

Post-disaster financial aid. In the wake of a major disaster a community or province may face heavy re-building costs. To help provincial governments with the financial burden of their relief measures, EPC administers, on behalf of the government of Canada, the disaster financial assistance arrangements. Since 1970, the government has paid out more than \$100 million in disaster relief to the provinces and territories. Generally, payments are made to help restore personal property, farmsteads, small businesses and public works to their pre-disaster condition.

Joint Emergency Preparedness Program. To foster planning and promote national preparedness, EPC administers the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) on behalf of the federal government. Roughly \$6 million is spent annually to help provinces and territories with emergency preparedness projects.

Training and education. EPC gives or sponsors more than 100 courses, conferences and seminars a year at the Canadian emergency preparedness college in Arnprior, Ont. Each year, about 2,500 representatives from all levels of government and the private sector are trained in the techniques of emergency planning and management. Most courses run for one week, with topics ranging from emergency health and welfare services to transportation of dangerous goods. EPC pays

travel and living expenses from the time course participants leave home until they return.

Research. EPC sponsors research related to emergency preparedness. Projects range from an investigation of computers and their potential application to emergency planning, to an assessment of the economic impact should there be an interruption in Canada's supply of strategic minerals.

Key programs. EPC participates in various ways in a number of programs aimed at improving national preparedness for emergencies. Some examples are as follows. Continuity of government — the maintenance of a string of emergency operations centres across the country, all of them protected against radioactive fallout and interlinked by communications systems. Vital points — a program to identify vital facilities, plants and services that would have to be protected if national security were threatened. Essential records — a program to identify and preserve those records that would be essential for government operations during and after a nuclear attack. NATO — planning activities and exercises related to the civil side of alliance preparedness. Canada/US cooperation — maintaining close working relationships with Canada's counterpart organization in the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sources

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- 21.3.8 Information Directorate, Department of the Environment.
- 21.5 - 21.5.5 International Trade Division, Statistics Canada.
- 21.6.2 Corporate Communications Division, Export Development Corporation.
- 21.6.3 - 21.6.4 Public Relations Branch, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise.
- 21.7.1 Public Affairs Branch, Canadian International Development Agency.
- 21.7.2 Communications Division, International Development Research Centre.
- 21.7.3 Public Affairs Division, CUSO.
- 21.7.4 Canadian Executive Service Overseas.
- 21.8 - 21.8.5 Parliamentary Affairs Division, Department of National Defence.
- 21.9 Public Information Planning and Services Division, Emergency Preparedness Canada.