

PART III.—CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING (Civil Defence)

Toward the end of 1958, the Canadian Government initiated a survey of the civil defence situation across the country. The report on this survey was considered in the context of the total military and civilian arrangements necessary to prepare the nation for the possibility of nuclear war. The Government decided, after considering all the relevant factors, to undertake a major rearrangement of federal civil defence functions and to offer to assume directly certain responsibilities previously carried by the provinces and municipalities. This civil defence reorganization became effective on Sept. 1, 1959. It is based on the two main principles that: civil defence should be considered a function or activity of government rather than an organization as such; and that the civil defence function should be divided into clearly defined tasks and assigned to levels of government, and at each level to those departments and agencies best able to undertake and discharge them.

At the federal level, the reorganization may be summarized briefly as follows:—

- (1) The Emergency Measures Organization is the co-ordinating agency for all civil emergency planning and for all federal/provincial planning. It is responsible for planning for continuity of government, for tasks hitherto grouped under the designation "civil defence" and not now specifically assigned to some other department of government, and for general liaison with the provinces, NATO and foreign countries on matters relating to civil emergency planning.
- (2) The Department of National Defence, more particularly the Army, has been given a primary role in survival operations and has been delegated responsibility for a substantial number of functions that are technical in character such as the complete public warning system, radiation monitoring and fallout prediction, emergency governmental communications, re-entry into damaged areas and support of local authorities in the maintenance of law and order.
- (3) The Department of National Health and Welfare (which formerly had the major responsibility for civil defence) will concentrate its attention mainly on advising and assisting provincial authorities with respect to the provision of emergency health and welfare services. This Department has retained responsibility for the operation and management of the Canadian Civil Defence College at Arnprior, Ont.
- (4) The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has the responsibility of providing advice and assistance to provinces concerning the preservation of law and order and the control of road traffic under emergency conditions.
- (5) Other federal departments and agencies have duties that relate chiefly to carrying on essential functions or to maintaining the country's economic life under conditions of nuclear attack—the Department of Defence Production, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance, the Bank of Canada, the Department of Transport, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Department of Labour in consultation with the National Employment Service of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.
- (6) What was known as Federal Civil Defence Headquarters has disappeared.

Certain emergency functions of government are simply a projection of normal peacetime provincial responsibilities, and in these fields the provinces and municipalities have more experience and knowledge of local conditions than has the Federal Government or its agencies. The following are thus considered to be proper wartime responsibilities for the provincial authorities, with such federal assistance as may prove necessary:—

- (1) *Preservation of law and order* and prevention of panic, by the use of their own police, municipal police, and special constables, with whatever support is necessary and feasible from the RCMP and the Armed Services at provincial request.
- (2) *Control of road traffic*, except in areas damaged or covered by heavy fallout, including special measures to assist in the emergency movement of people from areas likely to be attacked or affected by heavy fallout.
- (3) *Reception services*, including arrangements for providing accommodation, emergency feeding and other emergency supplies and welfare services for people who have lost or left their homes or who require assistance because of the breakdown of normal facilities.
- (4) Organization and control of *medical services*, hospitals, and public health measures.
- (5) Maintenance, clearance and repair of *highways*.