

Thunder Bay Flood Disaster 2012



Presented by:
Mayor Keith Hobbs, City of Thunder Bay

The Weather Event

Flood Disaster of May 28, 2012

- Approximately 40 mm of rain fell on May 24
- Series of heavy thunderstorms formed and re-formed over the area between roughly midnight and 4 am on May 28
- Environment Canada rain gauges recorded between 91 and 97 mm
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority rain gauge reported an amount exceeding 110 mm



Declaration of Emergency May 28, 2012

- Emergency Operations Control (EOC)
Group convenes at 7 am
- A Declaration of Emergency is
declared for the City of Thunder Bay at
8:15 am



Disaster Impact

- Largest in scope, scale and duration
- Impacted the most citizens
- 4,000 to 5,000 estimated impacted homes
- Impacted the most infrastructure
- Most expensive



Infrastructure Response

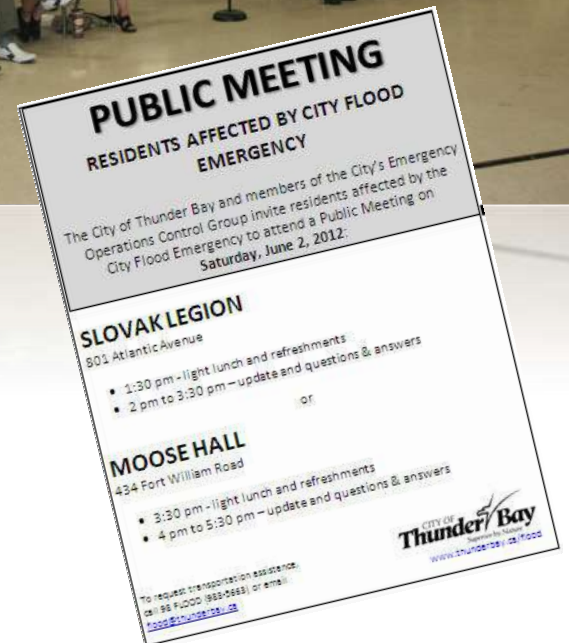
- City crews mobilized immediately to undertake repairs to return to pre-flood conditions
- Assessment of damage to City infrastructure including roads, bridges, sewers and trails
- Water restrictions imposed across the City
- “Drop everything” priority for many City staff



Community Response

Key Communication Channels:

- Dedicated flood webpage
- 98-FLOOD information line
- City Facebook Page
- Disaster Relief Agencies and community groups (e.g. Red Cross, Salvation Army)
- Outcome: Clear regular communication and consistent channels



Community Response

Media Relations:

- 40 media releases
- 21 media briefings
- Minister's announcement
- Outcome: Strong and consistent media relations with excellent use of virtually all messages and daily sidebars on service info



Disaster Area

- Resolution by Council adopted to declare the City of Thunder Bay a disaster area for the purposes of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program on May 30
- Honourable Kathleen Wynn declared the Thunder Bay & area a Disaster Area on June 8

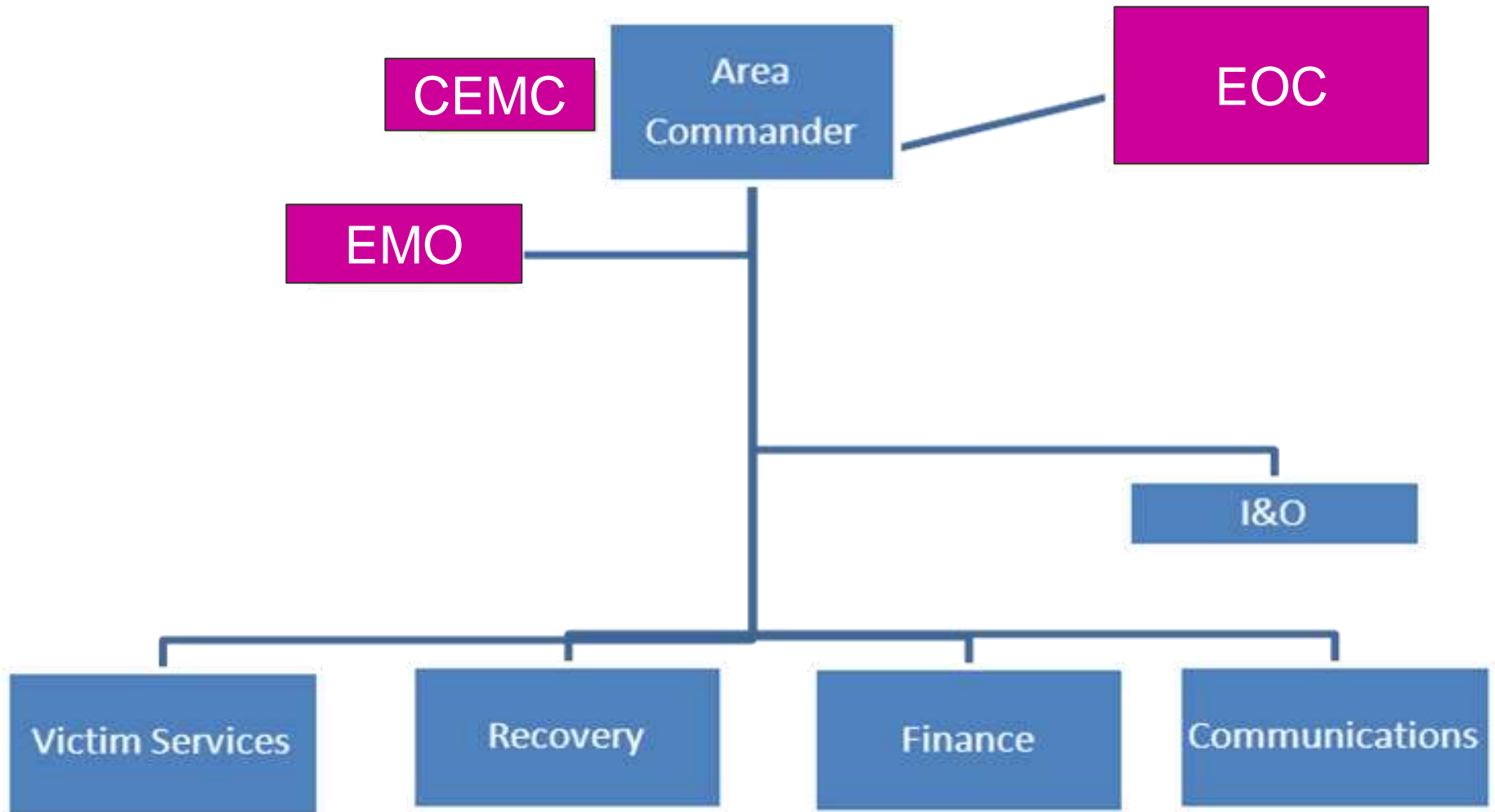


Emergency Response

- Coordinate, Confirm and Communicate
- Reduce freelancing and thereby reduce risk and confusion in our emergency response



Organizational Chart



Disaster Mitigation Measures

- Safe Homes Program (approx. 500 homes assisted)
- Special Garbage Collection
- Fees for Repairs – Building Permits, TSA charges
- Water Charges Rebates
- Extended Landfill Hours
(fees waived)

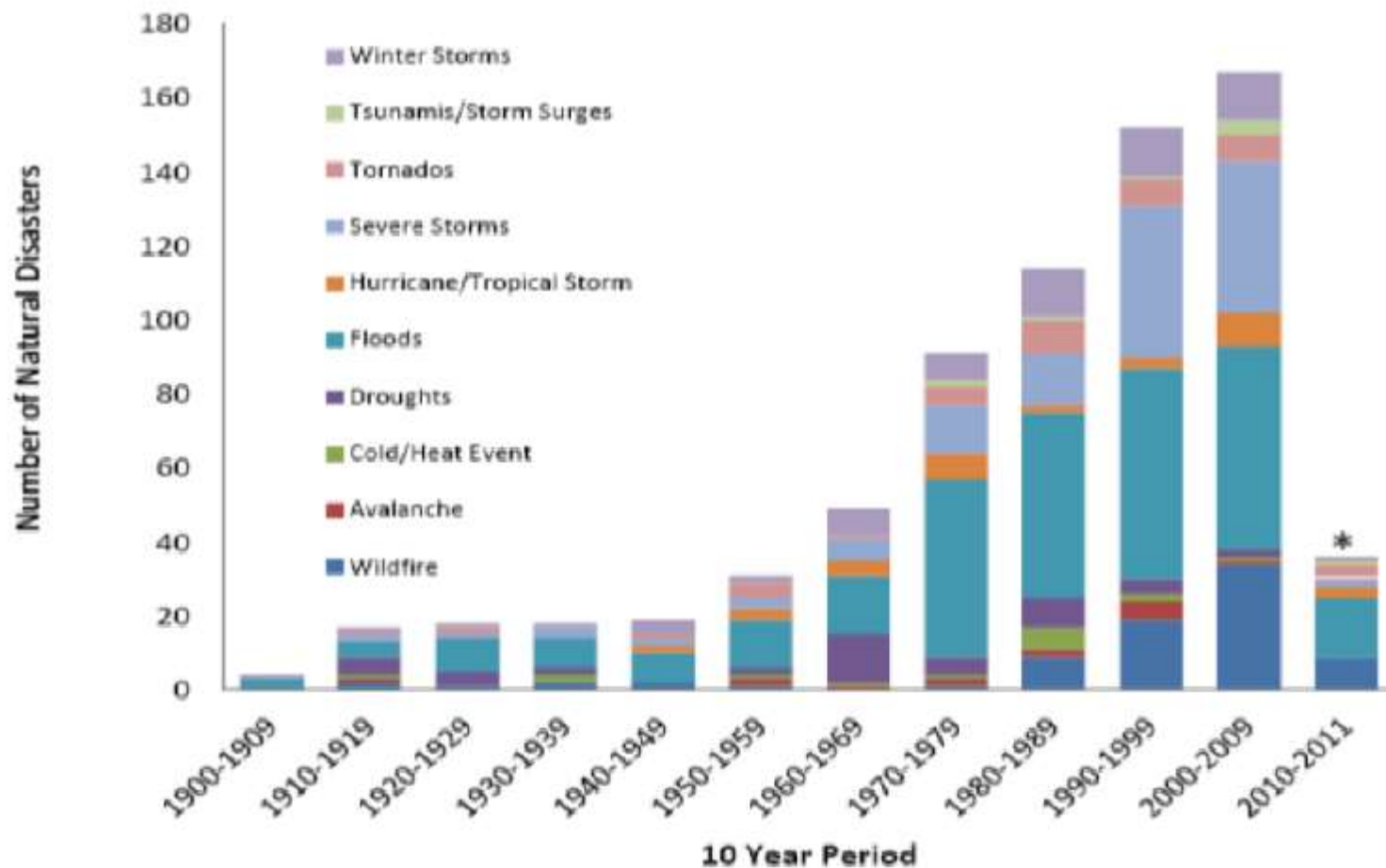


Emergency Response

- Disaster Relief Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and community groups worked closely with EOC
- Immediate life threats and needs dealt with, including temporary accommodation (e.g. Lakehead University)
- Weather cooperated, threat was static
- Scope and scale of disaster continued to be assembled
- Dedicated 24/7 police patrols to address disorder issues



Frequency of Natural Disasters in Canada (1900-2011)



*: The final bar in the graph only covers the first 2 years of the decade.

Moving Forward

- Building on a strong foundation
- Moving from mitigation to adaptation
- Capitalizing on our existing capacity and expertise both internally and externally



Building Resilience

- Development of an Adaptation Plan
 - Regional approach – GLAA-C + ISC Workshop
 - ICLEI facilitated framework
 - Integrate adaptive measures across corporation



Building Resilience

- Engage the community through existing collaborative multi-stakeholder approach
 - Community Environmental Action Plan
- Advocate for regulatory and financial support



Contact Information

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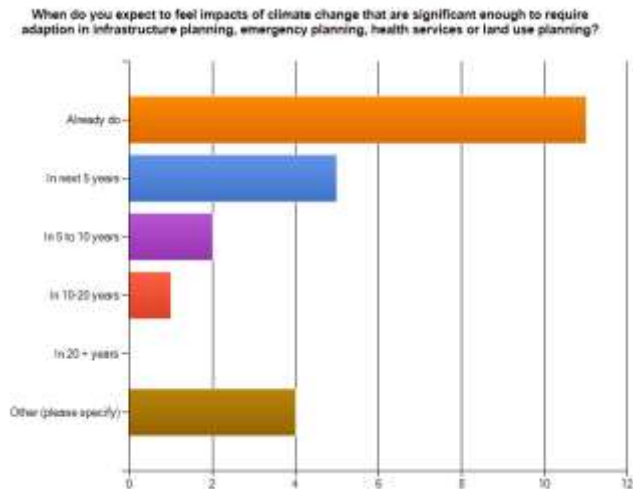
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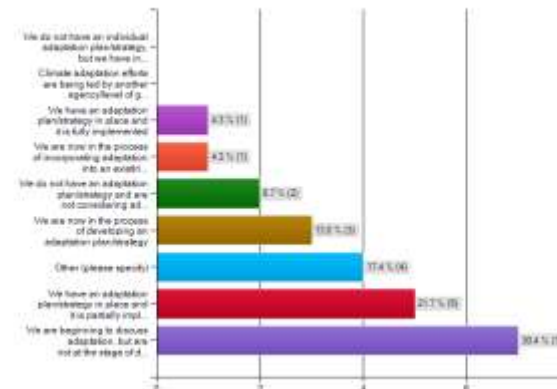


State of Adaptation in Basin

- Most members are currently or expect to see climate impacts within 5 years.
- Most members are only in beginning stages of planning or implementing adaptation measures.



Which statement most accurately reflects your municipality's current situation? (choose one)



Resiliency and Adaptation Service for Members

1. A 'Community of practice' portal with information on climate change adaptation, including case studies, weather and climate information, a library of relevant documents and websites, and recordings of training webinars;
 - a) portal will have interactive functions that allow municipal staff to share information and dialogue amongst each other.
2. A facilitated service with staff available by phone to answer questions of municipal staff, as well as direct them to relevant online resources
3. Training via webinars with regionally focused case studies presented by member municipalities
4. A pledge by members to advance adaptation measures over 2-5 years and a Cities Initiative recognition award.



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ARE CALLING



Navigating Change

Thunder Bay, Ontario | June 18-20, 2014

SAVE THE DATE

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2014 Annual Meeting and Conference

thunderbay2014.com

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Thunder Bay
Superior by Nature

