

## ***Communication, Cooperation, and Compromise: Leadership at the Provincial Level in Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery***

Disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts involve multiple stakeholders including private citizens, first responders and law enforcement agencies, municipalities and First Nations, government departments and agencies, private industry, critical service and utility providers, operators of critical infrastructure, and non-governmental organizations. Responsibility for emergency management is shared by multiple levels of government. As legislated in the Manitoba Emergency Measures Act, the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is responsible for overseeing all aspects of emergency preparedness in Manitoba and for managing, directing, and coordinating the response of all Manitoba Government departments to a major emergency or disaster.

These tasks are easier said than done; EMO is a small organization asked to engage a wide array of stakeholders and guide departments and agencies whose people, activities, agendas and priorities are not always geared towards emergency management. During this presentation, the representative from Manitoba EMO will provide a brief overview of the current emergency management paradigm in Canada, describe the role of Manitoba EMO in leading preparedness and response activities, and discuss leadership from a Provincial perspective during major emergencies using recent examples.

### **Speaker: Mike Gagne**

Mike is currently the Director of Operations for Manitoba EMO. Originally from British Columbia, Mike retired from the Canadian Armed Forces Regular Force in 2012. He has commanded at the infantry company, combat team, and headquarters level and has deployed on operational duty to Croatia, Bosnia, and Afghanistan. A graduate of both the Canadian Army Command and Staff College and the Canadian Forces Joint Command and Staff Program, Mike has a BA in History from the Royal Military College of Canada and is pursuing his Masters in Defence Studies and a Masters in Arts in Emergency and Disaster Management. He continues to serve as a Reserve officer and commands a training organization here in Winnipeg on evenings and weekends.

Since joining Manitoba EMO as Director of Operations in September 2013, Mike has had the experience of directing the Provincial response to the January pipeline explosion near Otterburne, the Spring flood, and the recent rain inundation disaster in Western Manitoba. In July, Mike was tasked to form and lead the all-hazards incident management team responsible for coordinating Provincial support to municipalities preparing for high water along the lower Assiniboine River while Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation prepared the Portage Diversion and Assiniboine River primary dikes.



*Where great minds  
meet to form  
great ideas.*