



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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TOWN OF SIDNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT RELEASED

SURREY – A performance audit of the Town of Sidney’s emergency management plans and programs found that, overall, the Town had made good progress in these areas, Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) Gordon Ruth said today.

“We were pleased to find that the Town of Sidney had a significant focus on emergency management,” said Mr. Ruth, “and in particular was proactive in its response to prevention and mitigation and developed a range of preparedness and response measures.”

The audit found that Sidney had complied with provincial emergency management regulations and had an Emergency Response and Recovery Plan and a Business Continuity Plan supported by comprehensive risk assessment and business impact analysis.

The AGLG’s report identifies areas where Sidney could improve on its practices by addressing additional aspects of emergency management, particularly in areas such as planning for recovery and business continuity of essential services following a significant event.

Emergency management is a shared responsibility of all levels of government and its importance has been demonstrated over the past year, as various B.C. communities have dealt with the impacts of flooding and wildfires as well as increasing concern about tsunami preparedness. Provincial legislation provides local governments with direction on emergency management.

Mr. Ruth said, “This report includes a great deal of information that may benefit other local governments, as well as Sidney, as they work to enhance their emergency management practices. This is an important area of local government activity, given the potential impact of emergency events on essential local government services such as drinking water, waste water, roads, protective services and others.”

The report’s 13 detailed recommendations to Sidney cover areas ranging from planning for emergencies to training, testing emergency plans, raising awareness and other aspects of emergency management.

This is the AGLG's first of four reports on the topic "*Emergency Management in Local Governments.*" The other three reports will cover emergency management activities of the Capital Regional District, District of Mission and the Fraser Valley Regional District.

The Town of Sidney's performance audit report is available on the AGLG's website at www.aglg.ca.

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