



ADRA'S Church Emergency Management Plan (ChEMP) SUMMARY

No one can deny the increase in frequency and intensity of disasters worldwide and here in Canada. Some of these disasters occur suddenly with little or no warning, while others develop slowly over a more extended period. Disasters may be natural or human-made. Regardless, all are aggravated by various factors, including climate change, urbanization, economic disparity, and violence. To be effective in disaster response, **we as members of Christ's body should plan and be prepared.**

When a disaster occurs, a response is often required to meet the urgent needs of those affected. The Church is well placed to do this. The Church is rich with the valuable resources of caring people, buildings, and land. Church members can help disaster survivors cope with the emotional distress of losing family, friends, and possessions.

The Church Emergency Management Plan (ChEMP) addresses preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disaster events. ADRA developed it in close partnership with church members, pastors, conference leaders, and the SDACC. These guidelines are designed for ADRA staff and church leaders, church boards, church members, and volunteers who desire to serve their community during the critical time of a slowly developing emergency or sudden onset disaster.

In early 2019, the Government of Canada released its *Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030*. This strategy charts a “collaborative, whole-of-society roadmap to strengthening Canada’s ability to assess risks, prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.”¹ It stresses a grassroots approach from local to provincial/territorial and federal jurisdictions in recognition that the first responders are almost always the local authorities in an emergency.

Therefore, a local Church’s Emergency Plan (ChEMP) provides detailed information on preparedness, outlines levels of response and shared responsibilities, and provides tools to equip local churches in disaster preparedness and response planning. Comprehensive and responsive, the plan provides guidance for today and years into the future.

ADRA is looking for interested churches to attend a training in August 2022 where they will complete their ChEMP. If you want your Church to participate, contact Jean Renaud, the Quebec Conference of Seventh-day Adventists’ ADRA representative, at servcomm@sdaqc.org.

¹ 1 Public Safety: Emergency Management.

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtg/index-en.aspx>