



# National Municipal ESS Network

**December 11, 2009**

**11:30PST/2:30EST**

Regrets: Steve LaRochelle(Kitchener-Waterloo), Sheila Brantnall(Calgary), Sue Ritchie, Terry (New Brunswick), Jackie Kloosterboer(Vancouver), Pauline Hopley(Durham), Tracy Newton (Kingston), Linda Bouchard(PHAC), Jo-Anne Stead (PHAC), Louise Geoffrion (Cdn Red Cross)

On Call: Wendy Hayko(York), Ron Fortier (Manitoba), Janine Aussem(ESSA), Cathy Bulych (Saskatchewan), Elaine Smyer (Toronto)

**November Minutes:** Approved

**Membership:** This is going quite well and we are working towards a full national membership. Still need representation from NWT, Yukon Territory and Quebec. There are a few challenges of gaining membership but it is still important to at least ensure is aware of the NMESSN. Next we will try identifying people responsible for ESS in major municipalities in the Provinces/Territories. Comment from Cathy Bulych: feels it is important to look at functioning in bilingual manner. In the future it will be important to translate the terms of reference, teleconference minutes, newsletter and website into French. One idea is to approach PHAC to request translation in French. Possible sample newsletter in French.

**Signage for Centers:**

Pictures are helpful for language issues and to address accessibility legislation.

Accessibility standards:

- Wording has changed from Guide Dog to Service Animal, so this would mean we would need to recognize all animals classified as Service Animals, not just dogs.
- Discussion about how to identify service animals ie. Service Monkey and Service snake.

**Next steps:** Follow up with a presentation on Service Animals

**Training Opportunity:** CESSD – considering the possibility of applying for funding for a joint ESS Conference which would be of interest to anyone involved in ESS, from Municipalities, Provinces, Territories, National. Ideas to consider regarding the conference:

- Goal to share real information and best practices –
- Subject matter that has come out of Ontario conference: Vaughan tornado, Toronto-SARS, Walkerton –
- ESSA does a provincial conference in BC
- Alberta has an ESS conference
- Interest in an ESS Conference in Saskatchewan
- Association of municipality's conference in Ontario includes some ESS issues.
- What can NMESSN do to support this initiative?

CESSD would apply for funds federally, looking into submission deadline as well as a central location. The NMESSN executives will decide on formalizing their support of the conference with a letter of support.

NMESSN is an avenue to come up with ideas for funding, speakers, participants promotion

With funding, would look at creating a planning committee with representation from all groups.



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CESSD has been looking at the issue of mass casualty plan around family assistance centres. Ron in Toronto has just started looking at that and will be looking at the roles and responsibilities and assigning who does what in terms of mass casualty issues. Barb Crumb in Manitoba has done some work on this area. Ron would be willing to share this preliminary work. PHAC is considering is considering the creation of a planning committee. A generic plan would provide a starting base which could be applied to individual communities. Ken Thompson from Oklahoma presented on mass casualty facilities, at the Halifax centre. He spoke on the do's and don'ts of mass casualty facilities and family assistance centres.

### Roundtable

**Wendy Hayko - York Region:** Deployed to H1N1 response for ESS support ran an integrated control group... was helpful to be part of the planning group

Issues they considered: People that didn't have funds to attend clinics, how to address homebound clients, funds for the medicines. York Region – welfare is managed by District Social Service Boards, so are responsible for emergency and homeless shelters, residential and long term care and emergency medical transport. Melded health and social services department.

**Ron Fortier - Manitoba:** H1N1 planning and huge flood for thousands evacuated. Finished that event and then started addressing the H1N1 flu. Very busy summer and fall. Business Continuity planning ok , but tackling critical vendor business continuity planning had not been done. Ended up doing train the trainer workshops for these critical support organizations/agencies. These groups must be included in the service agreements with these organizations to ensure they understand and include this planning and continuity by the organizations. Very valuable learning which can be an ongoing change in how business is done with these organizations.

Hostels, Mission, shelters, childcare centres, adult daycare etc.

Establish MOU's, services agreements etc. Training done was personal preparedness and then planning templates distributed to the care providers...message was how do you stay open. Extending the concept of mutual aid, developing relationships such as how to share staff. Broader business continuity planning. MOU's with each other.

### **Cathy Bulych - Saskatchewan:**

New provincial agreements in place. Red Cross, St. Johns, ... service and consistent payment amount, what each organization will provide, what hourly rate they will be paid, standards of service (criminal record checks) province wide agreements. In the past there was a discrepancy what each agency would be paid.

**Janine Aussem - ESSA:** In May ESSA took over funding of ESS training for the province of BC through a successful provincial Gaming Grant application. The province typically pays for ESS Training, but budget cut backs made it impossible for the province to fund ESS in this fiscal year. This new responsibility has taken a great deal of time and energy away from other ongoing ESSA programs/services. As of April 1, 2010 ESSA will no longer be the funder of ESS Training in BC and the Provincial Emergency program will need to take back the responsibility for ESS training in BC, or come up with another solution to funding ESS training in BC. This will allow ESSA to get back to business as usual.

**Next Conference Call: Tuesday, January 5, 2010**

11:30PST/2:30EST