

## **ReLinker Mission Statement**

In November 2021, a series of floods and mudslides brought about by relentless rainfall and intense storms devastated British Columbia, prompting the province to call a state of emergency. The City of Abbotsford in Southern B.C. was among the areas hit hardest by the floods. During the natural disaster, crops were submerged, residences and processing facilities were destroyed, and much of the flooded equipment was considered unsalvageable. Many farmers attempted to transport their animals to higher ground as their properties flooded but were forced to abandon them with roads collapsing beneath their feet. Industry was further impeded by disruptions to transportation. Rail and truck movement was significantly affected. Shipping through the Vancouver Fraser Port terminals came to a standstill as imports could not be transported inland, and exports could not reach the port. With many transportation and evacuation routes completely flooded, blocked, or destroyed, many people were left stranded. Our goal with ReLinker is to provide emergency personnel, citizens, and others with a way to safely navigate areas affected by natural disaster by avoiding hazards and finding the safest route for evacuation, rescue, and supplies.