



The ICLR Report

January – December 2006

Having completed its ninth 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 2006.

Produce excellent research

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

- Conducted a number of research projects and published several research papers. Research papers available at www.iclr.org to members and others interested in disaster loss prevention research.
- Retrofitted a home in Ottawa, to protect its owners against earthquakes and winter storms, the fourth year that ICLR has retrofitted an existing home to mark Emergency Preparedness Week.
- Continued 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 with disaster mitigation.

- With The Cooperators, launched Canada's first-ever Safer Living home, in November on Prince Edward Island.
- Partnered with the Tampa-based Institute for Business and Home Safety to prepare an "Open...for business" continuity planning tool for small business across Canada.
- Continued to work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to lobby the federal government to establish a disaster resilient cities strategy.
- Worked to foster relationships with such groups as the Meteorological Service of Canada and Infrastructure Canada, as well as with groups in Japan, France, the U.S., 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

Ensure sound finances

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

- Successfully met all financial goals and targets.
- Announced completion of a \$500,000 investment from The Benfield Group to support the creation of an NSERC Industrial research chair in earthquake forecasting at UWO.
- Submitted project proposals to several interested parties.
- Diversified ICLR revenue base by securing contract income from:
 - Health Canada
 - Climate Change Action Fund
 - UNESCO
 - Canadian Forest Service

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 a satisfied membership

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

- Held eight *Friday Forum* seminars.
- Received positive media coverage that accurately portrayed ICLR key messages, including interviews and quotes in several daily newspapers and other publications and several appearances on television and radio.
- Published articles in several magazines read by key ICLR target audiences.

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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