

# NATIONAL SAR PROGRAM OVERVIEW



AEMA Summit  
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Presented by  
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Government  
of Canada  
National Search  
and Rescue  
Secretariat

Gouvernement  
du Canada  
Secrétariat national  
Recherche et  
sauvetage

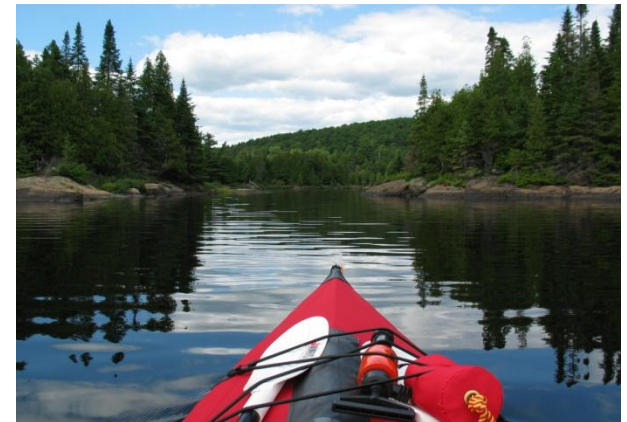
Canada

# Outline



- Canada's search and rescue environment
- National Search and Rescue Program
- National Search and Rescue Secretariat
- Current Initiatives

*Lac du Sourd, Qc*





# Canada's search and rescue environment

## Commercial activities

### Aviation:

- >10 million aircraft movements
- Increased use of polar routes
- Heightened activity in support of Northern and economic development



*The Frontenac on Lake Erie*

### Maritime:

- Over 23,000 registered Canadian fishing vessels
- > 2 million tourists arrive annually by sea
- Increasing vessel traffic in Arctic





## Canada's search and rescue environment (cont'd)



### Recreational activities

- 60,000 pilots flying 30,000 aircraft from 2,000 airports
- 23 million visitors annually to Canadian National Parks
- 6 million recreational boaters
- Outdoor sports/recreation
  - 2% of GDP or 70B/yr



## Canada's search and rescue environment (cont'd)



### Demographic and environmental change

- Aging population; more missing person searches for those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease
- More interface between search and rescue and emergency preparedness (e.g. extreme weather events, natural disasters)





## **Management and coordination**

- Developing plans and policies
- Coordinating programs and initiatives
- Centralized SAR data collection
- Measuring performance and reporting results
- Supporting internal and external communication services

## **Response (domain based with reliance on multijurisdictional approach)**

- Saving lives and minimizing injury; setting & meeting service standards
- Ensuring missions are well-coordinated and interoperable
- Adapting response capabilities and options to changing environment

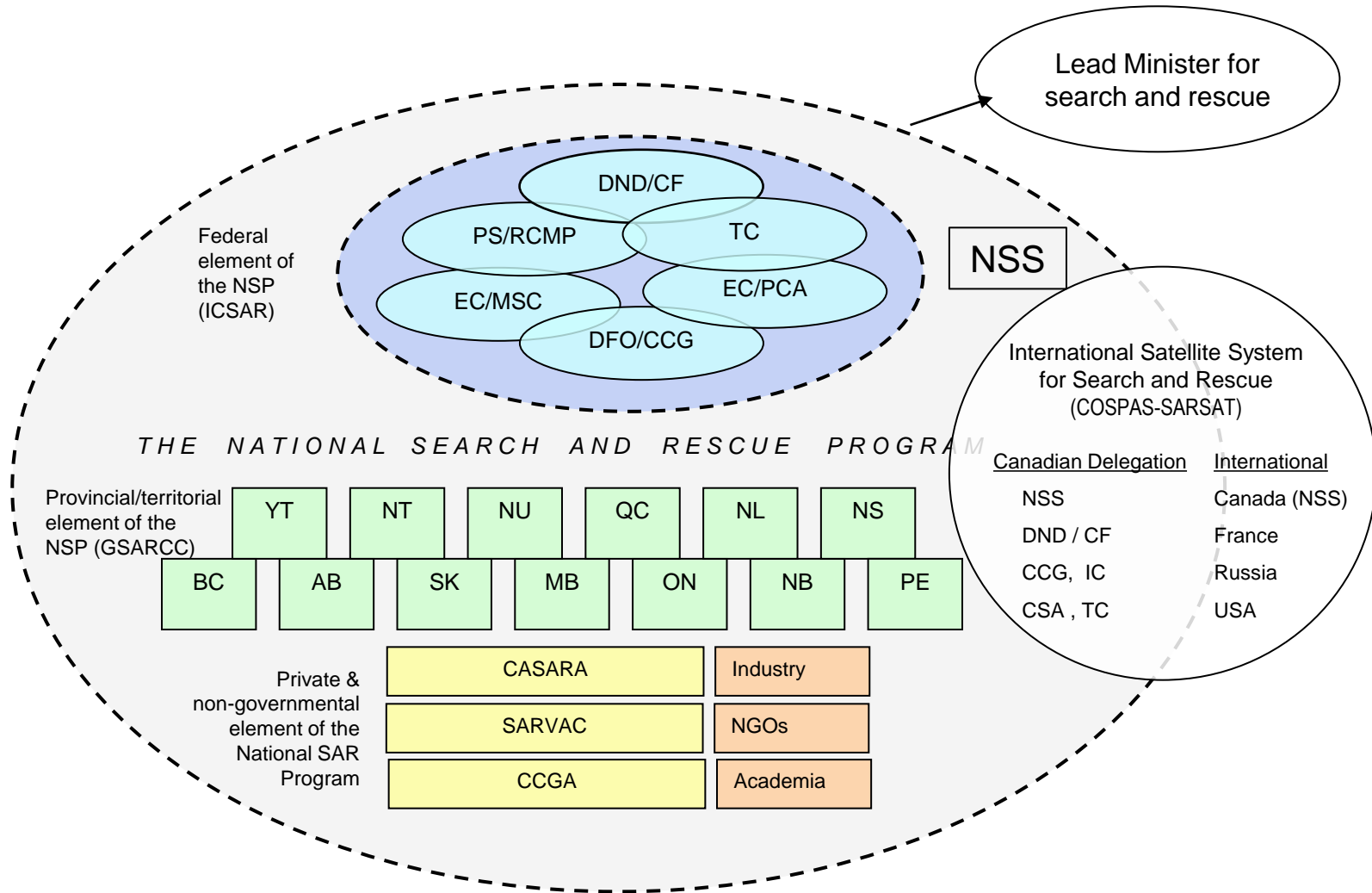
## **Prevention (intersection of regulation, enforcement, and education)**

- Educating public and industry to reduce frequency & severity of incidents
- Achieving safety through regulation and enforcement
- Providing fundamental safety data (e.g. weather forecasts; nautical charts)



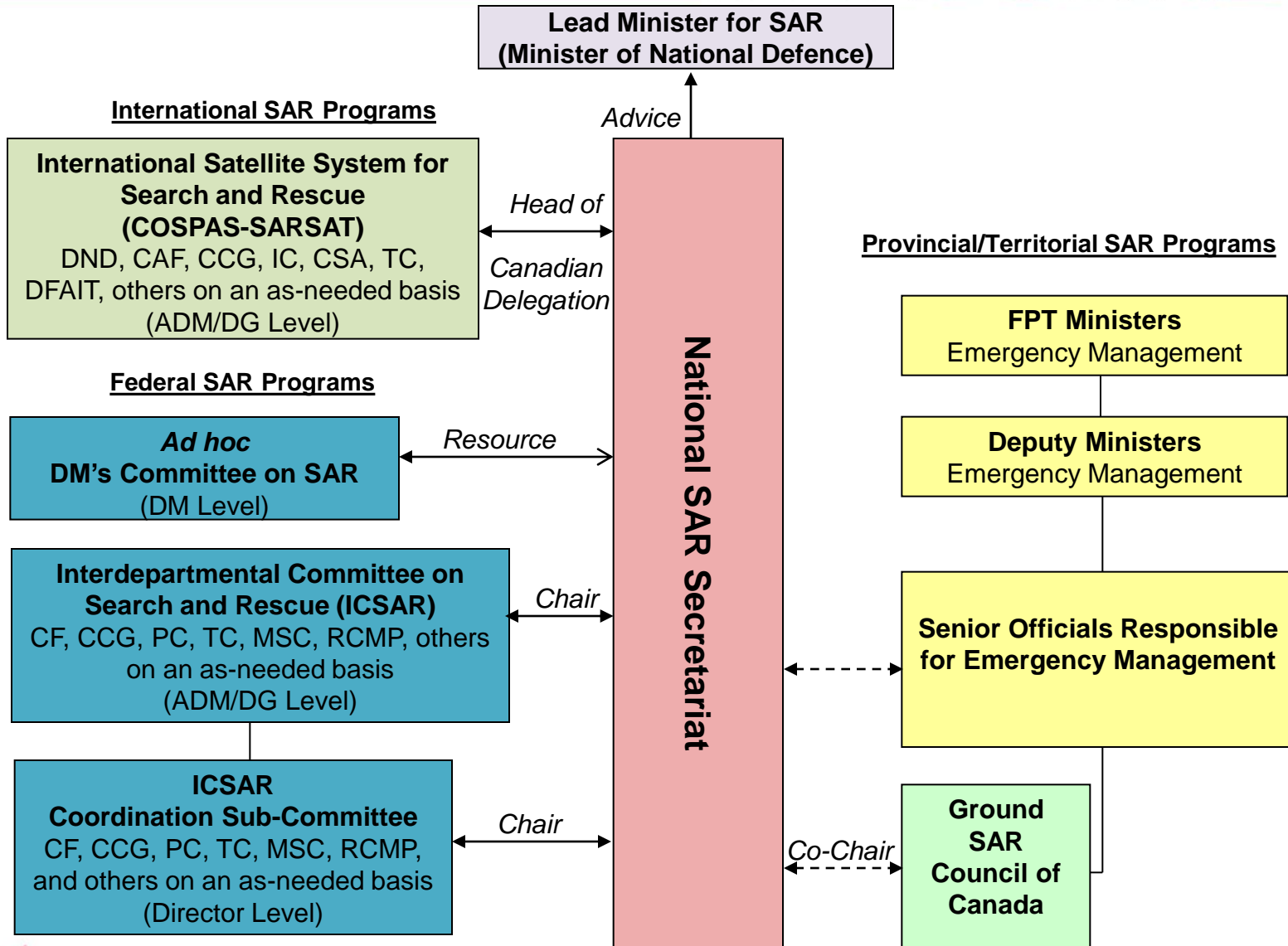
- ICAO/IMO Conventions
- International SAR Satellite System Treaty (COSPAS-SARSAT)
- Provincial Emergencies Act and/or Police Acts/Agreements
  
- Interdepartmental Committee on SAR (ICSAR)
- Ground SAR Council of Canada (GSARCC)
  
- National Prevention Working Group
- Northern Round Table

# National SAR Program - Partners





# SAR Relationships



# NSS Role Management and Coordination



- Coordinates the National SAR Program and leads the development of policies, strategic directions, annual plans and priorities
- Provides independent advice to Lead Minister
- Chairs the Interdepartmental Committee on SAR (ICSAR) and co-chairs the Ground SAR Council of Canada (GSARCC)
- Head of Canadian delegation for the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT) Programme
- Manages the SAR New Initiatives Fund (8.1M) contribution program
- Development of Knowledge Management System



## Communications and Outreach

- SARSCENE annual conference
- National SAR Program SAR Awards of Excellence
- SAR Prevention
- Interoperability – tools and techniques
- Best practices



*SAR response to **aircraft incidents** anywhere in Canada*

*SAR response to **marine incidents** in tidal and international waters (oceans, Great Lakes, St. Lawrence)*

*SAR response to **ground and inland water incidents***

Legend

- Federal resource
- Provincial/Municipal resource
- Volunteer

Primary	Secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Canadian Armed Forces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)</li> <li>➤ Police force of jurisdiction</li> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard</li> <li>➤ Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC)</li> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Canadian Armed Forces</li> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA)</li> <li>➤ Any multi-tasked Federal aircraft or vessel</li> <li>➤ Police force of jurisdiction</li> <li>➤ Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC)</li> <li>➤ Vessel of opportunity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provincial/Territorial responsibility - generally delegated to police force of jurisdiction</li> <li>➤ Parks Canada within National Parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC)</li> <li>➤ Canadian Armed Forces</li> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard</li> <li>➤ Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)</li> <li>➤ Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA)</li> </ul>





# National SAR Program



## Mutual Aid – Multi-Jurisdictional Response



28 October 2007  
Cessna – Golden BC



15 July 2013  
Griffon crew rescues lost  
child – ON



10 January 2008  
Helicopter – St. John's, NL

Missing Persons (2012) - 60,000  
GSAR - 5000  
\*police stats not included for most jx

Federal Incidents (2012)  
Aeronautical - 1042  
Maritime - 6622  
Humanitarian - 862  
Outside Cdn AOR - 1189  
National Parks - 1800





## Current National SAR Program initiatives



Government  
of Canada

National Search  
and Rescue  
Secretariat

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Secrétariat national  
Recherche et  
sauvetage



Canadian Inland  
Search and Rescue  
Incident System

Registre canadien  
des incidents de recherche  
et de sauvetage intérieurs

English

Français

[Important Notices](#)

[Avis importants](#)

Canada

# Knowledge Management



Browser window showing the URL: <http://sarvue.tangotechnologygroup.com/Dashboard.aspx>

Navigation menu: Home - KMS Prototype, Home - SAR KMS, ArcGIS - SAR Scene 2013, Final Documents - All Docume..., Google Translate, SARscene 2013 - SARscene K9 ...

Site Actions: Browse, Page

Dashboard navigation: KMS, Dashboards, Map-based View, Data View, News, Help, Help Pages, Feedback, Administration, All Site Content

Map controls: +, -, Home

Map content: Numerous red dots representing SAR incidents across North America, including Canada and the United States. Labels for various countries and regions are visible.

Map footer: Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors

Map content: The same map as above, but with a blue polygon highlighting a specific region in Canada. The legend now includes 'Selected Polygon' which is checked.

Map footer: Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors





## Current National SAR Program initiatives

- **National GSAR training standard**
- **GSAR and alternate alerting device protocols**
- **MEOSAR**
- **Joint Exercises**
- **Support for SAR Interagency Frequency (SAR-IF) implementation**



# SAR Prevention



- Safety is Shared
  - individual responsibility
  - societal/industry responsibility
  - government responsibility
- Evidence Based
  - investigation
  - methodology
- Balanced Approach
  - education
  - regulation
  - enforcement



## Investigation

- Transforming Knowledge to Action
- Awareness leads to Behaviour Change
- Maximize impact - Subjects, Activities, Locations (SAL)

## Methodology

- Early Intervention
- Peer interaction
- Multi-faceted approach

A balanced approach –  
Are we doing things right?



# Saving Lives through...

- *informing decision-making*
- *mitigating risk*
- *changing behavior*

# Utilizing

- *focused messaging*
- *broad public awareness*
- *targeted outreach*





## Education

- Common Messaging
- Customized delivery
- Capacity building



## Regulation

Sometimes encouragement needs teeth...

- Effective
- Efficient
- Enforceable



# Enforcement

Sometimes teeth need a badge....to compel behaviour

- impaired operation
- safety equipment
- access and use restrictions
- registration/licensing



# AdventureSmart

- Key messages, developed globally, delivered locally.
- Targets the willing with easy to find, easy to use information
- Can be tailored to any location, any activity, any subject
- Highlights the importance of trip planning, training and taking the essentials.



# Broad Public Awareness – on line



188366

## AdventureSmart

Get informed + go outdoors

Home About Kids Land Snow Trip Safety Water

### Fall Back on Fun

Fall is a great time to be outdoors. Whether you're hunting or fishing, or simply want to enjoy the changing scenery and crisp nights, remember to make a trip plan, get trained and carry the ten essentials.

Explore

**Quick Links:** [Hiking](#) [Trip Planning](#) [Survive Outside](#) [Hug a Tree](#) [Gear](#)

**Tip of the Week**

#### Fall Hiking/Mushroom Picking

Fall is the best season for hiking and mushroom picking but there are a few things that you need to know before throwing that backpack over your shoulder. Map reading, orienteering, route planning and navigation are crucial and will assist with the reduction and severity of search and rescue incidents in Canada.

Challenge yourself and take a course!

[Orienteering >>](#)

[Survive outside >>](#)

[Bear safety >>](#)

français

## AdventureSmart

Get informed + go outdoors

### Paddling

**Paddling (Canoeing, Kayaking, and Rafting)**

Canada's vast coastlines, amazing lakes and winding rivers are a dream to explore by canoe, kayak or raft. Ocean paddling requires knowledge of ocean currents, weather patterns and how to survive a storm. River paddling requires an understanding of the power of the river and the ability to roll or survive a flip in very cold water.

Whatever you love to do, have all the necessary skills and gear to be safe on the water:

- ◊ Take a safe boating course and make sure all your gear is in good shape.
- ◊ Check the weather forecast and be prepared for it to change.
- ◊ Be visible. It is especially difficult for power-driven vessel operators to see canoes/kayaks. Choose bright colours - red, yellow or orange - for your PFD and canoe/kayak.
- ◊ Keep signaling devices within reach.
- ◊ Stay current on self- and assisted-rescues. Learn to swim well - especially fully-clothed. Chilly waters can render you hypothermic in minutes.
- ◊ Learn basic navigation skills.
- ◊ Never paddle alone.
- ◊ Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and other boating and water safety organizations provide "FREE" safety checks of your boat at your invitation. A qualified professional will board your boat and review with you the safety equipment required by law. Other equipment will be inspected and any deficiencies identified. There are no penalties for missing equipment and no limit to the number of checks you can request. Arranging for a check every spring is a good idea.

**The Right Gear**

**The 10 Essentials**

Trip Plan left with responsible person  
 PFD (Personal Flotation Device) or lifejacket  
 Helmet for kayak surfing, rafting, and white water.  
 Proper clothing including a dry suit, wet suit or other cold water gear  
 Extra clothing  
 Spray skirt  
 Throw bag  
 Paddle float  
 Bilge Pump  
 Spare paddle or blade  
 Dry bag  
 Maps and map bag  
 Lights for nighttime  
 VHF Radio  
 Sunglasses  
 Sunscreen

From world-class whitewater, to a whale of an encounter, Canada's amazing waters are yours to explore!

**Cool Links**

<p><b>GENERAL</b>                  Office of Boating Safety                  Tides, Currents, and Water Levels</p>	<p><b>YUKON</b>                  Yukon River Quest Race</p>
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On line trip plan – laptop, mobile and tablet friendly

# Broad Public Awareness – On site




Canada

## AdventureSmart



*Get informed & go outdoors!*    *Informez-vous et allez dehors!*

Focus on the 3 “T”s

TRIP PLANNING

•

TRAINING

•

TEN ESSENTIALS

Visit  
[www.adventuresmart.ca](http://www.adventuresmart.ca)



**GET INFORMED GO OUTDOORS**

Checklist for trip preparation including: Trip Plan, Trip Tips, and Ten Essentials.

**TRIP PLAN**

Checklist for trip planning including: Trip Purpose, Trip Dates, and Trip Route.

**TRIP TIPS**

Checklist for trip tips including: Trip Preparation, Trip Execution, and Trip Debrief.

**SAMPLE TRIP PLAN**

Form for trip planning including: Trip Name, Trip Dates, and Trip Route.

**LAND**

Checklist for land activities including: Trip Preparation, Trip Execution, and Trip Debrief.

**WATER**

Checklist for water activities including: Trip Preparation, Trip Execution, and Trip Debrief.

**WINTER**

Checklist for winter activities including: Trip Preparation, Trip Execution, and Trip Debrief.

**CHECK LIST**

Comprehensive checklist for trip preparation including: Trip Plan, Trip Tips, and Ten Essentials.



# Targeted Outreach



## An umbrella for existing programs:

Hug a Tree and Survive,  
Snow Safety Education, Survive Outside  
and Survive Outside Snowmobiling

## Common Look and Feel:

Consistent messaging and format,  
customizable aids

## Can be targeted to key areas of need –

demographic,  
geographic or  
activity specific





## Process

- May 2013 – Minister announces inaugural Quadrennial SAR Review
- National SAR Secretariat engages SAR stakeholders in Review
- July 15 SAR Forum in Ottawa
- Public engagement



# National SAR Program – Challenges



- **Sustainability** of Canada's SAR system and associated infrastructure and relationships.
- **Rapid changes** in technology, climate and demographics must be met with assessment of risk and adaptability to plan capacity, response and prevention activities
- **Multi-jurisdictional integration and alignment** to achieve seamless SAR
- **Supporting and protecting volunteers**



## Observations – QSR Questionnaire and SAR Forum

- Data management and performance measurement
- Communication, coordination and interoperability
- Volunteers
- Prevention



## **Volunteers and Value: 18,000 - Integral part of NSP**

- Leveraging capacity and coverage in response
- Leveraging national approach, consistent messaging and local delivery in prevention
- Protecting volunteers and minimizing liability
- Organizational sustainability
- Raising awareness and profile of volunteers helps support recruitment, retention and recognition



# The National SAR Program: Many jurisdictions, one horizontal program



Questions?