

## FACT SHEET

### REGIONAL DISTRICTS AND EMERGENCY PLANNING LEGISLATION

#### BILL 54 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

Bill 54 has introduced a requirement for regional districts to prepare emergency plans for their electoral areas and to create emergency management organizations to develop and implement the emergency measures by January 1, 2006.

#### BACKGROUND

Twenty (20) regional districts already have the emergency planning functions granted by Order in Council. However, what is not known is the last time these plans may have been reviewed or exercised (funding is also available for these purposes).

#### RESPONSIBILITY WITH FLEXIBILITY

Following the Filmon report recommendation, the provincial government introduced legislation to make emergency planning in electoral areas mandatory.

Some areas of flexibility were introduced with respect to implementation:

- implementation date

Is established for January 1, 2006 but the Minister may vary the effective date.

- Electoral Area coverage<sup>1</sup>

Plans may be for all or portions of electoral areas. The only stipulation is that in the final “roll-up” the plan will cover all of a regional districts electoral areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Plans do not cover Indian Reserves but PEP wishes to advise that they are approaching DIAND on the issue of emergency preparedness for these areas.