
Working to ensure Calgary's nonprofit sector is prepared to effectively respond to emergencies

Establishing systems and processes to support a coordinated response from the nonprofit and public sectors during an emergency



WHAT is EPIC?

EPIC works to ensure Calgary's nonprofit sector is prepared effectively to respond to emergencies.

We will:

Build the capacity of nonprofit organizations so they can continue to provide services during emergencies—and, can effectively recover from emergencies.

Increase collaboration and coordination between the public and nonprofit emergency response systems.

**“Remember:
when disaster strikes the
time to prepare has passed.”**

—Steven Cyros

How is EPIC helping the sector?

To build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, EPIC's online resources include a business continuity template and workbook. Other links, information and tips are provided to help better prepare staff and organizations in the event of an emergency.

EPIC also offers insights regarding opportunities before and after a disaster, shares best practices in continuity planning and crisis communications and provides considerations for volunteers and Board Members. EPIC makes it easier for nonprofits to connect with each other to explore ways to collaborate or help other organizations (and their clients) in an emergency.

To increase collaboration and coordination EPIC is working with key nonprofit and public sector stakeholders to develop an integrated approach to emergency responses by building on the strengths of the two sectors. EPIC will enhance the partnership between the public emergency response system and nonprofits to address the needs of affected citizens.

Who is involved in EPIC?

All nonprofit organizations in Calgary will likely benefit from connecting with EPIC. Many will access emergency preparedness resources and tools via our website and link to other information, professional learning opportunities and networks. Some nonprofits may use EPIC as a way to initiate – or strengthen – relationships to help in a future emergency or disaster.

Several groups are supporting this initiative. They are already involved, and have various roles to play:

United Way of Calgary and Area (UW), Alberta Health Services (AHS), City of Calgary Community & Neighbourhood Services (CNS), Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC), City of Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS), Calgary Foundation, and the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO).

WHY

Why was EPIC established?

The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) conducted research after the 2013 Alberta floods and detailed feedback was gathered from the City of Calgary and the United Way of Calgary and Area too. It was clear that a lack of coordinated and collaborative networks caused undue stress in the nonprofit sector during the floods.



Three priorities emerged for EPIC

1 During planning, there is a need to consider what community support is needed in a crisis, what can be offered to others – and who can help	2 A need for better coordination between nonprofits and government agencies during and after a crisis	3 There is a need to build key relationships and networks before a crisis hits
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WHERE

Where is EPIC active?

Our focus is on Calgary and the surrounding area. We expect other Alberta (and wider) jurisdictions to be interested in – and help inform – our work. What we learn, develop and share will help other organizations and communities too.

The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) is the lead contact for EPIC at: info@getpreparednonprofit.com and 403.261.6655 ext 223.

“Preparedness, when properly pursued, is a way of life, not a sudden, spectacular program.”

—Spencer W. Kimball

WHEN

When did EPIC begin?

EPIC launched in the winter of 2015. There are many stages of development and various deliverables in our plan.

To date, we have: released resources for business continuity planning; increased communication and coordination between nonprofit and public sector agencies; and we are helping to build connections between organizations wanting to develop business continuity plans. Our work will deepen as we move forward.

How does our organization participate?

It depends. There are lots of ways to be involved.

Your organization may be able to support our work and we would like to hear from you!

If you are a nonprofit organization you may already have a business continuity plan. Or, you want to take your preparedness to a new level. Perhaps your nonprofit is just now embarking on this essential planning. Whatever stage you're at, visit our website for resources, links, information and tips.

Consider your networks and potential collaborations that may help you, or others, in an emergency.

Participate in EPIC professional learning opportunities and special events.

If you represent a nonprofit sector peer organization, funder, public sector group or an entity involved in business continuity planning or emergency response and you are not already talking with us—please get in touch!

Getpreparednonprofit.com

