

# Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) – FAQ

The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) was spearheaded by Bridges of Love Ministry, with collaboration from the FEPI Advisory Council (Private, Public, and Public Sectors). Coming together as a united body of emergency/health/faith agencies, the FEPI Advisory Council recognized the positive impact empowering churches to respond with greater strength and effectiveness during times of disaster would make, providing both practical resources and a compassionate presence.

## **1. What is Bridges of Love Ministry and its mission?**

Bridges of Love Ministry is a Canadian Registered Charity founded in 2003 by Marg Pollon. Its mission was founded and remains constant, with the desire to provide resources and open doors for the local church to be beacons of light, during and following times of disaster demonstrating God's love is ACTION.

## **2. How did the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) start?**

In 2005, FEPI was launched due to an invitation from a Burnaby doctor, Tim Foggin who invited Bridges of Love to mobilize churches to be ready to respond to an Avian Influenza Pandemic. This led to collaboration between the faith, public, and private sectors, forming the FEPI Advisory Council, all working towards a common goal for preparing the church community to be ready to assist their neighbours. This later broadened to cover any disaster that Alberta might encounter.

## **3. Is FEPI based on a Biblical model?**

Yes. FEPI follows the example of Nehemiah, who rebuilt Jerusalem's walls by mobilizing the community to work together. FEPI encourages churches to unite and serve their communities during times of crisis.

## **4. Why should churches respond during disasters?**

- Local Presence: Churches know their communities and can respond quickly.
- Existing Engagement: Many churches already serve their communities, making them well-positioned to assist in a crisis.
- Spiritual Mandate: Churches are called to love God and their neighbour and to serve God in times of need.

## **5. How does FEPI help during a disaster?**

Before disaster strikes, the local churches share vital information on their facilities, resources, volunteers, and 24 hr. contact information. Bridges of Love's database is then ready for a quick and coordinated response when time is of the essence.

## **6. Do emergency agencies ask for church assistance?**

Having information catalogued on FEPI churches allows for a 'one-call' approach where Bridges of Love can access the help requested from the FEPI database. As part of Alberta's NGO Council, we collaborate for a collective action, when called upon.

## **7. Does my church need to do anything special to become a FEPI Partner?**

No. Churches don't need to add new programs. FEPI works with what each church is already doing. Whether it's prayer, shelter, or meals, there's a role for every church to help.

## **8. Can you give an example of FEPI in action?**

During Alberta's 2013 floods, through the FEPI network, Bridges of Love assisted hundreds of flood victims through the Alberta Recovers website. The on-line donation platform provided assistance without stock-piling a single item! FEPI churches kindly made deliveries and provided support.

## **9. What are the benefits of becoming a FEPI Partner?**

Becoming a FEPI partner provides opportunities to build trusting relationships with communities before a disaster strikes. A "FEPI Muster Sign" displayed in the church window, allows for quick identification as a safe gathering place during a crisis.

## 10. Can any church join FEPI?

Yes, any church that follows the teachings of Jesus Christ and aligns with Christian values is eligible to become a FEPI partner.

## 11. How does Bridges of Love coordinate FEPI churches across Alberta?

Bridges of Love can coordinate regionally by identifying a lead FEPI church in each locality who has access to Bridges of Love's database of information. It is critical for operations to have key churches who can take on this role for their region.

## 12. How can a church become a FEPI Partner?

Simply complete the FEPI Registration Form on Bridges of Love's website [www.bridgesoflove.net/fepi-registration](http://www.bridgesoflove.net/fepi-registration)

## 13. Is there a cost to become a FEPI Partner?

As a Registered Charity, Bridges of Love must raise support to offer these services. FEPI is such an important emergency tool during times of disaster, however, that we offer this resource to the local church with no fee attached.

## 14. Who can I contact for more information?

For questions or to get involved, please contact Marg or Felicia.

Email: [admin@bridgesoflove.net](mailto:admin@bridgesoflove.net) Phone: 587.272.0955

Bridges of Love's Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) shares a coordinated response for churches to serve their communities in times of crisis. By being a FEPI partner, your church can be part of a unified, faith-based response that demonstrates Christ's love is action. Together, we can make a stronger and meaningful impact when disaster strikes, providing God's love, hope, support, and resources to those in need. We invite you to join in this vital mission of preparedness and care in communities across Alberta.

*A cord with three strands*



*is not easily broken.*

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

