

Engaging Faith Groups as Partners in Extreme Weather Response



Source: The City of Calgary.

*Community-Led
Action for Resilient
Neighbourhoods*



Agenda

- The Need
- Why faith communities as local partners?
- 2 Models for Action:
 - Faith & the Common Good’s Toronto “Resilience Hub” pilot project
 - City of Brampton Emergency Management’s “Lighthouse Project”



**Faith & the
Common Good**



The Need

- Increasing extreme weather impacts.
- Governments can't do it all. Urgent need for more capacity to serve most vulnerable.
- Social infrastructure as important as hard infrastructure = lessons from Katrina
- Community Resilience = Cost effective
- Adaptation = powerful channel for mitigation

“Recovery from natural disasters does not depend on the overall amount of aid received nor on the amount of damage done by the disaster; instead social capital -- the bonds which tie citizens together – functions as the main engine of long term recovery.” -- *Aldrich (2010)*



Objectives

- Pilot in 2015 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 sites across the city as well as public workshops, training, and resource development.

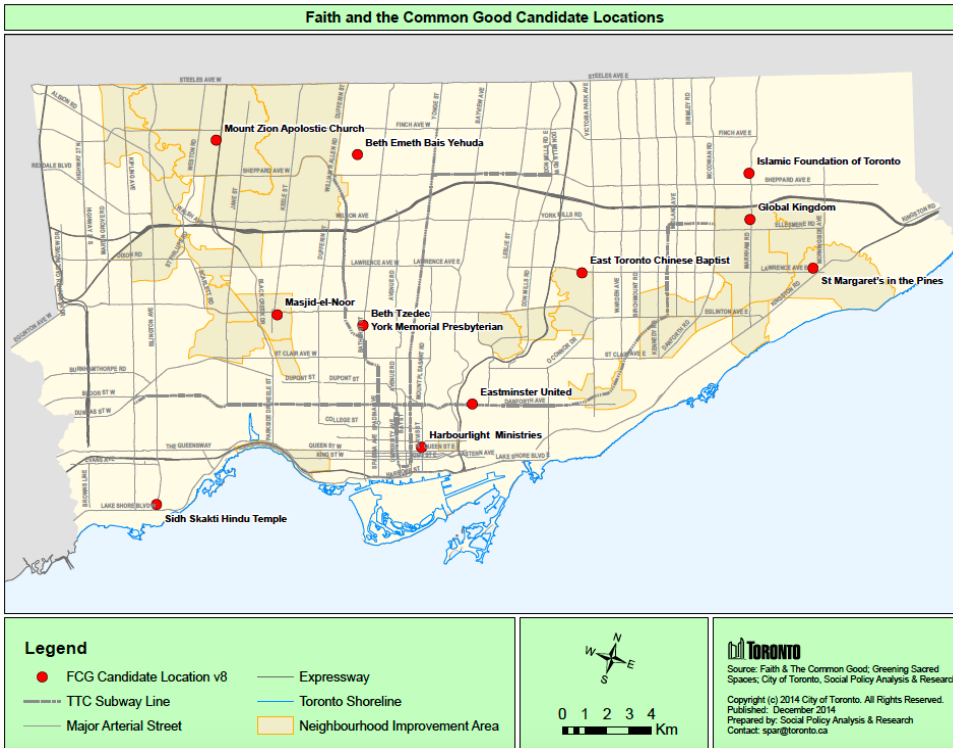
Lead by Faith & Common Good, an interfaith sustainability network (non-sectarian, registered charity)



**Faith & the
Common Good**



Neighbourhood Extreme Weather Resilience Hubs: A Toronto Pilot





Faith Community Resilience Hub Initial Capacity Assessment

The purpose of this assessment exercise is for us to learn more about your faith community to determine the best way for us to collaborate with you on better responding to climate induced extreme weather events. It will also give you a chance to learn more about the project and our ideas about faith-based neighborhood resilience hubs.

There is no right or wrong path. This is a "proof of concept" project where we are meant to learn from each other – openly sharing the hopes, opportunities, challenges and obstacles – in order to devise a practical road map for engaging our faith communities in helping neighborhoods, especially its most vulnerable members, become more resilient to climate impacts. Thank you for your willingness to take part!

Faith Community Details

Name:	Key Contact:
Address:	Cell:
	E-mail:

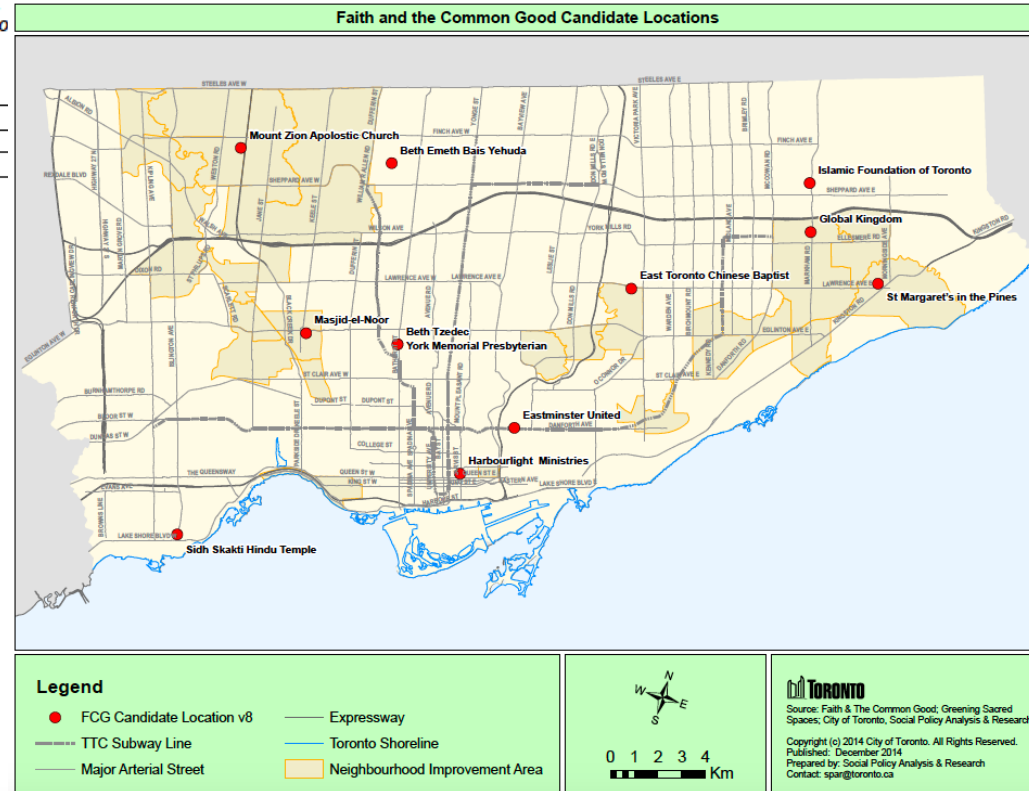
Building Capacity Scorecard

Description	Yes/No/Unsure	Notes
Accessibility – Wheelchair access	Y / N / U	
Room that can sleep 30-50 people	Y / N / U	
Washrooms on same floor as room	Y / N / U	
Kitchen with food basics in fridge	Y / N / U	
Stove(s); cab feed 30-50 people	Y / N / U	
Lighting upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
Heating upgraded in 3 - 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
A/C upgraded in 3 – 5 yrs	Y / N / U	
First aid & candles near room	Y / N / U	
Generator	Y / N / U	
Storage capacity for emergency supplies	Y / N / U	
Room for temporary waste disposal	Y / N / U	
TOTAL # "Yes"		

Member Capacity Scorecard

Description	Yes/No/Unsure	Notes
Faith community already engaged in Food Banks /Out of Cold programs	Y / N / U	
Faith leader & board of directors support	Y / N / U	
4-6 physically strong volunteers who do above programs twice mthly	Y / N / U	
Desire & willingness to come immediately; when in an emergency	Y / N / U	
Live within 10-15 minutes of faith building	Y / N / U	

How: Site Assessment



Why faith communities as partners?

- 27K+ well equipped buildings across Canada
- Volunteers doing outreach
- DNA = care for vulnerable
- Emergency response experience; first ones in, last to leave
- Emotional, spiritual & cultural resources



Faith & the
Common Good



How: Partner Outreach



neighborhood empowerment network



FLOWER CITY



BRAMPTON.CA



Earth Day[®]
CANADA



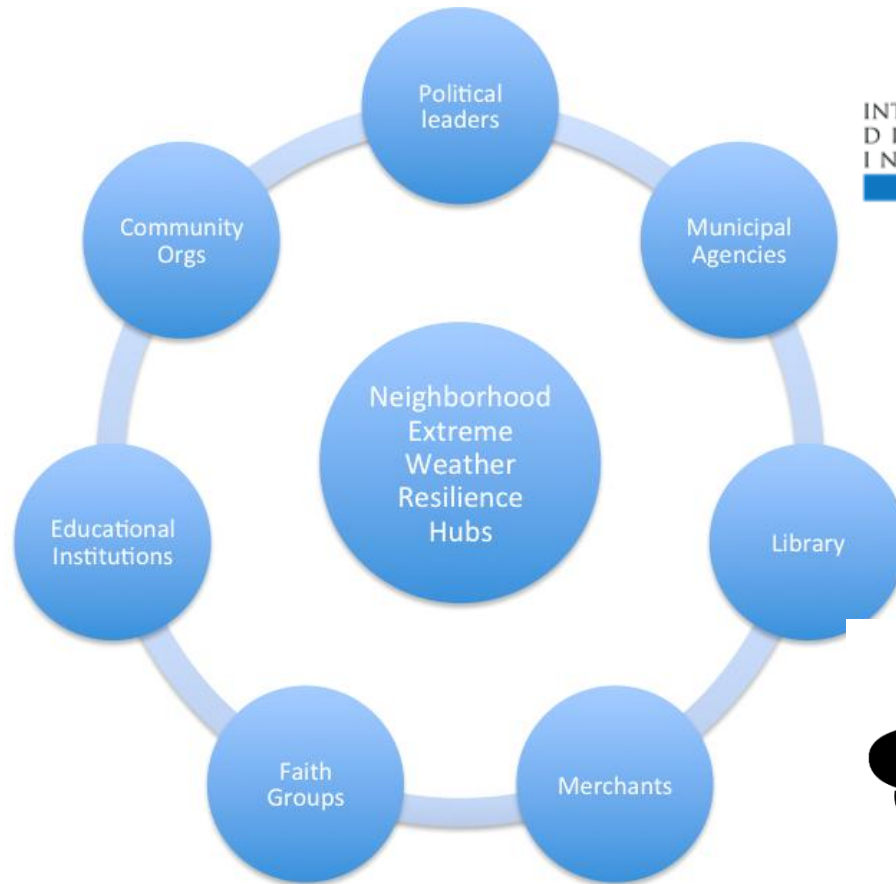
TD Friends of Environment Foundation



olive tree FOUNDATION



Faith & the Common Good



How: Educate Community



TALK transformation

Preparing 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 Brodhead, Evergreen CityWorks
Dr. Lucy Cummings, Faith & the Common Good
Dr. Patricia McCamey, World Council on City Data;
Global Cities Institute, University of Toronto
Grant Humes, Financial District BIA

Details at toronto.ca/transformto



Venue Sponsor



Join the conversation about faith-based preparation for extreme weather emergencies in the GTA and learn about:

- The expected local impacts of extreme weather and our shared vulnerability
- How faith communities can enhance community based-resilience to extreme weather impacts
- Local community resources that can assist with an effective response to extreme weather emergencies



Presentations by:

The Hon Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Rev . Dr. David Hallman, former Climate Change Coordinator, World Council of Churches

David MacLeod, City of Toronto's Environment and Energy Division

Workshops by Toronto Public Health, City of Toronto Office of Emergency Management, Environment and Energy, and Faith & the Common Good.

Date & Time: Thurs. Oct. 1, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm


Location: Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive, Toronto

Registration: \$20/person or pay what you can. Includes a delicious lunch. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/climatechangeinourbackyard>



Faith Communities = Neighborhood Resilience Hubs

WHAT: Presentation on faith communities acting as neighbourhood emergency centres during extreme weather events

WHO:  **"Ready, Set, Go! Faith Community Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit"** author **Lisa Brodsky**, Assistant Public Health Administrator Bloomington Public Health, Minnesota

WHEN: Friday, May 23rd, 10 - 11am

WHERE: Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., Committee Room #2

SIGN-UP: [Registration Link \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GJVFCWG\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GJVFCWG)



For more information, contact lcummings@faith-commongood.net



Faith & the Common Good



Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Resilience Hub Summary

How: Develop Action Plans

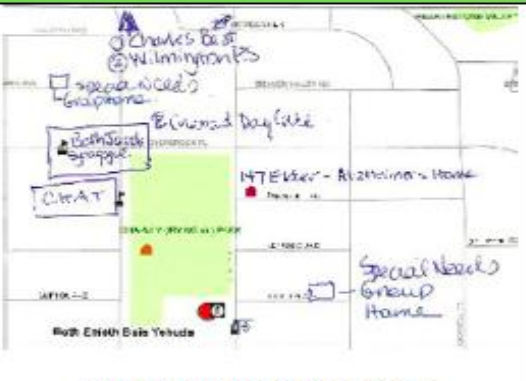


- Community partners and their role:**
- Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)
 - 147 Elder Street Alzheimer's Residence
 - W.L. Mackenzie Collegiate Institute
 - Ward 10 Emergency Response Team (meet at BEBY)
 - Reena Group Homes
 - Uptown Chabad
 - Eva's Place (out of map area)

Outreach Mission:
For 15 years, we have fed 100 guests weekly, as part of "Out of Cold" Program. Other programs include a safe haven for schools, and Kadima Centre (special needs adults). We have a generator.

Vulnerable Population:
4 Seniors facilities including Alzheimer's and Nursing home, Seniors in own homes, 2 Group Homes including Reena (special needs); Women's shelter

Role of faith community: We wish to be a warming and feeding reception centre. We are open to being a sleepover destination, if we could work with an emergency disaster partner; Red Cross or Salvation Army; thus limiting our liability.



Map of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda; done by Youth Leader



Pictured from left to right: Dale Gold, Hilda Swirsky, Pearl Grundland

- Action Plan & Next Steps:**
1. We need to better understand liability, security and financial implications of being a hub (generator operating cost is \$1600/12 hours).
 2. Community partners that will participate; Eva's place (staff), CHAT, Centennial Library and Circle of Care; Outreach for seniors and special needs (could supply vans (10)).
 3. We would like to continue Ward 10 Emergency Roundtable meetings, and invite more community partners to participate.

How: Emergency Preparedness Resources

- <http://greeningsacredspaces.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Ready-Emergency-Preparedness-FINAL.pdf>



Faith Community Extreme Weather Tool Kit

Adapted by Faith & the Common Good



How: On-going Training



**Faith & the
Common Good**

