

FPT Ministerial Report

Date: 09 May 2016

Title: Meeting of FPT Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management (May 5-6, 2016 -Toronto, Ontario)

Decision Items: Attached

Originating Department(s): Public Safety Canada, meeting lead; Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat, communications lead.

Participants: The Forum (Council) of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management includes the minister(s) responsible for Emergency Management for each of the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Nunavut Position(s):

- Although the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations was invited to participate in the discussions on Northern and Indigenous Emergency Management, no other Aboriginal organization was offered an invitation and therefore had no input in the discussions;
- The canceling of funding for the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program had a negative impact on training in Nunavut;
- The overall approach to Northern and Indigenous Emergency Management focuses on a perspective that focuses on First Nations primarily and other Indigenous organizations secondarily; Minister Savikataaq made a comment to the meeting chair that since other Indigenous groups and Inuit were not invited to participate, their perspectives and knowledge were not a part of the conversation on the National Emergency Management Plan. This appeared to have an impact, as the final version of the press release (attached) used more inclusive terminology.
- The focus on emergency management is still largely oriented to planning and response to fires, floods and heavy urban search and rescue, there was little discussion regarding the potential effects of climate change in the North;
- Issues related to provincial or territorial Search and Rescue operations were not heavily discussed: the recognition of volunteers with an award or medal has potential for positive results, but that program could be difficult to administer in Nunavut for logistical reasons;
- Areas of responsibility for Government of Canada (crown land) and other provincial, territorial or municipal lands are not clearly defined;

- Threats to the resilience of disaster in Northern communities are aging infrastructure, cuts to JEPP funding, and human resources turnover which weaken capacity and training.

Current situation:

- There was consensus that there is a need for a renewal of the Emergency Management Framework for Canada which would be used to update, complete and implement the national Emergency Management Plan;
- A regular business cycle would consist of an annual meetings for Ministers and support meetings for Deputy Minister to achieve the decision items identified in the attached documents (towards the goal of developing the overall Emergency Management Plan);
- There is discussion that the funding formula for the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (Public Safety Canada) will be changed with the result being that the provinces and territories would increase their contributions; this would result in an approximate in a \$3 levy per person in Nunavut;
- The proposed use of a dedicated Broadband frequency (which will be strongest along the Canada USA border) may not be effective for public alerting in the North because of the potential use of mobile devices and that the range of the frequency may not be sufficient to service the remote or isolated regions.
- Aging infrastructure in community radio stations is an impediment to public alerting in Nunavut.

Next Steps:

- Ministers agreed to undertake efforts to leverage mitigation measures to reduce costs of disasters;
- National Public Alerting System (NPAS) will be designed on the premise of increased use of mobile devices;
- The Emergency Management Plan would enhance disaster resiliency through a whole-of-society approach to identify tangible, measurable action items.

Attachments:

- **Agenda**
- **Press Release (also available via links below):**
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/english/Conferences.asp?a=viewdocument&id=2424>
<http://www.scics.gc.ca/francais/Conferences.asp?a=viewdocument&id=2424>
- **Decision Items**

**MEETING OF F/P/T MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**
Agenda

Date/Time: May 6, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Ontario's Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
(PEOC) – 25 Morton Shulman Avenue, Toronto,
Ontario, M3M 0B1

Time	Items
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks <u>Leads:</u> Government of Canada and Newfoundland/Labrador
8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Developing an Emergency Management Action Plan for Canada <u>Leads:</u> Government of Canada and Newfoundland/Labrador <u>Objective:</u> Engage in discussion on key components to consider as part of the development of an Emergency Management Action Plan for Canada.
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Group Photo and Health Break (Refreshments will be served.)
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Emergency Management on Reserve <u>Lead:</u> Government of Canada <u>Objective:</u> Develop a shared understanding of key emergency management issues facing First Nations on reserves.
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) in Canada <u>Leads:</u> Government of Canada and Ontario <u>Objectives:</u> Engage in discussion on way forward for strengthening HUSAR capabilities. Set the stage for a broader discussion on search and rescue in Canada in the coming year.
11:15 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	Economic Implications of the Changing Disaster Landscape <u>Leads:</u> Government of Canada and Manitoba <u>Objective:</u> Discuss the economic implications of emergency management in Canada.

11:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Public Safety Communications <u>Leads</u> : Government of Canada, Alberta, and Saskatchewan <u>Objectives</u> : Discuss progress achieved on public alerting in Canada and the way forward for developing a Public Safety Broadband Network in Canada.
12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Review of Decision Items
12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Officials will concurrently review and approve a communiqué.)
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Tour of the Ontario's Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
1:30 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.	Review and Approval of Draft Communiqué
1:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Roundtable and Closing Remarks
2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Preparation for the Press Conference
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Press Conference

COMMUNIQUE - FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS MEET TO DISCUSS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

TORONTO, May 6, 2016 —Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) ministers responsible for emergency management met today in Toronto to discuss national priorities. The meeting was timely, falling during Emergency Preparedness Week 2016, which consists of a number of public education activities across the country.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Honourable Eddie Joyce, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services, Newfoundland and Labrador. Ministers were hosted at the Ontario Provincial Emergency Operations Centre.

Ministers acknowledged the devastating wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and expressed heartfelt thanks to the first responders, emergency managers, military personnel, and volunteers working together to keep Albertans safe. Ministers pledged continued support to Alberta during the wildfire response and recovery.

Recognizing the increasing frequency and magnitude of climate or weather-related emergencies, Ministers agreed on the need to modernize emergency management in Canada. Ministers expressed support to work collaboratively to update the National Emergency Management Framework and develop a supporting Emergency

Management Plan. Ministers agreed to undertake efforts to leverage mitigation measures to reduce costs of disasters.

Ministers discussed the challenges surrounding emergency management on First Nation reserves and committed to continued engagement and collaboration with all Indigenous communities and leadership on emergency management.

In addition, Ministers discussed the Government of Canada's commitment to restore funding to Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) teams across Canada. In support of this commitment, Ministers agreed to continued collaboration in assessing the current state of HUSAR capabilities and to determine next steps to bolster this critical emergency response capacity. Ministers also discussed the importance of strengthening search and rescue capacity across the country.

Ministers discussed progress on the implementation of the National Public Alerting System (NPAS) as well as key priority areas for the coming year. Ministers also expressed interest in contributing to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission's ongoing consultation on the participation of wireless services providers in the NPAS. This consultation will inform next steps in the integration of digital media and mobile platforms in public alerting.

Ministers discussed the status of the joint FPT work to advance a Public Safety Broadband Network. Ministers agreed on the creation of a public-private advisory group to inform the way forward on this important, yet complex initiative.

In conclusion, Ministers agreed on the importance of formally recognizing the valour and service of search and rescue volunteers across Canada. The extraordinary service of these volunteers saves the lives of Canadians every year.

QUOTES

"It is my privilege to participate in my first federal, provincial and territorial meeting on emergency management. My colleagues and I have made significant progress today in identifying key areas for action and committing to ongoing engagement on these issues. This commitment reflects our shared desire to develop a whole-of-society emergency management approach through inclusivity, collaboration and shared responsibility."

- The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

"An effective working relationship between the federal government and the provinces and territories is of critical importance to the safety and well-being of all Canadians. We are committed to updating the emergency management framework for Canada and working with our federal partners to develop the Emergency Management Plan. I look forward to hosting the next meeting in Newfoundland and Labrador."

- The Honourable Eddie Joyce, Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services, Newfoundland and Labrador.

CONTACTS

Scott Bardsley
Office of the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
613-991-2924
scott.bardsley@canada.ca

Media Relations Office
Public Safety Canada
613-991-0657
media@ps-sp.gc.ca

Meghan Drover
Media Relations Manager
Fire and Emergency Services-NL
709-729-0857, 690-1810
meghandrover@gov.nl.ca

**Meeting of FPT Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management
May 6, 2016 -Toronto, Ontario
Decision Items (Draft)**

1. Developing an Emergency Management Plan for Canada

- Develop an Emergency Management Plan, including renewal of the Emergency Management Framework for Canada, with consultation among levels of government, as constitutionally appropriate, and engagement with Indigenous communities (e.g. consider leveraging past and existing programs such as the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, ensuring consultation with victims of emergencies/disasters);
- Institute a regular business cycle consisting of an annual meeting for FPT Ministers and supporting meetings for FPT Deputy Ministers and senior officials.

2. Emergency Management on Reserve and Indigenous Communities

- Enhance engagement with Indigenous people in developing solutions to strengthen emergency management (e.g. cultural awareness, review of application of building codes on reserve, FPT working groups, capacity development), including bilateral emergency management agreements between the federal government and provinces/territories.

3. Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) / Search and Rescue (SAR) in Canada

- Engage provinces and territories, and HUSAR task forces, in a dialogue to ensure sufficient HUSAR capacity across Canada;
- Undertake a policy review of search and Rescue in Canada in consultation with provinces and territories and the stakeholder community;
- Explore options to create a national medal to honour search and rescue volunteers.

4. Economic Implications of the changing Disaster Landscape

- Undertake efforts to leverage mitigation measures to reduce costs of disasters;
- Review the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, consistent with commitment made by Premiers, and to maximize access to the 15% mitigation component;
- Explore further enhancement of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (e.g. adopt an all-hazards approach, explore options to leverage Infrastructure Canada funding envelopes); and
- Develop options to build a fiscally-sustainable and practical approach to disaster recovery in Canada (e.g. advancing residential flood insurance).

5. Public Safety Communications

- Accelerate stakeholder engagement on the development of a Public Safety Broadband Network;
- Encourage continued implementation of the National Public Alerting System and participate in consultations in support of the Wireless Public Alerting System;
- Work with Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) to explore issues related to cell phone coverage in remote areas, including discussion on next generation
- 9-1-1; and
- Bring forward an update on Canada's Communication Interoperability Strategy.