

Preamble to A Strategy for Emergency Management Training in Canada

This Strategy for Emergency Management Training in Canada (the Strategy) has been developed by the National Emergency Management Training Committee as part of the implementation of the Emergency Management Training Strategy Action Plan for 2005-2010. It draws from and builds on the Action Plan and is designed to advance the shared emergency management training aims of all jurisdictions within a framework that encompasses a strategic framework, objectives for 2005-2010, and specific Action Items. It is understood that training is the jurisdictional responsibility of provincial/territorial governments and that the federal government and others have responsibility as employers in providing appropriate in-service training to improve the performance of their employees.

The Strategy is the product of FPT review and updating of the National Training Strategy (NTS) for 2001-2006. The Strategy seeks to maintain the NTS vision of creating and maintaining progressive and sustainable training activities and projects in support of emergency management in Canada. It also builds on NTS principles of collaboration, providing the right training to the right people, avoiding duplication, opportunities for teamwork, sharing of training information and best practices, and respect for the unique needs of each government.

The Annex of the Strategy lists specific short-term Action Items. As a beginning, the Annex incorporates the Action Items contained in the EM Training Strategy Action Plan for 2005-2010.

Once approved, the Strategy will supersede both the Emergency Management Training Strategy Action Plan and the National Training Strategy for 2001-2006.

A Strategy for Emergency Management Training in Canada

Vision

This Strategy for Emergency Management Training in Canada (the Strategy) has been developed by the National Emergency Management Training Committee (NEMTC) to build sustainable and progressive emergency management (EM) learning activities and projects that are responsive to the challenges of diverse jurisdictional responsibilities and contribute to the development of more resilient communities.

Strategic Framework

The first part of the Strategy is comprised of a strategic framework of goals, guiding principles, roles and responsibilities, and governance. This framework provides long-term guidance that is intended to endure well beyond the five-year term of the present Strategy.

Goals

To guide the work, the following three goals have been identified and agreed to as being fundamental to federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) EM training efforts:

- the enhancement of inter-jurisdictional cooperation and partnership through a strengthened FPT process,
- the advancement of Knowledge Growth and Learning within the FPT EM community, and
- the on-going alignment of the Strategy and consequent activities with policy direction provided by FPT Ministers of Emergency Management.

Roles and Responsibilities

The parties to this Strategy have complementary and distinct roles and responsibilities. Provinces have jurisdictional responsibility for training, are responsible for EM training in their jurisdiction and consequently exercise control over their training initiatives.

The federal government is responsible for the identification of its own EM training needs, for determining how these needs will be met and for meeting them as appropriate. In collaboration with the provinces and territories, the federal government also facilitates national coordination and advancement of EM

training and supports provincial and territorial training efforts through the sharing of information, materials and other resources.

Where appropriate, parties support each other's EM training efforts and share training resources.

Guiding Principles

In addition to the goals noted above, there is general support for the value of approaching work on EM training on the following three guiding principles:

- complementarity of FPT EM training efforts by sharing information and materials, avoiding working in isolation, and avoiding replication of effort when possible;
- the recognition and respect for unique jurisdictional responsibilities and needs; and
- the freedom to opt in or out of specific action items based on jurisdictional need.

To achieve the goals and objectives of the Strategy, FPT governments agree, in accordance with their capacity, to share resources and to collaborate in their EM training efforts.

The success of the Strategy depends on the commitment, the follow-through, and the cooperation of the various partners across Canada. These shared obligations are seen as investments with returns for individual jurisdictions and the broader Canadian emergency management community.

Governance

The Strategy will be implemented by the NEMTC under the direction of SOREM and, through SOREM, be responsive to strategic direction established by Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

The NEMTC shall provide input and recommendations to SOREM on issues related to the Strategy's development and implementation.

SOREM representatives shall endeavor to commit resources for specific activities identified in the Strategy at their discretion through the regular budgeting processes, recognizing budget and resource pressures in their respective jurisdictions.

1. NEMTC Membership

- NEMTC will be composed of a single official from each provincial and territorial EMO who is responsible for training within that jurisdiction and the Executive Director, Canadian Emergency Management College (CEMC).
- The NEMTC will have two co-chairs, one representing the federal government and the other representing the provinces and territories. The federal co-chair will be the Executive Director, CEMC. The PT co-chair will be chosen by the PT members; consideration should be given for the PT co-chair to sit for 2 years to provide increased continuity.
- Other FPT departments/agencies or other organizations of interest may participate on an ad-hoc basis in NEMTC meetings at the invitation of the NEMTC for specific and agreed-upon purposes.

2. NEMTC Reporting

The NEMTC will report through the co-chairs directly to SOREM at the annual SOREM meeting. The co-chairs are responsible for

- setting meeting agendas in consultation with the other members;
- determining the location and date of meetings, after consultation with the membership;
- facilitating ongoing business on behalf of the NEMTC (e.g., handling requests for participation), in consultation with the membership; and
- ensuring records of decisions and proceedings are produced and circulated.

3. NEMTC Administration

- *Frequency and Location of Meetings:* An annual meeting of the NEMTC will be held in Ottawa (combined with a PT meeting) in addition to periodic teleconferences throughout the year. When circumstances warrant a second annual meeting will be hosted by different governments on a rotational basis and will be scheduled in a way that is compatible with workshops or other listed Action Items.
- *Decision Making Protocol:* Decision making and direction setting by NEMTC members for NEMTC activities will be on a consensus basis with the co-chairs working to facilitate the process.
- *Funding Model(s) and Support for the NEMTC:* For the NEMTC and the Strategy to succeed, it is important that funding is adequate to enable all governments to have the opportunity to fully participate in

the various meetings. The CEMC co-chair will provide Secretariat support such as minutes, document preparation, etc.

Objectives for 2005-2010

The second part of the Strategy is comprised of four objectives for 2005-2010 which reflect the goals identified in the first part of the Strategy. While the following objectives are expected to be in place for some time, they will be open to occasional review and updating:

1. enhance and support professional development opportunities and mechanisms in emergency management;
2. exchange views on core curricula that are responsive to FPT EM training needs and initiatives;
3. develop and support the mechanism(s) needed to facilitate FPT communication and information sharing; and
4. annually review and update the Strategy in accordance with direction provided by Ministers.

Action Items

Objectives for 2005-2010 will be achieved and supported by the specific Action Items identified in the Annex that follows. While the Action Items are derived from the Strategy they are not an integral part of it because they will require regular review and updating. Adjustments will be subject to SOREM approval.