



Message from the Co-Chairs

As we continue to follow the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, the partnerships, regional coordination and collaboration that will be required in Metro Vancouver following a major emergency event is again, reinforced. We would like to take this time to share some recent IPREM activities and what we will be working into the fall:

Initial orientation and training on the Regional Concept of Operations Model with Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) in Metro Vancouver was held. Further training will continue in preparation for Tabletop Exercise #4 scheduled in September with the CAOs.

A presentation on IPREM was given to the Lower Mainland and Local Government Association’s 2015 Annual General Meeting and Conference. This year’s theme was focused on emergency management titled *“Planning Today, Protecting Tomorrow”*.

IPREM is participating in Metro Vancouver’s Sustainability Community Breakfast series being held in Richmond, Vancouver and New Westminister to share the emergency managements structure and regional collaboration in Metro Vancouver.

The Province’s Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, prepared by Chair Henry Renteria, confirmed that *“stakeholders stressed the importance of regional planning for catastrophic events”*. We were pleased to see that IPREM was highlighted as an effective planning model that could apply to other jurisdictions. The full report can be found at http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em/hazard_preparedness/earthquake/prep-consult-report/index.html

Looking ahead, IPREM will be developing a 2015-20 Strategic Plan that will include outreach to partners and stakeholders. This consultation will address questions such as, *how can IPREM best support the regional emergency management needs of Metro Vancouver? Should IPREM mirror Emergency Management BC earthquake plans and strategies?*

Congratulations on another successful emergency preparedness week. We hope you had a chance to participate in the events held throughout the region and have taken further action to better prepare yourself and your families. Enjoy your summer and we look forward to communicating with you in the fall.



Lori Wanamaker, FCA
IPREM Co-Chair
Deputy Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice



John Leeburn, MBA
IPREM Co-Chair
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Port Coquitlam

Vision

A disaster – resilient region where all levels of government and key stakeholders work together seamlessly

Mission

To develop and deliver a coordinated seamless regional emergency management strategy by an integrated concept of emergency operations and strategic priorities

Inside This Issue:

All Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations	2
Regional Emergency Communications Strategy	3

All Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations

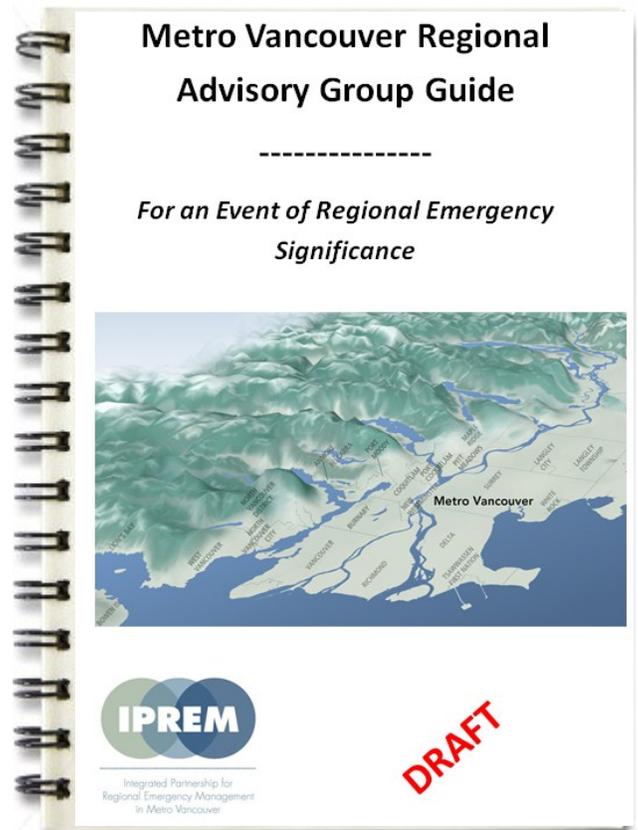
Building from previous exercises, a third tabletop exercise (TTX) was held in December 2014 to continue validation of the Regional Concept of Operations. This exercise focused on evaluating operating procedures for the Regional Advisory Group and testing sections from the draft Metro Vancouver Regional Advisory Group Guide book. The After Action Report detailed seven recommendations:

Next Steps:

- Conduct further orientations as needed with CAOs and Emergency Planners (Local Authority, EMBC and Stakeholder)
- Develop and conduct Tabletop Exercise #4 (Sept 10 2015) with CAOs
- Update Metro Vancouver Regional Advisory Group Guide

1. Updates for the Metro Vancouver Regional Advisory Group Guide including back up communications information, streamlined conference call agenda and specific documentation procedures.
2. Establishment of protocols between EMBC and City of Vancouver regarding Heavy Urban Search and Rescue requests, approvals and utilization.
3. The working group CAOs recommend to the Regional Administrator Advisory Committee (RAAC) that we are ready to move forward with orientation training and exercise development for all CAOs in Metro Vancouver.
4. If approved by RAAC, to develop and provide orientation/training to all CAOs in Metro Vancouver.
5. If approved by RAAC, to develop TTX #4 to involving all CAOs in Metro Vancouver and utilizing the Metro Vancouver Advisory Group process and Guide.
6. Research opportunities to integrate the Metro Vancouver Regional Advisory Group into a large regional functional exercise.
7. Continue development of guidelines and/or policies for identified regional issues to outline potential actions and decisions for each issue.

Recommendations are complete or in progress; however, the Regional Concept of Operations model could be applied if an event(s) of regional emergency significance would to occur today.



Regional Emergency Communications Strategy

June 2015

The Draft Regional Emergency Communications Strategy continues to be presented to various stakeholders including Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association, Health Emergency Management BC and an interagency police operations committee. The strategy was also presented to the Marine Emergency Response Coordination Committee. Feedback has been positive with agreement in principle on the next steps. Some of the questions that have been raised at the presentations include:

•**Q: Are we working with Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG)?**

A: While we are not working directly with CITIG, we are ensuring that our *regional* work aligns with their *national* work. IPREM also participated in the annual CITIG conference in November of 2014 in Ottawa.

•**Q: Is this document actually a strategy (as it does not lay out details of each step)?**

A: Yes, we believe that the clarification and high-level direction contained in the document is appropriate for a regional emergency communications strategy. Not only does it align with its national counterpart, but it sets the parameters for stakeholders to align their efforts.

•**How does this strategy affect me?**

A: The Strategy can serve as a reference for terminology and a roadmap for integration into the regional effort.

•**What is IPREM's continued role?**

A: IPREM will continue to present the draft strategy, develop tools to define the desired *network architecture*. We will then facilitate the establishment of a governance framework that will continue to grow and evolve with the needs of the system and users. With a governance framework in place, IPREM will then re-evaluate how we can continue to support the advancement of emergency communications in Metro Vancouver.

IPREM's Regional Emergency Communications Strategy Next Steps:

- Ongoing presentations regarding the Draft Strategy
- Developing "network architecture" templates:
 - ◆ Identify information needs (what information is needed and why)

