

# MAKING CONTAMINATED SITES CLIMATE READY



Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**THE ISSUE:** Contaminated sites can be cleaned up in a number of different ways, but none of them take into account the effects of climate change so a cleaned up site may not be safe for future use.

**THE END GOAL:** To ensure continued protection of human health and the environment under changing climates.

## Contaminated Sites in BC

Current legal requirements for management and remediation of contaminated sites do not account for effects of climate change events.

## Remediation Strategies:

- Excavation
- Risk assessment
- On-site remediation

## Goals:

New regulations needed for management of contaminated sites under a changing climate.

## Considerations:

- Protecting groundwater
- Protecting human health and the environment
- Sustainable remediation technologies

## How does Climate Change Affect Contaminated Sites?

Possible impacts from:



• Sea level rise



• Flooding



• Fire



• Drought

Get involved and have your say about the recently published discussion paper **Making Contaminated Sites Climate Ready.**

The paper summarizes ideas to ensure the cleanup efforts of contaminated sites adapt to our changing climate.

## The paper has 2 main topics:

- How to incorporate climate change adaptation and sustainability into B.C.'s existing contaminated sites framework
- What remediation requirements need to be strengthened to protect groundwater quality

## In developing the principles, key concepts and outcomes, the Ministry considered:

- Climate Preparedness Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) objectives
- The Ministry's mandate
- Messages heard through Indigenous engagement
- Approaches of other governments
- Land remediation experts

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