

Evacuating the Halifax Peninsula Summary of Findings

Julia Chappaz & Dr. Kevin Quigley

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Key Findings: Disaster Mitigation & Planning

Literature

- ✦ Limited opportunities to prepare for large-scale evacuations
- ✦ Limited resources to investment in disaster mitigation & emergency planning

Key Informant Interviews

- ✦ Limited/insufficient experience with large-scale evacuations
- ✦ Institutional arrangements sufficient for a large-scale evacuation but many uncertainties remain in practice
- ✦ Performance metrics

Key Findings: Vulnerable Populations/Ethics & Liability

Literature

- ★ Large-scale evacuations → Failing to account for the needs of vulnerable populations
- ★ Ethical implications and issues of liability

Key Informant Interviews

- ★ Top challenges: time, resources, and information coordination
- ★ Elderly, disabled, and sick were of main focus. No mention of low-income populations
- ★ Absence of ethical and liability discussions

Key Findings: Collaboration & Relationships

Literature

- ✦ Collaboration among stakeholders
- ✦ Clear roles and responsibilities

Key Informant Interviews

- ✦ Collaboration intensifies due to loss of flexibility (ultimately, loss of control over resources)
- ✦ Incident Command System (ICS)
- ✦ Informal vs. formal structure: emphasis on informal relationships

Key Findings: Emergency Planning & Organizational Culture

Literature

- ✦ Need for clear documented plans
- ✦ Governance arrangements
- ✦ HRM emergency/evacuation plans: public accessibility
- ✦ Lack of political will: investment

Key informant Interviews

- ✦ Need for formally documented plans
- ✦ Need for “buy-in”: political role

Next Steps

Evacuation 2.0:

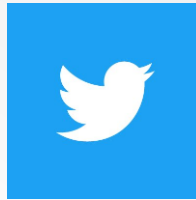
- Ethical dimensions and liability in large-scale evacuations
- Prioritization
- Transparency & performance metrics
- Issues of non-compliance
- Coordination needs and procedures of non-profits involved in the relocation and sheltering of evacuees
- Technological improvements for forecasting → Increased preparedness (timeliness)
- Communication & information sharing: Role of NGOs
- Evacuations are consequential; what would guide our thinking for evacuation in the first place?

Next Steps (cont'd)

Evacuation 2.0:

- Online tool for testing knowledge on evacuation

For more Information



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Kevin Quigley

Scholarly Director

MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

kevin.quigley@dal.ca

902 494 3782