



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: April 12, 2018

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Linda Dickson Emergency Manager CEMC

SUBJECT: Provincial Emergency Management
Review - Update

STRATEGIC PLAN:

6.0 Protect the health and safety of the community and citizens, business and the environment, by supporting a quality Volunteer Fire Department, emergency preparedness, and access to health care, prevention and wellness opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, The Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management (OFMEM) hired an independent consultant, Lansdowne Technologies Inc, to conduct a review of emergency management in Ontario. The review was completed and the Consultants provided a final report to OFMEM in August of 2017. In addition to this review, recommendations from the 2017 Auditor General's Report, the 2013 Ice Storm After Action Report and the Elliot Lake recommendations were reviewed by the Province. There are 52 recommendations from the various reports that were used to form the basis for OFMEM's Ontario Emergency Management Action Plan.

The following are some of the key recommendations from the Action Plan that may have implications for municipal emergency management programs. There is a focus on climate change with respect to the recommendations.

1. Include an increase focus on supporting ministry and local emergency managers in adapting to the implications of climate change as it relates to emergencies.
2. Consider aligning EM Programs with the Province's Climate Change Action Plan and the priorities of MOECC and MNRF for adaption strategies. The Provincial EM conference in October of 2017 focused on Climate Change issues as they affect Emergency Management.
3. Changes to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and accompanying regulations. Suggested changes include:
 - Updated definitions;
 - Add climate change adaptation, critical infrastructure protection and cyber security considerations as part of the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment;
 - A requirement for municipalities to report emergencies;
 - Scope of authority of the Chief of EMO. This year the Province is recruiting for a dedicated Chief of Emergency Management to help ensure effective oversight and governance.
 - Climate Change and adaption, critical infrastructure protection, first nation linkages, disaster recovery plans and vulnerable populations.

- Policies considering the needs of family members in Emergency Response Plan that was a recommendation of the Elliot Lake Inquiry.
 - Consideration for appropriate offences or fines for not complying with the legislation.
 - In the regulations wording regarding who is the Incident Commander that was also a recommendation of the Elliot Lake Inquiry.
4. Increase resources to improve and expand existing emergency management programs.
 5. An increase focus on prevention and recovery programs.
 6. Integrate EM into the current development of the Strategy for a Safer Ontario. Emergency Management in Wellington has been a participant in the Safe Communities Wellington since inception and has seen the value in the linkages between safer communities and emergency management.
 7. Consider adding regular performance audits.
 8. Consider replacing the Provincial IMS with ICS to align with the federal government and other provinces. The Province has already begun to move in this direction and has formed a partnership with ICS Canada for the delivery of ICS courses.
 9. Encourage ministries and municipalities to examine and adopt third party supply chain dependencies and service level agreements.

COMMENTS:

At this time, there does not appear to be any significant impacts on our emergency management programs in the 52 recommendations. However, the next few years will be interesting times in emergency management as the Province responds to the 52 recommendations

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Emergency Manager CEMC's April 12, 2018 update report on the Provincial Emergency Management Review.

Bill White C.A.O. Clerk