Building Local Resilience to Extreme Weather

Dr. Lucy Cummings, *Faith & the Common Good*

February 10, 2016
Who: Faith & the Common Good

• Canada’s only national, interfaith sustainability network. Network members share sacred calling to protect creation, serve our neighbors.

• 10+ yrs experience helping diverse faith communities practice and promote sustainability.
What: “Neighborhood Extreme Weather Resilience Hubs”

Source: The City of Calgary

Where all roads to sustainability meet
Objectives

• Proof of concept project to explore how Toronto’s diverse faith communities could be better utilized as local service centers during extreme weather emergencies.

• In depth assessments at 8 diverse faith pilot sites across the city as well as public workshops, training, and resource development.
The Need

- Increasing extreme weather impacts.
- Government can’t do it all. Urgent need for more response and recovery to serve vulnerable during next extreme weather event
- Social infrastructure as important as hard infrastructure
- Community Resilience = Cost effective
Why Faith Communities?

• Helping the vulnerable is in DNA
• Outreach programs run by a strong network of committed volunteers (Out of the Cold, Food Banks)
• # of large buildings across the city that can accommodate the neighbourhood community
Why Faith Communities

Brampton Vulnerability Map: Places of worship and Vulnerable Populations (2500 m buffer)

Produced by: Armindu Aliu
Produced for: City of Brampton
Emergency Management Office
April 27, 2015

Legend
- Places of worship buffer 2
- Places of worship buffer 1
- Places of worship buffer
- Places of Worship Brampton
- Elderly Community Centres
- Low Income Housing
- Long Term Care Facilities Brampton
- COHSL Brampton
- Rail Brampton
- Dissemination Area 2011 Brampton
- DMTI 2010 Street Muni
- Brampton Muni

Where all roads to sustainability meet
What are we asking faith communities to do?

• Share info about how to prepare for an emergency
• Ask internal team, staff, and members to prepare
• Work with local officials and neighborhood partner organizations
• Look specifically at your ‘vulnerable populations’ and help plan for their safety in an emergency
• Make and implement a plan of action.
Selection Criteria

- Scorecard used Fall 2014 to benchmark both building and volunteer capacity
- 8.5/10 minimum in each section
- 10 out of 12 faith communities qualified; 8 selected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Capacity Scorecard</th>
<th>Yes/No/Unsure</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility - Wheelchair access</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room that can sleep 30-50 people</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washrooms on same floor as room</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen with food basics in fridge</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stove(s), cab feed 30-50 people</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/C upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First aid &amp; candles near room</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generator</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage capacity for emergency supplies</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room for temporary waste disposal</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL # “Yes”</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Capacity Scorecard</th>
<th>Yes/No/Unsure</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith community already engaged in Food Banks /Out of Cold programs</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith leader &amp; board of directors support</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 physically strong volunteers who do above programs twice yearly</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire &amp; willingness to come immediately, when in an emergency</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live within 10-15 minutes of faith building</td>
<td>Y/N/U</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selection Criteria

- Maps prepared by SDFA (Wellness Office), City of Toronto
- Symbols allowed us to look at vulnerable population and possible community partners
- Sites selected in/near NIA’s*; we are 2 km from existing community centres (no overlap)
- Different faiths & city-wide

*Neighbourhood Improvement Areas = designated as High Risk Neighbourhoods
Where all roads to sustainability meet
Partners are key.

where all roads to sustainability meet
Education is key.

**TALK transformation!**

Preventing Toronto for an Extreme Weather Future – Community and Infrastructure Resilience

This City of Toronto event series is hosted by the Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

**Thursday, September 24**

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto
2 Sussex Drive

**Speakers:**

- John Bryden, Evergreen CityWorks
- Dr. Lucy Cunningham, Faith & the Common Good
- Dr. Patricia McCauley, World Council on City Data
- Global Cities Institute, University of Toronto
- Greatist Network, Financial District BIA

Details at toronto.ca/transformto
Ex.: Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Potential Community Partners:
• Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)
• Centennial Library
• Circle of Care
• Eva’s Place
• Ward 10 Emergency Response Team, includes Councillor James Pasternak

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Youth Leader, Dale Gold, Hilda Swirsky, Outreach Leader and Pearl Grundland, Executive Director

Where all roads to sustainability meet
Ex.: St. Margaret in the Pines

Potential community partners:
• Caring Alliance
• St. Joseph’s Church (Highland Creek)
• St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
• Food Banks in the area
• No Frills Grocery Store
• Nearby Family Resource centres (2)
• School Parent’s Association
• Food Banks nearby
• Giffen-Mack Funeral Home

Where all roads to sustainability meet
Ex.: Don Mills Jamatkhana*

During 2013 Ice Storm:

• Over 500 volunteers
• Helped 2,200 families in Don Mills area
• Community partners: Focus Humanitarian Assistance, His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Canada and Ontario, Ismaili Volunteer Corps, Care for the Elderly Teams, Emergency Response Teams, and Ismaili Youth – part of CIVIC (Challenging Ismaili Volunteers in Communities)

* not an F&CG pilot site, but part of community of practice
Ex.: Refuge in the Storm*

- Metropolitan United and the Toronto Area Interfaith Council initiated an interfaith response network in 4 areas of the City.
- Would like to see a lighthouse symbol placed outside faith sites
- REFUGE IN THE STORM
  
  http://youtu.be/0lXV9k1unCs

*not an F&CG pilot site, but part of community of practice
Response

• Very positive response to pilot across the board – from faith groups, community partners, and municipal officials

• More work to be done to “embed” social resilience into municipal framework for action

Our Power Campaign: Communities United for a Just Transition

Where all roads to sustainability meet
Next Steps

Toolkit

Faith Community
Extreme Weather Preparedness Tool Kit

Adapted by Faith & the Common Good

Case Studies

Global Kingdom Ministries Resilience Hub Summary

June 2015

Outreach Mission:
Global Kingdom is both a faith community and a community hub. It houses a Community Outreach program that reaches out to the nearby Weston community (Neighbourhood Improvement Area).

Vulnerable Population:
3 Social housing facilities are in the neighbourhood and there are 6 Food Banks. There are also seniors living in high rise apartments (Tureen Court) across the street.

Role of faith community:
Warming centre and soup kitchen where people can receive some hot nourishment and friendship. Our goal is to offer care for the first 24 hours of the crisis.

Community partners:
- Community Outreach operating out of Global Kingdom Faith Building
- 2 Schools, Western C.I. High School and Saint Thomas More Catholic School
- A child care centre, including one across the road, at Tureen Court
- Several food banks nearby

A map of Global Kingdom, done by City of Toronto

Action Plan & Next Steps:
1. Meeting with community partners has been held in Spring 2015.
2. Global Kingdom is taking the resilience hub recommendation to its board in 2016, for final discussion and approval.
3. There is also interest in purchasing a generator, product information and funding is being investigated.

The large Arena, just inside front doors

Global Kingdom, located at 1200 Markham Road
Keys to Success

- Widespread concept buy in: strong need, gov’t. can’t do it all.
- Interfaith collaborative network
- Worked very closely with City of Toronto -- Public Health, SDFA (Wellness office), EEO, E & E, OEM
- Dedicated coordinator
- Accessible, replicable best practices
Questions, Comments?

Dr. Lucy Cummings, Executive Director
Faith & the Common Good
@ Centre for Social Innovation
215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5T 2C7

E-mail: lcummings@faith-commongood.net
Work: +1 866 231 1877, x104

Website: http://greeningsacredspaces.net/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FCGGreeningSacredSpaces
Twitter: https://twitter.com/FaithCommonGood

Where all roads to sustainability meet