



# The ICLR Report

January – December 2002

**N**ow completing its fifth year of activities, the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) has an impressive list of accomplishments to report. ICLR continues to work to reduce the loss of life and property caused by severe weather, earthquakes and other natural phenomena through the identification and support of sustained activities that improve society's capacity to adapt to, anticipate, mitigate, withstand and recover from natural disasters.

The task is substantial, but so too has been the progress. The following is an overview of the priorities, programs, activities and successes of ICLR in 2002.

## *Produce excellent research*

*Conduct and disseminate a growing body of meaningful, multidisciplinary research into natural disaster loss reduction.*

- Completed seven research projects; published five research papers. Research papers available at [www.iclr.org](http://www.iclr.org) to members and others interested in disaster loss prevention research.
- University of Western Ontario began the process to secure two patents with ICLR research associates.
- Directed \$400,000 in research funds to four major projects that will clearly establish ICLR's research strengths in:
  - disaster resilient housing/infrastructure
  - risk decision-making tools
  - government science related to natural disasters
  - community and individual action to prevent disasters.
- Appointed the ICLR's third research chair. Dr. Ron Stewart is the Meteorological

Service of Canada/ICLR Research Chair in Extreme Weather at McGill University in Montreal.

## *Promote and establish effective partnerships*

*Strengthen linkages with key stakeholders concerned about disaster mitigation.*

- Secured UNESCO funding for a visiting international scholar to work to develop a support system to assist in resolving conflicts in water sharing.
- Secured a formal partnership agreement with the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at the University of Kyoto.
- Began work to establish the Research Alliance for Disaster Resilient Cities (*RADR-Cities*), a network of scientists dedicated to building more resilient urban communities.
- Launched the Natural Disasters Health



- Research Network.
- Strengthened ICLR's relationship with the Canadian Red Cross by producing a joint national public service announcement and an active communications program to educate Red Cross staff about ICLR's research capacity.
- Established working relationships with industrial partners outside the disaster/insurance community.
- 3M Canada partnered with ICLR on the *Protecting our Kids from Disasters* program by providing its 3M™ Scotchshield™ Safety and Security Window Film for the retrofitted daycare centres.

### ***Ensure sound finances***

*Provide an efficient, cost-effective organization. Secure additional funding for growth.*

- Successfully met all financial goals and targets.
- Diversified ICLR revenue base by securing contract income from:
  - Canadian Red Cross
  - Health Canada
  - Climate Change Action Fund
  - UNESCO
  - Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness
  - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

### ***Create a working environment that attracts and maintains good people***

*Attract and maintain an effective and motivated staff and leadership.*

- Strategy prepared with the input of all staff.

- ICLR management team met regularly.
- All staff positions are filled.
- Maintained commitment of industry advisors.
- Maintained a strong board of directors; three new members joined in 2002, including a new chair.
- Strengthened relations with UWO researchers with an introduction of an additional \$400,000 in research funds.

### ***Ensure a satisfied membership***

*Maintain and strengthen member satisfaction in the organization's effectiveness.*

- Redesigned the ICLR website to make it the only source of information in Canada with advice on how individuals can protect their homes from natural hazards. The new website has had almost 1 million hits this year.
- Hosted more than 500 people at more than 15 conferences and workshops.
- Launched ICLR's *Protecting our Kids from Disasters* program. Retrofitted childcare centres in Halifax, London, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver and provided an additional 75 daycare centres with the instructions required to conduct their own retrofit.
- The first issue of the ICLR Report Card was released in May 2002.
- Received positive media coverage that accurately portrayed the ICLR messages, including more than two dozen media interviews during Emergency Preparedness Week.

Canada's home, car and business insurers founded the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction in 1998. ICLR is a coordinated effort to reduce disaster losses involving member insurance companies, the University of Western Ontario and other partners. The Institute earns contract revenue for specific projects and workshop fees. Ongoing funding is provided by member insurers and the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund.

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