



# **Canadian Risk and Hazards Network (CRHNet)**

## **2017 Annual Report (draft)**

October 31, 2017

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## **Introduction**

The Canadian Risk and Hazards Network (CRHNet) is a not-for-profit Association that was established in 2003 in response to a growing demand to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency management in Canada. It creates an environment in which hazards research, education and emergency management practitioner communities can effectively share knowledge and innovative approaches that reduce disaster vulnerability.

Reducing risk through partnerships calls attention to the need for creating partnerships among academics, the hazards research education, and emergency management practitioner communities, across all sectors. The network seeks to enhance the understanding of, and provide tools for, the development of comprehensive programs to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of disasters - natural, technological or human-induced.

The primary objectives of the CRHNet are to:

- \_ Initiate the development of a Canadian inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral network of researchers, academics and practitioners to enhance understanding of emergency management in all dimensions and help build Canadian capacity to deal effectively with threats and consequences from all hazards.
- \_ Create a Canadian annual forum for dialogue focusing on disaster risk reduction and facilitate policy formulation and adoption of best practices in Canada.
- \_ Provide a Canadian venue to learn from the experiences of other countries by inviting internationally reputed scholars, practitioners, and participants to the Symposium and to share Canadian experience and efforts in disaster reduction

This report describes the activities and outcomes for 2017 which saw significant achievements including establishing an Academic Network, creation of a Canadian Volunteer Award, participation in and support for our mentorship program, productive Standing Committees, introduction of a new Affiliate Membership category to enable great networking and sharing with provincial practitioner associations, and a successful annual symposium.

## **President's Report**

The past year saw the full implementation of a new governance model, with a smaller board, focussed on managing strategy, and largely autonomous Standing Committees, with accountability to the Board. Our operating philosophy has been to empower and support the committees, to better leverage our capacity and partnerships, extend our influence and provide more value for our members.

We have every reason to be pleased at the results achieved over the past year. Membership has grown, as have our revenues, which has enabled us to improve our services. We have enhanced our online publication, HazNet, which is an important vehicle for showcasing research and innovation. We have strengthened our online presence and social media channels, which help to foster dialog, and socialize knowledge, methods and tools. We have also sponsored several new research initiatives that have fostered new partnerships and attracted investment.

We continue to offer a great showcase for research and practice through our annual Symposium, which continues to attract educators and students, leading researchers and practitioners, and serves as Canada's showcase for innovation in disaster management. Mindful of Canada's worst modern era disaster, the 2017 Symposium was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia with the theme of "Building Resilience, from Catastrophe to Capacity". It attracted over 150 attendees from five countries.

We continue to expand our service offerings. We recently instituted the Canadian Disaster Risk Management Volunteer Award which along with the T. Joseph Scanlon Lifetime Achievement Award, the Larry Pearce Education Award and our Symposium Travel Bursary Program, recognize excellence. There has been active participation in our mentorship program, which pairs established Canadian academics, researchers and practitioners, with students and new professionals, to share their knowledge, insights and experience. And work is well underway with our Academic Network.

Our network has grown and strengthened in the past year, and we are positioned well to serve those concerned with reducing disaster risk, fostering disaster resilience and managing events. Our value proposition remains to be a network of networks, to foster collaboration and innovation in disaster risk reduction and community resilience. To that end, we value your continued interest, your active participation and your contributions to building a resilient Canada.

*Ernest MacGillivray, CRHNet President, Governance Chair*

## The CRHNet Board of Directors

Ernie MacGillivray - President  
Patricia Martel – Vice President

Judith Muncaster - Treasurer  
Brenda Murphy – Secretary

Shona de Jong  
David Diabo  
Michel Dore  
Jodi Manz-Henezi

Gale McMahon  
Jacqueline Randall  
Mark Seemann

Marion Boon, Executive Director

Board members meet monthly via tele-conference. Many former board members continue to serve the CRHNet by taking on leadership of projects and serving as CRHNet ambassadors:

- Ron Kuban – Past President
- Larry Pearce – CRHNet Ambassador
- Lily Yumagulova – HazNet Editor
- Bert Struik – Registrar, Web Master and Technical Support
- Hans de Smet – Honorary Director

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

In accordance with the CRHNet bylaws, an AGM is held annually and traditionally on the second day of the annual symposium. The agenda and minutes of the last AGM are provided in advance to the membership and posted on the CRHNet website. The 2017 AGM was held October 26<sup>th</sup> at Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

## Financial

The fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2016 and ending March 31, 2017 saw CRHNet's finances continue to increase in health. A project to source funding through trusts and foundations to support and advance CRHNet initiatives is underway. Individual, academic and corporate memberships ensured the Network's sustainability to carry forward its work of creating partnerships among academics, the hazards research education, and emergency management practitioner communities, production of the HazNet journal, and providing bursaries and scholarships for work with young professionals.

**CANADIAN RISK AND HAZARDS NETWORK**  
(A Non-Profit Organization)  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT MARCH 31, 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 79,981	\$ 88,927
Short-term investments	63,353	62,435
Government remittances receivable	0	1,164
	<u>\$ 143,334</u>	<u>\$ 152,526</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,503
Government remittances payable	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,544	1,503
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	<u>141,790</u>	<u>151,023</u>
	<u>\$ 143,334</u>	<u>\$ 152,526</u>

**APPROVED BY THE ORGANIZATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

*Judith Muncaster, Treasurer*

## **Standing Committees**

One of CRHNet's goals is developing and advancing a Canadian inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral network of researchers, academics and practitioners. This enhances understanding of emergency management in all dimensions and help build Canadian capacity to deal effectively with threats and consequences from all hazards. The Standing Committees are key in doing that.

During 2017 the Committees were very active in serving the membership and advancing the Network's objectives. All the Committees have established Terms of Reference to provide direction and focus for their work. These can be found on the CRHNet website.

## **Academic Network**

This new CRHNet initiative developed following the 2016 Symposium under the leadership of Ron Kuban. The aim of the Network is to advance common academic-informed initiatives among Canadian post-secondary academic institutions and interested professional associations.

The Network is intended primarily for representatives of post-secondary academic institutions that have an interest in or an active program relating to disaster risk reduction and emergency management. A secondary potential group of participants includes representatives of training programs from industry or various associations, as well as academics with interest in disaster reduction and emergency management.

## **Awards Committee**

2017 was another successful year for the Awards Program, largely due to the continued commitment of the award coordinators, Brenda Murphy (Lifetime Achievement Award), Nick Roberts (Larry Pearce Education Award, and Stephanie Sodero (Volunteer Award and Symposium Travel Bursary). Thanks to each for their hard work in expanding and promoting various achievements in disaster risk management.

This year, the committee is proud to have honoured select individuals in each of our four CRHNet award categories. Notably, Larry Pearce's long-time commitment to disaster management through his numerous public-sector, private-sector and volunteer roles was recognized as the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

CRHNet congratulates the 2017 Award recipients. The awards were presented during the Reception evening of the 2017 Annual Symposium in Halifax, Nova Scotia

<b>Lifetime Achievement Award:</b>	Larry Pearce
<b>Canadian DRM Volunteer Award:</b>	Nicolas Chebroux
<b>Larry Pearce Education Award:</b>	
First Place (\$1000):	Kari Lentowicz
Second Place (\$750):	Sarah Greenberg
Third Place (\$500):	Denise Blinn
<b>Symposium Travel Bursary (\$500):</b>	
Emily Gray	Arielle Dalley
Diamir de Scally	Brennan Vogel
Kari Lentowicz	

Details on the Awards categories can be found at <http://www.crhnet.ca/crhnet-annual-awards>

The Award Program made progress in several areas, but two are of particular note. First, the Committee introduced a new national volunteer award in disaster risk management in 2017. Named the Canadian DRM Volunteer Award, and approved by the Board in the spring of 2017, its first recipient is Nicolas Chebroux. Second, significant progress was made towards ensuring all awards are offered in both French and English. While we were not able to roll out the new bi-lingual platform in time for this year's award season, we are confident in having it established for 2018.

Next year the committee has prioritized the **completion of the French translations**; the introduction of a national **DRM teaching award**; the **marketing of the Awards Program** as a whole, as well as individual awards; and a review of Award **funding opportunities** to minimize the direct costs to the CRHNet.

*Mark Seemann, Committee Chair*

## Communication Committee

The Committee has completed the following in 2016/2017

- Contributed to several CRHNet bilingual initiatives, completing translations
- Profiled the CRHNet social media venues
- Nominated Bert Struik for the 2017 T. Joseph Scanlon Lifetime Achievement Award for his longstanding contribution to CRHNet communication initiatives.
- Ensured CRHNet Social media links go to Facebook Page and LinkedIn Page so CRHNet can begin to collate data on: i) user engagement, ii) location, age and gender of followers, iii) interests
- Built up CRHNet as a cultural platform by consistently contributing to social media postings in CRHNet LinkedIn and Facebook pages.
- Reposting four CRHNet Trailblazer Career Path Interviews - <https://hes.laurentian.ca/disaster-risk-reduction-2017>
- Introduction to CRHNet in Social Media postings, e.g., CRHNet: A network of networks! Ignite Platform - <http://eird.org/rp17/ignite-stage.html>
- Created content linked social media postings to stimulate engagement and support an online environment for CRHNet social media followers
- Contributed to the CRHNet slide deck prepared for the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. Montreal, Canada.
- Contributed to the text and e-blast content advertising and promoting the 2017 Symposium.

## Work in progress

- Fundraising to support a future CRHNet communication initiative
- Working with Bert Struik, Webmaster to get a sense of data analytics
- Building Communication Bridges with Standing Committees - to provide reports on Communication Initiatives: Academic Network, Awards, HazNet, Membership, Mentorship and Young Professionals Group.
- Preparation for 2018 Symposium, an initiative to brand all presentations made at the 2018 CRHNET Symposium
- Information gathering – for an major collaborative online initiative
- Developing a strategic information sheet and PowerPoint presentation to expand the communication committee team of volunteers. for example, i) positions on the communications committee, ii) shorter term project support volunteers, iii) longer term project support volunteers and iv) registering interest in potential projects.

## CRHNet Social Media Sites

**Facebook Page:** Canadian Risk and Hazards Network – CRHNet  
<https://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Risk-and-Hazards-Network-CRHNet-1602937320000296/>

**Facebook Group:** CRHNet Young Professionals group  
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=canadian%20risk%20and%20hazards%20network%20-%20young%20professionals>

**LinkedIn Page:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/15177513/>

**LinkedIn Group:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3662609>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/CRHNet>

*Hans Asnong and Shona de Jong, Committee Co-chairs*

## HazNet

HazNet is the magazine and information dissemination platform of the Canadian Risks and Hazards Network (CRHNet). The magazine is published twice per year, online and in limited hard copy format. The platform is a participatory web tool that serves the information needs of practitioners, researchers and citizens working in the fields of disaster risk reduction, emergency management and climate resilience. Our mandate is to foster an interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial education and engagement for resilience.

The past year was a year of qualitative and quantitative growth for HazNet. An exceptional group of DRR professionals and domain experts from across the country forms the HazNet Editorial team. In addition to the 10 core members, numerous volunteers have contributed to HazNet. HazNet is primarily volunteer-based with project- and task-specific honoraria.

### HazNet stats:

- Number of visitors: from 400 visitors to over 3K
- There is a strong domestic and global reach for a niche publication. Canada and US are top two audiences (e.g. for August Canada 61.72%; United States 15.12%; Switzerland 8.41%; Turkey 2.50%; India 1.70%; New Zealand 1.70%; United Kingdom; 1.52%, etc.) British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta and Quebec are the top four Canadian audiences, of the nine provinces reached.

- Diverse and healthy distribution of routing to the site/top traffic sources that shows a mix of direct reach, social media, academic search, and partner NGO among others (Aug. 25th sample: Direct 345; Google 279; facebook.com 138; crhnet.ca 63; preventionweb.net 31; linkedin.com 28; scholar.google.com.tr 27)
- Twitter (from 125 to 500+ users (targeting relevant organizational accounts that contribute to emergency management or public education in Canada))

## **Resilience 2.0**

In addition to publishing our regular issues, we have significantly expanded our online platform. Building on a collaborative initiative between the CRHNet Young Professionals, several Universities, and the HazNet magazine, a significant amount of effort was dedicated to the development of 'Resilience 2.0' (working title) component which will serve as a clearinghouse and one-stop place to enable an easy and user-friendly way for searching existing projects, initiatives and research going on across Canada in the field of disaster risk reduction, resilience and emergency management.

The platform will collect, curate, and host recent research and practice application in the fields of community resilience, emergency management and disaster risk reduction. The online tool can be updated on an on-going basis and will be populated through targeted research by the team. A simple entry input structure for ongoing submissions (e.g. Theme, Description, Tags, Links, Contacts) will be developed. While some social media capacity exists for HazNet through various social media channels (e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter) this initiative will be focused on building a targeted user base, expanding the reach through regular weekly postings of content developed for HazNet (such as videos, interviews, highlights from the "resilience research and practice guide"). This will be the main online dissemination channels for the developed content.

## **Emergence Program**

HazNet's new 'EMERGENCE' program is a collaborative initiative that brings together experienced writers and emerging Indigenous and immigrant artists to create awareness about disasters and climate resilience. The program works with youth in foster care, youth from remote reserves, and other underrepresented voices in disaster resilience and climate adaptation action. EMERGENCE was created in partnership with the Tilikum Lens Program and Preparing Our Home program.

## Stories from Canadians

In addition to strong focus on expert audience, HazNet is broadening its horizons to engage Canadians at-large in community resilience conversations. As part of this initiative, we have started a 'Stories' section that features experiences of Canadians with disasters. A letter from Cariboo by George Emery: <http://haznet.ca/a-letter-from-cariboo/> The visual story behind the lawn-mowing man defying tornado: <http://haznet.ca/visual-story-behind-lawn-mowing-man-defying-tornado/>

## HazNet Team

An exceptional team of DRR professionals and domain experts from across the country forms the HazNet team. HazNet is primarily volunteer-based with project- and task-specific honoraria.

- John Chapman - HazNet social media officer
- Peter Christie - editorial board member
- Sarah-Maude Guindon - French content editor
- Krystle Hamilton – editorial board member
- Shaun Koopman – editorial board member
- Sarah Kamal - copy editor
- Nicole Spence - Resilience 2.0 project lead.
- Lilia Yumagulova - Editor-in-Chief

More information is available here: <http://haznet.ca/about-haznet/>  
*Lily Yumagulova, Committee Chair*

## Membership

CRHNet is a not-for-profit entity and depends to a significant degree on member contributions to cover operating expenses. CRHNet membership rates and benefits are available on the CRHNet website. There will be a slight increase in the individual rate going from \$50 to \$75 for the 2018 membership year. The CRHNet membership rates have been the same since the CRHNet inception in 2003. A new Affiliate Membership category is now in place to enable members in good standing with provincial and practitioner associations to become an affiliate CRHNet member. The British Columbia Association of Emergency Managers is the first organization to sign an affiliate membership agreement.

Individual members in good standing receive savings on the annual Symposium delegate registration. They are each provided with accounts on the CRHNet website and can vote on CRHNet business items at the Annual General Meeting.

Corporate members receive similar savings and voting opportunities for several of their staff, dependent on the level of their corporate membership. Students in the disaster management and related programs of Academic Corporate members receive free CRHNet membership upon their request for registration. The support of our academic and corporate members provides significant funding for the work of the CRHNet.

CRHNet operates an online and invoice system for individual and corporate membership registration. Email reminders for renewal of membership are typically sent early in the fiscal year to current and past members. A second email reminder was sent in the spring of 2017.

Membership in 2017:

- Individual Membership: 60
- Student; 38
- Academic Corporate: 6
  - JIBC
  - NAIT
  - Royal Roads University
  - University of Quebec at Montreal
  - Wilfrid Laurier University
  - York
- Corporate: 6
  - Alberta Emergency Management Agency
  - Emergency Management British Columbia
  - ICLR
  - Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs
  - Nunavut
  - Public Safety Canada

*Gale McMahon, Elena Nicolinco. Membership Co-Chairs*

### **Mentorship Program**

When initiated, the Mentorship Program encountered technical issues with the electronic application process for both mentorship applicants and mentors. It took a while, but once these issues were resolved, there were a dozen applications that were processed. Some applicants withdrew their application due to changing circumstances for them. At this time, all but one of the applications has been processed and matched with a mentor. The process involves two main challenges:

availability of enough potential mentors to draw from and the establishment of a proper fit between each applicant and his/her mentor. Informal feedback so far indicates positive response from those involved. The intent is to follow-up the pairing of Proteges and Mentors with formal evaluation after their first year together. That should better inform the program's viability.

In the meanwhile, the program is welcoming new applicants and additional mentors. Please promote this program to any whom you believe would benefit from it as applicants or serving as a mentor.

*Ron Kuban, Committee Chair*

### **Nominations Committee**

Committee members are Brenda Murphy, Ron Kuban and Mark Seeman

This year the Committee

- 1) worked to confirm returning Board membership and solicited new members for the Board
- 2) undertook a hiring process to find a new Executive Director

*Brenda Murphy, Committee Chair*

### **CRHNet Young Professionals (YP)**

The Committee works to support and develop opportunities for youth and young professionals in the fields of disaster risk reduction and emergency management. The YP Facebook page provides opportunities to connect with nation-wide communities in the fields of emergency management, disaster resilience and climate change adaptation. The forum provides information about jobs and internship opportunities, scholarships and other educational opportunities, publishing opportunities, recent research and serves as a general platform for discussing topical issues: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/226314887482727/>

*Bettina Falloon and Jodi Manz-Henezi, Committee Co-chairs*

## **Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

CRHNet is a permanent member of the Platform for DRR Steering Committee. CRHNet Board Members Shona de Jong and Michel Dore serve as the CRHNet representatives. Full details on the role at [Advisory Committee](#). Board members Shona de Jong, Michel Dore and Brenda Murphy presented at the March 2017 Fifth Regional Platform of the Americas Roundtable meeting held in Ottawa.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual CRHNet Symposium**

In October 2017, CRHNet held its 43<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium historic Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Attendance at the three-day event was over 150 and attracted academics, practitioners, researchers and public officials engaged in emergency management and disaster risk reduction. The theme of the 2017 symposium was "Building Resilience: "From Catastrophe to Capacity" and recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

The Symposium planning and organizing was led by a Steering Committee. The members were: Ernest MacGillivray, Patricia Martel, Michel Dore, Gail McMahon, Jodi Manz-Henezi, Vanessa Perugien, Ancel Langille, and Marion Boon. The Program Committee charged with processing the proposals for sessions and presentations and developing the symposium program was: Michel Dore, Kevin Quigley, Shona de Jong, Yannick Hemond, Bettina Falloon and Murielle Provost.

As in recent years, the Symposium was co-located with the Federal Government's Roundtable for Disaster Risk Reduction. An Alberta based event management company was contracted to assist with logistics, marketing and communication.

## **Networks and partnerships**

Linkages have been established and maintained with a number of associations and organizations in our common goal of disaster risk reduction. These include:

- ARISE Canada (public sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies)
- Assembly of First Nations
- British Columbia Association of Emergency Managers
- Canadian Cybersecurity Alliance
- Canadian Tri-Services Emergency Management Committee
- Catastrophe Indices and Quantification Inc. (CatIQ)
- Council on Emergency Management (CEMT)
- Defence Research and Development Canada
- IAEM Canada
- Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction

- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation.
- Ontario Association of Emergency Managers
- Partners for Action: University of Waterloo
- Post-Secondary institutions
- Public Safety Canada
- Public Works Association

## **Website**

CRHNet has continued to expand the services and content offered by its website at [www.CRHNet.ca](http://www.CRHNet.ca). In addition to promoting CRHNet's objectives and initiatives, the website is a resource for members, is used by the CRHNet Board and the Standing Committees for sharing and storage of documents, and online membership and symposium registration.

CRHNet is indebted to Bert Struik, former board member who is the CRHNet Web Master, and, also manages the membership and symposium registration process and related databases.

## **Conclusion**

CRHNet continues to grow in an inclusive manner that aims to promote understanding, the growth of knowledge, and collaboration. The Network has increased its reach among stakeholders and linked to new stakeholders in the indigenous community, northern communities, institutions with disaster risk reduction and emergency management programs, and research establishments. It aims to continue reaching out to and connecting with other stakeholders. It also aims to share/promote available knowledge through its web-based library.

CRHNet invites the engagement of other stakeholders in the emergency management and disaster risk reduction field. Together we can make Canada a safer place to live, work and play. Together we can reduce the toll that disasters' impact has on us as individuals, organizations and communities.

Thank you for your support.