

Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Planning

Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Team

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Building disaster resilience across all phases of a disaster from planning, response to recovery is the cornerstone of effective emergency management. The process of building resilient communities requires the community to work together to identify community capacity, and to foster a collaborative environment. Planning for resilience is enhanced when local communities are empowered to be actively involved in the planning process and when broader structures and regulations contribute to, and support, resilience efforts.

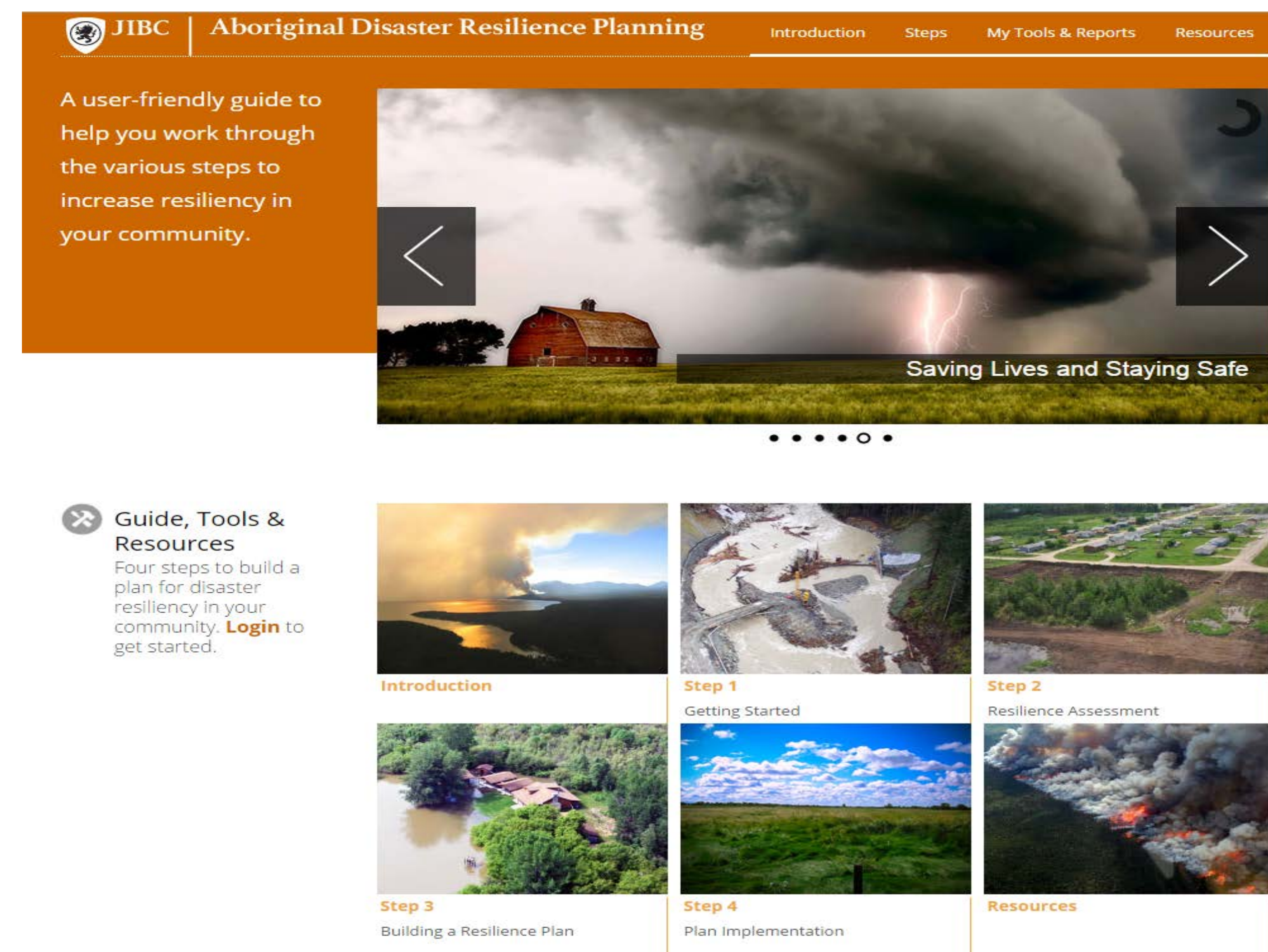
The purpose of the Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Planning (ADRP) project was develop a tool to provide First Nation, Metis, and Inuit communities with a planning framework to support resilience and emergency management planning. The project included development of the ADRP website, a facilitation package, and facilitator training, as well as a "Train the Trainer/Facilitator" process to engage Canadian Aboriginal communities.

METHODS

The 2014/2015 phase of the ADRP project developed the web-based framework and tools to support emergency management planning within Canadian Aboriginal communities. The project involved adapting the existing Rural Disaster Resilience Planning (RDRP) framework and website. The process involved consultation with Aboriginal consultants from across Canada to incorporate Aboriginal contexts, culture, and community needs. The second phase of the project (2015/2016) involved training a group of "Core Faculty" to be familiar with the tool. The Core Faculty conducted a pilot workshop with an Aboriginal community in Chilliwack. Once modifications and adjustments were made to the material, the group conducted a series of regional Train-the-Trainer workshops across Canada.

RESULTS

The project addressed the goals and objectives outlined with the successful completion of four workshops across Canada. The core faculty presented the tool and provided materials to approximate 30 people, who will be able to champion the ARDP process within their communities.



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DISCUSSION

Experience with the RDRP highlighted that trained facilitation enhances the community's ability to move through the process and develop a meaningful disaster resilience plan. The Validation and Implementation Study (2013), part of the Building Resilience and Rural Health System Capability for Pre-Disaster Planning and Preparedness (CTRI 07-0135 RD), found that "communities lack capacity and funding to develop plans. With funding towards education and capacity building communities will be able to use the tools in an efficient and timely manner..." This was echoed in further work (Building Resilient Communities Workshop Report: DRDC-RDDC-2014-C131) where communities stated that while much of the information communities need to participate in Disaster Resilience planning is available, many communities lack the expertise to know what information to get, how to obtain it, and how to use it. These factors leave communities in the position of requiring external expertise in order to engage in disaster resilience planning. Many smaller communities lack the expertise to effectively participate in planning processes without a trained facilitator.

The ADRP web-based framework allows communities to help identify and assess their resilience through the use of three tools:

- Hazard Risk Analysis
- Aboriginal Resilience Index
- Hazard Resilience Index

The process involves communities working through four key steps:

- Step One: Getting Started
- Step Two: Resilience Assessment
- Step Three: Building the Resilience Plan
- Step Four: Plan Implementation

The tools and steps were developed to enhance organizational all-hazards response planning. These training curricula, tools, and web-assisted networks will provide Aboriginal communities in Canada with fully operational protocols and resources to anticipate and mitigate risks.

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