

**MEMBER'S RESOLUTION**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>JUNE 19, 2012 – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA JOINT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM GRANTS</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C., Mayor</b>

***WHEREAS, the City of Vaughan is committed to an environment of emergency preparedness and public safety;***

***WHEREAS, the Federal Government's Economic Action Plan cancels the Joint Emergency Preparedness program in 2013 that impacts;***

- ***Implementation of projects to enhance and maintain municipal emergency preparedness and response;***
- ***Funding of the five urban search and rescue units located across Canada of which one unit is located in the City of Toronto and services the GTA; and***
- ***Funding of critical infrastructure initiatives.***

***WHEREAS the City of Vaughan has received funding through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program that has enhanced our level of emergency preparedness and public safety through the following initiatives:***

- ***Plume modeling software for hazardous materials incidents;***
- ***Building and equipping the Emergency Operations Centre;***
- ***Radios for the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service;***
- ***Equipping the Mobile Command Unit;***
- ***Computers and printers for the Emergency Operations Centre; and***
- ***Radio repeaters for four fire apparatus.***

***WHEREAS the City of Vaughan recognizes that emergency preparedness and public safety require an ongoing commitment and investment to meet the evolving needs of the community;***

***WHEREAS, the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program grants are the only existing source of federal funding for municipalities to address gaps and future needs in emergency preparedness;***

***WHEREAS, the financial support through the Joint Emergency Preparedness grants has aided municipalities to keep pace with public safety needs while reducing the burden on ratepayers since 1980;***

***WHEREAS the loss of funding from the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program will affect implementation of future public safety initiatives across Canada;***

***IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT Council request the Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Vic Toews that the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program be reinstated in the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan; and***

***That the Honourable Julian Fantino, Member of Parliament for Vaughan be advised of the City's concerns; and***

***That the resolution be forwarded to AMO and FCM.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.

**Attachments**

1. Letter from Gina Wilson Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada,
2. Letter from Alison Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Emergency Management Ontario (Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services)

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### **1. Letter from Gina Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada**

In line with Economic Action Plan 2012 announced on March 29, 2012, we would like to provide you with some details regarding two Emergency Management (EM) initiatives within Public Safety Canada (PS). We have carefully and critically examined our emergency management activities and identified deficit reduction measures that streamline government operations, provide value for taxpayers, while ensuring that the safety of Canadians is paramount.

First, with regards to the Canadian Emergency Management College (the College), much has changed in Canada since the College started providing emergency management to practitioners. Today, EM related training is widely available through provincial, territorial, and some municipal governments as well as Community Colleges, Universities, and private sector organizations.

In the fall of 2010, we sought to define a unique and necessary federal role in EM training and examine alternative means of program delivery as part of the College renewal efforts. Factors such as an aging infrastructure and the lack of operating self-sufficiency rendered the possibility of further substantial investments to the College, unsustainable. Going forward, emergency management training will be provided in the most effective and cost-efficient manner. The Federal learning facility and others across the country will no longer provide course delivery, effective immediately.

Let me assure you that alternate ways of delivering College programming are being examined. The College will broaden its partnership base to further support and strengthen EM training initiatives undertaken by provincial/territorial partners, academia, and EM practitioners. A key development towards this new way of delivering EM training is through a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the College has recently signed with the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS). Under the MOU, the College will provide policy and programming guidance and the CSPS will develop, deliver and evaluate EM training on a cost recovery basis thus, ensuring sustainable programming that meets community needs. This arrangement will provide access to training expertise, e-learning infrastructure, and regional delivery capacity. As a result, Public Safety Canada expects that its emergency management courses will reach an even wider audience and enhance stakeholder engagement

Attachment 1

The second EM program that will be affected is the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP). The original objectives of this program, namely,

to enhance local emergency preparedness and response capacity, have been met.

Federal contributions for emergency preparedness projects under JEPP will end in 2013 as will federal funding provided under JEPP for Urban Search and Rescue and for Critical Infrastructure initiatives. While funding continues to be in place for projects submitted for consideration in 2012-13.

These changes are expected to result in a leaner, more efficient and effective federal government engaged in the delivery of its core business areas, which these two programs are outside of. Public Safety Canada remains committed to ensuring a safe and resilient Canada and to the security of Canadians and their communities. We hope we can count on your continued support to work together on the extensive number of EM initiatives that continue to be part of Public Safety's EM priorities.

If you have any questions about the Canadian Emergency Management College, please contact Gary Donovan, Director General, National Emergency Preparedness Directorate at (613) 949-5000 or by email at **Gary.Donovan@ps-sp.gc.ca** and, for Joint Emergency Preparedness Program inquiries, please contact Dave Neville, Senior Director, Disaster Financial Assistance Programs at (613) 990-3110 or by email at **Dave.Neville@ps-sp.gc.ca**.

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**2. Letter from Alison Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of Emergency Management Ontario, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services**

Dear all,

I am writing to provide an interim status update on the impacts of the federal budget on Public Safety Canada. Many of you may have heard about it from other sources but I did want to share the provincial perspective.

Public Safety Canada (PS) is experiencing an 8.5% reduction in funding over the next three years. This has impacted on both staffing and programs. There was a loss of 117 FTEs and two programs have been cancelled: the Canadian Emergency Management College (the College); and the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).

The College will no longer provide any training programs. While options are apparently being considered, a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the College and the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS). *“Under the MOU, the College will provide policy and programming guidance and the CSPS will develop, deliver and evaluate EM training on a cost recovery basis, thus ensuring sustainable programming that meets community needs.”* We have no further information on what this new initiative will look like, what the costs of programs might be, nor where programs might be offered. When there is further information we will let you know. What this does mean for training in Ontario is unclear at this point as the College has not been a significant resource for some time. EMO will call a meeting of others involved in emergency management training to discuss this change and assess its impact. This meeting will be called within the next two months and feedback from the meeting will be provided to you by July 1 2012.

The JEPP program has been an important part of emergency management evolution in Ontario. Since 1980 it has supported initiatives to enhance emergency preparedness, urban search and rescue and critical infrastructure protection, funding up to 75% of a project. The program will continue for this current year and all funding will stop in 2013. This will be a significant loss both at the provincial and the local levels. Ontarians have benefited from all three aspects of the program. EMO is currently undertaking an assessment of the “reach” of the initiatives that JEPP has supported as the first step towards developing options for moving forward. I will provide a status update to you by September 1 2012.

Some have been wondering what these changes at the federal level might mean to the overall commitment to emergency management at the provincial level.

Frankly, it makes no difference to the level of commitment. However it does mean that we must redouble our efforts to create synergies and partnerships that will allow us to meet our collective obligations to the health and safety of Ontarians. We will be working on this and would very much appreciate your advice, suggestions and clear thinking. I invite you to contact me directly, speak to your Field Officer, or use an existing meeting to share your insights.

I will keep you advised of progress on determining a way forward in this new environment.

**Allison J. Stuart**

Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief

Emergency Management Ontario

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