



Meeting Date: August 7, 2024

Prepared By: Shannon Leitch, Community Emergency Management Coordinator

Submitted by: Colin Toth, Director of Emergency Services & Fire Chief

Report No: FES-04-2024

Subject: Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Modernization,

Recommendation:

THAT Report FES-04-2024, regarding the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Modernization, be received for information.

Purpose:

To advise Council of the opportunity to provide feedback to Emergency Management Ontario on the modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9.

Background:

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9, is the current legislation that establishes the Province's legal framework for managing emergencies. This Act has not been comprehensively updated for over 15 years.

Based on current feedback the Province has received thus far, they have developed a discussion guide (attached) with various focused questions to organize feedback. In the past year, the Province has released the first Provincial Emergency Management Strategy Action Plan, as well as the first annual report on this Plan to strengthen emergency management with the commitment to move the province's safety and resilience forward. With these documents, as well as the discussion guide, the Province is now seeking additional feedback from partners and stakeholders to advance emergency management in Ontario. The Province will consider this feedback when moving forward with the modernization of the emergency management framework to strengthen the province's ability to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and recover from emergencies.

Analysis:

Five key focus areas are being considered in modernizing the emergency management legislative framework:

1. **The scope of an emergency and emergency management:** opportunities to strengthen Ontario's collective ability to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies of varying scopes, types and sizes.
2. **One window approach to provincial emergency management coordination:** opportunities to enhance provincial emergency management coordination for hazards and risks, including wildland fires, floods, pandemics, cyber-attacks and nuclear incidents, through clearer roles and responsibilities for provincial actors and processes for how Ontario collaborates with other jurisdictions, including the federal government.
3. **Enhancing coordination between government and emergency management programs:** opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and enhance emergency management capabilities, for example through Ontario Corps, to prepare for and respond to emergencies.
4. **Improving the consistency, quality and inclusivity of emergency management programs:** opportunities to align with international best practices for comprehensive, high-quality and inclusive emergency management programs with consideration of the needs of diverse and vulnerable populations in emergency management.
5. **Reflecting how Ontario works with First Nations in emergency management:** opportunities to guide how the province supports First Nations partners and Indigenous service organizations in Indigenous-led emergency management.

Internally, our Emergency Services department in consultation with our Emergency Control Group (ECG) is reviewing the documents and discussion guide and will consider providing suggested changes to Emergency Management Ontario.

Financial Implications:

No financial implications.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Government - Objective 5.4 – Expand our Partnerships

Attachments:

FES-04-2024a –Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Modernization