

Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program

Town of Markham

**Presented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

November 29, 2005

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Understand the principles of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program
- Understand procedures for requesting a disaster declaration
- Understand the role of the province in disaster financial recovery

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- *Emergency Management Act*, Order-in-Council 2291/2004, assigns coordination of extraordinary provincial expenditures for emergencies to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- MMAH disaster financial assistance to public and private losses include:
 - ODRAP (response to natural disasters)
 - Ad Hoc Programs (response to other disasters)
 - ❖ SARS assistance program
 - ❖ Walkerton assistance program

EMERGENCY RESPONSE - IMPLICATIONS

Increase in scope and complexity of disasters

- Growing number of disasters
 - natural
 - technological or human-caused
- More expected due to
 - climate change
 - urbanization
 - technology
 - disease transmission
- Increase in demand for financial assistance

ODRAP PROGRAM

- Alleviates financial hardship caused by damage to essential, private & public property due to natural calamity
- Assists affected parties to restore property to pre-disaster condition
- Does not replace private insurance
- Only covers damages within declared disaster area
- On-going program since 1965, with periodic revisions and updates

ODRAP PROGRAM

Who is eligible?

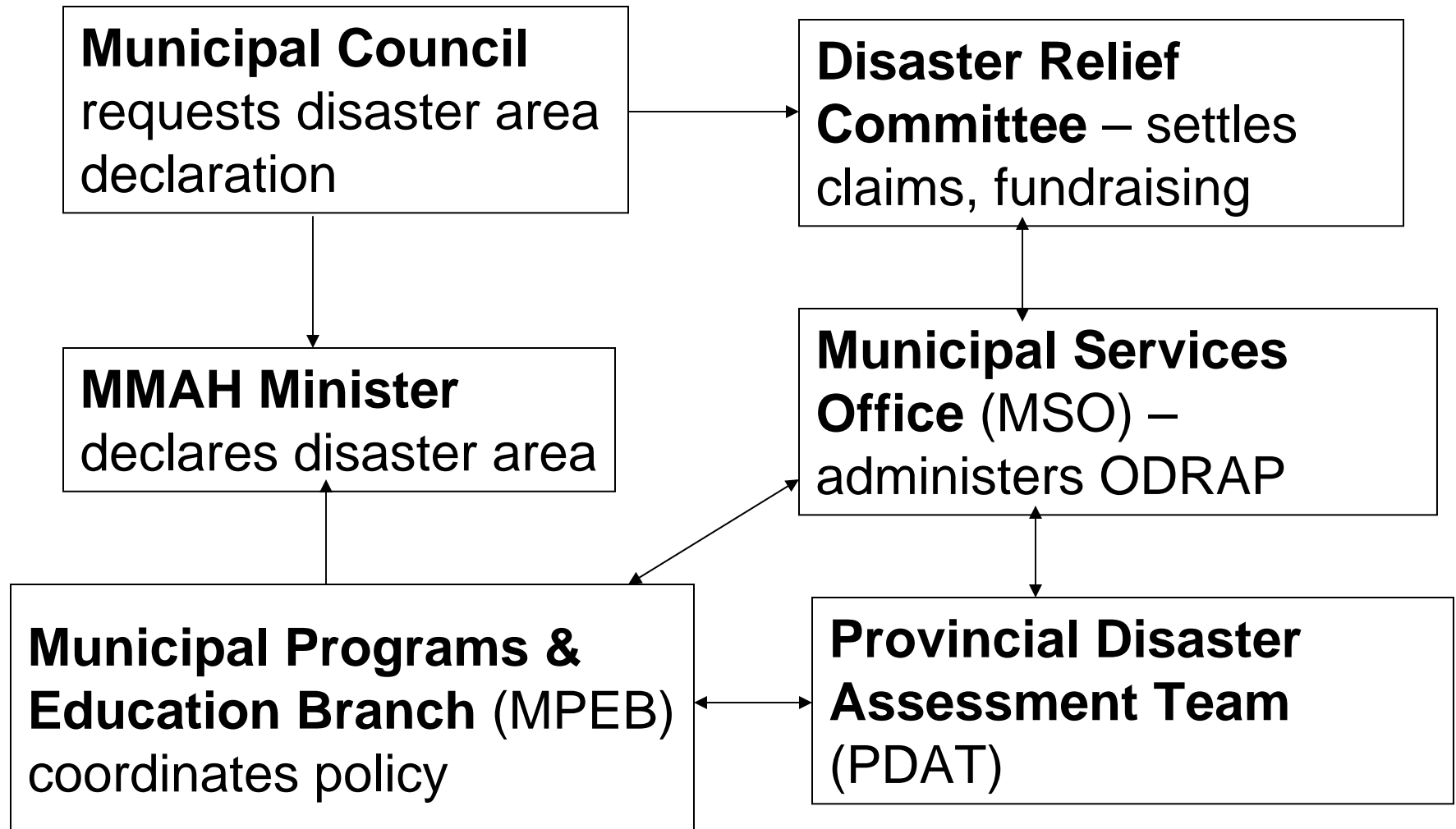
- Municipalities
- Private homeowners
- Farmers
- Small businesses
- Non-profit organizations

First Nations communities seek financial assistance from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and not through ODRAP

ODRAP PROGRAM

- Examples of Eligible Costs
 - Restoration, repairs or replacement to pre-disaster condition of principal year-round residences, farm buildings, and principal business enterprise buildings
 - Essential furnishings of a private residence including refrigerator, etc.
 - More information is also available on the Municipal Affairs and Housing website at www.mah.gov.on.ca

WHO ARE THE PLAYERS?



HOW TO ACCESS ODRAP

- A municipality must submit a resolution requesting the Minister to declare the affected area a disaster area within 14 working days
- The resolution should clearly define the area which may be declared a disaster area

HOW TO ACCESS ODRAP

- A lower tier municipality may request a declaration on its own
- An upper tier municipal request must include lower tier council resolutions
- If two or more municipalities have been affected by the same disaster, a single disaster area for all may be declared

ROLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

- Council defines the disaster area and makes request to Minister to declare disaster
- Council appoints members to Disaster Relief Committee (DRC)
- Work closely with the Municipal Services Office
- Assist province and DRC with resources, i.e., facilities, communications, staff resources to carry out financial assistance process

ROLE OF THE PROVINCE

- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is authorized to declare a “disaster area”
- Minister will consider cause/extent of damages relative to financial resources/capacity – through the Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT)

ROLE OF THE PROVINCE

- Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT) will:
 - Assess the scale of and need for disaster assistance
 - Recommend the appropriate level of recovery assistance and the need for emergency financial assistance

ROLE OF THE PROVINCE

- Provides financial assistance up to \$2 for every dollar raised locally, to an amount necessary to settle all eligible claims, up to 90% of all eligible costs
- ODRAP administered through the Municipal Services Offices and Municipal Programs and Education Branch

DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE (DRC)

DRC is:

- a requirement under ODRAP
- required to fundraise locally (requirement may be waived for remote communities)
- responsible for settling claims

DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE (DRC)

DRC:

- Members appointed by the municipality - cannot be members of council
- Acts as an autonomous body
- Operates within provincial guidelines
- May take six months to one year to settle all claims
- Volunteer committee

LESSONS LEARNED

- Continuous improvements will be made to the province's disaster assistance program and its delivery:
 - Preparedness
 - Assist victims faster, e.g., advance payments
 - Simplification of funding program criteria
 - Streamline coordination of provincial assistance
 - Manage public expectation
 - Coordinate financial assistance programs with other ministries, e.g., MCSS and federal government

MUNICIPAL SERVICES OFFICES CONTACT LIST

Central – Toronto: 1-800-668-0230

Eastern – Kingston: 1-800-267-9438

Southwestern – London: 1-800-265-4736

Northeastern – Sudbury: 1-800-461-1193

Northwestern – Thunder Bay: 1-800-465-5027

Municipal Programs and Education Branch – Toronto

Phone Number: (416) 585-7296

Fax Number: (416) 585-7292

Website: www.mah.gov.on.ca

ONTARIO DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

QUESTIONS??????