



Devinder Shory

M.P. for *Calgary Northeast*

January 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative

As Member of Parliament for Calgary Northeast, I am happy to recommend to you Marg Pollon, her Bridges of Love Ministry and her Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

With full disclosure, I do so not because of the fact that she and her husband Tom have become dear friends of mine. No, it is actually because of her passion for reaching out and volunteering that our friendship has even been made possible. We come from different cultural and religious backgrounds, but this has not mattered to Marg. She forges ahead and builds these kinds of bridges based on open-minded principle: we are all fellow travelers deserving of the utmost of respect, care and love at all times including when the unthinkable may happen.

For this reason, as well, I see her Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative as being vital. Much discussion has been raised lately about the importance of integration in Canada. Yet, integration does not mean stamping all things into the same mould but building bridges of commonality or community; these bridges are at the heart of Marg's work.

That the foundation points of Marg's bridges rest on faith communities is what makes this vision so powerful. By tying emergency preparedness into various communities of worshippers who (according to many of their vision statements) exist to help with man's basic physical needs prior to even spiritual needs, I can clearly see the perfect connection of getting these communities ready to act when the unthinkable happens. Not only are there vast facilities, auditoriums, rooms and kitchens spread across the city and ready to potentially house and care for thousands of people, additionally, the many thousands of adherents to these religious communities share already-established networks of communication, trust and vision for common purpose. I would not know how one could even be putting a tangible financial value on the value of this resource during a time of catastrophe, but it is clearly astronomical.

Therefore, as Marg Pollon looks for and continues to receive higher and higher levels of support for her big-picture vision, she has my full support in this endeavour as her friend and as Member of Parliament for Calgary Northeast.

Sincerely,

Devinder Shory, MP
Calgary Northeast

