

## **BUSINESS CONTINUITY AS A COMPONENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (2015)**

A healthy community includes a strong and vibrant business community. In order to return a community to full function following a community disaster or crisis, it is critical that businesses be returned to operation as quickly as possible. To cope with crises or disasters of various scales, it is necessary that the province establish business continuity as part of provincial emergency planning and that procedures and templates for local government include business continuity plans.

Communities that are the most resilient are those that have a complete and comprehensive plan that encompasses all facets of the community. Current plans include provisions that elicit a response from health care, first responders and emergency services, but not business continuity with the same clarity. This creates a slower return to normal function as business is the key driver to recovery through the supply of much needed goods and services. Chambers of Commerce, economic development offices and business improvement associations across the province are uniquely positioned within the community to mobilize quick and effective responses. They have established relationships on a local, regional, provincial and national scale, including comprehensive databases and the ability to activate the resources required for recovery.

Recognizing that some plans are in place and that further work is required to include business continuity in those plans.

### **THE CHAMBER RECOMMENDS**

That the Provincial Government:

1. work with the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Associations of BC and the BC Business Improvement Association to incorporate business continuity plans into the current emergency preparedness plans; and
2. adjust the Provincial Emergency Management Act to include procedures and templates for local communities which reference the local Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations as key components of emergency planning.

Submitted by:

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