and rescue operations in mountain, canyon, urban settings, and more, and RCMSAR West Vancouver, which responds to marine emergencies in Howe Sound and English Bay and are on call 24/7, 365 days/year. There is so much nature to explore in our riding but it is critical that we do so safely, and SAR teams help us do that by being ready to answer the call.

RULES FOR STAYING SAFE IN THE MOUNTAINS

- Do your research before you head out in the mountains.
- Even though it feels like summer, the mountains could still be very cold, so prepare accordingly.
- Call 911 early if you are in danger or hurt.

RULES ON STAYING SAFE ON THE WATER

- Always wear a lifejacket
- Always boat sober
- In an emergency, call on VHF radio channel 16 or phone #SAR/#727 or *16

STAYING FIRE SMART OUTDOORS AND WHILE CAMPING

- Get educated by visiting firesmartbc.ca and adventuresmart.ca
- Download the BC Wildfire Service mobile app to get up to date information on wildfire risks and alerts
- Follow local fire bans and restrictions at BCWildfire.ca
- If you see signs of wildfire, report it on the BC Wildfire Service app, dial *5555 on a cellphone or call 1 800 663-5555

STAYING FIRE SMART AT HOME

- Test your smoke alarms monthly
- Close your doors before you doze; this could save your life in the event of a fire while you're sleeping
- Carbon monoxide detectors in your home could save your life; carbon monoxide is odourless and colourless
- Regular maintenance and cleaning removes potential fire fuels; this includes keeping grass lawns shorter than 10 centimetres, cleaning under decks, and storing firewood and flammable material away from your home, ideally 10 metres away