

OTTAWA REPORT

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Get Prepared!

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5 to 11th, and is a great time to ensure you and your family are prepared for any emergency situation that may occur.

The GetPrepared.ca website is an excellent resource to help you complete your own emergency plan. It has sections on preparing children for emergencies, planning for pets and service animals, and using technology to keep in touch during emergencies. You can also access the Canadian Disaster Database and find out the risks that have affected your region since 1990 to allow you to better prepare.

Mobile users can bookmark m.GetPrepared.ca for quick tips on what to do during different kinds of emergencies like floods, or thunderstorms, and to create a custom emergency kit shopping list.

New Measures to Protect Families

Families will be pleased to know that new health and safety measures will soon be enacted to:

- ? Ensure that drug labels are written in plain language;
- ? Remove products from the marketplace that contain small, powerful magnets which threaten the safety of young children;
- ? Establish a new research center which will strengthen Canada's ability to pinpoint and stop food-borne illnesses;
- ? Improve the way Health Canada monitors the safety of drugs, including adverse reactions; and
- ? Enhance safety standards for playpens sold in Canada.

Canada: A World Leader in Science

Canada ranks fourth in the world and is growing in both output and impact according to a recent survey, conducted by the Council of Canadian Academies, of 5,000 top international scientists. Between 2005 and 2010, Canada produced almost 60 per cent more papers than during the previous five years, the only G7 country to increase its output above the world average. Since 2006 our government has provided over \$9 billion in new funding to support science, technology, world-class research excellence and linkages between knowledge and the capacity to innovate in the global economy. I encourage you to find out more about science in Canada at www.science.gc.ca.

Call for Proposals, Status of Women

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, has announced a call for proposals for projects that will increase opportunities for women in non-traditional roles. In 2009, women represented just 22.3 per cent of Canadians with occupations in engineering, mathematics and natural sciences. In 2012, women represented only 4% of those working in construction trades, and 20% of those working in primary industries such as forestry, mining, oil and gas.

Economic Action Plan 2013 announced a number of measures to better connect Canadians with job opportunities. These measures will increase economic opportunities for women in Canada and increase their representation in all occupations, including skilled trades and other non-traditional occupations.

New Military Honour

Applications for the new Bomber Command honour are now being accepted. The new honour will be in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM). Some 50,000 Canadians in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal Air Force served over occupied Europe in defending our commonwealth, and was one of Canada's most significant contributions during the Second World War. With this bar, our Government is honouring those Canadians who fought for peace, freedom and democracy through their service in Bomber Command. Approximately 10,000 Canadians in the Bomber Command made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country's freedoms and values.

All Canadian Veterans who were awarded the CVSM and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command, regardless of rank or role, are eligible for this new bar. Loved ones of a deceased Canadian Bomber Command Veteran who hold the Veteran's CVSM may also apply to receive this bar. The new honour is a significant and memorable step in the recognition of these unsung heroes. To apply online for the honour, or to download a hardcopy of the application form, please visit veterans.gc.ca. Lest we forget.

If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.