

Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

MAY 06 2019

Marg Pollon
Bridges of Love Ministry Society
P.O. Box 2763
Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0

Dear Marg Pollon:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 6, 2019, concerning Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in Canada, and for providing a summary of initiatives undertaken by the Bridges of Love Ministry Society.

I also want to thank you again for your involvement in your community through your work with the Bridges of Love Ministry Society. Canadian communities are more resilient when they can count on initiatives like CERT training to have a positive impact before, during, and after an emergency situation.

My role as the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness is to keep Canadians safe from a range of risks such as natural disasters, crime and terrorism. I deliver this mandate by collaborating and coordinating our activities with a variety of partners. In Canada, emergency management (EM) is a shared responsibility between Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments and their respective partners such as Indigenous peoples, municipalities, communities, volunteers, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. More specifically, Provincial and Territorial governments are responsible for emergency management within their respective jurisdiction, and the Federal Government exercises leadership at the national and international level. This cooperation supports a cohesive and integrated approach to Canada's safety and security.

Canada

I would like to mention that in January of 2019, I met with my Provincial and Territorial counterparts in Alberta, where we approved the *Emergency Management Strategy for Canada (EM Strategy)*. This can be found at: **<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtg/index-en.aspx>**.

This strategy builds on previous efforts and seeks to guide Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments, working with their respective EM partners, in carrying out priorities aimed at strengthening Canada's ability to address disaster risks and to respond to emergency situations.


The Federal Government supports a whole-of-society approach to EM that takes into consideration all levels of government and civil society, including local volunteers. Working jointly with our partners on the EM Strategy Action Plan, we will closely look at how best to work with community groups, such as the Bridges of Love Ministry Society.

I can appreciate the challenges that you outlined with respect to coordinating the expansion of your organization's role in delivering CERT training across Canada. I would encourage you to continue to work with your local municipalities, regional associations, community partners, emergency management related non-governmental organizations, and Provincial and Territorial representatives and authorities. This will help ensure more integrated and cohesive emergency response initiatives, in coordination with Municipal and Provincial authorities, which are the main EM partners of the Federal Government in Canada.

Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) will also continue to communicate with its membership concerning opportunities to increase whole-of-society collaboration, including initiatives like the GCcollab portal that you referenced in your letter. If you require technical support with the website, please do not hesitate to contact Canada's Platform for DRR at: **ps.canadasplatformfordrr-plate-formeducanadapourlarrc.sp@canada.ca**.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued contribution to emergency management in your community.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.