



## National ESS Network

September 1, 2009  
11:30PST/2:30EST  
Conference Call Minutes

### Agenda

- Review June Minutes
- Newsletter
- Website
- Roles/issues for ESS for fall flu season (H1N1)
- Roundtable

**On Call:** Gail Spencer (Greater Sudbury), Jodi Chittick-Denoble (Peterborough), Sheila Brantford (Calgary)

**Review June Minutes:** Janine to pass along June minutes to Jodi to confirm their accuracy and will distribute before the next conference call

**H1N1:** The focus of the H1N1 planning in Greater Sudbury has been on business continuity in order to ensure critical services are not disrupted.

Peterborough has initiated meetings with their partners in Health care facilities, determining what the capacity of local doctor offices and health centres is to determine if they can pick up any extra response needs in order to limit the strain on hospital emergency rooms.

**Newsletter:** Janine and Pauline reviewed the mission/objective of the newsletter and a draft of the newsletter objectives will be available for comment/input before the next conference call.

The next edition of the newsletter is due in October.

**Website:** Group decided to stick with nmessn as the alias domain name. There was some concern that anyone outside the network would not know to use the acronym version of the name. However, a google of the full name or even National ESS Network takes people to the NMESSN/ESSA website. So the alias will be [www.nmessn.ca](http://www.nmessn.ca) which Janine will initiate by Sept. 10.

### Roundtable:

**Jodi:** Peterborough, ESS responsibility falls under Emergency Management which is within the Community and Social Services Department. Historically staff from those areas are the responders however recent events have shown that this can quickly deplete other staffing areas.

Over the summer meetings were held around the pandemic plan specifically the area of surge capacity, focusing on the health related departments. Municipal Centers are identified as assessment Centers;



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these locations would be staffed by health personnel rather than ESS staff. The ESS Staff would provide facility support but not much in the way of response support. There is some potential for interviewing support over the phone, rather than face to face support for ESS.

**Pandemic exercise:** Peterborough presented a Community Questionnaire, requesting their local medical organizations review their capacity to manage increased need for physician care. Specifically they attempted to identify how many of their typical patients could be deferred in order to accept a patient experiencing influenza type symptoms. The goal is to minimize wait times in hospital emergency rooms by building capacity in the existing systems to reduce the burden on the hospitals. Thereby delaying the need for creation of new, stand alone assessment centres.

Additionally a paper exercise has been prepared and will be issued to long term care, seniors facilities to get their input using real numbers to identify how taxed the health system may become.

**Sheila:** Calgary, has been occupied mainly by planning for Pandemic response (H1N1) Primary response will be the dissemination of food to people. Food hampers transported from a variety of sites around the city. There will not be Reception Centers set up. Delivery of food hampers will be done by community and neighbourhood services, the social branch of the City of Calgary. Staff from that department will need to be available to assist in a prolonged response. People from those departments already have a connection to the community members.

**Gail:** Greater Subbury, Working on ESS, making sure business continuity is in place for pandemic Ensuring the support is maintained. Greater Sudbury population is about 200,000

**Next conference call date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2009 @ 11:30AM PST/ 2:30PM EST