

Treasury Board Secretariat Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

Office of the Associate
Minister of Emergency
Preparedness and
Response

Bureau du ministre associé de la
Protection civile et des
interventions d'urgence



Whitney Block, Room 4320
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

Édifce Whitney, bureau 4320
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

December 9, 2024

Dear Emergency Management Partners,

Today, our government introduced the *Emergency Management Modernization Act* that, if passed, would modernize the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA).

The EMCPA and its regulations have not been comprehensively updated in more than 15 years. Since then, the nature of emergencies has changed. The rising frequency of extreme weather events and the threat of cyber-attacks on Ontario's digital infrastructure mean that we must ensure our emergency management framework reflects today's realities.

If passed, these amendments to the EMCPA would strengthen provincial leadership and coordination of emergency management by facilitating Emergency Management Ontario as the one window for coordinating provincial emergency management activities. Additionally, the proposed legislation would enhance community capacity in emergency management. This includes clarifying the process for municipalities to declare local emergencies and granting municipalities the authority to plan for and respond to emergencies based on their unique needs and capacity.

The proposed amendments, if passed, would strengthen planning and coordination 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. In addition, the proposed amendments would enable 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.

Over the summer, Emergency Management Ontario engaged with more than 480 partners to inform proposed amendments, including municipalities, First Nations communities, and emergency management organizations. We look forward to further collaboration with our partners as we build a stronger, more resilient province, capable of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of communities across Ontario. The proposed amendments are posted on [Ontario's Regulatory Registry and Environmental Registry](#) for your review and feedback.

On behalf of Premier Ford and the Government of Ontario, thank you for your continued partnership in emergency management.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Trevor Jones
Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
Treasury Board Secretariat

c: The Honorable Caroline Mulroney
President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Francophone Affairs

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