

Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Connect & Prepare

HEY
NEIGHBOUR!
Collective

Community non-profit organization

- 🕒 2019-Present
- 📍 Victoria, Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster

Since 2012, Building Resilient Neighbourhoods (BRN) has been developing and testing different on-the-ground programs to help build neighbour connections and community resilience. Their flagship “Neighbour-to-Neighbour” programs—delivered by BRN and their network of community-based delivery partners—bring neighbours together to strengthen social connections, foster mutual support, and become better prepared for and resilient to different kinds of emergencies and chronic stresses.

Participating Buildings:

- 39 buildings
- Low-rise, high-rise, townhouses
- Non-market rental, market rental, owner-occupied condominiums, co-operatives

Highlights:

- Provided series of facilitated workshops and resident coaching
- Established social connectedness as a foundation for emergency preparedness and resilience
- Resident groups led action projects (e.g. shared emergency supplies, buddy check-in systems, food security etc.)

20 Delivery Partners

- BC Housing, Sustainability and Resiliency; Housing & Health Services
- Brightside Community Homes Foundation
- Catalyst Community Developments
- City of New Westminster Community Planning Division, Emergency Management Office
- City of North Vancouver's
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Community Planning Department
- Concert Properties
- City of Vancouver Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Team
- City of Victoria Emergency Management Division (VictoriaReady)
- Good Neighbour Kitsilano
- Lionsview Seniors' Planning
- Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- North Shore Community Resources
- North Shore Emergency Management
- Oasis Senior Supportive Living Inc
- REACH/Vancouver Coastal Health
- RISE Community Health
- Seniors Services Society of BC
- Silver Harbour Centre
- Victoria Downtown Residents Association
- West End Seniors' Network

Building Resilient Neighbourhood's (BRN) Connect & Prepare program focuses on building community emergency preparedness and resilience by strengthening social connections and fostering protective “social infrastructure” between neighbours, especially in response to the growing impacts of climate change.

Connect & Prepare was originally created in 2018 by BRN, in collaboration with the City of Victoria's Emergency Management Division, VictoriaReady. Through facilitated presentations, interactive games, and friendly discussions, neighbours get to know each other, identify assets and priorities, and implement shared preparedness projects. Each group of neighbours receives free workshops alongside guidance and assistance to build stronger social networks and take collective action to prepare for and

respond to acute emergencies and chronic stresses.

In 2022, BRN collaborated with HNC to further develop and scale the model, training a cohort of ten community organizations in the Connect & Prepare program and delivering workshops in ten multi-unit housing communities across three lower mainland municipalities. The resulting activities, impacts and learnings were summarized in a [Scaling Pilot Learning Report](#). In 2023 and 2024, BRN trained 25 representatives from another 13 community-based organizations, and collaborated with them as they adapted the Connect & Prepare approach for their different delivery contexts. In many cases, delivery partners focused on reaching residents at greater risk during emergencies, such as seniors and people with disabilities.