

DATE: May 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: **Emergency Management Partners**

FROM: Eric Everett
Acting Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency
Management

SUBJECT: **Re-introduction of proposed amendments to
modernize the *Emergency Management and Civil
Protection Act***

I am pleased to share an update on an important milestone in modernizing Ontario's legislative framework for emergency management.

On May 26, 2025, the government [reintroduced the Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025, or Bill 25](#). The bill includes proposed amendments to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) which aim to build a stronger and more resilient province now and in the future.

If passed, Schedule 1 of [Bill 25](#) would amend the EMCPA to enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and community emergency management.

Specifically, proposed amendments to the EMCPA would:

- **Strengthen provincial leadership and coordination** by outlining the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as the lead for emergency management in Ontario and Emergency Management Ontario as the one window for coordinating provincial emergency management activities.
- **Identify Ontario Corps** as a key provincial emergency management function that can be deployed to support communities across the province.
- **Support municipal emergency management** by recognizing the importance of community-led approaches and allowing flexibility for municipal emergency management programs based on needs and capacity.
- **Enhance clarity and accountability in emergency management** by outlining roles and responsibilities and clarifying processes for municipal declarations of emergency and requests for assistance.

These proposed changes build on actions to date and are informed by valuable feedback from partners, best practices in emergency management and lessons learned from past emergencies.

Next Steps

Enhancing Ontario's emergency management capacity is part of the government's plan to build a stronger and more resilient province with the necessary tools in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people across the province.

The Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response is committed to ongoing engagement with our partners to ensure we are effectively supporting our collective vision of a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario. If passed, the ministry intends to engage with partners on the phased implementation of the amendments, including to support regulatory development. This would include ongoing support and guidance on what would be needed to implement updates to emergency management programs and plans.

If you have any questions or comments on Bill 25, please contact the Strategic Policy and Governance Branch at EMOPolicy@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your valued partnership.

Thank you,



Eric Everett
Acting Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management
Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response