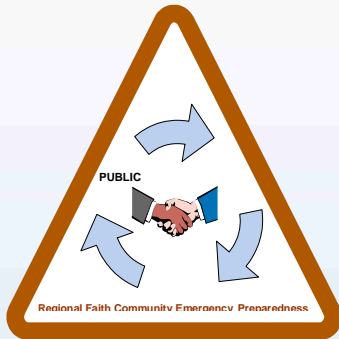
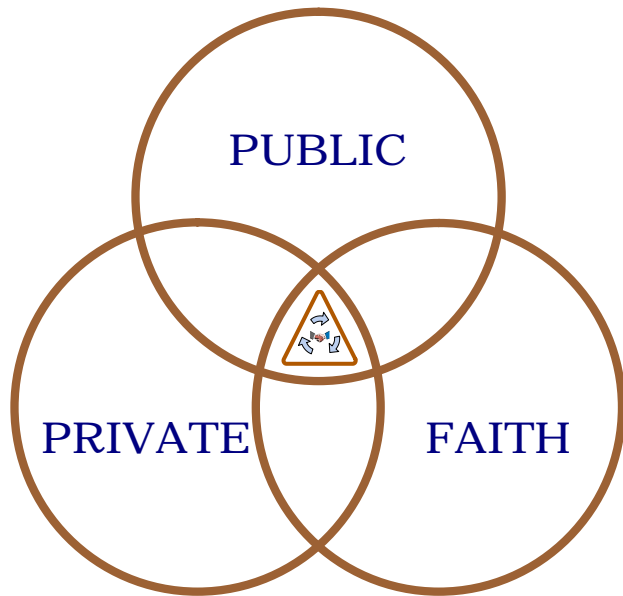


Regional Faith
Community
Emergency
Preparedness
Coalition

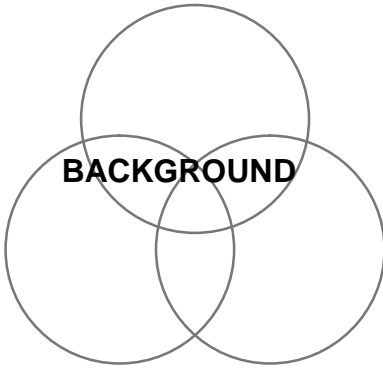


FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE SUMMARY



Unity of Purpose

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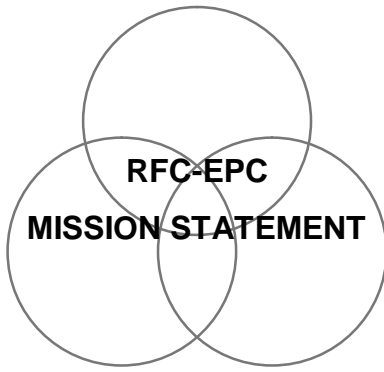
BACKGROUND

In October, 2007 representatives from the Public, Private and Faith Sectors were invited to attend a meeting to discuss a Regional Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness and Response. This endeavor became a reality at Rocky Mountain College in Calgary on May 14/15, 2008.

Since this time, members of this committee have continued to meet, forming the **Regional Faith Community Emergency Preparedness Coalition**. The Government and Health Regions have recognized the role the Faith Community could take in the event of a Pandemic or any crisis which could occur.

The Coalition realizes the importance of having a coordinated effort to fit into the Emergency Management Structure. The purpose of this initiative, therefore, is to pave the way for members of the Faith Community to be prepared with a response, PRIOR to a pandemic or another other disaster which might occur.

The Regional Faith Community Emergency Preparedness Coalition is launching a *'Pilot Project'* called "**Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative.**" The Christian Community will spear-head this initiative to build a template which can be duplicated across Canada. The project will be inclusive inviting all faiths to participate. A spirit of teamwork will be encouraged with a sharing of expertise, resources, knowledge and practical training, working together with '**Unity of Purpose**'.

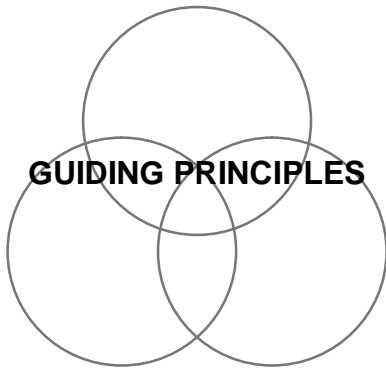


REGIONAL FAITH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COALITIONS MISSION STATEMENT & DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

To strengthen the emergency preparedness and response relationship between faith community members and their local governments and, as a result, initiate the development of an atmosphere of cooperation and trust between these constituencies. Ultimately greater understanding, shared responsibilities, increased collaborative accountability and activities, will lead to an integrated action – orientated partnership.

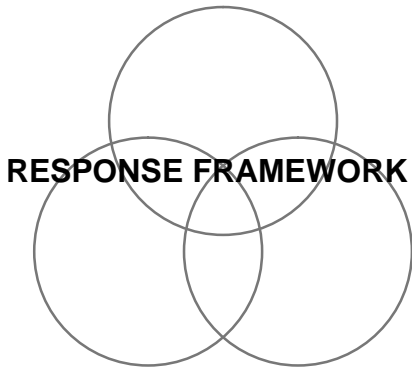
The Alberta Faith Community has recognized a requirement for a coordinated approach to emergencies and disasters that could occur causing a significant impact on communities in our province. An influenza pandemic specifically could have an overwhelming effect; adding increased pressure on the existing emergency/health systems making it difficult to maintain a sustained level of care.

The GOAL of the RFCEPC will be to facilitate the development of an integrated network of faith communities to complement and enhance performance with existing non-secular emergency management organizations. As Faith Communities collaborate with a sharing of resources and expertise, the impact of disasters on individuals and communities, could be significantly reduced.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

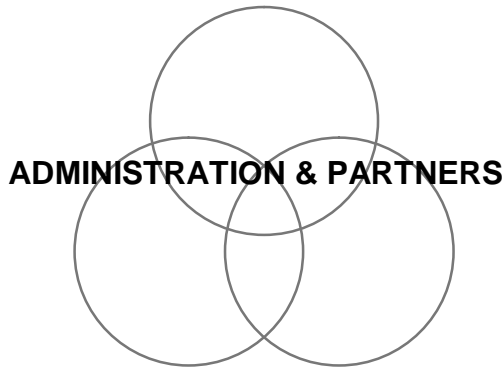
1. The coalition will adhere to existing Canadian Emergency Management arrangements, meaning that the management of the emergency will be controlled at the lowest level possible (i.e. individual, municipal, provincial, and federal).
2. The technical component of responding to an emergency is managed by the appropriate level of government.
 - **It is recognized that Local Governments in Alberta are first responders to an emergency or disaster and they manage the disaster response within their jurisdiction, for its duration.**
 - In the event, however, of a major catastrophe such as a Pandemic, where perhaps a large sector of the 'First Responders' are unable to fulfill their duties due to illness or fatigue, the Faith Community will have the capacity to fill in where needed.



RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

The coalition response framework can be scaled up or down depending on the severity of the emergency; and:

- The coalition will provide a forum for the open and free flow of non confidential information and includes, but is not limited to, available resources to aid disaster victims, planned or developing programs in disaster response and recovery and general information on the mandate and purpose of an NGO's disaster response role.
- The framework provides a structure for the sharing of information and cooperation in meeting the needs of specific victims and evacuees. Communities who subscribe to these guidelines agree that information on specific individuals, families or other persons is not for public knowledge.
- Communities will not use disaster events to solicit members or donor recognition.
- In instances of prolonged victim distress arising from a disaster Communities agree to cooperate fully in the assessment of, provision of resources for, and meeting of victim needs. However, no Community is required to share resources that they do not normally provide or do not have.



ADMINISTRATION & PARTNERS

Administration will, in the initial phase, be provided by Bridges of Love Ministry. These duties will include the scheduling of meetings, forums and related events as well as interim chairpersonship of the coalition's coordinating committee.

STAKEHOLDERS

Primary stakeholders are faith communities located in the Alberta region. While the initial focus will be within the Christian communities the coalition is not intended to be exclusionary of any faith or denomination.

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS

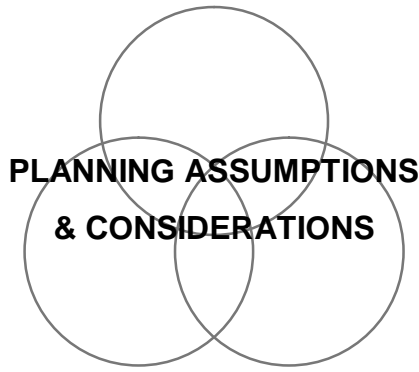
Primary preparedness and response partners are identified as:

1. Relative Municipal Emergency Management / Preparedness organizations (MEMOs)
2. Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
3. Public Safety Canada – Alberta (PS ABRO)
4. The relative provincial Health Authorities (HAs)
5. Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW)
6. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

RESOURCES

Potential resource organizations include; but are not limited to:

1. Alberta NGO Council ([NGO Council of Alberta](#))
2. Other Private Sector and Non – Profit organizations



PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Major emergencies pose problems for resource management that are different from those in routine crisis events. Significant emergency responses may require the use of resources (personnel, facilities, supplies, and equipment) from multiple organizations and jurisdictions and may also require the use of non-traditional resources. Much of the emphasis of emergency planning in many communities has commonly been on the mobilization and reinforcement of resources. And, indeed, procedures for this purpose are important. Uncontrolled mobilization and over response are common problems in emergencies. When these situations occur, coordination of response is a critical and crucial factor.

Communication difficulties are often hard to separate from coordination difficulties, and the greatest coordination difficulties are inter-organizational. Many of the communications problems are those related to inter-agency information sharing. Frequently, the means for communication exists, but for a number of reasons, persons are hesitant to communicate with others outside their own organization. Inter-organizational communication is fostered by those factors which promote trust in other organizations and familiarity with how they function. These include: informal contacts, joint planning and training, preplanned agreements for the division of disaster responsibilities, and the use of similar terminology, procedures, and performance criteria. Inter-organizational networks, common systems, and computer networks also contribute to effective communications.

The RFCEPC desire is to reduce the possibility of duplication of effort and any resulting waste of resources that come from uncoordinated faith community responses to the needs of disaster victims as identified within the activated emergency management structures.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Strategic directions of the Coalition are:

1. Public Engagement

Generate awareness and offer education through resources related to Emergency/Pandemic Preparedness.

2. Policy and Guidelines

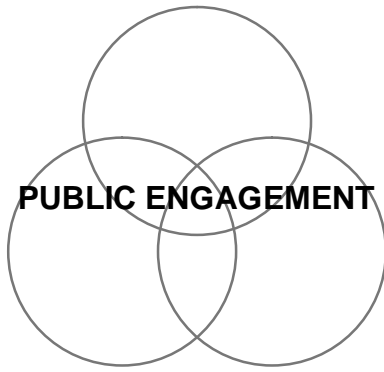
Provide a forum for policy and influence in order to articulate the viewpoints of the various faiths.

3. Capacity Building

Identify and recognize the diverse abilities and resources available from the various Faith Groups and Private Sectors and to utilize these to facilitate training opportunities, exchange of ideas, resources and expertise.

4. Organizational Development

Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Coalition to effectively meet the requirements of those faith groups who wish to participate in the **Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative**.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

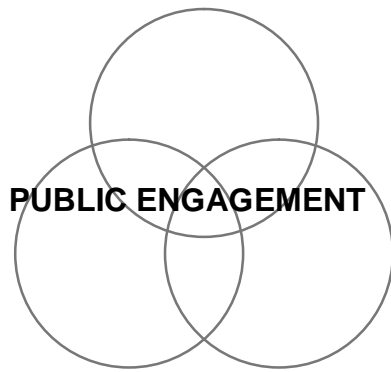
Generate awareness and offer education through resources related to Emergency/Pandemic Preparedness.

KEY STRATEGIES

1. Inform Albertans through education, the reality that exists, of a Pandemic Influenza.
2. Focus on leveraging the efforts of the Faith Community to multiply efforts for Emergency/Pandemic Preparedness.
3. Use activities as a catalyst for congregation involvement in order to stimulate momentum for Emergency/Pandemic Preparedness.

ACTIONS

1. Working closely with Emergency Management, the Coalition will endeavor to stimulate involvement of the various Faith Groups by projects/events such as:
 - Conferences/Seminars/Workshops
 - Tool-kits and other resource material
 - Develop a mentorship program to train others
 - Develop Mutual Assistance Groups (MAGs) dedicated to serve others
 - Net-working bringing the various sectors under one umbrella
 - Encourage faith groups to develop strategic relationships with their municipal health/government leaders in their communities



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED

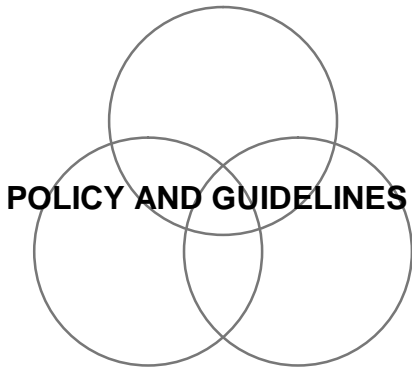
2. Plan, develop and implement creative programs to involve congregations in activities which will heighten their awareness of not only their Spiritual commitment to caring for their neighbour, but also ethical considerations for engaging in such activities.
3. Provide opportunities for faith participation, networking and the sharing of experience and expertise within the various faith groups.
4. Encourage the sharing of resources, crossing barriers within the Public, Private and Faith Sectors.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Congregations aware of the Pandemic issue and steps being taken to not only begin to prepare individually but cooperatively as a Faith Community.

INDICATORS

1. Increased number of Albertans from the Faith Community engaged in Emergency Preparedness and Response
2. Increased number of Congregations actively participating in Emergency activities centered on preparing their faith group and community.
3. Increased knowledge of Emergency Preparedness and cooperation amongst the Public/Private and Faith Sectors.
4. Faith Groups engaged with their local municipalities and fitting into the Emergency Management Structure.
5. Faith Groups working together in 'Unity of Purpose' putting aside their differences for the common good of their community.



POLICY & GUIDELINES

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

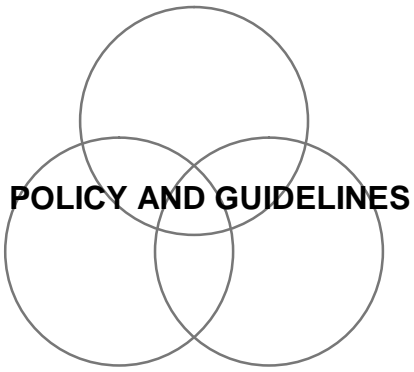
Provide a forum for policy and influence in order to articulate the viewpoints of the various faiths.

KEY STRATEGIES

1. Sharing of the Coalition's Policy and Guidelines to engage the various sectors in the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative.
2. Act as the representative voice of the Faith Community attending meetings with the Public/Private Sector, in order to gather and then share current information with those who are engaged in the process.
3. Disseminate policy education to promote relevancy and understanding to those who are participating in the initiative.
4. Encourage '**Unity**' within the various sectors to develop strategic partnerships to promote cohesiveness and a spirit of teamwork.
5. Act as a role model to inspire others to join the 'quest'.

ACTIONS

1. Identify policy areas relevant to the participants
 - Include policy dialogue with presentations and meetings
 - Provide participants with policy updates
 - Utilize existing communication tools (Newsletters, website, e-bulletins, DVD's) to sustain dialogue on policy.
2. Proactively identify opportunities for leadership in provincial forums/meetings/boards
3. Provide participants to respond effectively to emerging issues.
4. Act as a liaison between the various sectors to build trust and ownership for the initiative.
5. Create and manage a list-serve to provide space for on-line dialogue.



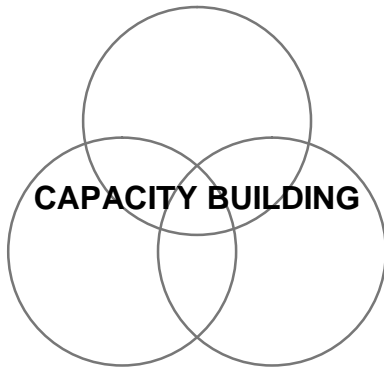
POLICY & GUIDELINES CONTINUED

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Policy areas are communicated and changes shared with participants
- Policy dialogue opportunities are included in meetings, and overall programming.
- Participants are aware of and utilize tools and resources to enable them to effectively respond to emerging policy issues.

INDICATORS

- Participants indicate an increased knowledge of the Coalition's Policy and Guidelines and adhere to the policies which have been laid out.
- Increased policy-related communication to participants.
- Increased level of participation by the various Faiths in Provincial forums/meetings/boards.



CAPACITY BUILDING

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Identify and recognize the diverse abilities and resources available from the various Faith, Private and Public Sectors. To utilize these resources to facilitate training opportunities, exchange of ideas and resources and expertise with one another.

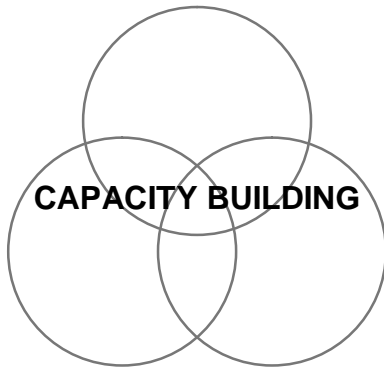
Enhance and support the ability of the Coalition Members to carry out public engagement activities, network and strengthen their organization development and knowledge of policy.

KEY STRATEGIES

1. Identify opportunities to provide training and mentorship in Emergency Preparedness.
2. Promote and facilitate connections/partnerships amongst participants and stakeholders.
3. Increase the ability of Coalition Members to measure increased capacity of its members.

ACTIONS

1. Provide training opportunities through various resource agencies which have been identified. (Example – NGO Council Members)
2. Promote and facilitate connections/partnerships among participants and other stakeholders.
3. Offer resources and training on the web site. (Streaming video)
4. Host in-person net-working sessions for participants to build trust and compatibility within the various sectors.
5. Create opportunities via the web site to share experiences and expertise.
6. Provide a Directory of relevant contact information of experts in the field.
7. Provide on-line information to aid in training and to raise awareness of the issues.



CAPACITY BUILDING CONTINUED

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Training needs assessment designed and distributed to those participating in the initiative.
- Annual training plan created and implemented based on needs assessment of the various Faith Groups.
- Resources evaluated and documented for quick access.
- MAGS (Mutual Assistance Group training) growing and expanding.

INDICATORS

- Increase in the number of members taking advantage of the various training programs.
- Congregation Members getting to know their community and municipal leaders.
- Members taking an active role in Emergency Preparedness initiatives.
- Government/Health Regions seeing the Faith Community as a viable resource for the Emergency Management Structure.
- MAGS growing and developing Servant hearts.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Coalition to effectively meet the requirements of those Faith Groups who wish to participate in the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

CONCLUSION

Developing a coordinated regional faith community preparedness and response capacity has been identified by the RFC-EPC as potentially beneficial to stakeholders, partners and resource organizations alike. The Coalition recognizes a requirement for a coordinated approach to emergencies and disasters that could occur which would have a significant impact regionally.

Disasters and emergencies such as an influenza pandemic; a foreign animal disease; a catastrophic earthquake in British Columbia or even a major terrorist event similar to September 11, 2001 could have an overwhelming effect regionally and it is intended that the activities of the faith community; during such major events, be coordinated and linked to the existing and appropriate emergency management structures.

The availability of faith community resources in support of the non – secular emergency response will provide an enhanced capacity to the relative emergency management organizations to respond to the needs of disaster victims.