



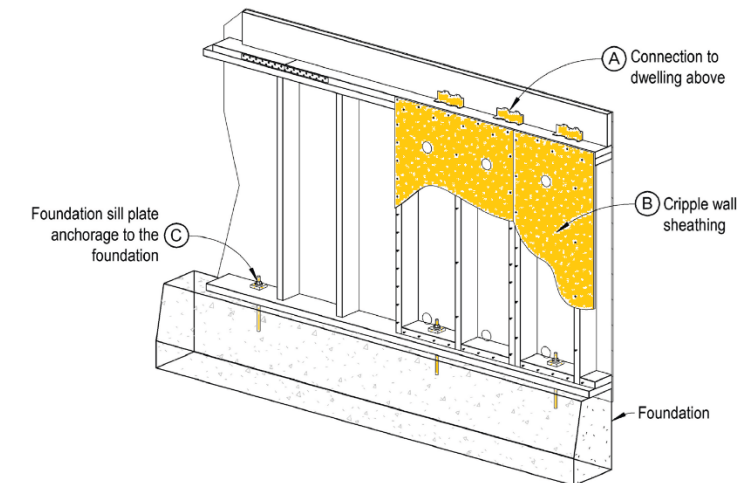
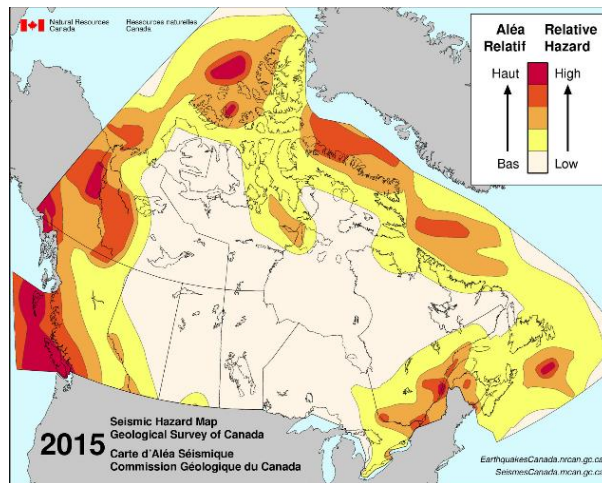
Institute for Catastrophic
Loss Reduction

Building resilient communities

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Bâtir des communautés résilientes

Earthquake brace + bolts retrofit can save 440,000 BC homes



Earthquakes commonly collapse older wood buildings. These buildings have weak walls between the foundation and first floor. Many lack bolts connecting the wood to the foundation. The damage commonly exceeds \$100,000 to repair and permanently displaces the occupants^[1]. About 1 million BC residents live in 440,000 such homes^[2,3]. A big BC earthquake is inevitable, but owners can prevent collapse with a 3-part retrofit called earthquake brace+bolts. A contractor can install it using standard drawings^[4] for \$5,000 to \$10,000^[5]. Tens of thousands of Californians have already done it^[5]. Experts agree that the retrofit makes sense^[5]. This is a widespread, well-understood problem with a mature, cost-effective solution.

Everybody wins from widespread retrofit: Society saves up to \$8 per \$1 invested^[6] through broadly shared benefits. Initial owners get peace of mind and higher resale value^[7]. The people who own and occupy the house when the earthquake strikes can stay in their homes. Other home buyers avoid a housing shortage. Lenders get mortgage stability. Governments avoid huge costs for response and recovery and lost taxes. Business avoids potentially catastrophic financial contagion^[8]. One US state has paid for over 40,000 retrofits^[5]. One city's transfer 1992 tax rebate paid to retrofit 40% of its houses in 10 years, making it the most effective voluntary seismic retrofit program ever^[9,10].

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