



AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT RELEASED

SURREY – A performance audit of the Capital Regional District’s (CRD) emergency management plans and programs found that the CRD had a significant focus on emergency management and implemented many good practices, Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) Gordon Ruth said today.

“I was encouraged to see how the Regional District recognized the importance of sharing information and resources among local authorities in its region and was enhancing the coordination of emergency management,” said Mr. Ruth. “I was also pleased by how the Regional District recognized the importance of an integrated approach to emergency management and strived to make it a part of its organizational culture.”

The audit found that the CRD had taken major steps to develop an emergency management program and continuously improve it. It met its emergency management legislative requirements and implemented strong emergency planning and management practices. In addition, the CRD has been continuously improving its emergency management program over the last few years.

The AGLG’s report identifies areas where the CRD could strengthen its emergency management program, by developing a centralized emergency recovery and business continuity strategy and developing a performance measurement system for emergency management, as well as improving monitoring and reporting.

Mr. Ruth said, “I encourage all local governments, especially regional districts, to carefully review this audit report as part of their efforts to enhance their own emergency management practices. Regional districts play an important role in emergency management, both through their coordinating role and their direct provision of emergency management services in unincorporated

areas. This is vital, given the potential impact of emergency events on essential local government services such as drinking water, wastewater, roads, protective services and others.”

The report’s nine detailed recommendations to the CRD cover areas ranging from fulfilling its governance and statutory requirements to emergency planning, training, exercises and maintenance and continuous improvement.

This is the AGLG’s second of four reports on the topic “*Emergency Management in Local Governments.*” The first covered emergency management activities of the Town of Sidney, while upcoming reports will cover the District of Mission and Fraser Valley Regional District.

The CRD’s performance audit report is available on the AGLG’s website at www.aglg.ca.

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