# Flood in BC: Hazards, Risks and A Way Forward

Understanding Risk, Victoria, April 2018 Tamsin Lyle, P.Eng | Principal | Ebbwater Consulting



## Floods are a problem not to be ignored



# \$2.4Bn losses annually \$673M paid by DFAA

Flood Disaster Occurrences in Canada 1900-2015 (Canadian Disaster Database) Annual Loss Estimate from Government of Canada (Parliamentary Budget Office 2016)



#### That affect many things

People: Flood disasters affected 2.3 Bn and killed 157,000 people between 1995 and 2015 (UN, 2016)

Infrastructure: "Integral US Trade Route, PTH-75 Closed" Red River Valley, 2011

Environment: "Hurricane Katrina leaves legacy of industrial waste, raw sewage and oil spills" August 2005 Economy:

"Canada's GDP will be reduced by \$2 billion as a direct result of the [Calgary] floods." June 2013

### Flooding is a wicked problem

- High degree of technical complexity
- Multiple dimensions of uncertainty
- Multiple objectives
- High stakes, high emotions
- Intense political scrutiny
- High expectations for quality and transparency
- Limited resources in terms of time, money and personnel.





#### That historically we have managed with arrogance Man Will Conquer Nature

**Natural Condition** 



**Dike Confinement** 

































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#### Designated Flood Maps of British Columbia

#### Flood Hazard



### Our Hazard is Increasing with Climate Change



In the US, a 45% increase in spatial extent of the 100-Year floodplains is projected by the year 2100 (NFIP 2014).





### We need to reframe the problem



Are you a Bull, Ostrich or a Meerkat?



## Let's Broaden Our Response



- We can't fight nature
- We can't sterilise our floodplains

- We can reduce sensitivity to our built environment
- We can speed up our recovery



#### Exposure = Opportunity for Risk Reduction



#### Let's embrace the challenge

#### Meerkats Unite! Bulls Be Gone! (Ostriches Too)





## Acknowledgements





Natural Resources Canada Ressources naturelles Canada



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