



The Blue Mountains Fire Services

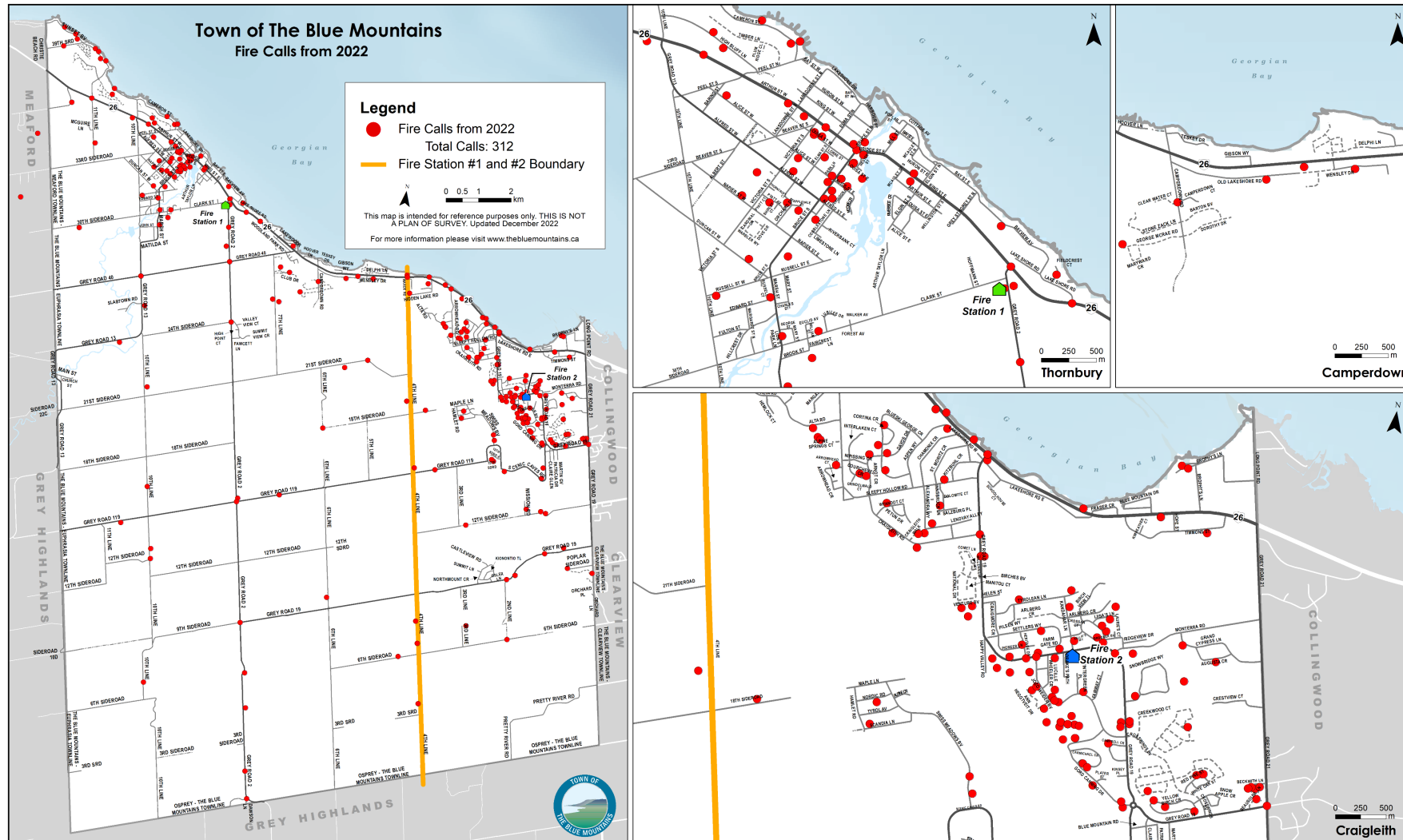
Council Orientation - Fire Chief Steve Conn

Who We Are

- The Blue Mountains Fire Department currently provides fire protection services from 2 fire stations located in the communities of Thornbury and Craigleith.
- The Blue Mountains Fire Department responds to approximately 300 calls for service per year.
- These incidents include, but are not limited to, fire related incidents, medical assist, water rescue, high angle rescue, and motor vehicle collisions (MVCs).



2022 Calls and Coverage Area Map



Staffing

FULL-TIME

- Fire Chief (1)
- Deputy Fire Chief (1)
- Chief Fire Prevention Officer (1)
- Fire Prevention/Suppression Officer (1)
- Fire Prevention Inspector/Suppression Firefighters (6)
- Training/Suppression Officer (1)
- Community Emergency Management Coordinator/Administrative Assistant (1)

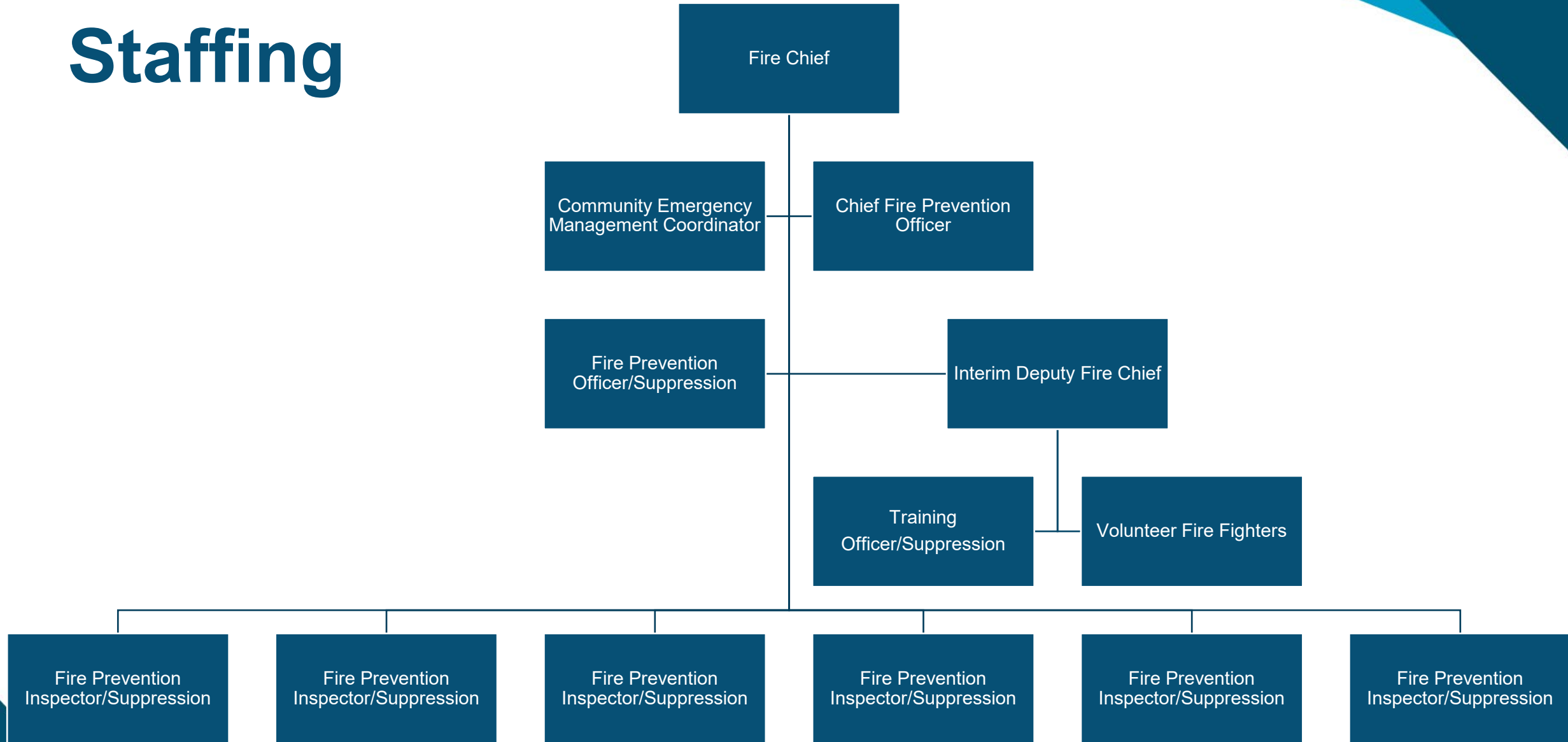
PART-TIME

- Paid Per-Call Firefighters* (22) - Presently Half of Historic Total

*Throughout this presentation the term “paid-per-call” (PPC) is used when describing the non-full-time fire fighters.

Though they have been traditionally referred to as “volunteers”, they do receive an hourly wage for training and emergency call outs, and on-call duties for the committed time to serve The Blue Mountains Fire Department

Staffing



Staffing

- Fire Services include following Full-Time staff;
 - Fire Prevention Officer (FPO),
 - Fire Inspectors (6)
 - Training Officer
 - These Full Time Fire fighters also perform firefighting duties; they respond to all fire calls as well as performing their other duties
- The service area encompasses 300 square kilometers of varying terrain borders on the shores of Georgian Bay
- The four-season recreational community is home to 9,390 full time residents and 8,000 part time residents
- At peak times, the estimated number of day visitors to The Blue Mountains is 15,000, bringing the estimated day population to 30,000



Applicable Legislation

- Fire Protection and Prevention Act
- Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- The Blue Mountains Establishing and Regulating a Fire Department By-Law 2021-10
- The Blue Mountains Fire Suppression and Prevention Policy
- The Blue Mountains Standard Operating Guidelines
- Occupational Health and Safety Section 21 Guidance Notes

Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)

- Establishes the powers of the Ontario Fire Marshal
- Mandates a Municipal Fire Chief or equivalent
- Mandates specific public safety and education programs
- Mandates certain types of inspections, authorizes others
- Authorizes the establishment of a suppression service
- Regulates labour relations with full-time firefighters
- The Ontario Fire Code is the regulation attached to the Act

Establishing & Regulating By-Law

- The Blue Mountains By-law 2021-10
- Municipal By-law which sets out what services we provide
- Establishes the Level of Service – exactly what we do
- Establishes goals and objectives of the department
- General responsibilities of Fire Dept personnel
- Organizational structure
- Authority to apply costs to property owner for fire investigations
- Authority to effect necessary department operations

NFPA National Fire Protection Assoc.

- The NFPA creates a variety of safety standards that are designed to help reduce the risk of Fire and allow emergency responders to safely put out fires should they occur
- The NFPA however, does not have any enforcement authority on its own
- Globally fire services follow these standards and guidelines to provide a common level of service
- In Ontario, the Ontario Fire Marshall (OFM) trains and certifies firefighters to NFPA
- Certifications verify competency and job performance skills

Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)

Role of municipal council:

- The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA) sets out municipal responsibility to determine the level of fire protection services provided. Sub-clause 2.(1)(a) outlines legislated municipal responsibilities
- A municipality is meeting the expectations of the OFMEM with respect to its responsibilities at 2.(1)(a) by having at a minimum the following components in place:
 1. having conducted a community risk assessment
 2. establishment of smoke and carbon monoxide alarm programs including home escape planning
 3. distribution of public fire safety education materials, and
 4. conducting inspections upon complaint or request
- The OFMEM advises that municipal councils determine the level of fire protection services to be delivered in accordance with their local needs and circumstances
- The FPPA provides broad authority for municipalities to determine how they want to provide services

Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)

- In considering their needs and circumstances, the OFMEM advises municipalities to consider those things that impact on the provision of fire protection services, including, but not limited to:
 - type of service delivery model (full-time, composite or volunteer)
 - economic situation
 - demographic considerations
 - geography and physical layout of the municipality
 - building profile
 - various risks to be protected, and
 - community infrastructure of roads, water systems, hydrants
- An upcoming one-day seminar will provide you with a good overall understanding of, the OFMEM hosts a Senior and Elected Officials Workshop typically after municipal elections
- The principals behind promoting public safety and safer communities, elements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997, various municipal requirements, enforcement of offences under the FPPA, municipally-determined fire protection service delivery considerations, fire risk management tools, Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requirements and emergency management basic principles, programs and resources - with multiple references to legislation, regulations and standards

Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)

Responsibilities and Authority of the Fire Chief:

- The Fire Chief shall be the head of the Fire Department and is ultimately responsible to Council, reporting through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for proper administration and operation of the fire service
- The Fire Chief shall report to the CAO and attend the Town's Senior Management Team on an as needed basis
- The Fire Chief or designate shall exercise all powers and duties mandated by FPPA and any applicable legislation
- This will include making such general orders, policies, procedures, rules and regulations and to take such other measures as may be considered necessary for the proper administration and efficient operation of the Fire Department
- A full list of responsibilities can be found in The Blue Mountains By-Law 2021-10 Being a By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department

The background of the slide is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this background is a dark teal silhouette of a mountain range with a winding lake in the foreground. The mountains are on the right side, and the lake curves from the bottom left towards the center.

Fire Master Plan

Review of Recommendations

Fire Master Plan and Community Risk Assessment

- Fire Master Plan is typically done every 10 years; it is the guiding document of recommendations for the Fire Department
- This was completed in 2021 with Council endorsing the plan on May 24, 2021, with 38 recommendations - most of the recommendations being staff driven
- Those that have budgetary impacts will be presented to Council in staff reports
- It is legislated that every Fire Department (province wide) complete a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) by 2024
- The Blue Mountains completed the CRA in tandem with the Fire Master Plan
- The CRA is required to be reviewed annually – the risks identified in the CRA are addressed (mitigated, avoided)

Operational vs Organizational Risk

- There are two basic risk categories associated with the fire service
 1. Operational Risk
 2. Organizational Risk
- **Operational Risk** is the responsibility of The Blue Mountains Fire Department to determine the risks within its community and develop strategic, tactical, and task orientated plans to mitigate incidents
- **Organizational Risk** is a function and responsibility of Council to determine the disciplines, level of service, staffing, stations, and approval of the department business/ strategic plan based on the overall risk assessment for the municipality

Fire Master Plan

- Completed every 10 years
- Guiding document for growth and future development of the Fire Service
- Completed in 2021, endorsed by Council in May 2022 with 38 recommendations



Community Risk Assessment

- OFM legislated all Fire Departments in Ontario completed by 2024
- Needs to be reviewed annually
- Identifies all of the Fire risks within the municipality



Community Risk Reduction Plan

- How we mitigate/plan to reduce/eliminate the risks identified in the Community Risk Assessment
- Financial Implications



Factors in Developing A Community Risk Reduction Plan

Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats

Strengths

- 1st two lines of defense (Proactive)
- 3rd line of defense is Suppression (Reactive)
- Fire Prevention Inspectors perform many roles; Prevention, Training and Suppression
- Personnel, Buildings, Fleet, Apparatus, and property
- Historical strong sense of community, civic pride
- Employee attitude and dedication
- Rooted in community culture and values

Weaknesses

- Retention, supervisors
- Housing costs and lack of available long term rental stock
- Lack of Fire Department involvement in medical response
- Escarpment geography
- Department needs not covered by Development Charges
- Stress on public services during peak recreation season which has become year round

Threats

- Retention of Paid Per Call (certification time commitment, burnout)
- Diversity and range of cultures (language barrier, unfamiliar with appropriate response to fire alarm)
- Vulnerable populations
- Visitors and construction contractors presenting increase in responses
- Size of building stock (fuel load), development rate outpacing Fire Department staffing. Average home build over the past 3 to 4 years is just over 3,100 sqft
- Town residents' possible misperception of Fire Department capacity
- Lack of response at station 2, simultaneous alarms becoming more common
- Recruitment of Full-Time Employees not sustainable due to more attractive shift schedule and workload
- Full four-season Town, activities and tourism with high hazard activities

Town's Volunteer Fire Fighter Compliment (2008 to 2022)

Year	Hall 1 Volunteers (West)	Hall 2 Volunteers (East)	Total Volunteers
2008	21	13	34
2009	24	14	38
2010	23	12	35
2011	21	13	34
2012	25	21	46
2013	23	19	42
2014	22	26	48
2015	24	22	46
2016	23	21	44
2017	23	21	44
2018	22	24	46
2019	19	23	42
2020	19	20	39
2021	16	10	26
2022	15	8	23

Town's Retention of New Recruits

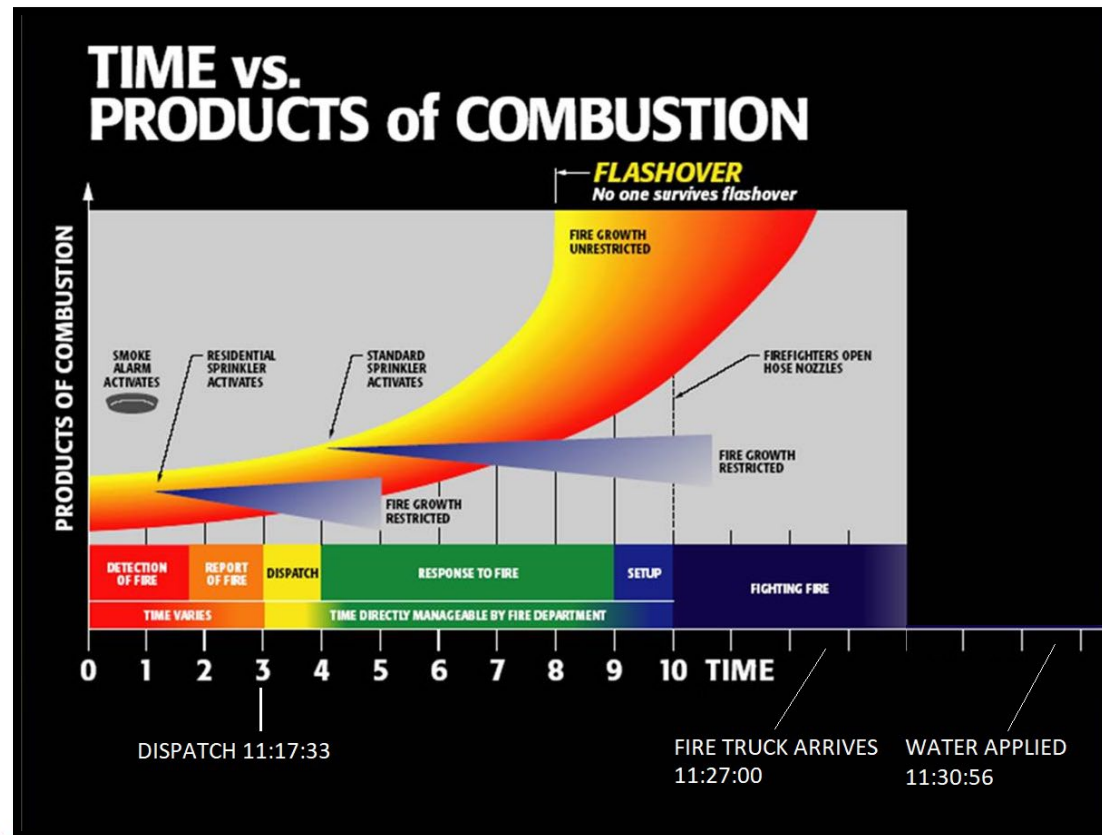
- The Town continues to hire new recruits (71 in the last 10 years), however the trend over the past 14 years continues to see recruits being successful in their efforts of getting hired full time
- The following Fire Services have been where many of our recruits have been hired:
 - Toronto Fire Service – Currently hiring 96 permanent full time every 3 months
 - Central York
- Large urban Fire Departments continue to hire recruits with fire experience from volunteer departments (we have lost 36 over the past 10 years)
- With this continuous turnover of staff, the Town's current compliment of volunteers or paid duty can only become senior firefighters (drivers) moving to an officer supervisor position with experience
- This is a significant gap in the years or service to be able to achieve the requirements to be deemed a competent supervisor under Ontario Health and Safety

Staff Recommended Number of Full-Time and Volunteer Fire Fighters (2020 – 2026)

Year	Hall 1 Full Volunteers	Hall 2 Full Volunteers	Total Volunteers	Total Full Time Fire Fighters	Total Fire Fighters
2020	22	22	44	4	48
2021	22	22	44	4	48
2022	20	20	40	9	49
2023	20	20	40	9 *	49
2024	20	20	40	9	49
2025	20	16	36	13**	49
2026	20	16	36	13	49

* WEP program is approved
 ** 2026 mandatory certification is implemented by the Province
 ***2026 – 2030 would remain the same if the WEP program is approved and maintained

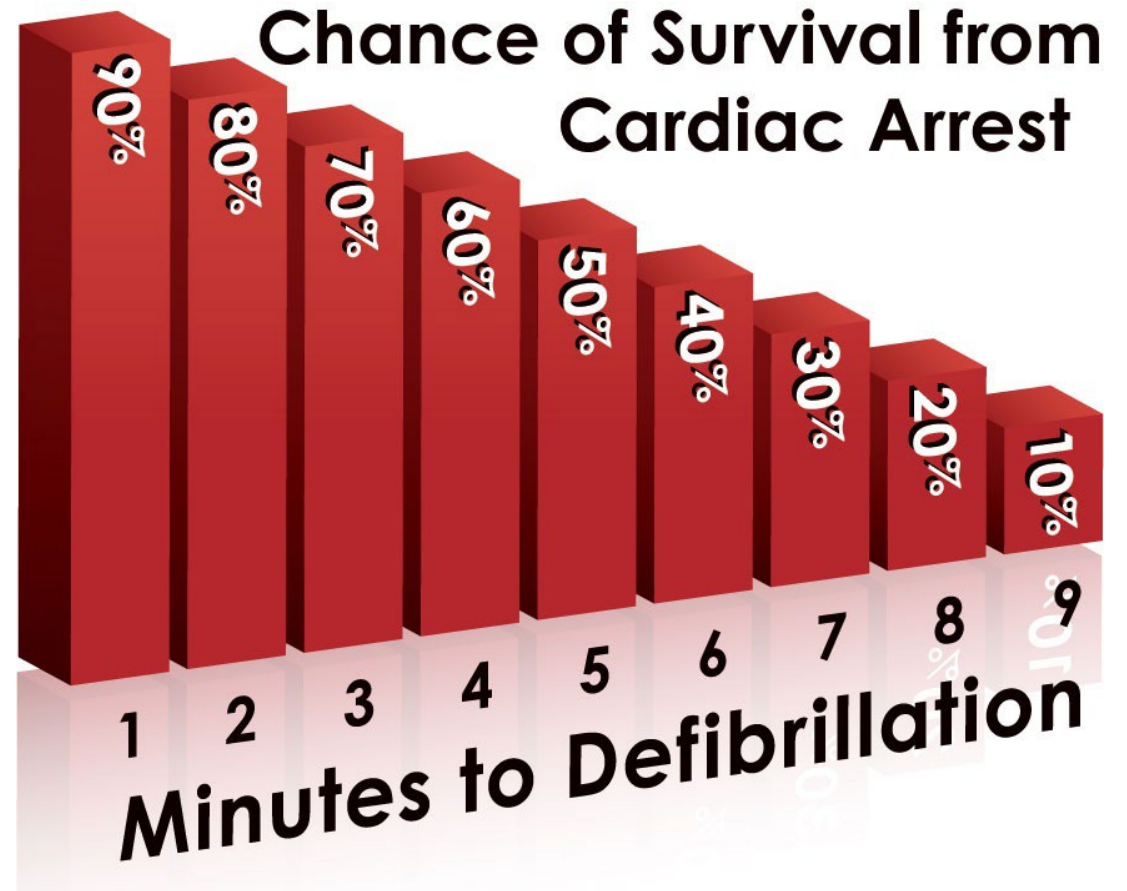
Response Times



Value Added Response

- With additional staff the Town's Fire Department would be able to achieve a response time of 6 minutes in Craigleith for rapid defibrillation
- Recommendation #17 in Fire Master Plan
- From 2018-2022 there were 58 911 Vital Signs Absent (VSA)/unconscious calls*

*As per Grey County Paramedic Services call data



The Blue Mountains At-Risk Comparison Note: dissemination areas (areas which represent populations of between 400-700 persons) and focused on single-family detached dwellings.	The Blue Mountains	Ontario	Canada
Number of At-Risk Dissemination Areas	4	2,630	7,198
Total Dissemination Areas	12	19,964	56,154
Percent of At-Risk Dissemination Areas	33.33%	13.17%	12.82%
Number of Private Single Detached Dwellings in At- Risk Dissemination Areas	845	501,990	1,320,785
Total of Private Single Detached Dwellings	2,375	2,712,000	7,301,825
Percent of At-Risk Private Single Detached Dwellings	35.58%	18.51%	18.09%
Population of At-Risk Dissemination Areas	1,827	1,420,807	3,585,822
Total Population	5,336	7,488,061	19,325,962
Percent of At-Risk Population	34.23%	18.97%	18.55%

Other

- Ambulance deployment and delays
- Aging population
- Full-Time staff would provide emergency medical response within 6 minutes of hall 2 which is the highest projection of growth

Opportunities

- Increase number of Fire Department supervisors (Acting Captains)
- Work experience program (WEP)
 - Maximum cost for WEP in 2023 is \$136,000
 - Maximum cost is \$16,000 after new Station 2 is built
- Partnerships in labour force
- Revenue generation – burn permits, Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) violations and Fees and Charges
- Hire 4 FT staff and move to 24 hour coverage
 - 50% of call volume could be addressed with 2 Full-Time responders
 - Mandatory certification presents challenges to Paid Per Call retention

Proposed Solutions within Community Risk Reduction

Work Experience Program (WEP)

- Certified labour for Fire Department and local area
- No excessive training required, NFPA compliant
- Popular with resort communities in BC (Big White, Creston)
- “Equity Deserving” lens
- Preview of future hires, increased retention by hiring local talent
- Fire Department capacity more capable of population surge
- WEP Program Costs \$136,000/year – reduced significantly with accommodations at new firehall

Proposed Solutions within Community Risk Reduction

- **Include 4 New Hires**
- Move to 24/7 coverage for hall 2 with augmented with WEP program and conventional PPC's
- Approximate cost \$400,000 annually to operational budget
- **Increase Supervisory Capacity**
 - Reduce PM liabilities
 - Succession planning
 - NFPA certification as set out in Fire Master Plan Recommendation #9
 - 2 Hatters

Proposed Solutions Within Community Risk Reduction

- Move Toward Round the Clock Coverage
 - Schedule 4 on 4 off as with Collingwood 10hr day, 14hr night
 - Hire 4 over next 3 years or 4 at once in 2025
 - Increased Fire Department capacity at minimal cost
 - Decrease # of Paid Per Call at Station #2, save on wages, benefits, and PPE
 - 6-minute response time
 - More effective fire and medical response

Fire Service Costs to the Residents of The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains \$293/household for 10 hr/day coverage vs \$370/household for 24/7 coverage in 2025

MAH Code Municipality	Households SLC 2 0040 01	TOTAL Phase-In Taxable Assessment SLC 22 9299 16	Fire Total Expenses After Adjustments SLC 40 0410 11	Per household	Per million of assessment	Difference to TBM on per Household Basis	Difference to TBM on Assessment Basis
Owen Sound C	10,304	\$2,017,571,328	\$5,108,151	\$ 496	\$ 2,532	68.9%	358.0%
The Blue Mountains T	7,962	\$4,226,585,344	\$1,816,678	\$ 228	\$ 430	-22.3%	-22.3%
TBM with \$520,000	7,962	\$4,226,585,344	\$2,336,678	\$ 293	\$ 553	0.0%	0.0%
Barrie C	54,661	\$20,729,374,720	\$32,967,212	\$ 603	\$ 1,590	105.5%	187.7%
Orillia C	14,275	\$3,972,336,640	\$8,342,787	\$ 584	\$ 2,100	99.1%	279.9%
Collingwood T	11,854	\$4,354,736,640	\$5,290,868	\$ 446	\$ 1,215	52.1%	119.8%
Midland T	7,375	\$2,021,794,432	\$3,474,141	\$ 471	\$ 1,718	60.5%	210.8%
Penetanguishene T	3,679	\$1,040,489,408	\$1,039,729	\$ 283	\$ 999	-3.7%	80.7%
Wasaga Beach T	13,358	\$4,221,760,512	\$4,386,478	\$ 328	\$ 1,039	11.9%	87.9%
Innisfil T	17,284	\$7,903,429,120	\$8,026,323	\$ 464	\$ 1,016	58.2%	83.7%
Vaughan C	101,900	\$ 98,449,620,992	\$ 62,709,848	\$ 615	\$ 637	109.7%	15.2%
Toronto C	1,208,300	\$695,140,483,072	\$567,226,240	\$ 469	\$ 816	60.0%	47.6%

* Chart provided in 2022 completed by previous Mayor Soever

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your time





January 10, 2023

Diana Livingston, CEMC

Council Presentation

Emergency Management

Within The Blue Mountains

Tornado August 2009 Declared Municipal Emergency



Within The Blue Mountains

Mud Slide 2012



Within The Blue Mountains

COVID-19 Pandemic 2020-2022



What is an Emergency/Emergency Management?

- “ A situation or impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident, or an act whether intentional or otherwise” *

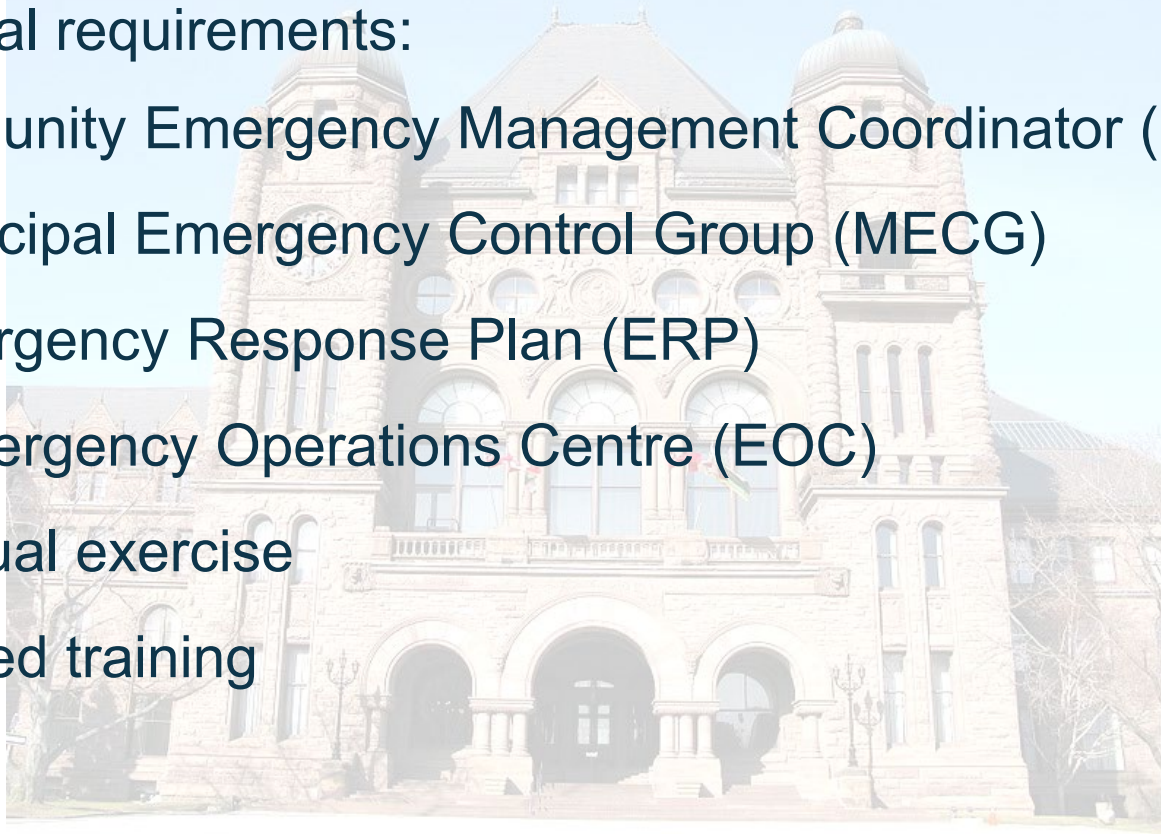
* Ontario’s Definition “ It is an all-encompassing risk-based approach to emergency management that includes prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures. **

**EMO Glossary of Terms

Legislation – Municipal Requirements

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act - O/Reg 380/04 Pt. II legislates municipal requirements:

- Appoint a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC)
- Establish a Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG)
- Prepare an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- Establish an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
- Conduct an annual exercise
- Complete required training



Legislation – Municipal Requirements

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act - O/Reg 380/04
Pt. II legislates municipal requirements:

- Program Committee
- By-law approval
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)
- Critical Infrastructure Identification
- Appoint an Emergency Information Officer
- Annual Review



Emergencies

- Natural
- Human Caused
- Technological

Categories of Emergencies



- Gradual (expected)
- Sudden (unexpected)

Classifications



- Forest Fires
- Floods
- Blizzards
- Chemical Spills
- Structural Collapses
- Utility Outages
- Civil Unrest
- Severe Weather
- Nuclear Accidents
- Epidemic/Pandemic
- Water Contamination
- Other

Hazards



What is Comprehensive Emergency Management?

- “It is an all-encompassing risk-based approach to emergency management that includes prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures”

Ontario’s Emergency Management Glossary of Terms

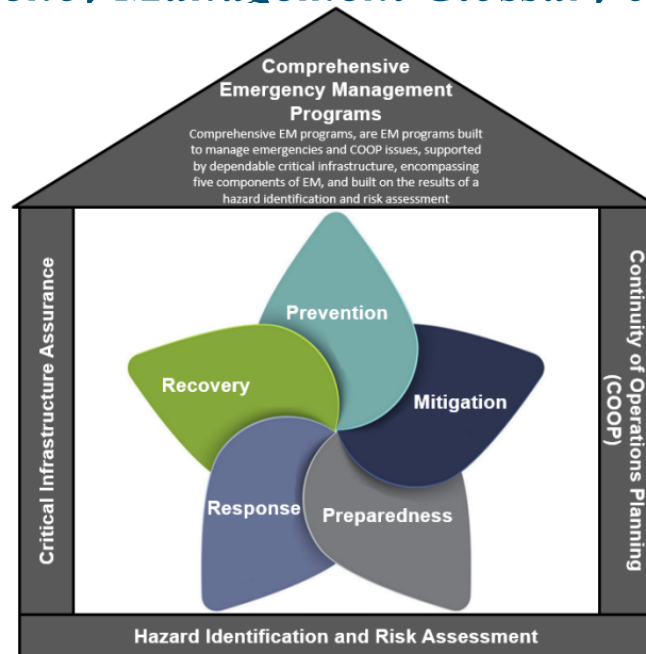


Figure 3: The five components of emergency management represented within a comprehensive emergency management program.

Five Components of Emergency Management

Prevention	Actions taken to stop an emergency or disaster from occurring
Mitigation	Actions taken to reduce the adverse impacts of an emergency or disaster.
Preparedness	Actions take prior to an emergency or disaster to ensure an effective response.
Response	The provision of emergency services and public assistance or intervention during our immediately after an incident in order to protect people, property, the environment, the economy and/or services.
Recovery	The process of restoring a stricken community to a pre-disaster level of functioning.

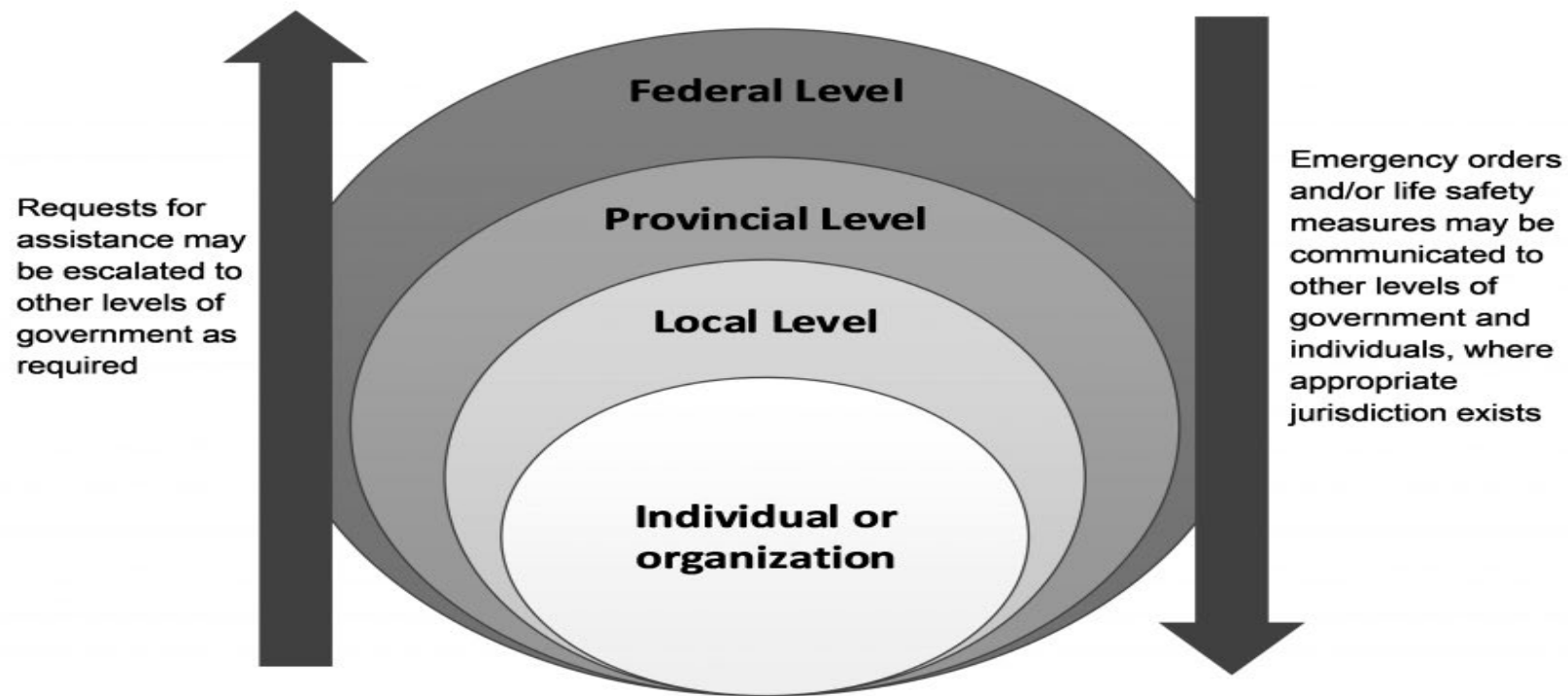
Phases of an Emergency

- Pre- Emergency
 - Public Education, Preparation of Evacuation Centres, Testing Notification Procedures Equipment, Activate the EOC, Exercise Stand-By Generators, Zoning Restrictions, Critical Infrastructure Management
- Warning
 - Activate the EOC, Issue Evacuation Orders, Issue Shelter-in Place Orders, Disseminate Public Information
- Impact
 - Allocating Resources, Assessing Severity, Determining Scope

Phases of an Emergency

- Response
 - Protection of Life and Property, May Overlap with the Impact Phase in a Gradual Emergency, May Begin After the Impact Phase in a Sudden Emergency
- Recovery
 - Activities Required to Bring the Community Back to “Normal”, Restoration of Infrastructure, Debris Removal, Demolition of Inhabitable Structures, Declare Emergency Through the PEOC

Where Does It Begin



Individual's Emergency Preparedness

72 Hour Preparedness Kit



Municipal Approach

- Each Municipality is required to have an emergency management program
- The CEMC is responsible for coordinating the development of the emergency response plan, training staff, and conducting an annual exercises to ensure the readiness of the community
- The CEMC work closely with local emergency services and other partners to integrate plans and services

Ontario's Approach

- EM programs are based on hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA)
- HIRA is a process that assists in determining the probability and consequences of identified hazards
- The most probable hazards will become priorities for preparedness, prevention, and mitigation efforts

Federal Legislation

- The federal Emergencies Act identifies the following four categories of emergencies:
 - War
 - International Incident
 - Public Welfare
 - Public Order
- It is recognized that war and international incidents are primarily federal concerns while public welfare and public order are provincial concerns.

Questions/Comments

Thank you for your time

