

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE YUKON DISASTER COMMITTEE

March 5, 1985

Present:	D.L.D. Bell	Commissioner - Chairman
	B.A. Deer	Yukon E.M.O. Co-ordinator
	Bill Bowie	Association of Yukon Communities
	David Kingsley	C.M.H.C.
	Gary Reynolds	Yukon Electrical Company Limited
	Bill Byers	Y.T.G. - Justice
	Bill Klassen	Y.T.G. - Health & Human Resources
	Marny Willis	Medical Services
	Denis Frenette	Department of National Defence
	Hugh Mainville	NorthwestTel
	Brian Warner	Yukon Amateur Radio Association
	Murray Morison	I.N.A.C. Northern Program
	John Doyle	I.N.A.C. Northern Program
	Oliver Nelson	I.N.A.C. Indian & Inuit Affairs
	Tim Young	Department of Fisheries & Oceans
	Lorne Hawrelak	Department of Fisheries & Oceans
	John Quigley	Department of Communications
	Dave Sinclair	Department of Communications
	Chuck Gregersen	Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
	Ed Campbell	Transport Canada
	Len Jerritt	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
	Dave Allison	Employment & Immigration
	Joe MacEachern	Northern Canada Power Commission
	Andy Vantell	Y.T.G. - Government Services
	Larry Hipperson	Y.T.G. - Fire Marshal
	Jim Hoffman	Emergency Planning Canada
	John Hudson	Public Works Canada

The meeting opened at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 1C-1D at the Y.T.G. Administration Building. Chairman Doug Bell welcomed all committee members and thanked them for attending. He then advised the committee of the snow survey data prepared by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development explaining that snow accumulations point to the possibilities of flooding this spring and the need for this committee to be prepared.

Item 1 - History of Yukon Disaster Committee

B.A. Deer provided an outline of the history of the Yukon Disaster Committee and explained that although the committee has not been active since 1981, responses to minor disasters have been carried out through his office.

He then explained that the role of this new committee will be that of a planning organization and although many of the committee members will have active response roles, the committee itself will not.

Item 2 - Federal Territorial Activities

Mr. J. Hoffman, Regional Director for Emergency Planning Canada, outlined the major events taken by the Federal Government since October 1980 to improve emergency preparedness. He explained that the Honourable Erik Nielsen is now the Minister responsible for Emergency Planning Canada. Other activities include increased funding for cost-shared emergency preparedness projects, increased resources for departmental planning and increased training activities.

Committee members were encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities available through E.P.C. to ensure that their personnel are aware of emergency response procedures.

Item 3 - Flood Forecast Program

Chairman Doug Bell requested Rick Janowicz to outline the flood forecast program. Mr. Janowicz explained that the program had been developed to monitor potential flood situations such as Ross River and Mayo. The snow pack in most areas has tied the previous record and there is considerable concern about flooding this spring.

Item 4 - Terms of Reference

A proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee had been handed out for discussion purposes. Mr. Hoffman explained the operational support concept and levels of response: Communities being the first level, then Y.T.G. and finally the Federal Government. After discussing the matter, it was suggested that item 3.1(c) be changed to read Deputy Ministers or their "delegated representatives" form the membership and organization. Item #3.2 was altered to Federal Government representatives of the committee members.

The Terms of Reference were then adopted and are attached as Annex "A".

Item 4 - Organization of the Yukon Disaster Committee

J. Hoffman outlined a proposed organizational structure which had been handed out in advance and explained that it was taken from the former Y.D.C. and is intended for discussion purposes.

It was agreed that:

- The committee would meet bi-annually and the first meeting would be held early in April to deal with the 1985 flood and fire concerns.
- local representatives of Federal Government agencies should attend planning group meetings.
- planning groups could draw on the expertise of other outside agencies where this would be of benefit.
- planning groups can proceed to review objectives and initiate planning immediately.

Item 5 - Structure of Committee

Murray Morison, Director General, D.I.A.N.A., expressed concern about potential confusion between the Committee's planning role and that of response. After discussion it was decided that the structure of the committee, attached as Annex "B", would be adopted as a starting point which can be improved upon as the committee sees necessary.

It was stressed by several members that interdepartmental planning and testing exercises would be contingent upon the existence of a Yukon policy and plan. Mr. Hoffman stressed that the Government Leader had agreed in 1981 to put the required plan in place.

Mr. O. Nelson, Regional Director of Indian & Inuit Affairs, observed that local authorities and Indian Bands would have to get together and establish their roles. Mr. Deer explained that a municipal planning guide is soon to be distributed which could be used as a basis for communication. The Chairman requested Mr. Nelson to meet with him to discuss methods through which the Bands could be integrated into the planning and response systems.

Item 6 - Future Activities

Several suggestions were presented for future discussions including briefing on Government of Yukon policy and arrangements, exercises carried out and presentations of plans of other levels of Governments. Review of post-disaster reports was also felt to be necessary.

It was agreed that:

- Government of Yukon would outline the post-disaster wrap-up of the 1979 Dawson flood.
- Emergency Planning Canada would obtain sample reports of other disasters for committee review.
- Members having specific recommendations would present them to the E.M.O. Co-ordinator in writing before April 1, 1985.
- Some committee activities could not be undertaken until a Yukon Government plan is in place.

Item 7 - Other Business

Emergency Planning Canada tabled a discussion paper "Federal Crisis Management Procedures" for comment by federal agencies. He explained that the document is based on Cabinet approved crisis management procedures and federal departmental statements of responsibilities. Any comments should be directed to Mr. Hoffman by April 1, 1985.

Chairman D. Bell adjourned the meeting, stating that a meeting of the core group will be called in early April. Members will be notified.

JOINT YUKON DISASTER COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Objective

- 1.1 To promote and develop co-ordinated territorial and federal emergency preparedness in the Yukon.

Terms

- 2.1 Provide a forum for co-ordination of planning and the exchange of information on emergency preparedness.
- 2.2 Advise agencies with emergency responsibilities on:
- a) potential joint training activities;
 - b) areas of emergency preparedness that might benefit co-operative research;
 - c) adequacy of current arrangements;
 - d) public awareness measures;
 - e) vital points listing;
 - f) proposed co-operative/cost-shared projects related to emergency responses;
 - g) the application of national concepts to conditions of the Yukon.
- 2.3 Establish working groups to develop specific preparedness arrangements, including (not necessarily limited to)
- a) remote casualty rescue, recovery and re-location;
 - b) emergency social services;
 - c) emergency medical services;
 - d) emergency public health;
 - e) emergency environmental protection;
 - f) emergency engineering, utility and transportation services;
 - g) emergency accommodation;
 - h) emergency communications.

Membership and Organization

3.1

Yukon Government

- a) Co-ordinator Emergency Measures
- b) Public Affairs Bureau
- c) Deputy Ministers or delegated representatives
 - Community & Transportation Services
 - Government Services
 - Renewable Resources
 - Education
 - Health & Human Resources
 - Finance
 - Justice
 - Fire Marshal

3.2

Federal Government - representatives of the following

- Northern Affairs Program - Director General
- Indian & Inuit Affairs - Director General
- Health & Welfare Canada (Medical Services)
- Public Works Canada
- Emergency Planning Canada
- Department of National Defence - Whitehorse Detachment
- Environmental Protection Services - Whitehorse
- Communications Canada - Director General, Vancouver

- Fisheries & Oceans Canada - Director General, Vancouver
- Transport Canada - Western Regional Administrator, Edmonton
- Employment & Immigration Canada - Director General Vancouver
- C.M.H.C. - Whitehorse
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police

3.3

Private - Commercial - Volunteer Agencies

- A) C.B.C. Northern Service
- b) N.C.F.C.
- c) Northwestel
- d) Yukon Electric
- e) Yukon Amateur Radio Association
- f) Association of Yukon Communities

3.4

The internal organization of the committee will be structured in plenary sessions.

3.5

Chairmanship of the Committee is vested in the Commissioner of the Yukon, at the request of the Yukon Minister of Community & Transportation Services. Deputy Chairmanship is vested in the Department of Community & Transportation Services.

- 3.6 *The committee will meet biannually at the call of the Chair or at the request of any member having extraordinary business.*
- 3.7 *Secretariat services for the committee will be provided by Government of Yukon to be made available as and when required by the Chairman.*

ORGANIZATION OF YUKON DISASTER COMMITTEE

Core Group Chairman
 Heads of Planning Groups * (7)
 EPC RCMP INAC (Northern Program)
 Yukon - Community Services
 - EMO

<u>Planning Groups</u>	<u>Yukon Members</u>	<u>Canada Members</u>
- Transportation & Engineering	. Municipal Engineering * . Highways Maintenance and Engineering . Renewable Resources Operations	. PWC . TC . INAC
- Emergency Medical Services	. Health Services . Whitehorse General	*. HWC (Medical Svcs)
- Public Affairs	. Public Affairs Bureau	*. INAC . CBC
- Emergency Social Services	. Yukon Housing . Education *. Human Resources	. CMHC
- Utilities	. Yukon Electric . Municipal Engineering	*. NCPC
- Environmental Emergencies	. Renewable Resources	*. EC-EPS . FOC . INAC
- Communications (RETC)	. Government Services . EMO . YARA	*. DOC . NW Tel

Members at Large

Yukon - Justice	Canada - CEIC
- Finance	- DND
- Fire Marshal	- INAC (IIA)
- Association of Yukon Communities	

GROUP OBJECTIVES

Develop mechanisms and coordinated arrangements, without infringing on prerogatives and obligations of participating agencies, for emergency response in such areas as:

Transportation and Engineering

- . Concentrating heavy equipment resources in an emergency
- . Conducting flood surveys, reporting and warning systems
- . Provision of potable water supply
- . Transportation for evacuation of municipal areas
- . Provision of road condition information in and leading to disaster areas
- . Maintaining essential arteries within and into disaster areas
- . Coordination with Forestry on community fire breaks

Emergency Medical Services

- . Provision of medical services at a disaster site to provide for immediate emergency casualty care
- . Evacuation of casualties from the disaster area to medical care facilities within or outside of the Yukon
- . Reception of increased casualty loads at existing facilities
- . Recording, distribution and release of casualty data to police, coroners and transportation authorities
- . Immunization in disaster areas
- . Coordination of public health services, in disaster areas, related to sanitation, food service, infectious and communicable diseases, advice to the public and advice to local authorities.

Public Affairs

- . Coordinated delivery of government information and advice to the public during emergencies
- . Coordinated information to media
- . Advice on methods of improving the effectiveness of public education material
- . Development of emergency broadcast alternatives

Emergency Social Services

- . Provision of reasonable essential services necessary for physical survival and well being of people affected by a disaster including; emergency clothing; food service for evacuees and workers, temporary lodging, registration and inquiry and personal services
- . Develop guidelines for community evacuation and reception planning.

Utilities

- . Identify a coordinated process and capability for provision of power supplies
- . Advise on the security of services from natural hazards
- . Develop community and homeowners guidance in the event of utility failures
- . Identify emergency power supply capabilities for emergency broadcast

Environmental Emergencies

- . Develop and maintain a coordinated dangerous goods response mechanism to support local authorities, and both territorial and federal programs
- . Advise the YDC on major environmental hazard potential in the Yukon

Communications

- . Provision of alternate communications services between federal or territorial emergency operations centres and local authorities or remote/isolated disaster sites
- . Provide advice to local authorities for communications planning
- . Provide an interface between YDC and the RETC
- . Support Public Affairs in provision of alternate emergency public information arrangements.