

**DATE:** December 9, 2025

**MEMORANDUM TO:** **Community Emergency Management Coordinators**

**FROM:** Matthew Pegg  
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency  
Management

**SUBJECT:** **Passage of Bill 25, Emergency Management  
Modernization Act, 2025 amending the *Emergency  
Management and Civil Protection Act***

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I am pleased to share that Ontario has reached an important milestone in modernizing its emergency management framework through amendments to the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#) (EMCPA).

On December 3, 2025, the Government of Ontario passed [Bill 25](#), the *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*. Schedule 1 of the *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025* amends the EMCPA to enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and community emergency management.

These legislative amendments are informed by valuable feedback, best practices in emergency management, and lessons learned from past emergencies. I want to extend my sincere thanks for the feedback from emergency management partners, which has been essential in shaping this legislation and ensuring it reflects the needs and realities of communities.

The amendments to the EMCPA will be implemented through a phased approach, with initial amendments aimed at strengthening provincial coordination and capabilities and enhancing community capacity in emergency management.

Some amendments are now in effect, with no new requirements for partners. These include:

- **Establishing the purposes of the Act**, including to support coordination with municipalities, Indigenous communities, public and private sector organizations, and other governments.
- **Introducing a clear definition of “emergency management”** encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- **Clarifying the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response** as the provincial lead and one window for coordinating provincial emergency management activities under the oversight of the **Minister of Emergency**

**Preparedness and Response and the direction of the Commissioner of Emergency Management.**

- **Strengthening executive oversight** of provincial emergency management.
- **Authorizing the Minister** of Emergency Preparedness and Response to oversee municipal, ministry, and provincially regulated critical infrastructure entities' emergency management programs, and enter into agreements and arrangements with public and private partners and individuals in emergency management.
- **Recognizing Ontario Corps** as a key provincial resource and capability that can be engaged to support communities across the province, who request assistance.

These changes aim to strengthen provincial emergency management coordination and lay the foundation for deeper collaboration with communities and emergency management partners.

Remaining amendments to the EMCPA are expected to come into force at a later date. Subject to future regulations, key changes affecting municipalities will include:

- Enabling flexibility regarding requirements for municipal emergency management programs and plans based on needs and capacity.
- Allowing two or more municipalities to voluntarily develop and implement joint emergency management programs and plans.
- Clarifying the process for and ensuring accountability of municipal emergency declarations under the EMCPA.

The Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response remains committed to working closely with emergency management partners throughout the implementation of these changes, including the development of supporting regulations. Your continued support and feedback will be vital in shaping the next phase of this work, and I look forward to ongoing collaboration.

If you have any questions on the amendments, please contact the Strategic Policy and Governance Branch in the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response at [EMOPolicy@ontario.ca](mailto:EMOPolicy@ontario.ca).

Thank you again for your valued partnership.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Matthew Pegg  
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management