

Treasury Board Secretariat

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DATE: December 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Emergency Management Partners

FROM: Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency
Management
Emergency Management Ontario

SUBJECT: **Proposed Amendments to Modernize the
*Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act***

I am pleased to share an update on an important milestone in modernizing emergency management in the province.

On December 9, 2024, the government [introduced Bill 238, the Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2024](#). This bill proposes amendments to modernize the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA).

The EMCPA is Ontario's legislative framework for emergency management. The EMCPA and its regulations have not been comprehensively updated in more than 15 years. With an increasingly complex emergency management landscape, it is more important than ever to ensure that Ontario is safe, practiced and prepared.

Proposed Amendments to the EMCPA

If passed, the proposed amendments to the EMCPA would strengthen provincial leadership and co-ordination of emergency management. It would also support enhanced community capacity in emergency management to ensure Ontario is ready for the challenges of today and the future.

Proposed amendments to the EMCPA if passed, would:

- Support a unified understanding of emergency management across Ontario.
- Strengthen provincial leadership and co-ordination by facilitating the role of Emergency Management Ontario as the one window for co-ordinating provincial emergency management activities.

- Strengthen planning and co-ordination with emergency management partners, including by outlining the ability to enter into agreements and liaise with public and private sector partners, including municipalities, Indigenous communities and other governments.
- Support municipal emergency management by enabling regulations to allow flexibility for municipal emergency management programs based on needs and capacity, as well as clarify processes for municipal declarations of emergency and requests for assistance.
- Enable a future emergency management program and plan requirements to be established for designated entities that provide or operate critical infrastructure, subject to further engagement with partners, to support continuity of services and operations.

Partner and Stakeholder Feedback

The proposed amendments to the EMCPA are informed by feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management and lessons learned from past emergencies. Over the summer of 2024, Emergency Management Ontario directly engaged over 480 partners and stakeholders through 45 engagements and received 90 written submissions on the [publicly posted discussion guide](#). I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the valuable feedback received.

Emergency Management Ontario is committed to ongoing engagement with our partners and the people of Ontario to ensure we are effectively supporting our collective vision of a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario. The proposed amendments are posted on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) for review and feedback.

Phased Implementation Approach

If passed, Emergency Management Ontario would continue to engage partners throughout the phased implementation of proposed amendments and to support regulatory development. This would include ongoing support and guidance on what would be needed to implement required emergency management programs and plans.

If you have any questions, please contact the Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch at EMOPolicy@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your valued partnership as we work together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of communities across Ontario.

Best always,



Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management
Emergency Management Ontario in Treasury Board Secretariat

Cc:

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