

**Ministry of Northern Development  
and Mines**

**Provincial Emergency Plan  
for  
Any Emergency that  
Requires the Support of  
Provincial Emergency  
Management in Northern  
Ontario**

**Go Medium Sensitivity  
2018**

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## Introduction

In Ontario, the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and accompanying Order in Council (OIC) assigns specific emergency responsibilities to designated ministries.

Within the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS), the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM), has the overall responsibility for the coordination of emergency management in the province including developing the Provincial Emergency Response Plan (PERP).

The PERP is an umbrella emergency response plan for the coordination of provincial response to any emergency.

Under the OIC, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) has been assigned responsibility to develop emergency response plans for any emergency that requires the support of Provincial Emergency Management in Northern Ontario.

This plan is supportive and complementary to the PERP.

For clarification purposes, Northern Ontario boundaries:

- Bordered by Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and James Bay;
- Share borders with Manitoba, Quebec and Minnesota;
- Southern boundary includes the District of Parry Sound and the District of Nipissing.

### Definitions

#### **Ministry Action Group (MAG)**

- A group of MNDM senior staff responsible for all decisions, resource allocation and response/recovery actions, as necessitated by an emergency event.

#### **Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC)**

- Located in Toronto and staffed at all times in order to continually monitor emerging and ongoing emergency situations inside/outside of Ontario;
- The key function of the PEOC is to coordinate the Ontario government's response to major emergencies.

#### **Unorganized Territories**

- Unincorporated areas of Northern Ontario where there is no municipal structure.

## Emergencies

Municipal governments and First Nation communities have primary responsibility for emergency event response and recovery.

Local authorities will respond to an emergency in accordance with the community plan, and if the circumstances warrant, may declare an emergency. The provincial government acts in support of local government action.

The extent of the emergency response depends upon the nature and severity of the incident.

A provincial emergency does not need to be declared in order for the province to provide resources in support of an emergency declared by a community.

Provincial employees may take action where an emergency exists but has not yet been declared.

Health, safety and security are the first and foremost considerations in any response to an emergency event. MNDM employees involved in emergency management activities shall do so in accordance with the MNDM Emergency Management Plan, and must adhere to all health, safety and security advice, guidance and precautions that may be provided and/or imposed by those with on-site operational authority.

**Note: As per the Provincial Emergency Response Plan:**

**Coordination of provincial response to emergencies that occur in the North including unorganized territories is the responsibility of the ministry to which the type of emergency that has occurred has been assigned via the emergency management related OIC.**

**MNDM is responsible for abandoned mine emergencies and for providing support to the primary (lead) response ministry for all other types of emergencies.**

**If an emergency that has not been identified within the OIC occurs, the MCSCS will be the primary (lead) ministry.**

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

### **Ministry Action Group (MAG)**

The MNDM MAG Chairperson (Incident Commander) may activate the following:

- Director, Regional Economic Development (REDB);
- Director, Communications Services Branch (CSB);
- Senior Manager, Controllership;
- Emergency Management & Security Coordinator (EMSC).

In the event of a request for support, MAG responsibilities include:

- Notifying/deploying members of the Northern Development Emergency Liaison Team (NDELT);
- Developing an Incident Action Plan (IAP);
- Providing direction to NDELT;
- Briefing MNDM executives and the PEOC;
- Coordinating and authorizing any necessary expenditures, obtaining resources or external services where feasible, and tracking expenditures;
- Liaising with the emergency event designated lead/primary ministry;
- Providing a representative to the PEOC, if required.

### **Northern Development Emergency Liaison Team (NDELT)**

Upon activation by MAG, the NDELT will convene via teleconference to develop an Action Plan.

The NDELT is a group of MNDM officials assembled to:

- Support emergency operations in Northern Ontario;
- Provide intelligence on the current situation in local communities;
- Liaise with Chairpersons of Local Service Boards (LSB) or their respective delegates regarding an emergency affecting the LSB(s);
- Assist with communicating information and government messaging;
- Assist with communications between local emergency response teams, OFMEM, and other ministries;
- Provide local intelligence to address equipment/material requirements, and personnel to support emergency operations, as required/available;

- Support Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (see Appendix 1).

### **NDELT Membership**

NDELT is comprised of the following positions from the Northern Development Division (NDD), as required:

- Director, Regional Economic Development Branch (the Team Lead);
  - Manager, Kenora Area Team;
  - Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Area Team;
  - Manager, Sudbury/North Bay Area Team;
  - Manager, Timmins Area Team;
  - Manager, Thunder Bay Area Team.
- Director, Transportation, Trade and Investment Branch;
  - Manager, Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Director, Strategic Initiatives Branch;
  - Manager, Strategic Programs Unit;
  - Manager, Coordination and Analysis Unit.

The Team Lead may designate any MNDM staff required to provide assistance.

**Note: Notification/contact numbers are updated on an as needed basis and are provided to MNDM emergency response staff during an emergency event.**

## Appendix 1 – Disaster Assessment Teams – Northern Ontario

Members of NDELT could be required to contribute to the Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT) or Municipal Outreach and Assessment Team (MOAT) as part of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) disaster recovery programs.

PDAT and MOAT are groups of experts primarily made up of MMA staff.

Their role is to conduct damage assessment and assess the need for assistance within the context of the province's disaster recovery programs: Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians and Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance ([www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance](http://www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance)).

The Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program provides financial assistance to individuals, small businesses, farmers and not-for-profit organizations that have experienced damage to or loss of essential property as a result of a natural disaster.

The Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program helps municipalities that have sustained emergency response costs, or damage to essential property or infrastructure, as a result of a natural disaster.

**Note: First Nation communities obtain disaster financial assistance from the federal government.**

PDAT is typically activated within 72 hours of a disaster. MOAT is typically activated between three and five days of a disaster.

The composition of PDAT will vary depending upon the nature of the emergency event.

The MNM PDAT role may be to:

- Provide situational awareness on the scope and impact of actual or potential natural disasters in the north;
- Help determine the impact of natural disasters to small businesses and the local economy.

If there is no mechanism/program available to provide assistance, MNM could be requested to participate in the designing of a mechanism/program to fit the circumstances.

## **NDET PDAT Deployment Procedure**

- MMA contacts MNDM EMSC;
- EMSC contacts NDET Lead;
- NDELT Lead assigns appropriate NDELT member(s) to PDAT.

## **PDAT Deployment Logistics (if applicable)**

- Safety of the PDAT is a priority;
- Transportation to the site for MNDM staff arranged by MNDM;
- Transportation at the site for all team members arranged by MMA;
- Accommodations for MNDM staff arranged by MNDM;
- Individual ministries cover PDAT costs;
- PDAT members to carry personal items to accommodate longer than 24 hour stay.

## **MMA PDAT Coordinators – Northern Ontario**

### **Northeast:**

Kathy Horgan  
Manager, Local Government Unit  
Northeastern Municipal Services Office Sudbury

Algoma District  
Cochrane District  
Manitoulin District  
Nipissing District  
Parry Sound District  
Sudbury District  
Timiskaming District

### **Northwest:**

Susan Fraser  
Manager, Local Government Unit  
Northwestern Municipal Services Office Thunder Bay

Kenora District  
Rainy River District  
Thunder Bay District