

# Managing Climate Change Risks: An Independent Audit

March 15, 2018

Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental  
Audit Forum



OFFICE OF THE  
**Auditor General**  
of British Columbia

# Audit Conclusion

- Government is not adequately managing the risks posed by climate change.

## *Adaptation*

- The ministries within our audit scope have work underway to adapt to the risks posed by climate change, but more needs to be done across government.

## *Mitigation*

- Government has not taken adequate action to meet provincial emission reduction targets.



# Key Findings



Government  
**HASN'T FULLY  
ASSESSED RISKS  
TO B.C.**  
from  
climate change

**ADAPTATION PLAN  
NOT UPDATED**

**SINCE 2010**



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# Key Findings – Part 2



CLIMATE-RELATED  
RISKS INCLUDE

**FLOOD,** 

 **WILDFIRE**

AND 

**DROUGHT**



# Key Findings – Part 3

Exhibit 24: Planned Qualicum Beach waterfront



Source: Town of Qualicum Beach

provincial  
supports for  
**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
ADAPTATION  
ARE LIMITED**

Exhibit 25: Public engagement on sea level rise at the Surrey Central Library



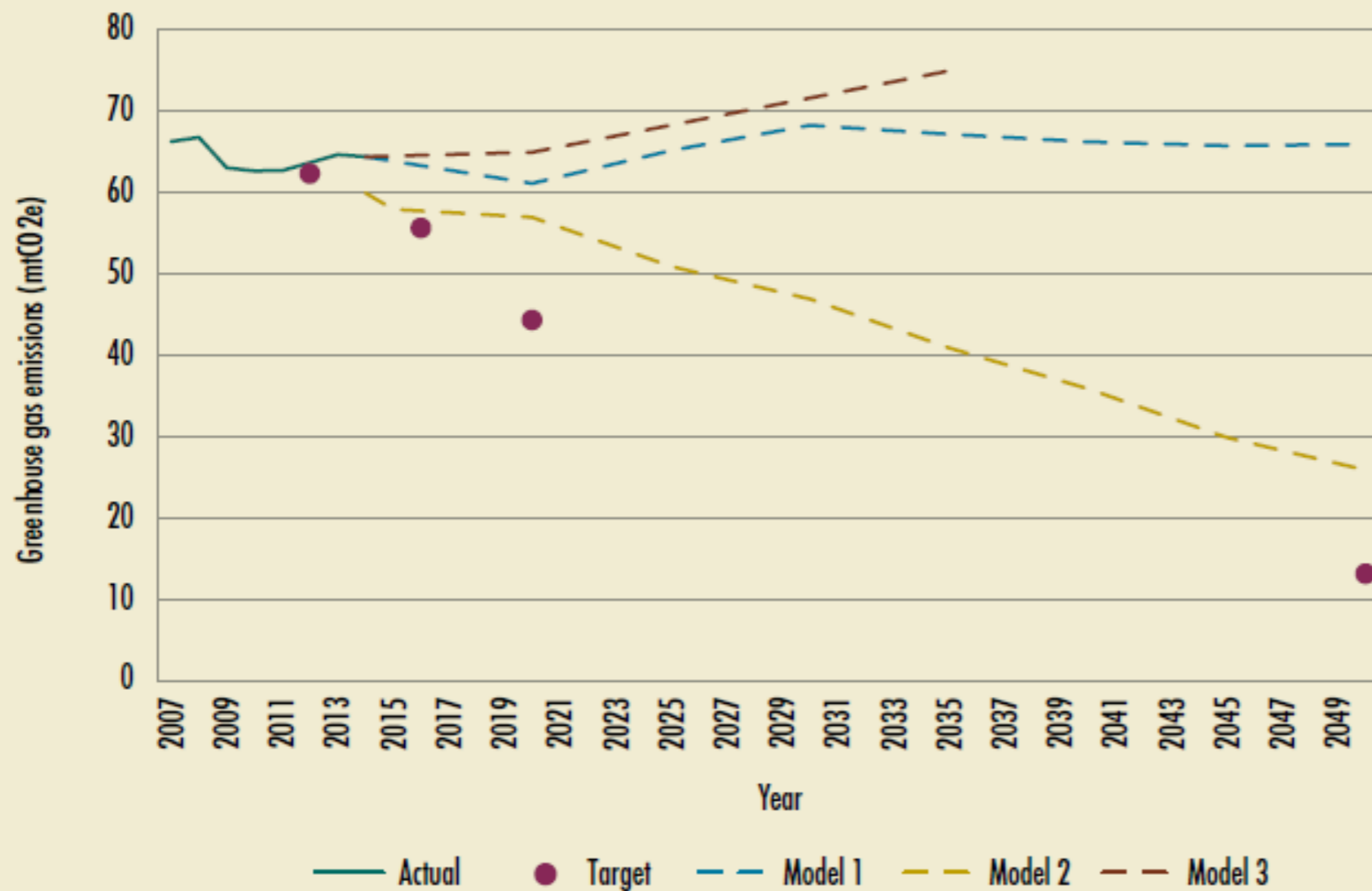
Source: City of Surrey



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# Key Findings – Part 4

Exhibit 31: B.C.'s historical, target and projected GHG emissions

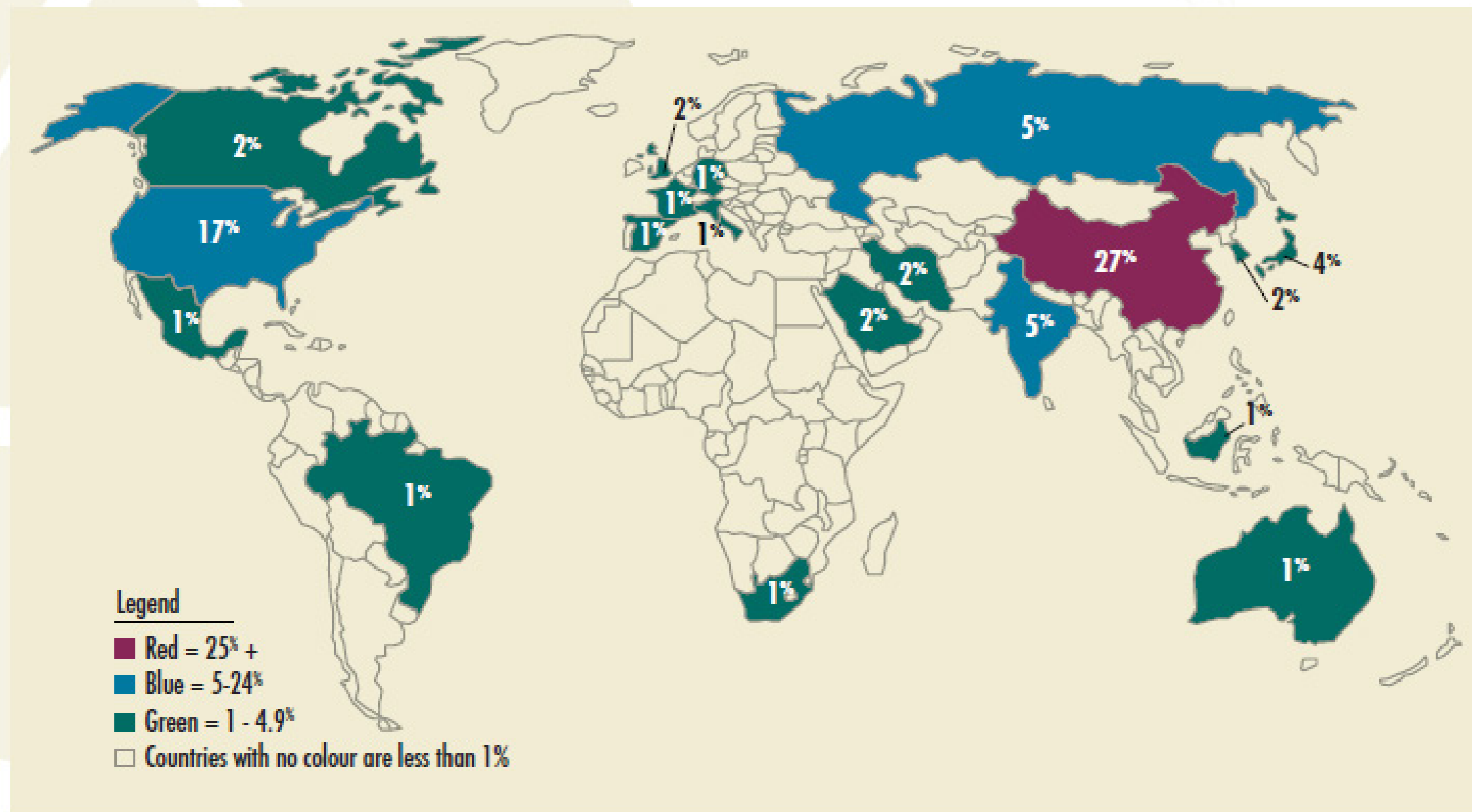


Source: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, based on provincial inventory and consultant models, Climate Leadership Team modelling and Canada's 2016 Greenhouse Gas Reference Case

2020 GHG  
**REDUCTION  
 TARGET**  
 likely  
**NOT MET**

# B.C.'s emissions in context

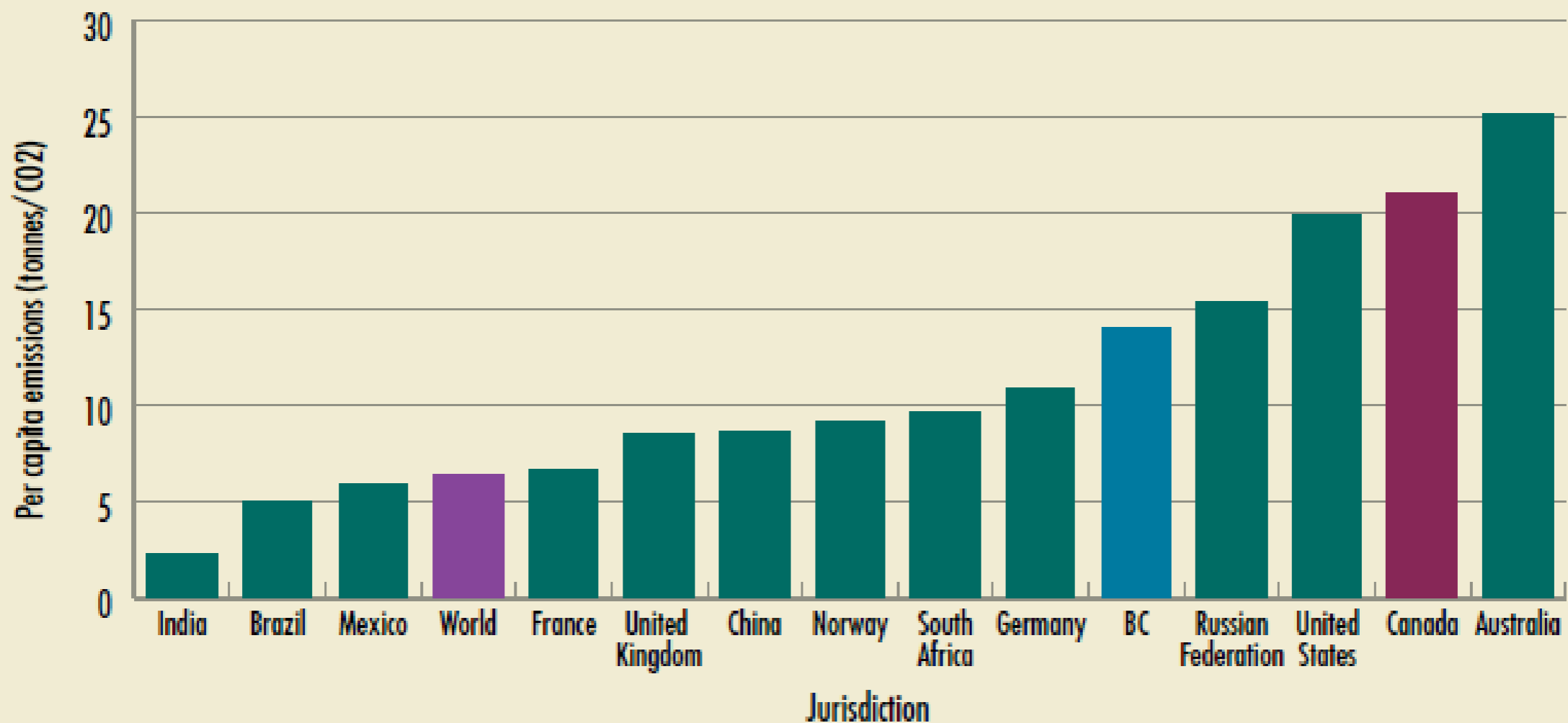
## NATIONAL EMISSIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS



Source: Union of Concerned Scientists using information compiled by the Energy Information Agency

# B.C.'s emissions in context

Exhibit 3: Comparison of 2013 levels of per capita GHG emissions in B.C., Canada and internationally



Source: Compiled by the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, using the World Resources Institute CAIT historical emissions data and B.C.'s provincial inventory



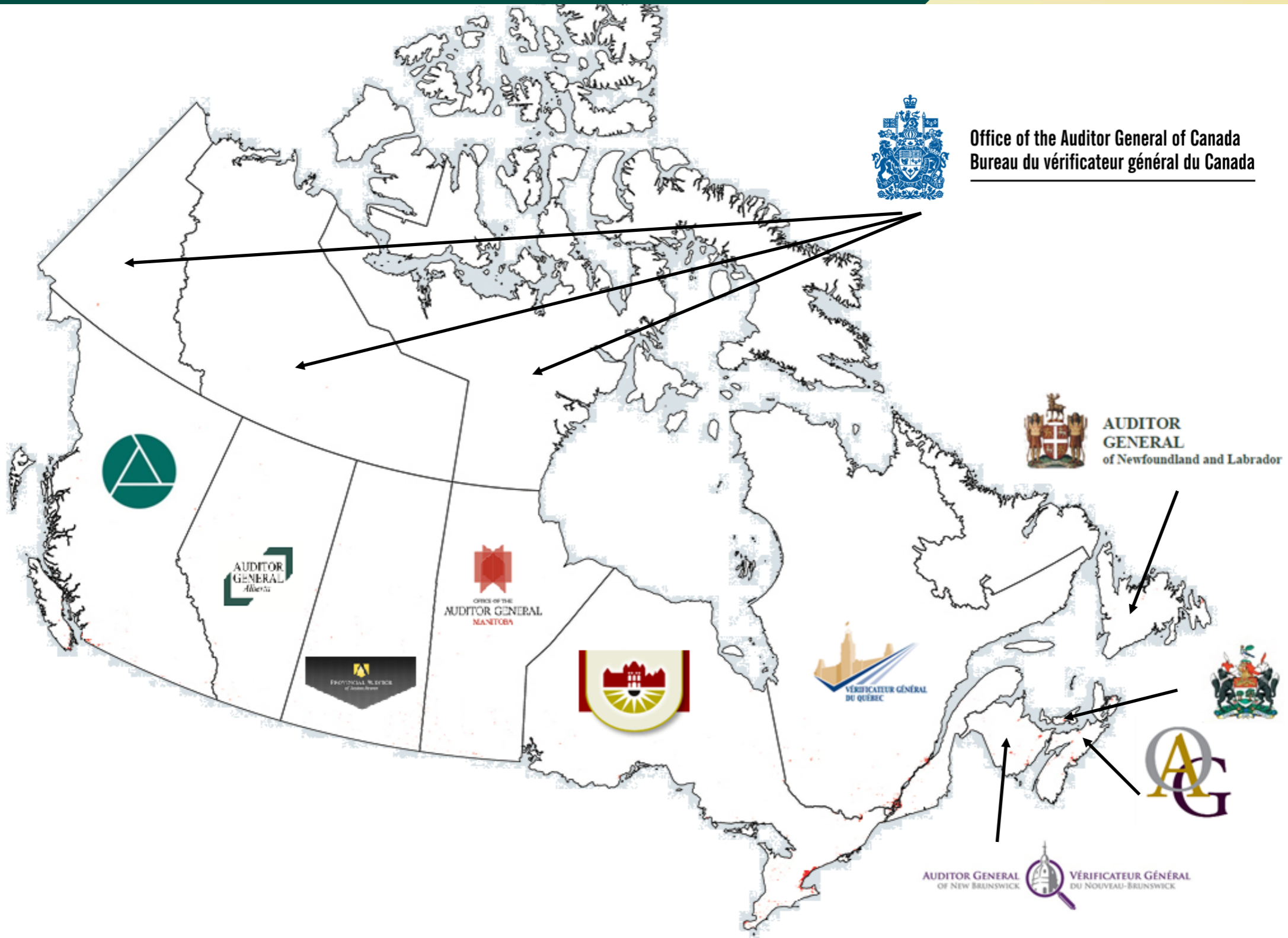
# Recommendations

- 17 recommendations –  
15 adaptation, 2  
mitigation
- 2 on flood  
management
- 3 on wildfire

*“To that end we  
**wholeheartedly**  
accept the  
recommendations in  
the report and will  
establish a process to  
ensure their intent is  
achieved.”*



# Auditing collaboratively

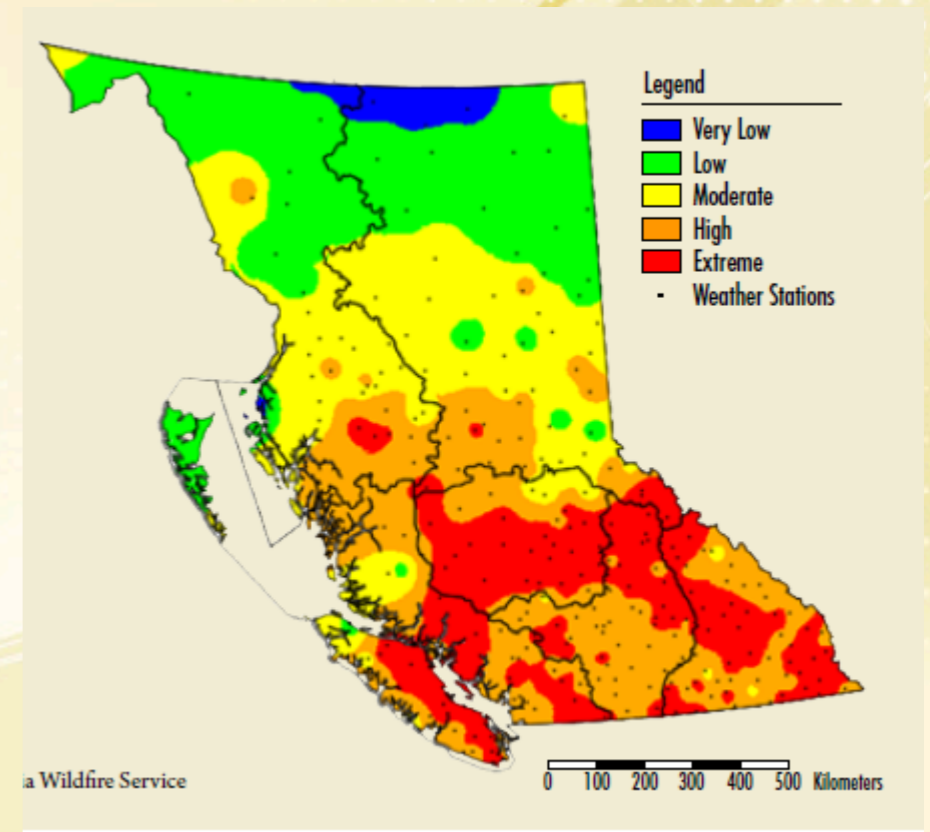


# Big audit scope



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# Including major risks in scope



# Project staffing

- On project planning to reporting
  - Assistant Auditor General
  - Director
  - Assistant Manager



# Auditee relations

## Strong relationships:

- Collaborative approach
- Including detailed appendices
- Recommendation “shopping”



# QUESTIONS?



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