

**Town of Qualicum Beach
M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Luke Sales, Director of Planning

FOR: Council, April 28, 2021

FROM: Rebecca Augustyn, Planner

SUBJECT: Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council directs staff to post the draft 2021 Community Climate Adaptation Plan for stakeholder review and public comment until June 11, 2021.
2. THAT Council directs staff to include a staffing strategy for implementation of Town-led climate initiatives during the anticipated 2021-2022 municipal service review.

PURPOSE

To consider the draft 2021 Community Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP).

BACKGROUND

The development of Qualicum Beach’s CCCAP was facilitated by the Town’s participation in ICLEI (formerly known as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Canada’s Adaptation Changemakers project. Supported by technical guidance from ICLEI and regional experts, Adaptation Changemakers was a two-year collaboration between eight communities across Canada to build local capacity for climate change resilience and to advance efforts on adaptation. This project brought together the participating communities multiple times over the course of the project, gathering at three national workshops to network, learn, and share experiences about adaptation planning.

Table 1: Participating municipalities in ICLEI’s Adaptation Changemakers project

British Columbia	Town of Qualicum Beach District of Ucluelet City of Prince George
Newfoundland and Labrador	Town of Conception Bay South Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip’s
Ontario	City of Windsor City of Peterborough Town of Caledon

Each municipality followed Milestones 1– 3 of ICLEI Canada’s Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program – a five milestone planning framework that supports the development and implementation of a Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The process involved identifying local climate change projections and impacts, facilitating a risk and vulnerability assessment, and identifying community actions to increase resilience to projected changes. Milestones 4 and 5 focus on implementation and monitoring and will be ongoing for many years.

The adaptation planning process was community-focused, and each participating municipality convened a wide range of community stakeholders for five workshops, allowing for collaborative co-development of adaptation plans that address climate risks across multiple sectors and systems. The group included representatives from:

- ICLEI Canada
- Town staff
- Council (Councillor Scott Harrison)
- Member of Parliament Gord Johns (staff representative)
- Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve
- Streamkeepers
- Residents Associations
- Vancouver Island University
- Island Health
- Emergency Management
- Regional District of Nanaimo
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Participating members have not yet reviewed the draft CCCAP, but would do so during the consultation period.

DISCUSSION

The goal of the CCCAP is to build the Town’s adaptive capacity, and to integrate climate change considerations into long-term planning and day-to-day operations. The impacts and actions reflect priority climate change risks for the community’s social, built, economic, and natural systems. Many climate-related risks extend beyond municipal jurisdiction, requiring the collaboration of important community service providers, local partnerships and other levels of government. As such, the climate actions were developed using the knowledge and experience of municipal staff, community partners, and consultant expertise.

The following nine objectives were identified as key overarching theme areas for the climate adaptation actions in the Town’s CCCAP. Implementing these adaptation actions will contribute towards achieving the high-level objectives below:

1	Proactively mitigate wildland urban interface fire risk at the community scale.
2	Continue long-term planning for sea level rise in alignment with Waterfront Master Plan.
3	Promote and expand the use of Low Impact Development (LID) and Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for building.
4	Increase the resilience of the urban forest.
5	Improve coordinated watershed management and planning.
6	Increase water conservation practices and policies.
7	Continue to manage invasive species throughout the community.
8	Improve public health, safety and preparedness to climate-related events.
9	Integrate climate change thinking into future planning.

Implementation and Governance

The CCCAP is intended to help the Town of Qualicum Beach and community partners prepare for the impacts of climate change. As such, a strong focus on implementation, governance, and monitoring is essential to the Plan's success.

Oversight and Governance

It is intended that the CCCAP will be "municipally-led and community supported". The benefits of this model are that it enables the Town to play a leadership role, while also sharing the responsibility for plan implementation. It also potentially allows for the leveraging of community capital for those actions that are beyond municipal responsibility.

Community Stakeholder Working Group

It is suggested in the CCCAP that a Community Stakeholder Working Group should guide the implementation of the CCCAP. The group would be composed of representatives from lead and supporting organizations, community partners, stakeholders, and Municipal staff. The working group would represent the interests of the partner organizations outlined in the Plan, and would welcome members of the wider community and interested staff members.

As an alternative to creating a new advisory body, the Town's Environment and Sustainability could be the committee that provides ongoing guidance on implementation.

ICLEI CANADA'S FIVE MILESTONE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

MILESTONE ONE - INITIATE

Within this milestone, communities identify stakeholders to review and understand existing knowledge on how the regional climate is changing, followed by a brainstorming exercise to identify potential climate change impacts.

MILESTONE TWO—RESEARCH

The second milestone is meant to further develop a community's understanding of climate change impacts and the major service areas which are likely to feel these impacts most acutely. Within this milestone, a municipality will scope the climate change impacts for the region and conduct both a vulnerability and risk assessment.

MILESTONE THREE - PLAN

The third milestone provides guidance on how to establish a vision, set adaptation goals and objectives, identify adaptation options, and examine possible constraints and drivers to various actions.

MILESTONE FOUR - IMPLEMENT

In the fourth milestone, communities work to ensure that they have the approval and support of council, municipal staff and the community in order to move forward on implementation.

MILESTONE FIVE – MONITOR & REVIEW

The fifth and final milestone serves to assess whether the goals and objectives of the Strategy have been achieved, and helps communities identify any problems that have been encountered and develop solutions.

Communication, Education and Outreach

The long-term success of the CCCAP hinges upon an informed and involved community taking part in ongoing conversations about climate impacts and the benefit of climate action. The conversation must translate to action on both the individual and community-level. Integrating climate awareness into the mainstream practices of all community groups, residents, visitors and municipal staff will be essential in successfully maximizing our resiliency potential.

Monitoring and Review

Tracking progress is an important part of the monitoring and review process as it enables the Town and community to assess whether the actions outlined in this Plan are producing the desired results. It sets the stage for longevity, as it allows the Town and the community to build upon the networks created and lessons learned throughout the Plan development. Since adaptation is a moving target, a monitoring framework also ensures that the community can assess whether local risks and vulnerabilities are changing and make required adjustments to the adaptation actions. This monitoring framework has not yet been created – it would be done after the CCCAP has been adopted and the Town moves into Milestone 5 (Monitor and Review).

At a minimum the climate change projections, vulnerability and risk assessment should be reviewed every 5 years. In the event that new impacts, vulnerabilities or risks are identified, a formal review of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan will occur. An implementation update report to Council will occur on a bi-annual basis once implementation begins.

Strategic Alignment

Planning for, and adapting to, changing climate conditions is vital to the Town’s ability to continue the effective delivery of municipal services. This initiative falls under the category of “Improved Governance Practices” in Council’s Strategic Plan.

Financial Implications

Implementation of the CCCAP will have ongoing financial implications on many municipal projects of a scale and type. For example, capital projects will be built to accommodate anticipated future climate conditions. For example, oversizing the municipal storm capacity to accommodate extremely intense periods of rain, which are anticipated to increase in future years. It should be noted, however, that many of the climate change adaptation initiatives identified in the CCCAP are already incorporated into municipal projects. For example:

- The Town uses forward-looking stormwater modeling to accommodate the increasing intensity of storms.
- The new roundabout currently under construction has a higher elevation than the adjacent roadways to accommodate projected sea-level rise.
- Tree selections are made that will prosper in the anticipated future climate conditions, rather than relying on past climate to inform selection.

With or without the CCCAP, there are financial implications to the Town’s forward-looking approach to infrastructure. In some cases, it means “over building” as compared to simply meeting current needs.

The most significant immediate financial impact would be if the Town hires additional staff to focus on the coordination of municipal climate initiatives. The Town has not yet developed a

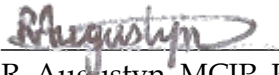
staffing strategy, and it is recommended that this be discussed during the future service review, so that it can be considered in the context of overall staffing requirements.

SUMMARY

In collaboration with ICLEI Canada and local stakeholders, the Town has developed a draft Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan to build local capacity for climate change resilience and to advance efforts on adaptation. The plan is in draft form, and staff recommend that the report be posted for public review for approximately six weeks. Following the review, and any subsequent revisions, a staff report would be provided with further recommendations.

ALTERNATIVES

1. THAT Council directs staff to amend the draft Community Climate Adaptation Plan as follows: *[insert changes]*.
2. THAT Council provides alternative direction to staff.



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Report Writer



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Concurrence



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attachments

[Qualicum Beach CCCAP April 28 2021.docx](#)

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