



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ACCESSIBILITY • INDEPENDENCE • TRANSPARENCY • PERFORMANCE

NEWS RELEASE

March 28, 2019

DISTRICT OF MISSION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT RELEASED

SURREY – A performance audit of the District of Mission’s emergency management plans and programs found that the District had some foundational elements of an emergency management program in place, but many elements needed to be developed or significantly strengthened, Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) Gordon Ruth said today.

“I want to commend the District of Mission for seeking our assistance in reviewing its progress on emergency management,” said Mr. Ruth, *“and I hope our report will provide a starting point for the District’s continued efforts to deliver a strong emergency management program.”*

The audit found that the District of Mission had partially met provincial emergency management requirements and had some elements in place in areas such as governance, planning and resourcing, training, exercising and testing and public awareness.

The AGLG’s report identifies numerous areas where the District of Mission should take further steps to strengthen its emergency management practices and be better prepared for potential emergencies.

Emergency management is a shared responsibility of all levels of government and its importance has been demonstrated over the past few years, 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, *“While the focus of this report is on the District of Mission, I am sure many local governments will find useful information in it to help focus their own efforts 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 14 recommendations to Mission cover areas ranging from statutory requirement compliance and governance to planning for emergencies, training, testing emergency plans, raising public awareness and other aspects of emergency management.

This is the AGLG's third of four reports on the topic "*Emergency Management in Local Governments.*" Two reports have previously been released on the emergency management activities of Capital Regional District and Town of Sidney. One additional report on this topic on Fraser Valley Regional District will follow in coming months.

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

- end -

CONTACT:

Gordon Ruth
Auditor General for Local Government
Gordon.Ruth@aglg.ca
604-930-7100
www.aglg.ca