Extreme Heat Response BC Housing







Photos: Global News, showing Prince George on 17 Aug. 2018, 9:09am





Heat, Health & Collaborative Responses for Resilient
Communities
Climate Change Symposium

Outline

- About BC Housing
- Why are we concerned?
- Adaptation planning and actions
- Lessons learned
- Collaboration
- Next steps





BC Housing

- develop, manage and administer subsidized housing;

- license residential builders, administer owner builder authorizations, and carry out research and education





Who do we serve?

- Individuals who are homeless
- Individuals with disabilities
- Indigenous individuals and families
- Women and children at risk of violence
- Low-income seniors and families
- Buyers of new homes



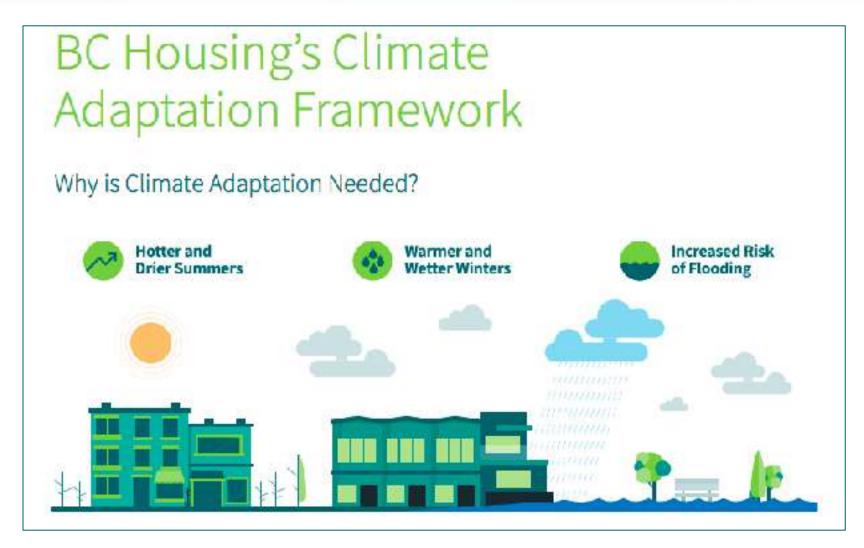


Why are we concerned?













Extreme Heat Response Plan

- Before the summer
- Regular summer
- Extreme Heat weather: high risk





Collaboration and learning

Internal staff across different business units











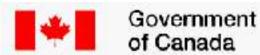


Health Canada









Gouvernement du Canada

Extreme Heat Response Plan

Before the summer:

- 1. Know the risks and what to do.
- 2. Identify tenants most vulnerable to extreme heat illness (create a list).
 - 3. Prepare your building

 (assess risk of overheating and prepare spaces where tenants may cool-off such as: shaded areas outside, a 'cooling room' in the common area in the building).
 - 4. Get what you may need during extreme heat:
 - portable air conditioning units
 - fans
 - communication tools such as "Tips to Beat the Heat post

Use Before the Summer Checklist Before the Summer Checklist

Before Su	mmer Actions — Pod Groups	Completed? — check box Or write NA: Not Applicable
Team	Building Cooling	
Members		
ΛII	 I'm familiar with extreme heat health risks, symptoms, and appropriate action. 	
Site Staff	2. I have assessed where there might be potential cooling	
and PPM	opportunities within the property for the tenants. (E.g. creation of a "cool rooms" or "chill zones" by installing a portable air conditioning or fans in the common rooms, or creation of a shaded area outside of the building if there's adequate space, or creating air flow by opening windows when it's colder outside than inside)	
Site Staff	 If my building has a common area, I have set it up as a "chill zone" using fans or air-conditioning. 	
Site Staff	4. If my building already has a portable air-conditioning unit I have maintained it (e.g. cleaned the filters) as recommended and checked that it works.	

Before the Summer Checklist

Site Staff	 If appropriate, I have provided shaded outdoor areas for tenants to spend time. 	
Site Staff	 I have signs for the 'chill room'. (So that I can use them when the chill room is activated). Ensure water cooler/station is available. 	
All	 I have all equipment or items I may want to use this summer during an extreme heat event for distribution to tenants (such as: fans) 	
All	8. I have communication materials for the tenants which I may need during an extreme hot weather event, such as: Tip to Beat the Heat! poster & flyer, neighbourhood maps showing places with air conditioning such as community centers, libraries, shopping malls, etc.	
All	 Pod Team Members, I have identified tenants who might be most at risk of heat related illnesses (created a list) 	



Hot Weather - High Risk

High Risk Level Response - activated when

Environment and Climate Change Canada

issues Heat Warnings and

Air Quality Warnings

for the specific regions in the province.

Local Health Authorities and Municipalities create

public announcements based on these alerts



Hot! Weather Checklist

ONCE YOU RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF EXTREME HEAT, THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED

Extrei (High	mely Hot Weather Actions – Pod Team Members Risk)	Completed? — check box Or write NA: Not Applicable
Buildi	ng Cooling	
1.	If my building has a common area, I have set it up as a "chill zone" using fans or air-conditioning.	
2.	Thave posted signs for the 'chill room', if it's activated.	
3.	If appropriate, I have provided shaded outdoor areas for lenants to spend time.	
4.	I check the weather forecast on regular basis for hot weather or air quality warnings and alerts.	
5.	I posted Tips to Beat the Heat poster around my site/s.	
6.	I checked that all the heating in the building is turned off. (And reported up if there are any challenges with it)	
7.	Thave opened windows in hallways slightly to allow air to circulate (if appropriate). ⁵	
8.	Lencourage tenants to reduce solar heat gain by putting blinds down or drawing the curtains; and have windows open only when outdoor air is cooler than indoor air (e.g. at night).	
9.	I have checked on tenants that might be at high risk and notified Health & Housing Services if further assessment should be conducted.	

Checking on Tenants/ Door-to-door

- 1. Check directly with the tenants most vulnerable to heat related illness (using your list).
- 2. When talking to the tenants assess:
 - a) <u>home environment</u>:

```
e.g. Does it feel very hot?

Are there any forms of cooling such draughts or fans?, etc.;
```

b) assess the tenant's:

```
e.g. Do they show physical signs of being in distress?

Do they know where they can go to cool off? Can they get there?

Is s/he at risk from exposure to extreme heat?
```

- **3. Take action.** (e.g. advise how to stay cool and about places to cool off, call 911 if you suspect tenant might be suffering from heat stroke).
- 4. Report.

Checking on Tenants/ Door-to-door

Below is a sample recording sheet:

Date: _1 Aug. 2018	Time: 2pm
Site/building name:	Grandview Terrace

Unit OL	Door opened/Not	Observations/Comments	items given out	High risk Yes/No	Turther action required
101	Yes	Tenant looked hot but had drawn curtains, open windows and fan. Aware of risk and how to stay cool.	Cooling bandana	No	No
102	Yes	Tenant wearing heavy clothing. Advised to wear something lighter and looser. Unaware of risks. Hard to communicate with.	Fun, how to stay cool poster	Yes	Someone should revisit tomorrow
103	Na				
104	Yes	Potential heat stroke		Yes	Called 911

Conducted by: __la Smith____

Lessons Learned

- Learning from others accelerates the process and makes it more fun
- Good data helps to get support from the executive
- Having a designated and passionate contact person makes things happen
- Preparation is the key to success

Next Steps

- Collect all the learning from the past summer & plan and prepare for the next one
- Refine the process
- Update and expand the educational materials
- Improve communication and reporting
- Share with others (BCNPHA conference, spring workshop with non-profits)

Thank you!





