



## **IPREM Policy Group Briefing**

January 31, 2013

IPREM's Policy Group consists of Minister Shirley Bond (representing the Province) and Chair Greg Moore (representing Metro Vancouver).



(from left to right) Jake Rudolph, Pitt Meadows Chief Administrative Officer and IPREM Steering Committee Co-Chair; Chair Greg Moore Metro Vancouver Board; The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Province of BC; and Deputy Minister Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Solicitor General, Province of BC and IPREM Steering Committee Co-Chair.

Following a presentation on IPREM's 2013 Strategic Plan and status of current initiatives the Steering

Committee Co-Chairs facilitated a discussion on IPREM's future. Minister Bond and Chair Moore recommend that similar IPREM briefings be offered to all Metro Vancouver Municipal Councils and Senior Officials. They also emphasized the need for a regional exercise to be developed and conducted in the next two years that involves Elected Officials. The exercise scenarios should be realistic, representing the broad scope and scale of regional emergency events and could include: describing how events unfold, identifying anticipated impacts, explaining how local response activity is coordinated and highlighting examples of issues/decisions that need to be coordinated at the regional level.

Chair Moore stated that *"a regional exercise would also provide a great opportunity to strengthen awareness of the role and responsibilities of Elected Officials and Senior Government Representatives during a major emergency event"*. Minister Bond emphasized the importance of basic emergency preparedness and recommended that *"IPREM help promote personal, family, business preparedness within its planning and exercise initiatives, enhancing awareness of the types of*

## **All Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations**

The Regional Stakeholder Consultation phase was completed in February. Each of the stakeholders committed to:

- Support the initiative
- Request a representative to the Working Group
- Provide guidance in the development, training and exercising of regional models
- Maintain ongoing consultation

Two new Chief Administrative Officers (Cities of Port Moody and Port Coquitlam) have joined.

Next Steps:

Two Task Forces have been formed:

- 1) Strategic: Providing overall direction for this initiative
- 2) Design: Conducting research, analyzing and developing options for regional models

### **IPREM Vision**

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

### **IPREM's Policy Group:**

- SETS POLICY AND DIRECTION FOR IPREM INITIATIVES
- RECOMMENDS REGULATORY OR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
- RATIFIES IPREM BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGET, AND
- LIAISES WITH OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS AS APPROPRIATE

## DISASTER DEBRIS

### BY THE NUMBERS:

*Japan 2011 (estimates)*

- 80% OF DEBRIS WASHED AWAY TO SEA  
(UNEP)

- 30 MILLION TONNES OF DEBRIS GENERATED ON LAND  
(UNEP)

- NEARLY 2 YEARS AFTER THE DISASTER REGIONS HAD ONLY DISPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 10-30 PERCENT OF DEBRIS  
(JAPANESE NEWS OUTLETS)

### Benefits of IPREM attending exercises and events

Attendance increases our awareness of local authority's operations, and allows the opportunity to further examine how IPREM initiatives may support local authorities during all phases of emergency management.

## Disaster Debris has Cascading Impacts

Disaster Debris is one factor that can elevate an emergency event to a "disaster". Whether natural or manmade, many of the hazards we face in Metro Vancouver can generate large amounts of disaster debris. Managing these massive amounts of material, that can be generated in a relative short time, is a challenge at the best of times and even more so when resources and personnel are in short supply.

Disaster debris can impede or stop response and recovery efforts by presenting a myriad of environmental, health, social or economic impacts. The 2011 Japan Earthquake, 2011 New Zealand Earthquake and 2012 Hurricane Sandy are all recent examples of hazards that struck developed countries and tested their ability to manage disaster debris.

Hazards in our region have the capacity to generate many times the 'regular' annual production of solid waste. Where Metro Vancouver currently generates approximately 3 million tonnes of solid waste per year, disaster debris from a single regional event could be well over 10 million tonnes. When a major disaster strikes, its impacts are rarely confined to the primary hazard. Japan's earthquake also generated a tsunami and critical infrastructure failures (most notably the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant). While the Metro Vancouver Region may not face the same risks as Japan's east coast, we should expect that a single event could have cascading impacts.

Disaster debris management must involve multiple layers of stakeholders. As a region we must clarify and agree on the roles of everyone involved, including private property owners, private industry, and all levels of government. Clear lines of responsibility and regional cooperation will expedite recovery from a major disaster in our region.

### IPREM Regional Disaster Debris Management (RDDM) Initiative

Stakeholder consultation on the Draft RDDM Working Plan has finished. We would like to thank everyone who submitted comments on the document and recommendations. IPREM will now focus on clarifying the roles of all stakeholders involved with disaster debris. This information will be used to further define a RDDM program.

## Some Recent Exercises in the Region



City of Coquitlam

**Coquitlam Emergency Program:** Simulated an EOC activation using Freshet flooding as a scenario to provide further experience to staff identified to work in the EOC.

**North Shore Emergency Management Office:** An exercise series was conducted over three days, one exercise per North Shore municipality, involving site and EOC activities to "test information flow between site and EOC, examine the readiness of North Shore EOC Staff and enhance their familiarity with the roles and responsibilities of the EOC".



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## Upcoming IPREM Meetings

### Working Groups

- Critical Infrastructure Assurance  
*(joint meeting with BC Provincial CI Committee)*
- Regional Emergency Communications Strategy
- Regional Disaster Debris Management
- All Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations

- March 20th
- April 3rd
- April 24th
- May 23rd

### Steering Committee

- Next Meeting
- June 13th



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