



The ICLR Report

January – December 2005

Now completing its eighth 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 2005.

Produce excellent research

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

- Conducting 8 research projects, published 2 research papers. Research papers available at www.iclr.org to members and others interested in disaster loss prevention research.
- Slobodan Simonovic's team has completed the Decision Support Tool for Disaster Risk Management project.
- Funding for \$175,000 over 18 months has been received by the Climate Change Action Fund to study issues related to climate change and health.
- ICLR continues to work with the Housing Loss Mitigation research group at the University of Western Ontario as well as with several leading researchers at a number of universities on topics such as wildfire safety, earthquake preparedness and earthquake forecasting.

Promote and establish effective partnerships

Strengthen linkages with key stakeholders concerned about disaster mitigation.

- ICLR is working with Tampa-based Institute for Business and Home Safety to prepare an "Open for Business" continuity planning tool for small business across Canada.
- ICLR continues to work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to lobby the federal government to establish a disaster resilient cities strategy.
- ICLR has continued to work as the network coordinator for the Natural Disaster Health Research Network, hosted by Health Canada.
- ICLR continues to work to foster relationships with such groups as the Meteorological Service of Canada and Infrastructure Canada, as well as with groups in Japan, France and the UK.
- ICLR staff sit on several committees, including:

- The Emergency Management Doctrine and Standards Committee of Emergency Management Ontario
- The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers' Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee
- The Technical Committee on Emergency Management and Business Continuity, run by the Canadian Standards Association
- The Prevention and Mitigation Working Group of Emergency Management Ontario

- 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.

Ensure sound finances

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

- Successfully met all financial goals and targets.
- Have secured a \$500,000 investment from The Benfield Group to support the creation of an NSERC Industrial research chair in earthquake forecasting.
- 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

Ensure a satisfied membership

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

- Issued *Cat Tales 2005 Edition 1*, ICLR's electronic newsletter, first issued in 2004 to share ICLR news with the CEOs of member insurance companies.
- Held nine *Friday Forum* seminars.
- Received positive media coverage that accurately portrayed ICLR key 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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