



Canadian Red Cross / Croix-Rouge canadienne

# Taking Action on Climate Change

John Saunders  
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## The Red Cross Society

- **Humanity** ► We strive to prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the human being.
- **Impartiality** ► We do not discriminate.
- **Neutrality** ► We do not take sides.
- **Independence** ► We maintain our autonomy.
- **Voluntary Service** ► Not prompted by desire for gain.
- **Unity** ► Only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country.
- **Universality** ► The Movement is worldwide.



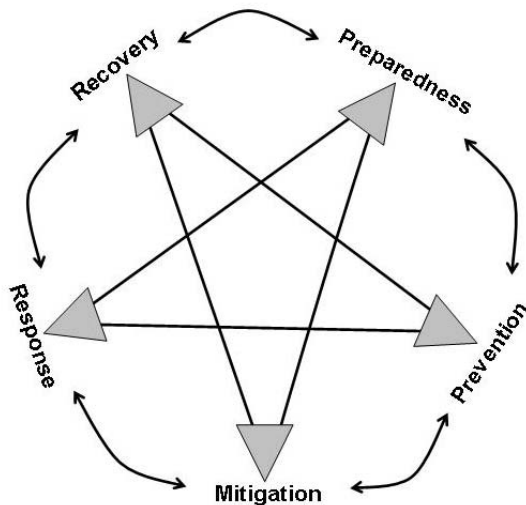
## The Red Cross Movement

- International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)
  - Geneva Conventions/ International Humanitarian Law
- International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent
  - Disaster and Emergency Response
- 186 National Societies
- Canadian Red Cross
  - National Office in Ottawa
  - 4 Zones (7,500 trained disaster volunteers)
    - Ontario Head Office in Mississauga (2,200 DM volunteers)



## The Red Cross Society and Climate Change

- Climate change impacts threaten the safety, health and security of individuals and communities, particularly those who have a limited capacity to adapt and respond.
- The Red Cross/Red Crescent movement is actively engaging to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable people who suffer most from the consequences of climate change will be heard.



Is there any time when partnerships are not needed?



## The Red Cross Society and Climate Change

- Regardless of the reason for it, Climate Change is a reality that must be considered.
- Observable increase in both frequency and severity of weather across Canada



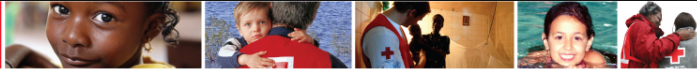
## North American Context

- Mary's Lake in Montana's Glacier National Park. When the park was created in 1910, it had 150 glaciers. Now it has 30 glaciers, significantly reduced in size.



## Actions

- CRC's top priority is to increase its domestic disaster response capacity, due to the increased risk of climate change-related natural disasters; and
- In addition, CRC is also examining other potential services, including building community disaster preparedness to deal with the effects of climate change



## Actions

- Working with Community's and research determine likely impacts and develop mitigation plans focussing on
  - Vulnerable populations
  - Economic Changes/Social Impacts
  - Movement of People
    - IDPs (Internally Displaced People)
    - Refugees (Fleeing from impacts of Climate Change elsewhere)



## Actions

- Impacts for many particularly in the north and coastal areas
- Provincial/Municipal - Use CRC expertise to educate community members on Personal Emergency Preparedness



In addressing the issues related to climate change in our corporate strategy, Red Cross will seek to improve its capacity to address the humanitarian impact of climate change on vulnerable communities in Canada and around the world.



## Questions/Follow Up

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