

BRIDGES OF LOVE'S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Bridges of Love (BofL) Ministry Society's mandate is to provide opportunities for churches to be catalysts for change – to reach out with greater concern for, and influence on, those in their communities. Bridges of Love promotes community resiliency by connecting people, churches, and networks through coordination, resources and training. Love is ACTION!

Two of our current initiatives are centred on community emergency preparedness.

2006 to present - Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI)



The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) is a program developed to engage the church community in disaster preparedness. FEPI is a network of local churches and their members, who share information about their facilities, resources, volunteers, and 24 hr. contact information. When disaster strikes, this critical information is ready-at-hand, for a quick response. This program is pursuant to our mission regarding churches helping neighbours.

- 2006, co-authored **“Of Churches, Pandemics, and Emergency Preparedness”** with Dr. Tim Foggin. A discussion paper to assist churches become informed and prepared in the event of an Influenza Pandemic.
- 2007, partner in facilitating a **National Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness and Response**, with the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg and the International Centre for Infectious Diseases.
- 2008, with support from Public Safety Canada, spawned the formation of the **Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative Advisory Council** consisting of Alberta representatives from the Public, Faith, and Public sectors. The initial focus on Pandemic Preparedness was broadened to Emergency Preparedness.
- 2008, facilitated and planned the **Regional Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness & Response (Calgary)** with 150 Faith Leaders attending.
- 2009, invited local Calgary churches to partner with FEPI to be mobilized, coordinated, and resources identified in the event of a disaster. To date, 53 churches participate in the **Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative** filling out our “FEPI Contact and Assessment Form” with information collected in our Access Data Base.
- 2009, Faith Community/Public Sector Workshop with FEPI Advisory Council.
- 2009 - Facilitated **5 Pandemic Information Sessions** for the church community in each quadrant of Calgary in collaboration with Alberta Health Services during H1N1 out-break.
- 2009 - Planned and implemented the **Faith Community/Public Sector Emergency Workshop** in collaboration with our FEPI Advisory Council.
- 2010 - **“Emergency Preparedness...Ready or Not”** with Dr. Arthur Bradley (NASA Scientist) – Two sessions, one in Calgary and one in Red Deer (Brought Dr. Bradley from West Virginia).
- 2011 - Signed a **Service Agreement** with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency.
- 2011 - **“Beauty for Ashes”** with Jamie Coutts, Slave Lake Fire Chief.
- 2012 - **“Get Ready, Get Set, Go...”** Pandemic Table Top Exercise facilitated by ERMCA and funded by the Calgary Foundation.
- 2012 - **“Love Bee...ing Prepared”**, Event with Chevron Canada President Jeff Lehrmann
- 2013 - To reduce stockpiling, **Alberta Recovers** website was developed to match donations on-line, with people in need. Bridges of Love matched hundreds of donations with flood victims following the Alberta Floods. FEPI churches made the deliveries of the donated items after the match was made on-line.
- 2013 - **“Bridge over Troubled Waters – Bearing Together”**, bringing together Bridges of Love volunteers, government stakeholders, and flood victims, to celebrate the flood recovery efforts. Event held at the Alberta McDougall Building.

2. 2014 - Community **Emergency Response Team CANADA** branded and revised into Canadian content.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program developed to train church volunteers and community members in basic emergency skills and knowledge. This grass roots strategy is both practical and realistic, as it strengthens community safety and preparedness through civic participation.

CERT Graduates receive a photo ID, CERT cap, T-shirt, certificate, CERT Kit. We have branded CERT Canada with the hard hat, vest, cap, vest, and bag all showing the logo for easy identification. CERT strength for resilient communities comes from **Neighbours helping Neighbours** in a team atmosphere. Relationship is key to being truly prepared. Unless you plan on going solo, every element of preparedness will involve planning and working together.

- **CERT CANADA Summits** (Calgary): 50+ Trained CERT Graduates
 - April, 2014
 - September, 2014
 - September, 2015
 - April 11, 2015
 - June, 2015
 - November, 2015
 - January, 2016
 - April, 2016
 - October, 2017 (Rockyview County)
- 2015 to Present – Calgary's Disaster Alley Participant
- 2017 – Lethbridge Ministerial Presentation
- 2017 – Claresholm Ministerial Presentation
- 2017 – Rockyview County Wildfire Exercise
- 2018 – 2019 **South Centre Mall Emergency Fairs**
- 2019 – **CERT Train-the-Trainer** materials revised and branded for Canada
- 2019 – Signed Bridges of Love's first **CERT Affiliate Agreement** with Bob Davies (Edmonton & GEA)
- 2020 - High River **Emergency Advisory Committee** presentation
- 2020 – Leased office in downtown High River
- 2020 – Conducted first **CERT T-T-T** session in new High River office
- 2021 – Bridges of Love's Meet & Greet

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS

"IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY OF GETTING TRAINED DISASTER-RELIEF RESPONDERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY; WHO WOULD MAKE PREPARATIONS, THEN SPRING QUICKLY INTO ACTION, ARMED WITH EXPERTISE AND SOME EQUIPMENT, AND WILLING TO WORK AT LITTLE COST."
Campbell Clark, Ottawa - Chief Political Writer, *The Globe & Mail*

CERT CANADA SUMMIT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Key-note - **ANTHONY FUREY**, Nationally Syndicated Columnist and Broadcaster
"PULSE ATTACK" The real story behind the secret weapon that can destroy North America. **"OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC"**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

- CERT Fire Safety & Utility Controls
 - CERT Search & Rescue
 - Terrorism
 - CERT Organization/ICS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

- CERT Medical Disaster Operations
 - Food Safety
 - CERT Psychology of Trauma
 - CERT Emergency Preparedness

LOCATION - Bragg Creek Community Association, 23 White Ave.
\$199 (Adult), \$149 (Senior), \$99 (Student), **"Friday Evening Only - \$20"**

Summit Includes - CERT Equipment, T-Shirt, Cap, Literature, Certificate, Photo ID, Friday Evening Dessert, Saturday Lunch & Snacks

SPONSOR: ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

REGISTER: **by Oct. 9** www.bridgesoflove.ca
403.616.0536

3. Marg's Course Completion

- Basic Emergency Management Course, Nov. 2008
- Disaster Social Services Course, Nov. 2008
- Incident Command System (ICS 100), Dec. 2009
- Group Crisis Intervention, March 2010
- IMB Social Media Session – 2011
- Centre Point Leadership Plus – March to September, 2011
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training - 2013
- ICS 200 – December 2014
- ICS 300 – December 2015
- Counter Terrorism Information Officer Workshop – March 16, 17, 18, 2016 with up-grade in 2019

4. Bridges of Love's and Marg's Recognition

- 2008 – Total Woman in Church Ministry
- 2012 – Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal
- 2012 – Calgary Non-Profit Social Innovation Award (Calgary Chamber of Volunteer Organizations)
- 2013 – Prime Minister's Volunteer Award for Social Innovator (Prairies)
- 2014 – 3 Hero of the Flood Awards (Alberta Provincial Government)
- 2017 – Public Safety's Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award

➤ 2017 – Darrel Janz, Inspired Calgary Guest