



Developing a Community Environmental Emergency Plan for North Harbour, Placentia Bay March 22, 2006

Placentia Bay is home to a diverse convergence of marine-related activities. It is one of the busiest oil transshipment regions in Canada, has an active inshore fishery, shipyard and fabrication facility, cargo and passenger service ferry, an active ecotourism industry and a world-renowned bird sanctuary. A significant environmental disaster poses a threat to the bay and all who benefit from it on varying levels.

The proliferation of the potential of an oil spill in the Placentia Bay region has prompted communities to prioritize the need for proactive versus reactive measures in the event of a spill. Developing a Community Environmental Emergency Plan for North Harbour, Placentia Bay is a collaborative initiative of One Ocean and the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management students at the Fisheries and Marine Institute, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The questionnaire is a preliminary inquiry into community preparedness for environmental emergency, with specific focus on the collection of logistical and environmental factors to assist the community in response planning.

The MI students will assist One Ocean in the perusal of the completed questionnaires in an effort to report its findings to the community, outlining progressive stages of planning development.

You are not required to provide your name, that is completely optional and questions can be answered at your discretion. Please note that some of these questions are presented as prompts for future planning and we do not expect an answer at this time. If you would kindly indicate this type of question with a "future planning" answer it would be appreciated.

We thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this initiative, and assure you that these questionnaires will be kept in the strictest of confidence.

Name: _____ **(OPTIONAL)**

- 1) What is the population of North Harbour?
- 2) How many residents would be able to undertake physically laborious response activities in an emergency? Would you?
- 3) Are there any residents that have been trained in oil spill response?
- 4) Is there heavy equipment such as backhoes, tractors, dump trucks, front-end loaders located in North Harbour? Are their qualified heavy machinery operators in North Harbour?
- 5) Is there a volunteer Fire Department in North Harbour? How many firefighters are in the department? If not where is the closed fire department dispatch?
- 6) Is there an ambulance service in North Harbour? If not where is the nearest dispatch?
- 7) Where is the nearest hospital? What is its patient treating capacity?
- 8) How many residents of North Harbour have First-Aid training? Is there a contact list?
- 9) Are there any doctors or nurses living in North Harbour?
- 10) How many social workers or counselors trained in dealing with crisis or trauma management are in the North Harbour region?

- 11) Are there any churches in the community? Does the priest, minister or other denominational leader live in the community?
- 12) Is there a list of senior citizens and disabled persons that would need assistance for mobilization?
- 13) Where is the nearest RCMP Headquarters?
- 14) Are there gas stations located in the community? If so how many? If not where is the nearest gas station?
- 15) Is there a supermarket in the community? If not where is the nearest supermarket?
- 16) Are there convenience stores in the community? What is its name? If not where is the nearest convenience store?
- 17) Are there any restaurants in the community? If not where is the closest one?
- 18) Are there any hotels and/or Bed and Breakfasts in the community? If yes what is their capacity? If not where are the nearest hotels and/or Bed and Breakfasts and what is their capacity?
- 19) Besides the Community Centre, are there other large buildings in the community that could be set up for food distribution, Emergency Command Centre, or sleeping quarters?
- 20) Are there school buses, or taxis in the community? If yes how many, if not where is the closest location to access transportation services?

21) Where and how fast could the community access emergency services and supplies to support response operations such as food, portable lavatories, water (if town supply is affected) bedding, generators, pumps, equipment maintenance and repair, and fuel? What surrounding communities could be contacted for assistance in an emergency situation?

22) What and where are the most sensitive marine and land areas that need protection?

23) How many roads lead to and from the community?

24) Is there a designated industrial area in the community?

25) Is there a landing area for helicopters? If not is there a suitable location for designation?

26) Is there a wharf in North Harbour? How big is it? Is there a slipway in North Harbour? Where is it located?

27) Is there an active fish plant in the community? If yes when is it in operation?

28) When are community fishers participating in commercial fishing?

29) How many fishing boats berth at North Harbour, what are the vessel sizes? Are there speedboats in the community?

30) Are there aerial and/or geographic and navigation maps of North Harbour and surrounding areas available in the community?

31) Does North Harbour have cellular coverage?

32) Does the community have a water/sewer supply system or is water accessed by individual wells and residents provide their individual sewer systems?

33) Are there existing zoning by-laws in your community?

34) Do you feel that you have accurate information about the risk of an environmental incident? Prevention of it, and countermeasures planning? If no, how can you acquire this knowledge?

35) What role(s) would the community play in the event of an emergency?

36) Would your community be prepared to offer Safe Haven/Port of Refuge status?

“By directing a vessel in distress to a safe anchorage in sheltered waters...provides for a controlled response to the specific problem(s)”.
Dempsey, James B. & Leslie Grattan, (2004). *Towards a Newfoundland and Labrador Oil Spill Waste Management Strategy*. Cormorant Ltd., St. John's NL. Pg. 6-1.

37) Can you identify the federal and provincial departments/agencies that would be involved in an emergency response and their roles? If not where would you get that information?

38) Do you feel assured that the federal and provincial departments/agencies involved in a response effort would provide seamless and adequate response? If not why not?

39) Can you identify some of the associated economic and environmental implications of an oil spill?

40) If it is an oil spill, do you have an appreciation of the types of wastes that will need to be dealt with and a waste management plan?

41) Are you aware of the Health and Safety issues that would have to be addressed? If not where can you find out about it?

42) From a community perspective, how can you ensure that you will be involved in a response effort?

43) Would you participate in response training if it were offered in your community?

One Ocean would like to acknowledge and reference: Dempsey, James B. & Leslie Grattan, (2004). *Towards a Newfoundland and Labrador Oil Spill Waste Management Strategy*. Cormorant Ltd., St. John's NL. We would also like residents to know that a report, *Environmental Risk Assessment Study of the South Coast of Newfoundland and Labrador*, is being conducted for Transport Canada and is scheduled for release in the fall of this year.

We would also like to point out that another meeting will be scheduled in North Harbour to relay the results of this questionnaire and to deliver a report with recommendations for progressive development of this community plan. There are other organizations such as the Eastern Canada Response Corporation and the Canadian Coast Guard that will play an important role in advising future planning.

Individual/Family Emergency Supply Kit

Every family or individual should have a basic disaster supply kit containing the following:

- Drinking Water (3-day supply per person)
- Food
- Vitamins and prescription medication
- Blankets and change of clothing (for each family member)
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery operated radio and batteries
- Wrench to shut off gas/water
- Pliers
- Non-electric can opener
- Duct tape
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Signal flare
- Needles and thread
- Sanitation and personal hygiene supplies
- Fire extinguisher
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting or tarp
- Soap/detergent and liquid bleach (for water purification)
- Paper and pencil
- Eyedropper (for water purification)
- Pet food and other supplies (leash, medication, food dish)