

Points to support the March 19th (5-6:00pm) DH meeting on COVID-19

Government of Canada Business Continuity Planning and Critical Services Status

Background:

- The Policy on Government Security (PGS) applies to 107 departments and agencies and sets out requirements for Business Continuity Management (BCM)
 - Departments must have Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) to support their ability to maintain an acceptable level of delivery of critical services and activities in the event of disruption (including Pandemic), and able to achieve timely recovery of other services and activities in the event of a disruption
 - Critical Services (CS) are defined as: “a service or activity whose disruption would result in a **high or very high** degree of injury to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of Canadians or to the effective functioning of the Government of Canada”
 - Please note that the term *essential services* is only used to identify which employees must continue to work in the event of a labour disruption, and are not necessarily the same resources as support Critical Services.
- Public Safety Canada (PS) is identified in the PGS as the Lead Security Agency (and technical guidance lead) for BCM within the Government of Canada

Current Status:

- PS – Government Operations Centre (GOC) is leading the Pandemic Response coordination and development of the COVID-19 Response Plan. Version 3.1 was finalized and circulated to departments on **March 16**.
- TBS - OCIO is working closely with Public Safety (PS) to ensure that departments are doing a health check of their BCPs and to consider the 10, 30 and 50% absenteeism scenario
 - A request was sent to all organizations to which the PGS applies **on March 5th** to confirm that CS are identified, tested and ready
- Departments identified their CS based on instructions and guidance provided by TBS/PS and submitted their lists
- Reported CS are being vetted in “real time” against the PGS definition of having a **high or very high** impact on Canadians.

Current Picture of GC Critical Services – (As of March 19)

100 departments have submitted their list of “self-assessed” Critical Services

- Approximately 650 Critical Services have been identified by **60** departments.
 - Health Canada accounts for approximately 200 of these

- National Defence accounts for approximately 100 of these
- **94%** of identified CS have a BCP completed
- **86%** of those BCPs have been “stress tested” using the 10, 30 and 50% absenteeism scenario (74% with Health Canada data included)
- **23** organizations have now activated their BCPs for Critical Services
- To date, **40** departments have indicated that they have no Critical Services
- TBS is anticipating responses from an additional 7 organizations

OCIO and PS are compiling an aggregated GC CS list, including validating that the “self - assessed” CS as submitted by departments meet the PGS definition of CS.

Thank you to all organizations for their collaboration and support on this matter.