

**Deputy Minister's Emergency Management Committee**  
**Mandate – COVID-19**

**Background:**

As the COVID-19 crisis is worsening rapidly, there is a need for a coordinating group at the deputy minister level to monitor and coordinate the emergency management response, as envisioned by the Federal Emergency Response Plan, in cooperation with the provinces and territories.

These are the issues we must address: the impact of COVID-19 on remote communities; major floods that require federal assistance or evacuations; and the possibility of a period of detention in urban areas. These issues will require the deployment of federal personnel and authorities in consultation with the provinces and territories to ensure the availability of critical infrastructure. Health, transportation, electricity and public services, food, water, housing, financing, telecommunications, manufacturing, and governance all fall under critical infrastructure.

With respect to these issues, several challenges and operational responses will be the same. As far as possible, the committee's role is to put a framework and an approach in place that will facilitate and accelerate the federal response to provincial and territorial needs and requests for assistance.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this committee is to support a rapid, effective, coherent, and harmonious federal operational mobilization with the provinces, territories, other non-governmental bodies, and critical infrastructure suppliers.

**Authority:**

Pursuant to the *Emergency Management Act*, the Public Safety minister is responsible for exercising leadership relating to emergency management in Canada. He coordinates emergency management activities, including requests for federal assistance and personnel. In doing so, he coordinates federal government institutions in cooperation with the provinces, territories, and the other entities involved. The provinces and territories must be consulted before resorting to the *Emergencies Act*.

**Governance:**

The SM EM Committee is made up of a series of DMs from different departments with operational responsibilities and authorities, supplemented by central agencies. Other DMs are added when their areas are involved in the issues. The committee works under the umbrella of the DM COVID Committee, co-chaired by Stephen Lucas and the Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council.

Leadership of individual issues will be assigned to DMs and departments, where necessary. Public health issues related to COVID-19 will continue to be supervised and coordinated around another FPT table.

The deputy heads of the following departments are members:

- Public Safety (chair)
- Health Canada, including the Public Health Agency Canada
- Transport Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
- Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces
- Justice Canada
- Privy Council Office – Intergovernmental Affairs, Operations, NSIA
- Treasury Board

The deputy heads of other departments and relevant agencies are invited to participate based on the issue, for example, ISC, CIRNA, CanNor for the North and floods.

The DM EMC is supported by a Public Safety secretariat, in conjunction with the coordination activities of the Government Operations Centre (GOC) and the existing mobilization processes of Public Safety with the critical infrastructure suppliers.

**Mandate**

- Monitor COVID-19 trends, assess risks, and prepare to intervene during events requiring an emergency management response from the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.
- Triage requests and prioritize the deployment of federal resources and personnel, especially with respect to requests for federal assistance from the provinces and territories.
- Ensure urgent operational management and provide strategic advice to ministers concerning horizontal interventions related to emergency management.