

DATE: December 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Heads of Council

SUBJECT: Emergency Management Modernization Act Achieves Royal Assent

Dear Heads of Council:

I am pleased to let you know that on December 3rd, 2025, the Government of Ontario's *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*, which amends the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) received Royal Assent.

The EMCPA is Ontario's framework for managing emergencies and defines the authority and responsibilities of the province, municipalities and specific individuals in emergency management.

From ice storms to flooding and wildland fire, the risks facing communities have grown in scale and impact. That's why under the leadership of Premier Ford, Ontario has urgently modernized its legislation to reflect the rapidly changing landscape of emergencies.

The amendments we have made enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management and ensures response plans are tailored to local needs. Key changes now include:

- Clarifying the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as the provincial lead and one-window contact for coordinating emergency management activities.
- Outlining Ontario Corps as a key provincial emergency resource and capability that can be deployed to supplement local resources to support municipalities, when requested. (An emergency declaration is not required to request provincial support.)
- Strengthening Ontario's commitment to facilitating coordination among municipalities by implementing the joint emergency programs and plans for two or more municipalities.

The legislation will be implemented in phases, with future regulations to support it. Future work will enhance municipal emergency management by providing flexibility for programs based on local needs and capacity. Upcoming regulations will also clarify the process for municipal emergency declarations under the Act to ensure accountability.

Ongoing dialogue and collaboration with municipalities and emergency management partners will be key as the ministry continues engagement to inform future work related to these amendments.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to meet with many of you this summer, including at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference to discuss Ontario's emergency management modernization. The feedback we received has been instrumental in shaping these legislative amendments.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to protect Ontario. I hope to see you at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in January. Your commitment to emergency management makes a difference, and I look forward to moving this important work forward with you.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

cc: Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario