## **Treasury Board Secretariat**

Office of the Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

Whitney Block, Room 4320 99 Wellesley Street West Toronto ON M7A 1W3

## Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

Bureau du ministre associé de la Protection civile et de l'Intervention en cas d'urgence

Édifice Whitney, bureau 4320 99, rue Wellesley Ouest Toronto ON M7A 1W3



July 3, 2024

Dear Emergency Management Partners:

As the Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, it is my great honour and duty to ensure that Ontario is as strong and resilient as possible. That is why I am pleased to announce that we are engaging partners, stakeholders and members of the public on opportunities to modernize the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* so that we remain safe, practiced, and prepared for any emergency.

Our government continues to work with partners to strengthen emergency management in communities across Ontario through targeted investments in preparedness, enhanced capabilities, and expanded training to ensure that partners across the province have what they need to prepare for, and respond to, emergencies such as floods, wildland fires and cyber attacks. To build on this progress as highlighted in the 2023 annual report for the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, we are engaging on opportunities for a modernized legislative framework to ensure that communities have the tools they need to be ready and prepared in Ontario.

Building on feedback from partners and stakeholders, best practices, and lessons learned from past emergencies, Ontario is engaging on **five areas of focus** as a first step of a phased approach to inform opportunities for a proposed modernized legislative framework:

- 1. The scope of an 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;
- Reflecting how Ontario works with First Nations in emergency management.

To support engagement, a discussion guide has been posted to <u>Ontario's Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario</u>, 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. Emergency Management Ontario is also holding focused

engagements with partners and stakeholders to seek further feedback and build upon what we have heard.

Engagement on a proposed modernized *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* will help build on our progress through the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan and take the next step in continuing to build a stronger and more resilient province, with the necessary tools in place for effective emergency preparedness and response.

Thank you for your valued partnership and I look forward to continuing to work together to move emergency management forward.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

The Honourable Trevor Jones Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Treasury Board Secretariat

c: The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Francophone Affairs

Bernie Derible, Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management Treasury Board Secretariat