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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2005PSSG0023-000493  
April 11, 2005

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

### **PROVINCE TO ASSIST LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING**

VICTORIA – The Province is continuing to help local governments prepare for emergencies, by providing a \$1.5 million grant for communities to access, Solicitor General Rich Coleman said today.

“An emergency can strike anytime, anywhere in the province and these funds will help municipalities and regional districts to plan,” said Coleman. “This builds on the \$1 million the province provided last year to local governments in response to recommendations in the Filmon Review of the 2003 fires.”

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) will again administer the funds, which are available to all regional districts and municipalities. The money will be used to develop integrated emergency plans and for training exercises related to those plans.

“During the recent ice-jams and flooding in the Cariboo, we saw that preparedness can really make a difference,” said UBCM President Aaron Dinwoodie. “All levels of government need to work together to plan for the safety of the people living in their communities.”

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