



Report to County Council

From: Andrea Loughlean, Manager of Emergency Management & Elgin-Middlesex Regional Fire School

Date: July 23, 2024

Subject: Engagement of Modernization of Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA)

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled “Engagement of Modernization of Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA)” from the Manager of Emergency Management & Elgin – Middlesex Regional Fire School dated July 23, 2024 be received and filed.

THAT members of Council be respectfully requested to review the attached Discussion Guide and provide feedback to the Elgin County Emergency Management department, through your municipalities in collaboration with your respective municipal councils, or directly to the province.

Introduction:

Emergency Management Ontario is engaging partners and stakeholders on proposed modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to support a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario – before, during and after emergencies.

The opportunity for feedback is open to elected officials, municipal staff, as well as the public.

Background and Discussion:

The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) establishes the province’s legal framework for managing emergencies by defining the authority and responsibilities accorded to provincial ministries, municipalities, and to specific individuals.

In 2023, the province released the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, which outlines Ontario’s vision and roadmap for emergency management. One goal of a modernized EMCPA is to deliver on and align with the goals and actions outlined in the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan.

Emergency Management Ontario is seeking further input on five key focus areas to inform the development of a proposed modernized legislative framework that reflects an increasingly complex emergency landscape, is informed by best practices and lessons learned, and aligns with Ontario’s emergency management vision.

Five Key Focus Areas:

1. The scope of emergency and emergency management
2. One-window approach to provincial emergency management coordination
3. Enhancing coordination between government, broader public sector and external partners
4. Improving the consistency, quality and inclusivity of emergency management programs
5. Reflecting how Ontario works with First Nations partners in emergency management

To support engagement, a discussion guide has been posted to Ontario’s Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario, which includes further details and questions for partners, stakeholders and members of the public. This discussion guide will be open for feedback until August 26, 2024.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial obligations associated with the modernization of the EMCPA at present or expected.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Serving Elgin	Growing Elgin	Investing in Elgin
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need. <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring different ways of addressing community need. <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth. <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering a healthy environment. <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing quality of place.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future. <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

It is suggested that municipalities submit feedback toward the discussion, however no other direct impacts are expected through the engagement process.

Please note: modernization of the EMCPA could present changes to legislative responsibilities for EM compliance once modernization is finalized. At this time, it is unknown to what capacity, if any.

Communication Requirements:

Information is being presented to all LMPs through the ongoing Emergency Management Program Committee meetings and municipal staff involved in EM are encouraged to participate and give feedback.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that members of council take advantage of this opportunity to provide feedback to the province.

Feedback can be shared with Elgin Emergency Management Department or with Emergency Management Ontario by email to EMOPolicy@Ontario.ca or through regular mail at the address below:

Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch
Emergency Management Ontario
Treasury Board Secretariat
315 Front St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Andrea Loughlean
Manager of Emergency Management &
Elgin-Middlesex Regional Fire School

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk