



## Introduction

The rate at which the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is called



assistance from the higher level. Such a graduated response model ensures the fastest and

In concrete terms, local authorities provide the initial response to most emergencies through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC). If an emergency escalates from the provincial government through a Request for Assistance (RFA).<sup>2</sup> As depicted at Annex A, a province or territory submits an RFA to the Government Operations Centre (GOC) within Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC).

The GOC, on behalf of the federal government, coordinates the federal response to the emergency by bringing together all participants to coordinate and synchronize actions across the federal government and with its partners, including provincial or territorial governments,

Canada and protect Canadians at home while defending our national interests abroad with

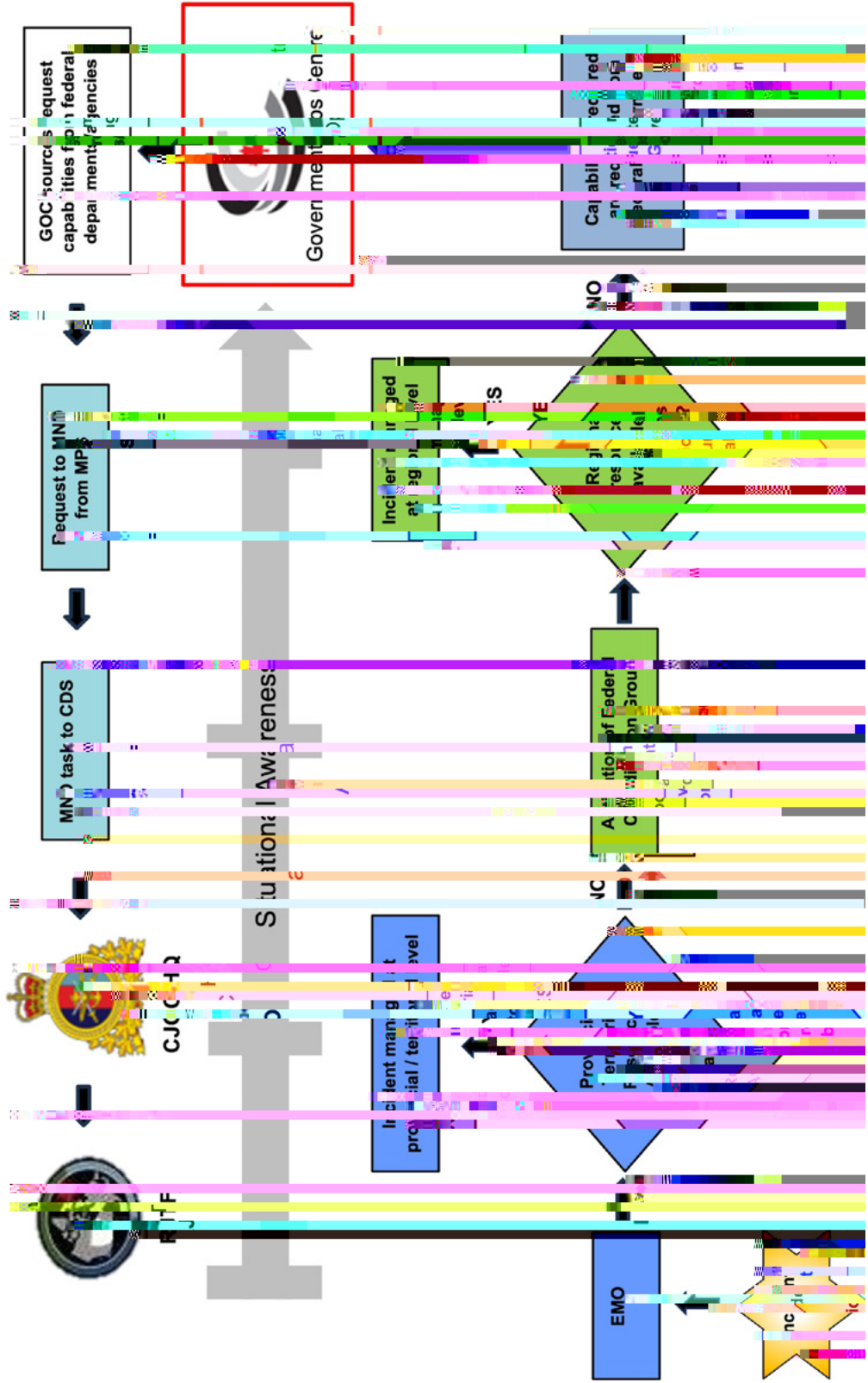
... of CAF support to domestic operations, politics tends to abrogate the process. RFAs tend to be submitted by provinces and territories long before they have exhausted all other options, and provinces and territories ask for too much too early to err on the safe side. Politics also equally impacts the withdrawal of CAF from domestic operations.<sup>11</sup> The RFA process is designed to involve the CAF only when absolutely required and only for as long as necessary to achieve mission success. However, the federal government hesitates to let the CAF leave ...<sup>12</sup> The government may hesitate because withdrawing the CAF could be perceived by some as abandoning Canadians in need.

... the federal government, the requesting province or territory is liable for all costs incurred. De jure, there is a legislative process for cost recovery. Nonetheless, de facto, recovering costs may be politically unpalatable since requesting reimbursement for assisting provinces and territories in times of need may be perceived negatively. Any support the CAF provides is functionally free to the requesting province or territory, which can serve to de-incentivize ...



It is imperative for the Government of Canada to start exercising cost-recovery for each domestic operation, without exception. This should be done with no political involvement and per the example of the RCMP, which already do this when supporting each other, and it is not a political issue. Cost recovery does not have to be politically sensitive at the federal level. Mechanisms for cost recovery should be automatic when an RFA is issued. Career civil servants can manage it with no partisan interests. It has become increasingly easy to get the CAF into domestic operations







## Endnotes

- 1 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada Government of Canada, [, Third edition \(Ottawa: Emergency Management Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada, 2017\), \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#).
- 2 "Emergency Management Act," Pub. L. No. S.C. 2007, c. 15 (2007), [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#), Para 4(H).
- 3 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada Government of Canada, [An Emergency Management Framework for Canada, Third edition \(Ottawa: Emergency Management Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada, 2017\), \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) 10.
- 4 CJOC HQ, J3 Continental Ops, "Canadian Joint Operations Command, Domestic Operations" (Ottawa, Ontario, September 22, 2022), 10.
- 5 National Defence, "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence," April 8, 2024, [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#), 1.
- 6 National Defence, "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence," April 8, 2024, 1.
- 7 National Defence, "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence," April 8, 2024, 11.
- 8 Michael Babin, "Use of the Canadian Armed Forces in Domestic Operations: The Need to Adapt Canada's Emergency Management to Evolving Requirements" (Academic Paper, Kingston, Ontario, Queen's University, 2024), 37.
- 2' [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#).
- 10 Steven Graham, Interview with Brigadier-General Steven Graham, Microsoft Teams Meeting, November 30, 2023.
- 11 [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) accessed June 11, 2024, [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#).
- 12 [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) 23, 2023.
- 13 [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) 23, 2023.
- 14 Royal Canadian Air Force National Defence, "Canada's New CH-147F Chinook Helicopter - Backgrounder - Royal Canadian Air Force," not available, June 27, 2013, [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#).
- 15 OP LENTUS 23-01: Approx 300 troops from the 3.