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# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DELTA TEAM

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## Thank you!

We would like to thank the Province of Ontario for its considerations over the years for many projects and look forward to a stronger relationship moving forward.

## Proposal

The need for sustainable funding for the Emergency Management Program and the need for a coordinated volunteer corps to assist municipalities establish a surge capacity for civil protection. We are asking for your support for the County-led Emergency Management DELTA TEAM, a novel model of community engagement that has been designed to be scoped and spread by your Ministry across Ontario.

We are requesting \$200,000 to support the scale and implementation of this new model of Emergency Management Volunteer engagement program and support for annual operating costs of \$40,000 for 5 years.

## Background

When emergencies escalate beyond the capability of local municipalities, rapidly available, reliable additional trained help and expertise is required. This capacity is missing on the local, regional and provincial level making it impossible to rapidly respond to larger scale disasters or catastrophic events, and to sustain longer term operations. Technical capabilities to mitigate escalation of the response phase and to ensure timely and cost-effective recovery are currently not tied into the response system thus prohibiting the continuum needed from immediate response to recovery.

A shift from ad-hoc, reactive response to pro-active capacity building, coordination, and cooperation of all available assets under a clear governance structure is urgently needed to adapt to the increase and severity of disasters. As we adapt to severe climate change impact and other challenges, a civil protection approach is needed.

The role of local government must shift from being the sole responders to providing the structure and framework to enable citizens and communities to be part of the solution. A new clear organization, DELTA TEAM, its municipally-led command structure and all-hazard “second response” capabilities guarantee rapid availability and reliability equal ensuring coordination and interoperability of all available assets.

To support prolonged and large-scale disaster response operations, technical units are needed which focus on tasks such as flood protection, assistance in wildfire fighting, emergency infrastructure repair, debris clearance, logistic support, water purification, emergency communications and power supply, etc.

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To achieve these capabilities, the County of Renfrew DELTA TEAM has been established as a collaborative, best practice model. The phased approach to recruitment, training and retention includes providing training to local public works employees, schoolboard standardized education and practical experience for high-school students, community volunteers and emergency service providers.

The initial certification to become a DELTA TEAM volunteer includes:

- Basic Emergency Management,
- Unified Command Principles,
- Personal Preparedness,
- Health and Safety,
- CPR, Automated External Defibrillator & Naloxone training,
- Flood Mitigation Strategies and Skills and,
- Debris Management.

Four DELTA TEAM intakes have been completed since June 2025 with more than 150 volunteers trained to date. We will continue to on board an additional 150 students and volunteers annually with a goal of maintaining a roster of 750 trained volunteers with expanded capabilities based upon the needs of the County of Renfrew local hazard identification and risk assessment.