



# The ICLR Report

January – December 2007

**H**aving completed its tenth 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 2007.**

## ***Produce excellent research***

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

- Received a Nobel Peace Prize as part of its work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- Conducted a major research project on sewer backup, distributed copies to members and others interested in disaster loss prevention research, and published it on [www.iclr.org](http://www.iclr.org)
- Retrofitted a home in Edmonton to protect its owners against tornado and winter storms, the fifth year that ICLR has retrofitted an existing home to mark Emergency Preparedness Week.
- ICLR staff spoke at numerous events during the year, including Emergency Management Ontario, Real Estate Institute of British Columbia, Canadian Claims Managers Association & EECO 2007.
- 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 second Safer Living home, in February in Sudbury, Ontario.
- Partnered with the Tampa-based Institute for Business and Home Safety to prepare an "Open for Business" continuity planning toolkit 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.

- Worked with the cities of Toronto and Kelowna to promote climate change adaptation and disaster management.
- 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 a \$100,000 contribution from Lloyd's Canada to support the creation of an international planning office for the International Council for Science's hazards research program, at ICLR's London office.
- Completed and received payment for two government projects; one on wildfire for the Canadian Forest Service and the second on blackout for Industry Canada.
- In June, won a major contract from the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) for a study on climate change, critical infrastructure, insurance and the Arctic.

### **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's 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.
- Retained 100% membership year-over-year, and recorded one new member (Allianz Global Risks).
- Sponsored publication of a book entitled "Stepping Up to the Climate Change Challenge: Perspectives on Local Government Leadership, Policy and Practice in Canada" (Municipal World Magazine), which contains a chapter written by Dan Sandink.

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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