





Regional-scale Seismic Hazard Mapping of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

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Seismic Hazards

Primary seismic hazard is propagation of seismic waves and resulting ground shaking

Secondary seismic hazards result from source (fault) rupture and ground shaking including coseismic uplift or subsidence, ground deformations, tsunami, etc.

Three seismic hazards are commonly addressed by Microzonation Mapping

- Shaking hazard (shaking amplitude de/amplification relative to a reference ground condition)
- 2. Seismic-induced Liquefaction Hazard
- 3. Seismic-induced Landslide Hazard

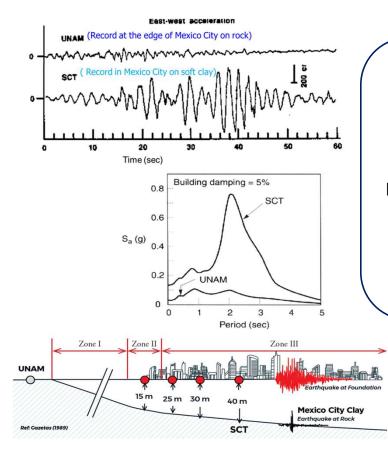






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Seismic Hazard: Ground Motions or Shaking

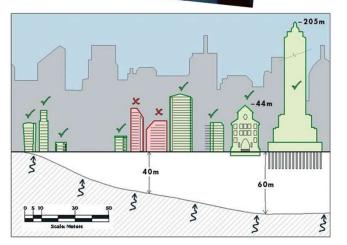


Ground shaking of the 1985 magnitude 8.0 Michoacan earthquake was amplified by soft clays under Mexico City.

Shaking amplitude was 5 times higher on soft clay sites than rock sites at 2 second period.

Led to collapse of 412 mid-height buildings (8-18 storeys) with a corresponding 2 second period.









Loss Reduction **Building resilient communities**



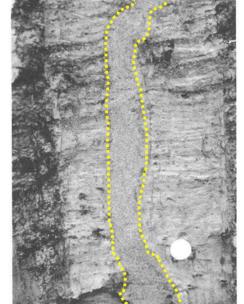
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Seismic Hazard: Liquefaction

Liquefaction occurs when pore fluid pressures in a saturated granular soil increases and separates soil particles (lose contact with each other, lose shear strength) resulting in the soil behaving like a liquid.



2011 M 6.2 Christchurch, NZ earthquake



or appears as:

Ground cracking

Ground settlement 0

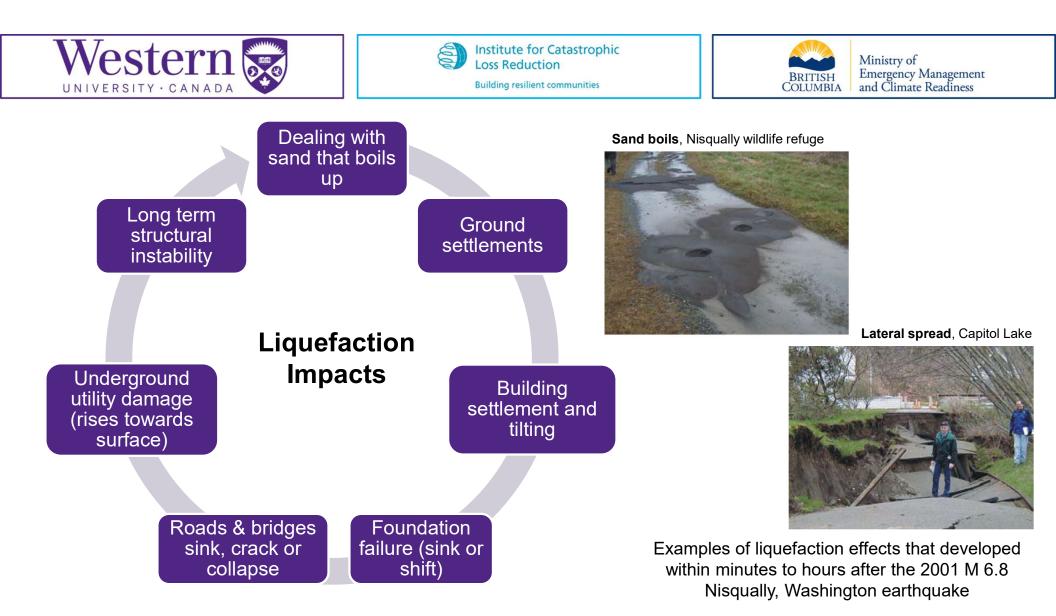
Sand boiling

Liquefaction manifests

- Lateral spreading •
- Flow slides •

•

- FIG. 13. Typical, steeply dipping sand dyke at site 1. The dyke cuts sharply through unit 1 mud. Coin is 24 mm in diameter.
- 12 paleo-liquefaction sites in Metro Vancouver (Clague et al. 1992, 1997, 1998)
- 30-60% probability of liquefaction for a M8.9⁺ Cascadia interface earthquake (Javanbakht et al. 2023)









Seismic Hazard: Landslides

Landslide is the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth (soil) down a slope.

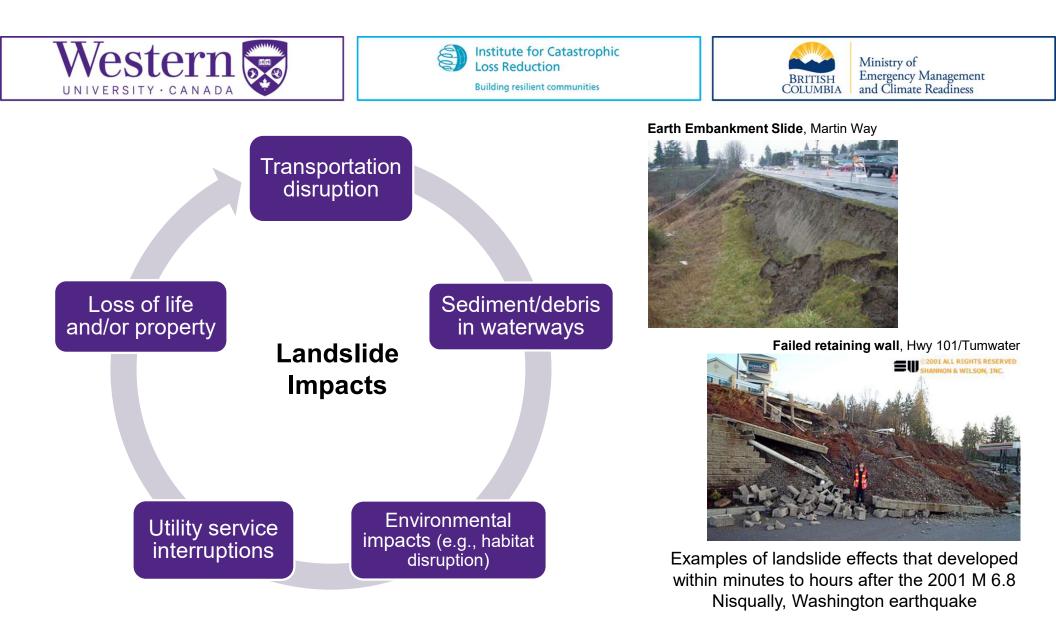


- "Landslide" is a general term.
- (Rock) Fall
- (Rock) Topple
- (Earth) Slide
- (Earth) Spread
- (Earth) Slump
- (Debris) Flow

 "Numerous" landslides on Vancouver Island following the 1946 M7.3 earthquake



The slide zone just below Landslide Lake from 1954 with Mount Colonel Foster above (Patrick Guilbride photo)









Outline

- Introduction to the Metro Vancouver SMM project
- Background on seismic microzonation mapping
- Key outcomes of the Metro Vancouver SMM project
- Achieving Level 3 seismic microzonation mapping
 - 1. Lots of Data
 - 2. Creating the 29 maps: shaking hazard, liquefaction hazard, and landslide hazard
 - 3. Engagement, Communication, Education, and Training
- EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines for *Development and Use of SMMs in British Columbia*
- Applications specific to the insurance industry
- How to access the project's maps and datsets







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Introducing the Project

Metro Vancouver Seismic Microzonation Mapping Project (MVSMMP)

The MVSMMP is a multi-year research project to generate a suite of **region-specific seismic hazard maps**

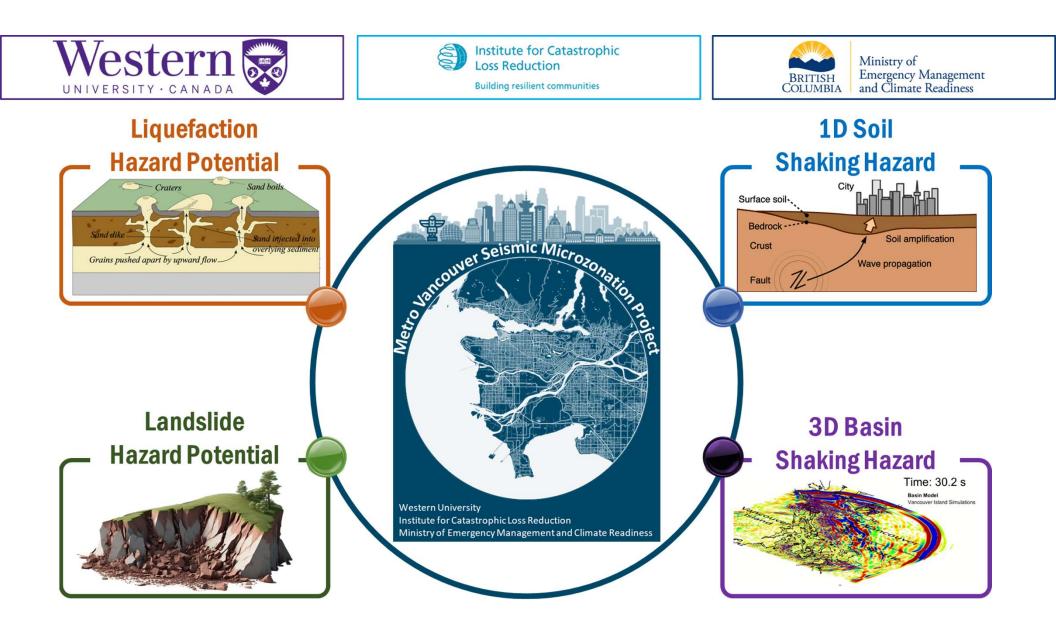
Seismic microzonation maps display predicted variation in earthquake hazards due to local site conditions

The MVSMMP is led by the University of Western Ontario in collaboration with the Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and with support from the British Columbia Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

20 local gov'ts, 10 First Nation communities, 1 electoral area



and First Nation communities of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Matsqui, Musqueam, Squamish, Semiahmoo, and Tsleil-Waututh











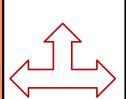
Why does Metro Vancouver need region-specific seismic hazard maps?

Metro Vancouver has the highest seismic risk in Canada

Complex regional seismic hazard

- Cascadia (mega-thrust) interface fault earthquakes
- Deeper JdF plate inslab earthquakes
- Shallower NA plate crustal earthquakes

Paleo-liquefaction evidence but no strong earthquake recordings

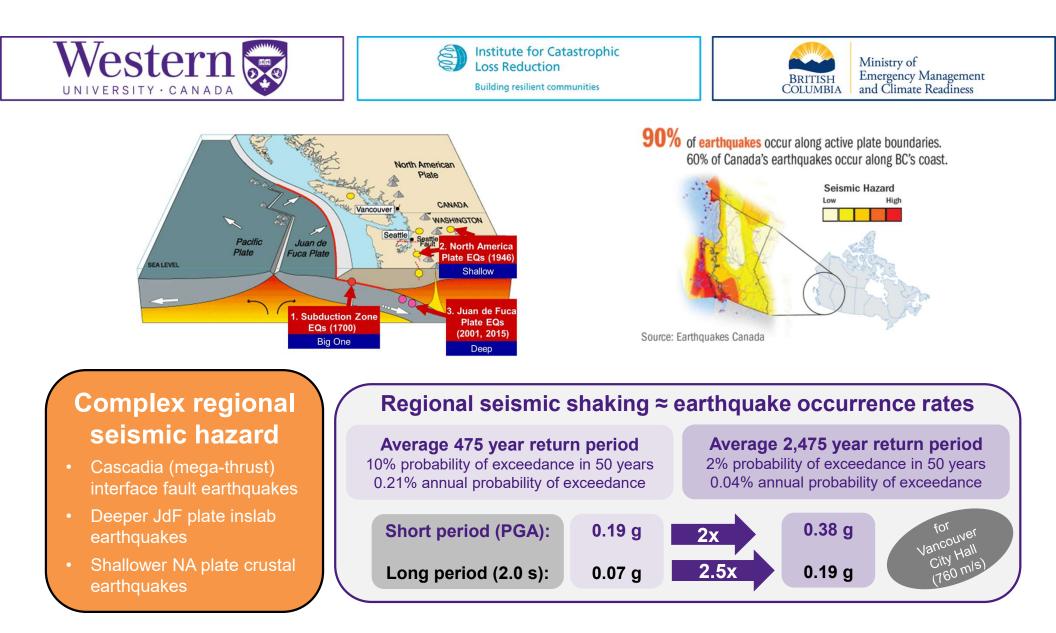


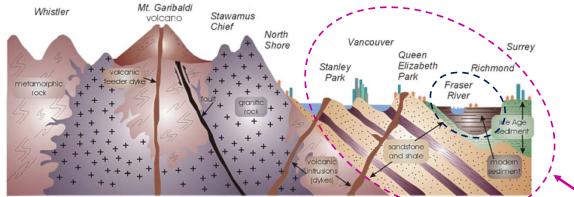
Highly variable seismic site conditions

- Unconsolidated to glaciated sediments, Two rock types
- Elevations from 0 to over 1000 meters
- Max. depth to rock = 800 meters
- Basin within a Basin

Level 3 Seismic Microzonation Maps

- Supersede Existing Level 1 and 2 SMMs of Local Communities
- Comprehensive and Equitable Regional Geodata
- Consistent State-of-the-Art Seismic Hazard Analyses
- Standardized Approach to SMM

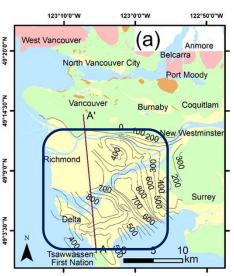


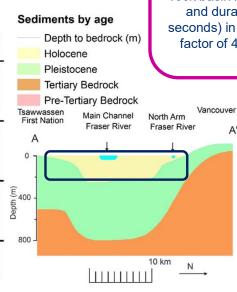


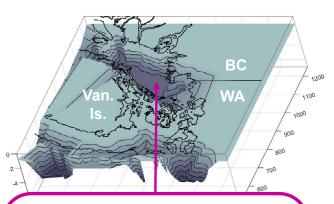
Cartoon cross-section of the Earth below the Vancouver area showing the major rock types and the nature of their contacts. https://www.cgenarchive.org/vancouver-rocks.html

Highly variable seismic site conditions

- Unconsolidated to glaciated sediments, Two rock types
- Elevations from 0 to over 1000 meters
- Max. depth to rock = • 800 meters
- **Basin within a Basin** .







Georgia basin

Late-Cretaceous sedimentary rock basin

Presence of the Georgia basin sedimentary rock basin increases the amplitude (intensity) and duration of long-period shaking (> 2 seconds) in Greater Vancouver by an average factor of 4 and 22 seconds longer shaking (Molnar et al. 2014).

A'

Fraser River delta

Holocene deltaic basin

Soft sediments amplify earthquake shaking. Nonlinear soil response during strong shaking will lead to deamplification. Saturated sands may liquefy during strong shaking.







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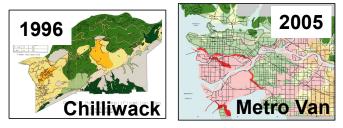


What are seismic microzonation maps?

Effects of earthquake shaking are not uniform due to variation in local site conditions

Seismic microzonation is the process of subdividing a seismically prone region into zones of similar {insert type of seismic hazard here}.

Seismic microzonation maps display predicted variation in earthquake hazards due to local site conditions. Microzonation maps typically accomplished at urban or region scale





Previous SMM in southwest BC led by Vic Levson (BCGS) and Pat Monahan







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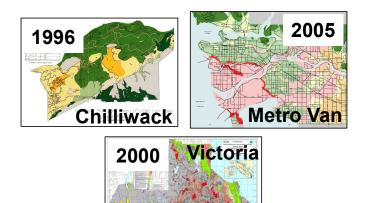
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Maps offer a means to communicate extensive and complex information in a compact product and play a critical role in making this information accessible to a variety of users.

To produce seismic microzonation maps requires:

- 1. Subsurface geological, geophysical, geotechnical data
- 2. Sophisticated seismic hazard **analyses** and **numerical modelling**



Previous SMM in southwest BC led by Vic Levson (BCGS) and Pat Monahan







Levels of seismic microzonation mapping

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Susceptibility maps Surficial and remote sensing maps / spatial datasets. Remote sensing (topo) maps. Limited use of subsurface data.	Susceptibility or Hazard Maps Subsurface geological data and area-specific data on physical properties.	Advanced analyses of Hazard Extensive seismological and subsurface geological, geophysical and geotechnical data and simulations. Detailed subsurface maps and models.

Increase in quality and quantity of geodata

Improved spatial resolution

Increase in seismic hazard analyses

Increase in cost







Applications of Seismic Microzonation Mapping

A wide range of anticipated applications and end-users

- Technical experts:
 - Earthquake engineering professionals, stakeholders (owners of critical or high consequence infrastructure), and decision makers (catastrophe modellers or risk analysts)
 - Technical experts may utilize these map products as inputs to risk analysis to inform disaster risk reduction, seismic design and retrofitting or improved understanding of regional variability of potential earthquake ground motions for further detailed earthquake investigations and modelling.

Intermediate users:

- Decision makers (emergency managers, land use planners, consultants, architects) and other stakeholders (re/insurers, building owners);
- May utilize these map products for emergency response and recovery planning, land use planning or prioritizing seismic retrofit programs (adaptation, mitigation, resilience, sustainability), or as inputs for risk analysis, damage estimation, or loss calculations for the insurance industry.
- Others:
 - Educators to the general public rely on the accurate communication of seismic hazard and risk information from both primary technical end users and intermediate non-technical end users to inform their personal decision-making (e.g., developers, real estate agents, insurance agents, homeowners).





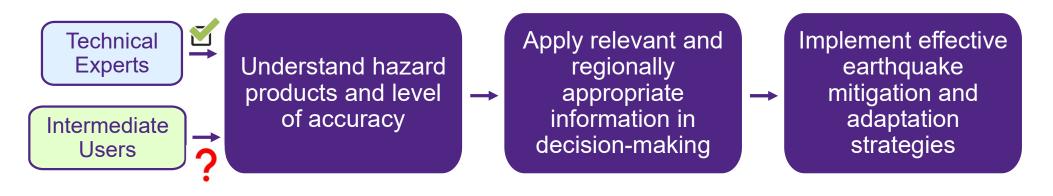




Applications of Seismic Microzonation Mapping

A wide range of anticipated applications and end-users

Seismic hazard and risk assessment is one of the fields in which rigorous scientific work can often be misinterpreted if it is not translated to a proper language of the client or end-user because it involves technical and non-technical (intermediate) users with very different backgrounds and expectations. (Fyfe 2023)



Fyfe (2023). Evaluation of Effectiveness in Seismic Microzonation Hazard Mapping in Canada: Communication, Use, Standardization and Levels, Western University, MSc Thesis, 9567.





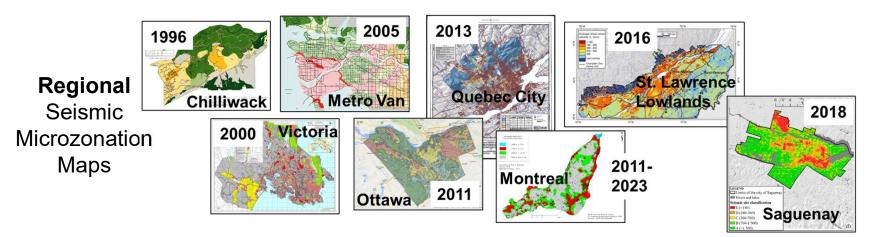


Hindrances to comprehension and use

Some key facts about SMM in Canada

- 1. There are no Canadian standards or guidelines for SMM
- 2. No existing SMMs in Canada are accessible in digital (GIS layer) form
- 3. Very few Level 3 SMM in Canada
 - All SMMs in Canada (12 regions) map seismic susceptibility (seismic site class, or Vs₃₀ or site period).
 - Seismic-induced liquefaction or landslide hazard maps produced only for Victoria and Vancouver.

Little experience with access to (& use of) Level 3 SMMs in Canada









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Metro Vancouver Seismic Microzonation Mapping Project

Level 3 Seismic Microzonation Maps

- Supersede Existing Level 1 and 2 SMMs of Local Communities
- Comprehensive and Equitable
 Regional Geodata
- Consistent State-of-the-Art Seismic Hazard Analyses

How is this unique?

Level 3 maps are rare in Canada

Professional Practice

- Promote comprehension and use through professional practice standards
- 1. EGBC Technical Peer Review of project methodologies, analyses, and map outcomes
- 2. EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines *Development and Use of Seismic Microzonation Maps in British Columbia*

How is this unique?

There is no Canadian standard or guidelines for SMM

Communication and Engagement

- Promote comprehension and use through knowledge sharing
- Include regular engagement opportunities <u>during</u> and after SMM project
- 2. Involve non-technical users in peer-review process

How is this unique?

Include opportunities for communication, consultation, and education



Multi-disciplinary and -experiential training leads to careers !

Multi-disciplinary

Geohazards, Geology, Seismology, Geotechnical Engineering, Geological Engineering, Spatial Mapping

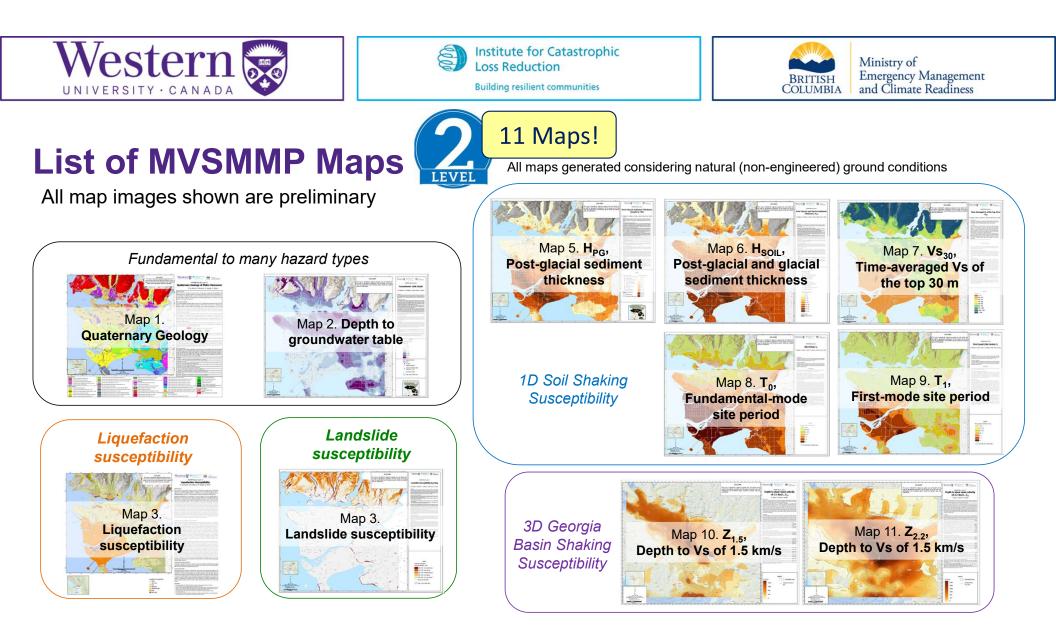


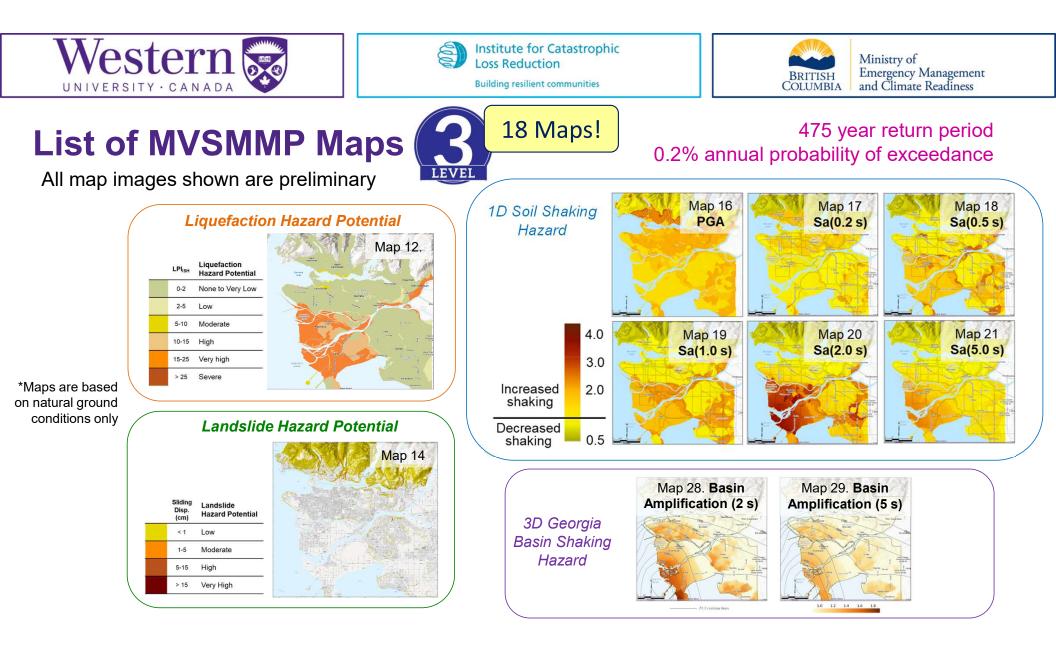
Multi-experiences

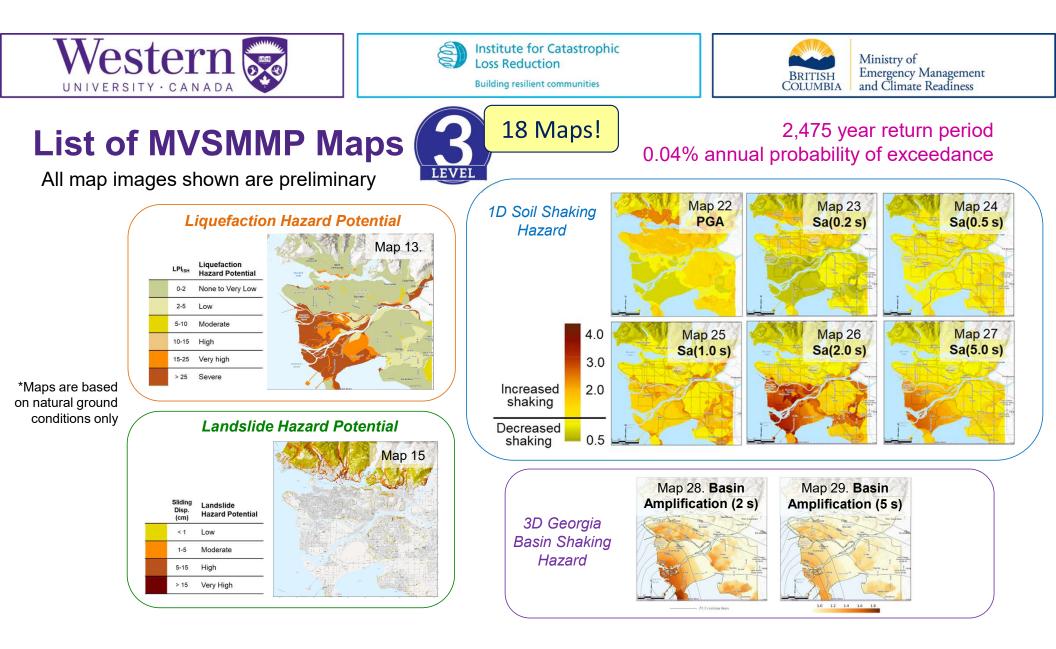
Practical experiences with month-long field campaigns, multi-method site investigations, state-of-the-art seismic hazard analyses, technical peer review, written and oral communication

~30 Individuals

Project Managers, Research Associates, Postdocs, PhD and MSc students, Undergrads, Research Assistants Data Processing Manager (Expert Geophysics), Exploration Geophysicist (Fleet Space Technologies), Geohazards Specialist (AtkinsRealis), Geotechnical Engineers (GHD, Jacobs, WSP), Geophysicists (Municon West Coast, WSP), Graduate GIS Technician (Mott MacDonald), Academic Researchers (UWO), Seismic Analyst (Natural Resources Canada)













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Comprehensive Regional Geodatabase

for Seismic Site Characterization, Development of Regional 3D Velocity Models, and Site-Specific Seismic Hazard Analyses

The MVSMM Project geodatabase consists of over 15,000 unique geodata locations

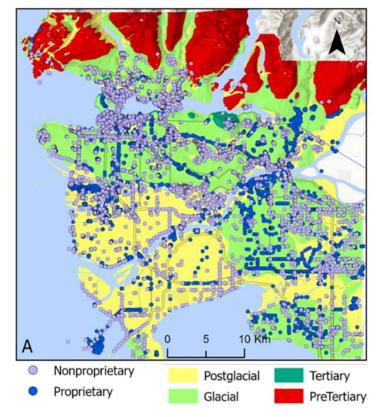
1. Non-Proprietary geodata was compiled from available online (open data) government sources

 – e.g., ~500 velocity depth profiles of the Geological Survey of Canada (Hunter et al. 1998, 2016)

2. Proprietary geodata compiled from 24 local governments, stakeholder groups, engineering firms, and geoconsultants via data sharing agreements when applicable

 Primarily *in situ* invasive field testing data (S/CPT, downhole, SPT) and some geotechnical laboratory testing of samples





Molnar et al. 2020; Adhikari et al. 2021; Molnar et al. 2023; Adhikari, 2024







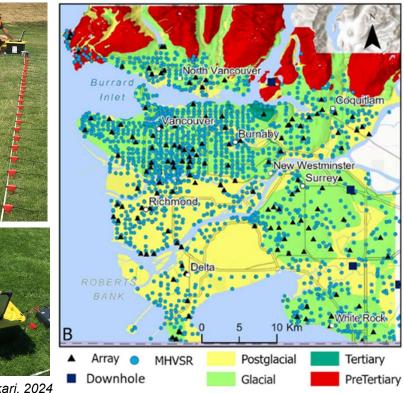
Comprehensive Regional Geodatabase for Seismic Site Characterization, Development of Regional 3D Velocity Models, and Site-Specific Seismic Hazard Analyses

3. Multi-method *in situ* non-invasive seismic field testing approach over 5 field campaigns (2018-2022)

- Single-station microtremor horizontal to vertical spectral ratio (MHVSR) testing over 2,300 locations at an average ~800 meter spacing
- Combined active- and passive-source surface wave array testing (MASW and AVA) at over 120 locations
- Joint inversion of site peak frequencies and combined Rayleigh wave dispersion curve to obtain Vs depth profile model
- Cost effective for achieving spatial coverage and improved geodata equity across the region

Multiple invasive and non-invasive geodatasets are needed to measure the great variety of seismic site conditions





Molnar et al. 2020; Adhikari et al. 2021; Molnar et al. 2023; Adhikari, 2024





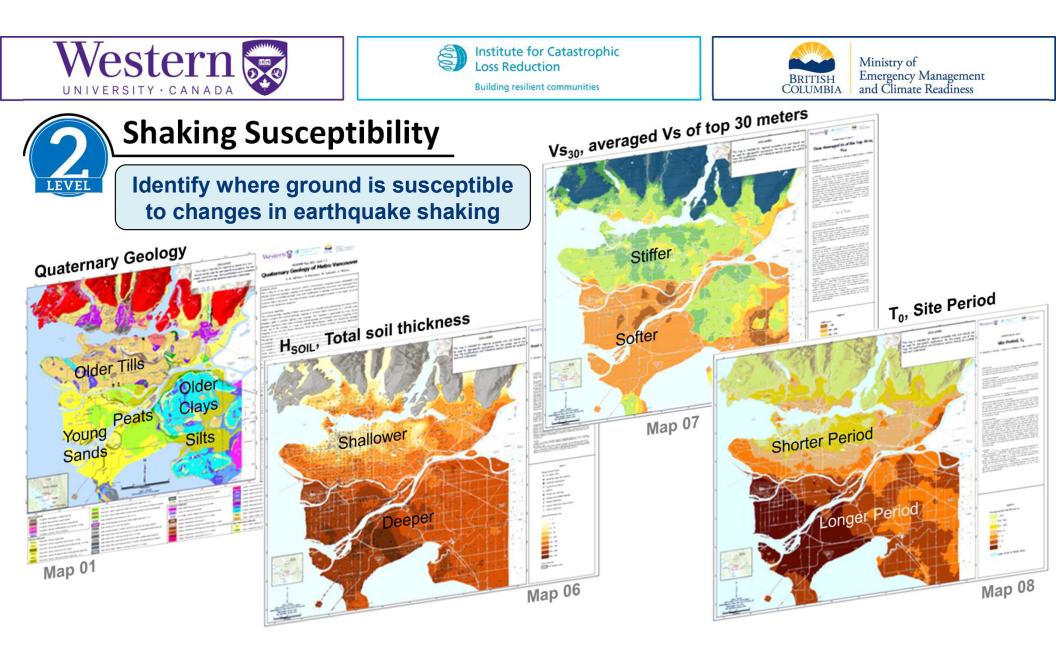


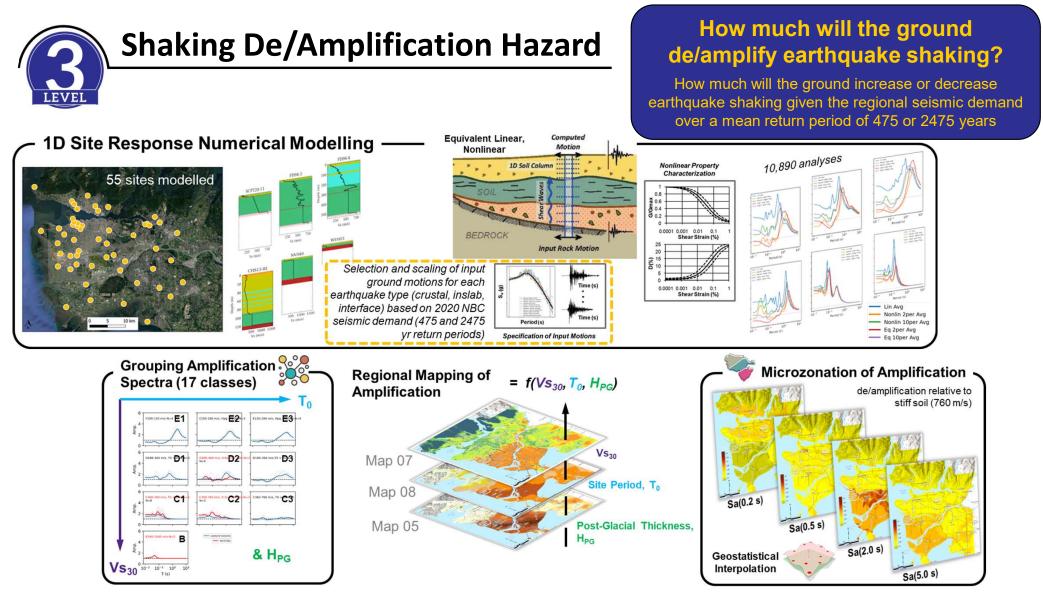
Achieving Level 3 Seismic Microzonation Mapping

Shaking Hazard Mapping

Earthquake shaking de/amplification inclusive of 1D site and 3D sedimentary basin effects

Assaf et al. (2022), Assaf (2022) PhD Thesis, Adhikari & Molnar (2023), Assaf et al. (2023a, b), Ghofrani et al. (2023), Adhikari (2024) PhD Thesis, Adhikari & Molnar (submitted), Adhikari et al. (submitted), Ojo et al. (submitted)





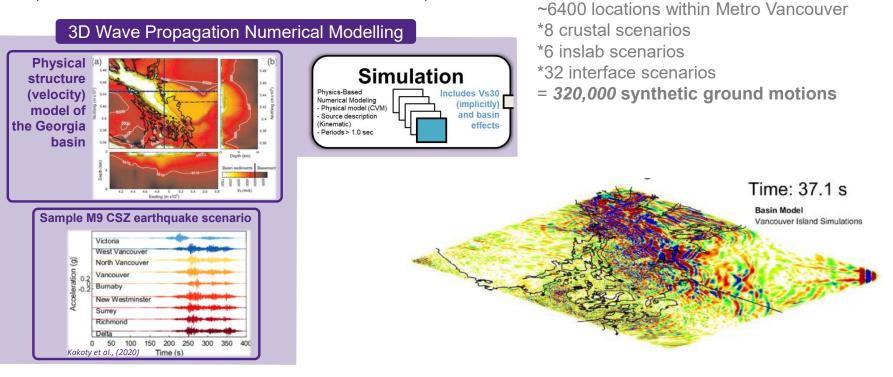






Plus... 3D sedimentary basin effects

• Presence of the deep and wide Georgia sedimentary basin affects long wavelengths and thereby shaking at long periods (> 2 sec) (*Molnar et al. 2014a, b; Ghofrani and Molnar 2019*)



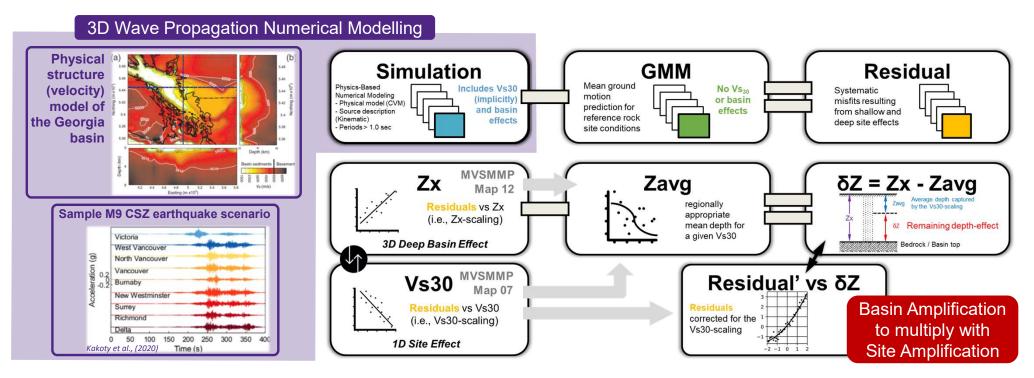






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All map images shown are preliminary

Plus... 3D sedimentary basin effects

Defendence Defendence









Shaking De/Amplification Hazard

All map images shown are preliminary



10% Prob. Exceedance in 50 yrs, 475 yr return period 2% Prob. Exceedance in 50 yrs, 2475 yr return period







Achieving Level 3 Seismic Microzonation Mapping

Liquefaction Hazard Mapping

Javanbakht (2023) PhD Thesis, Javanbakht et al. (2022), Javanbakht et al. (2023a, b), Javanbakht et al. (submitted)



Map 01

Quaternary Geology



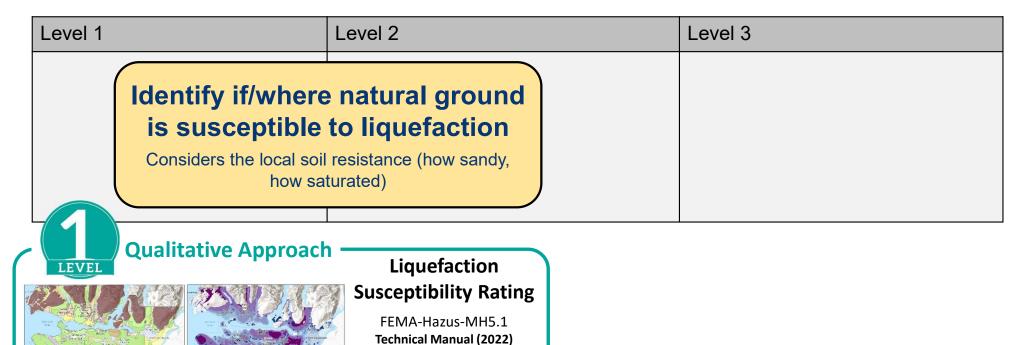


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Liquefaction Hazard Mapping

Map 02

Groundwater Table Depth



Geologic Age Depositional Env.

Material type Depth to GWT

(Youd & Perkins 1978)



NG,C,u

Post last Glaciation

Colluvial (C)

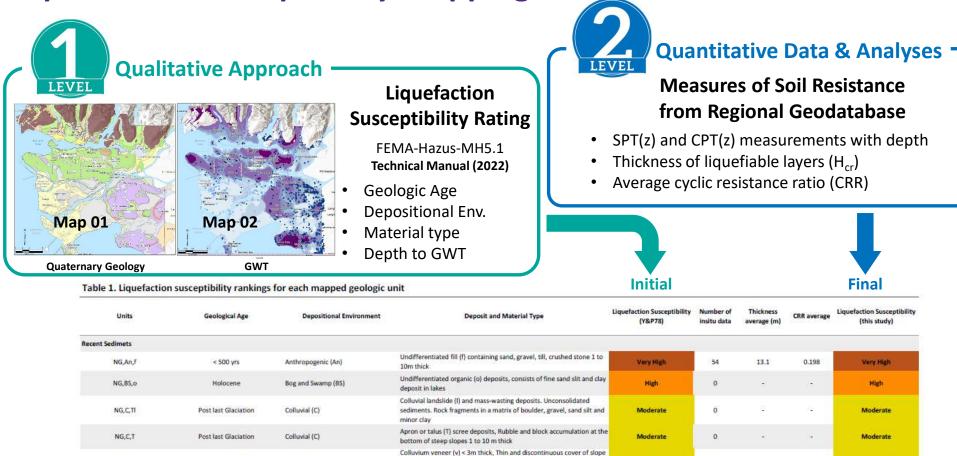




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Moderate

Liquefaction Susceptibility Mapping

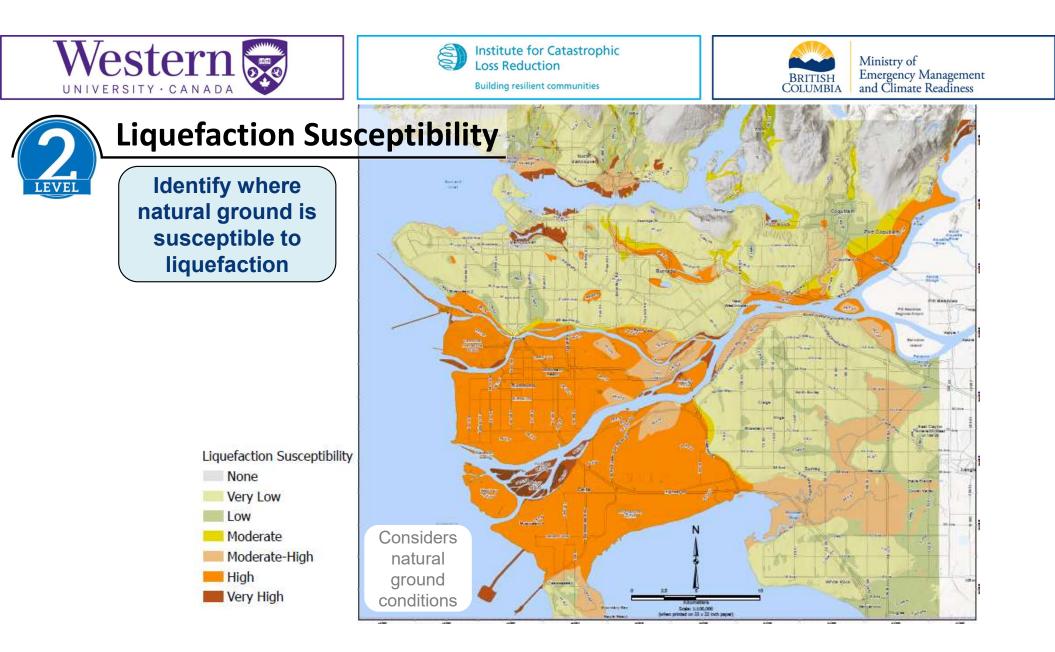


wash material, containing matrix of boulders, gravel, sand, silt usually

up to 3m thick

Moderate

0



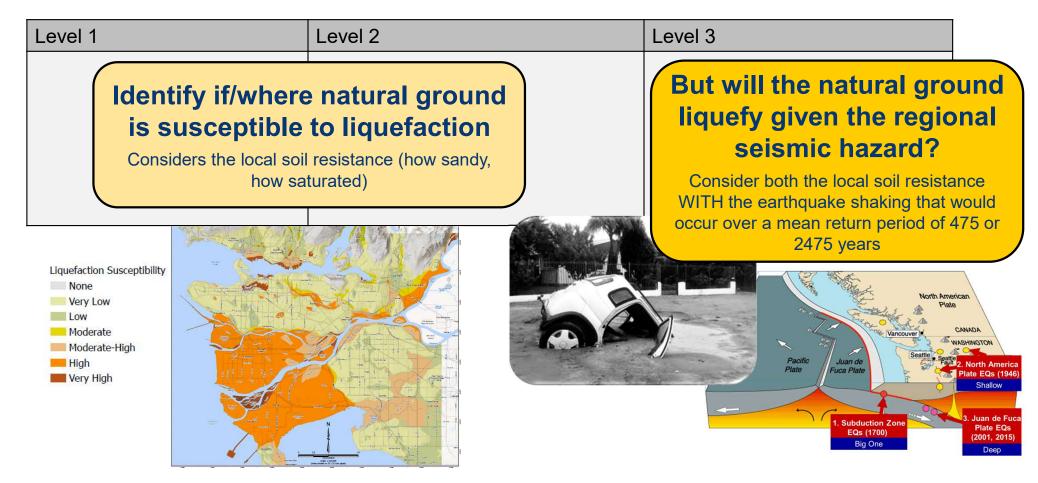


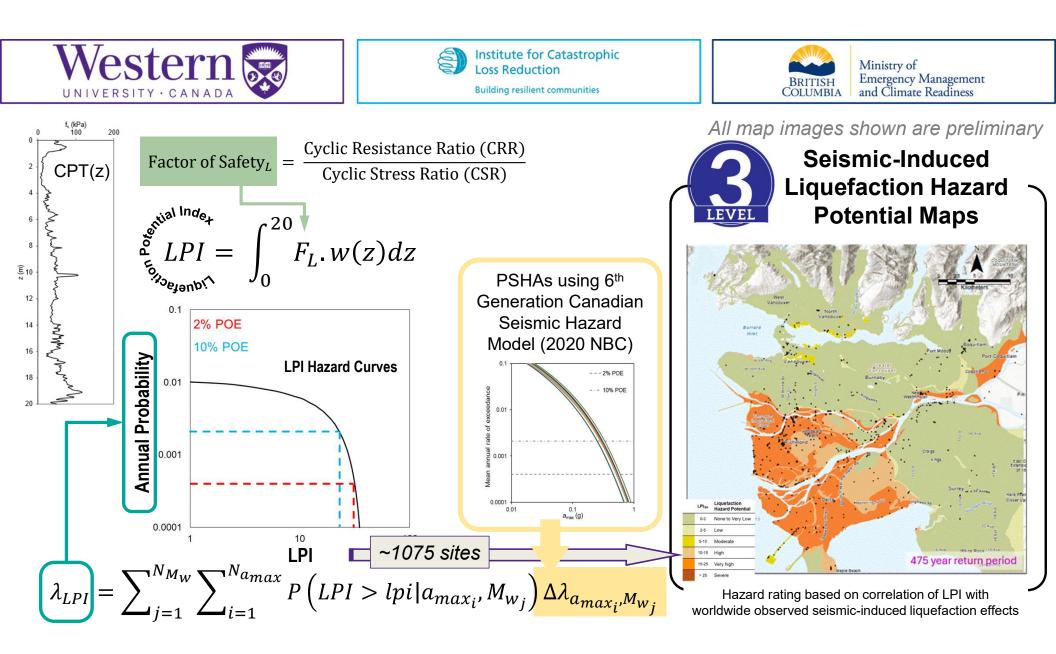




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Liquefaction Hazard Mapping







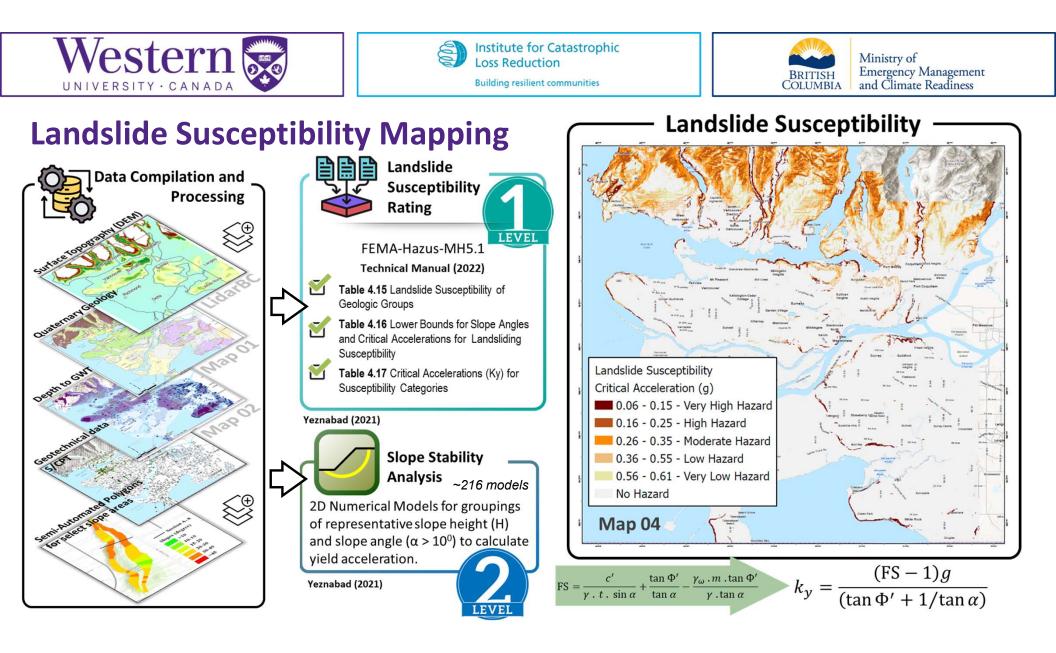




Achieving Level 3 Seismic Microzonation Mapping

Landslide Hazard Mapping

Yeznabad (2021) PhD Thesis, Yeznabad et al. (2021), Yeznabad et al. (2022), Yeznabad et al. (2024), Yeznabad et al. (in prep.)



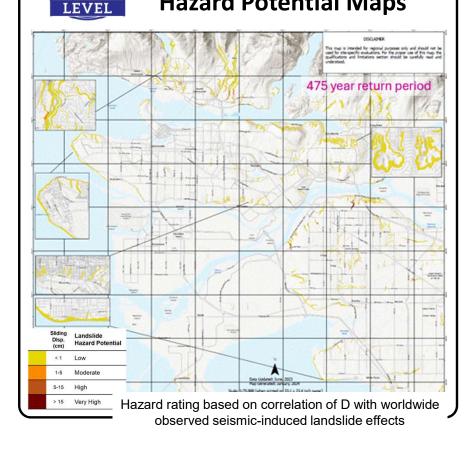




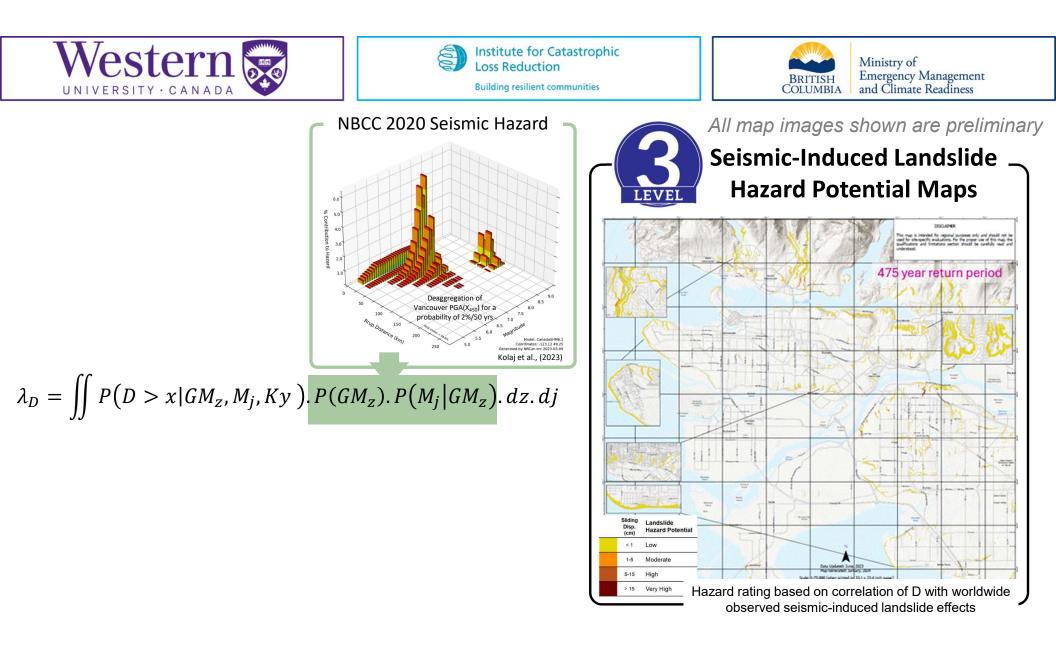


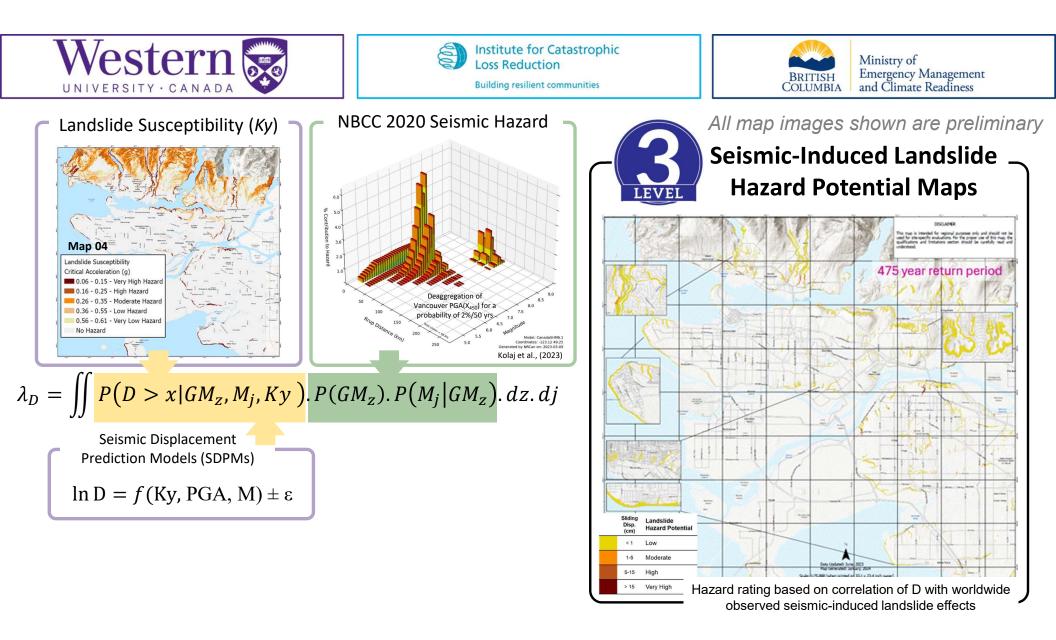
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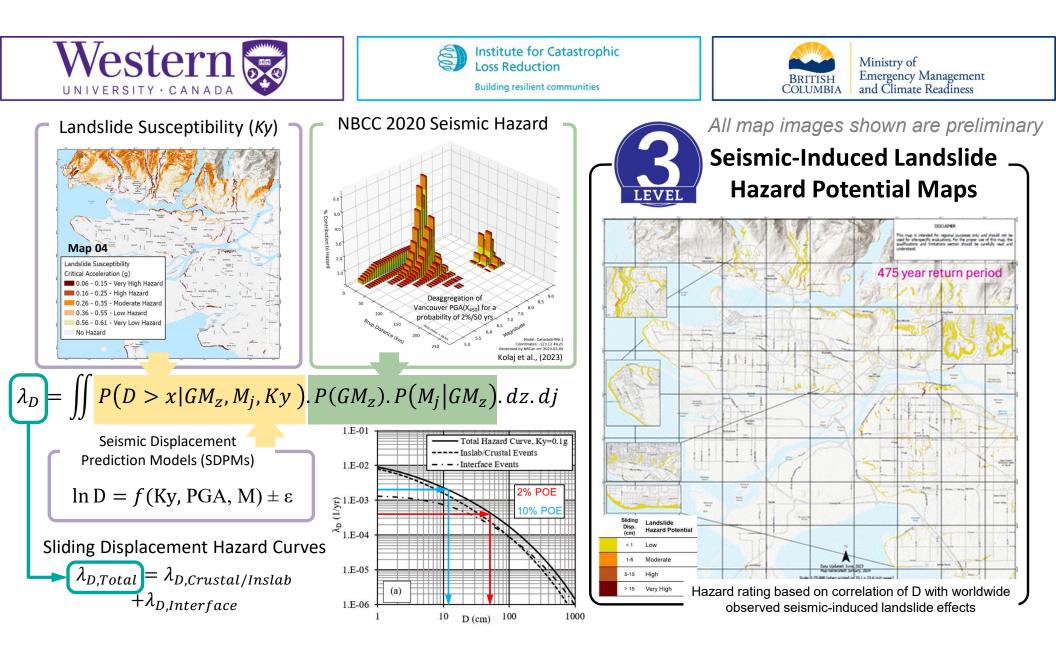
All map images shown are preliminary Seismic-Induced Landslide **Hazard Potential Maps**



$$\lambda_D = \iint P(D > x | GM_z, M_j, Ky) \cdot P(GM_z) \cdot P(M_j | GM_z) \cdot dz \cdot dj$$













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Engagement, Communication, Education and Training

Molnar et al. (2023)



Engagement



Initial project communication & request for geodata

1. Half-day workshop with map exercises

2. Online questionnaire about SMMs in Canada

Online questionnaire survey, Jan. – Jun. 2020

- 54 questions designed to gather:
 - Respondents' seismic hazard knowledge and experience
 - Seismic microzonation mapping experience
 - Respondents' interpretations of existing Canadian seismic microzonation maps
 - Preferred proxies/metrics for communicating seismic hazard
- 58 responses analyzed
 - Over 100 responses collected; 58 sufficient for analysis
- Respondents are classed as "creators" or "end-users" of seismic hazard information
 - Classified as "technical" (n=38) or "non-technical" (n=20) for comparison

Fyfe & Molnar (2020), Fyfe (2023)

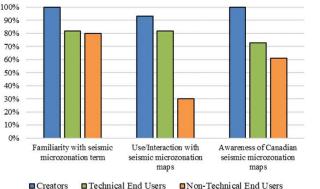


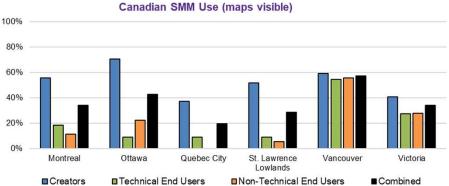




Online Questionnaire Survey, 2020

- Satisfaction with existing hazard maps and earthquake preparedness:
 - Most respondents report that they are not satisfied with the level of seismic hazard mapping available in Canada and many professionals feel underprepared for a significant earthquake in their region
- Familiarity with seismic microzonation mapping and existing Canadian studies:





- Map Interpretation Testing respondents asked to interpret existing Canadian SM maps:
 - Technical respondents were more successful in answering interpretation questions correctly
 - Clear, informative legends promote successful interpretation by all users
 - Overlays of measurement locations or data points (e.g. Ottawa-Gatineau) or landslide and liquefaction hazard ratings (e.g. Victoria composite map) confused many users

Fyfe & Molnar (2020), Fyfe (2023)

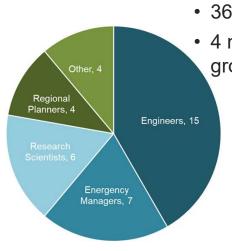






Engagement, Communication, Education and Training

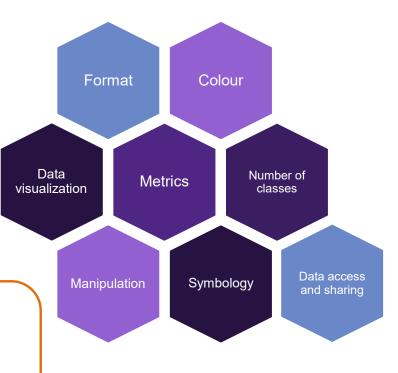
- Stakeholder engagement workshop, Dec. 2, 2019
 - Comparison of draft seismic hazard maps to gather participants' metric and formatting preferences
 - Create an opportunity for stakeholders to interact
 - Forum to express opinions & concerns
 - Obtain stakeholder involvement during the project's progression



- 36 in-person participants
- 4 map comparison exercises completed by groups of mixed-professionals

Outcomes

- Non-technical audience does not readily understand the technical aspects of seismic hazard and related metrics.
- Standardization of SMM needed.
- Digital data and maps wanted.



Fyfe & Molnar (2020), Fyfe (2023)





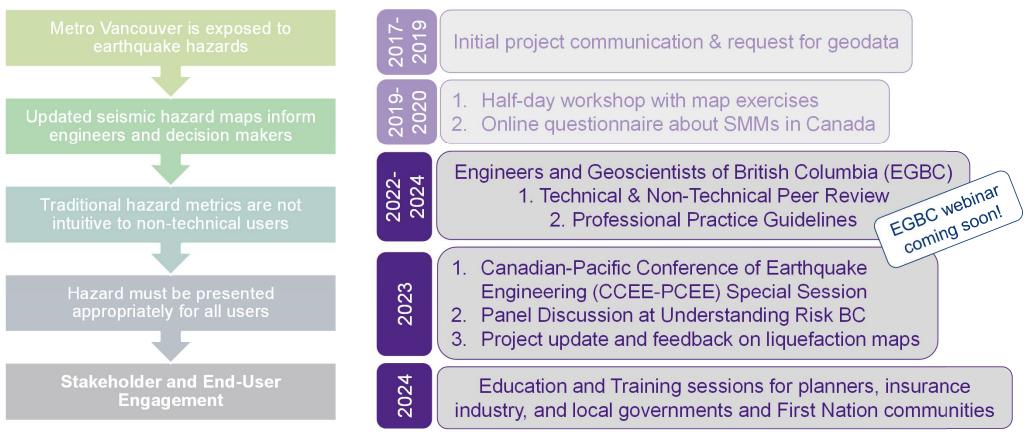
Building resilient communities



Ministry of **Emergency Management** and Climate Readiness

From Engagement to Communication and Education

Molnar et al. (2023)









Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Outline

- Introduction to the Metro Vancouver SMM project
- Background on seismic microzonation mapping
- Key outcomes of the Metro Vancouver SMM project
- Achieving Level 3 seismic microzonation mapping
 - 1. Lots of Data
 - 2. Creating the 29 maps: shaking hazard, liquefaction hazard, and landslide hazard
 - 3. Engagement, Communication, Education, and Training
- EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines for *Development and Use of SMMs in British Columbia*
- Applications specific to the insurance industry
- How to access the project's maps and datsets







Molnar et al. (2023)

EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines

Development and Use of Seismic Microzonation Maps in British Columbia

The intent of these guidelines is to:

- Provide a common approach for development of seismic microzonation maps in British Columbia
- Provide a **common approach for use** of seismic microzonation maps in BC
- Inspire the effective use of new and existing microzonation maps

The intended audiences for these guidelines are:

 Local governments & First Nations & Treaty Nations
 Structural engineers
 Geotechnical engineers
 Liquefaction mapping professionals
 Landslide mapping professionals
 Ground shaking mapping professionals
 Others (e.g., infrastructure owners, insurers) Table of Contents:

- How to Use the Guidelines
- Introduction to Seismic Hazard and Seismic Microzonation Mapping
 - Including introduction to map levels
- General Considerations for Use
 - User-specific guidance
- General Considerations for Development
 Hazard-specific guidance
- Other









EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines Use of Seismic Microzonation Maps in British Columbia

Applications for Structural and Geotechnical Engineers:

- To gauge variability in regional-scale seismic hazards
- Inform regional-scale scoping-to-risk studies (e.g., linear infrastructure)
- Inform project scoping, feasibility, and schematic designs
- Indicate where more site-specific information is required for detailed design and aid in conversations with clients (going above or beyond current design codes; performance-based design; resilience)

Applications for Local Governments, First Nations, &/or Treaty Nations:

- Inform hazard & urban planning and permitting policies
 - Including professional involvement and additional site-specific information
- Inform asset management and emergency response and recovery plans
 - Input to Risk analyses, Retrofit priorities, Flag emerg. response challenges, etc.
- Indicate where more site-specific information would be valuable







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Use of the MVSMMP Seismic Microzonation Maps

Applications for Insurance Industry:

- Serve as inputs / updates to include in seismic risk and loss analyses
 - Access will come from the industry's integration of our project map results and data into NEW cat models; Ask for these region-specific updates to be included in Cat Models used by your company
- Earthquake shaking will occur everywhere in Metro Vancouver → General uptake of earthquake (shaking) insurance is important for all of Metro Vancouver
- Seismic hazard maps (shaking, liquefaction, landslide) for TWO return periods are available
 - Financial risk assessments are based on 475 year return period
 - Seismic design of new buildings and bridges (national building and bridge codes) are based on 2475 year return period
 - Areas that have a greater than moderate hazard rating considering the lower shaking intensity (shorter 475-yr return period) should be **prioritized**.
 - Beneficial to compare hazards maps for the two different return periods (two levels of seismic demand or shaking intensity)









Use of the MVSMMP Seismic Microzonation Maps

Applications for Insurance Industry: Brokers (marketability, insurance policies)...

- Shaking hazard maps show where and how much shaking (for particular spectral period) will be increased or decreased based on underlying natural ground condition. → Prioritize / develop specialized policies for areas where earthquake shaking is expected to be increased.
 - North part of Metro Vancouver will experience increased shaking at shorter periods (damage to shorter or smaller structures and acceleration-sensitive nonstructural components).
 - Southwest part of Metro Vancouver will experience increased shaking at longer periods (damage to taller or longer structures and displacement-sensitive nonstructural components).
 - See basin amplification maps (2 and 5 s) for areas where damage to tallest and longest structures and displacement-sensitive nonstructural components may occur.
- Liquefaction and landslide hazard potential maps identify areas where liquefaction and landslides will be triggered (occur) when shaking exceeds the considered return period's shaking intensity. → "Additional earthquake insurance coverage" or "additional living expenses" would be most applicable in these identified areas.







Use of the MVSMMP Seismic Microzonation Maps

Applications for Insurance Industry: Underwriters (risk profiling)...

- Seismic risk assessments that do not incorporate the seismic hazard improvements resulting from this
 project's near decade effort in understanding the regional seismic hazard of Metro Vancouver are outdated
 (does not include the most up-to-date regional seismic hazard data and information).
- The project's regional shaking hazard maps are based on better site information (several parameters; the national seismic hazard model uses only one parameter) and more detailed site information (sufficient regional spatial density) than national seismic hazard mapping and current seismic design codes. This improved regional-scale hazard mapping needs to be included in seismic risk analyses to understand the predicted impact to structural damage and thereby loss estimation.
- Current national seismic hazard mapping and site-specific engineering design does NOT include increased shaking intensities at long periods based on the 3D Georgia basin. These regional maps are the only information source (currently) that includes this regional-scale basin effect.
- In very general terms, liquefaction and landslides hazards are more concentrated (particular areas or zones) than shaking hazard; liquefaction and landslide hazards do not occur everywhere.







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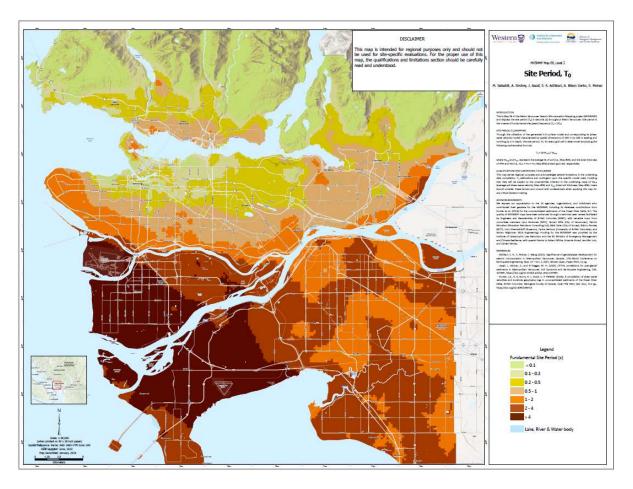


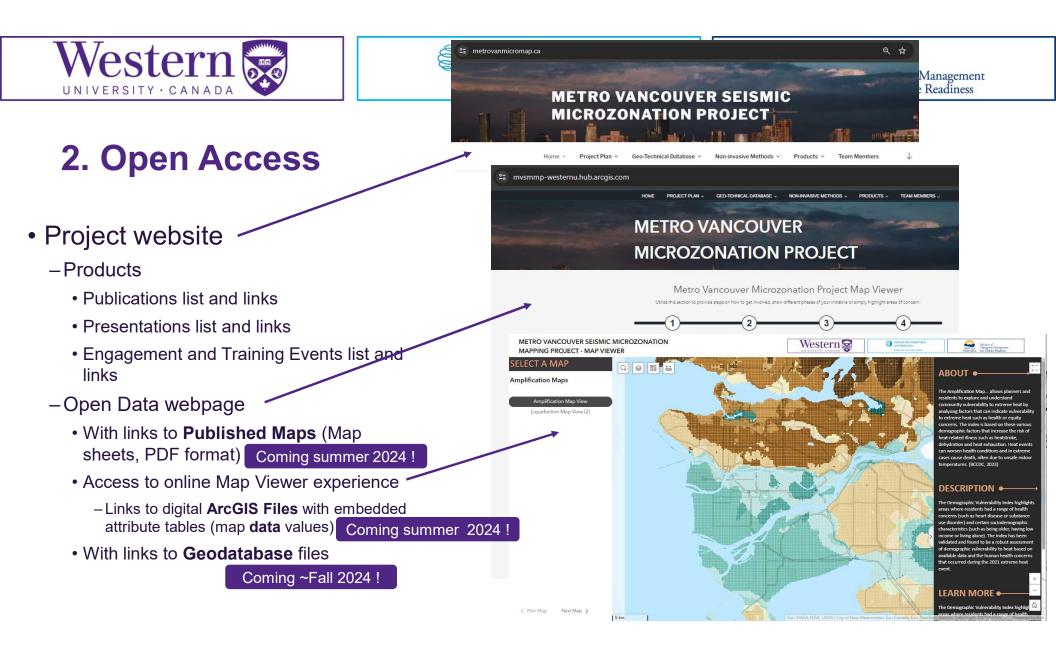
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1. Published Maps

Design of map sheets including:

- (on left) The Map and Disclaimer (left)
- (on right) Map Title, Authors, Explanation, Qualifications and limitations, Acknowledgements, References, and Recommended Citation. And Legend with sufficient text.
- Iterative improvements to this map sheet presentation from engagement consultations (2019, 2023) and technical peer review (2022-2024).
- PDF file format











Metro Vancouver Seismic Microzonation Mapping Project (2017 - 2026)

Release of Seismic Hazard Maps for western Metro Vancouver: **July 2024** Seismic Microzonation Mapping of eastern Metro Vancouver: **2024 to 2026** Release of Seismic Hazard Maps for eastern Metro Vancouver: **Late 2026**

https://metrovanmicromap.ca

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