

80700-01

Location:

In attendance: John Les, Co-Chair
Henry Renteria, Co-Chair
Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Solicitor General
Pat Quealey, Assistant Deputy Minister, EMBC
Cameron Lewis, Project Manager
Jeff Groot, Communications Director
Barbara Greeniaus, Executive Advisor

Page 1
JAG-2014-00357

From: PSSG Deputy Solicitor General SG:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:33 AM
To: BCPSA Agency DMC List
Cc: BCPSA Agency DMC Admin & Operational Support
Subject: Emergency Management Consultation
Attachments: Terms of Reference Earthquake Response.docx

Dear Colleagues:

A wide-ranging consultation on earthquake preparedness and response was announced today. This principal goal of this project is to ensure that British Columbians are well prepared to respond to a catastrophic earthquake. Yesterday, Pat Quealey, the new ADM of Emergency Management BC, and I met with the two co-chairs of the consultation: John Les, former B.C. Solicitor General, and Henry Renteria, former director of California's Office of Emergency Services.

From April through June, Henry and John will be holding stakeholder meetings and roundtables in BC regions that are at highest risk of seismic events. All levels of government, the media, business, local authorities including First Nations, federal and state jurisdictions, and non-governmental organizations will have opportunities to engage in these discussions. I am attaching the Terms of Reference for the project to provide what other details are available at this early stage.

Emergency Management BC and GCPE are also planning a public education campaign that will inform British Columbians who live in areas vulnerable to earthquakes about what they need to do to prepare for a seismic event. In the process of developing this campaign, EMBC will conduct research to gauge the current level of personal readiness among British Columbians, and determine the best way to raise awareness and educate citizens so they can be better prepared in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami. We anticipate that the public education campaign will launch this summer.

The timing of the announcement tomorrow will coincide with the third anniversary of the tragic Japan earthquake and tsunami that claimed more than 16,000 lives. Later in March, many British Columbians will also remember the devastating Alaska earthquake and tsunami of March 27, 1964 that wreaked heavy damage to Port Alberni. These two events, and other disasters that have occurred in recent years, remind us of the critical importance of emergency preparedness.

The Office of the Auditor General has been reviewing EMBC's catastrophic earthquake preparedness for the past several months. The OAG report, which will be released later in March, will provide recommendations that will guide and inform both the stakeholder consultation and the public education campaign. The consultation will also complement the ongoing work of the dedicated professionals of EMBC who lead provincial activities, and support other authorities, to ensure that we are as well prepared as possible.

I fully expect that John Les and Henry Renteria will wish to meet with those of you having emergency management responsibilities within your portfolio during the consultation process. Thank you for your support and for your willingness to work with the Ministry of Justice as a partner in emergency preparedness.

Lori Wanamaker, FCA
Deputy Minister and Deputy Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
11th Floor, 1001 Douglas Street, Victoria
Phone: 250 256 0140 | Fax: 250 287 6224