A Shared Responsibility to Build Climate Resilience

Montreal, September 29, 2025 – In Québec, insured losses from tropical storm Debby amounted to 2.8 billion dollars, making 2024 the most expensive year on record. More than just a statistic, this figure reflects an enormous human and economic cost—families were forced from their homes, business operations came to a standstill, and post-disaster recovery involved substantial costs and delays.

With the frequency and severity of extreme weather events expected to rise in increasingly diverse areas, a joint effort is required from several stakeholders. Appropriate action must be taken to ensure people and their property are less vulnerable to climate risk.
This is the best way forward to control insurance cost and access to certain types of coverage. According to the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, each dollar invested in risk mitigation saves $5 to $10 in avoided future losses.

Governments, insurers, municipalities and communities need to work together to foster climate adaptation and increase community resilience. A well-coordinated joint response must include:

Greater investment in infrastructure designed with stormwater and flood risk management in mind, which improves the resilience of vulnerable communities.

- ✓ A public-private flood insurance program to protect residents who are most at risk.
- ✓ Assistance for home renovations that enhance resilience.
- ✓ Land use planning rules prohibiting new constructions in highly flood- and wildfire-prone areas.
- ✓ Increased consumer awareness of risks faced, insurance options to consider and preventive actions for a more resilient home.

Québec is set to issue a new flood zone map in 2026, which is a crucial step to identify vulnerable areas while helping homeowners, buyers and municipalities plan wisely and make informed decisions. We applaud this initiative. Hundreds of thousands of new dwellings will need to be built in the next few years to effectively and gradually address the crisis at hand, but this construction needs to take place away from flood zones and severe weather-impacted areas.

The safety of our fellow citizens is at stake, as is the capacity of the insurance sector—an economic lifeline—to continue supporting them when disaster strikes, as outlined in the Insurance Bureau of Canada's report "State of the Home Insurance Market: Healthy but Pressure Is Building," published on September 18, 2025. This plan includes a three-point resilience plan urging governments to improve how and where we build, invest in resilience and help communities mitigate their risks, and address market gaps while avoiding interventions that could reduce market capacity.

Insurers are committed to doing their part to build safer and stronger communities, but they cannot act alone. Hence, we reaffirm our desire to work with the Québec government and other players to empower the province and its residents to better face and ultimately overcome the climate challenges ahead. Together, we can keep Quebecers safe, make their homes more resilient and insurable, and ensure both current and future generations have access to adequate housing.

We can, and must, join forces to develop a response that matches the scale of the challenge.

Laurent Fafard, Vice-President, Québec
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