



WORKSHOP A:

Remaining Relevant in Response to a Pandemic: The Role and Responsibilities of Parliament





HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

REMAINING RELEVANT IN RESPONSE TO A PANDEMIC: THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARLIAMENT – CANADA

Chris d'Entremont, Deputy Speaker and Chair of
Committees of the Whole, Canada

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Halifax,
August 24, 2022

DEMEURER PERTINENT DANS LA LUTTE CONTRE UNE PANDÉMIE : LE RÔLE ET LES RESPONSABILITÉS DU PARLEMENT – CANADA

Chris d'Entremont, vice-président de la Chambre des
communes et président des comités pléniers

65^e Conférence parlementaire du Commonwealth,
Halifax, 24 août 2022





PANELISTS / PANÉLISTES

CHRIS D'ENTREMONT

MP for West Nova, Deputy Speaker, House of Commons

Député de Nova-Ouest, vice-président de la Chambre des communes

HON. NATHAN COOPER

MPP for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Député de Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, Président, Assemblée législative de l'Alberta

CATHERINE FIFE

MPP for Waterloo, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Députée de Waterloo, Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

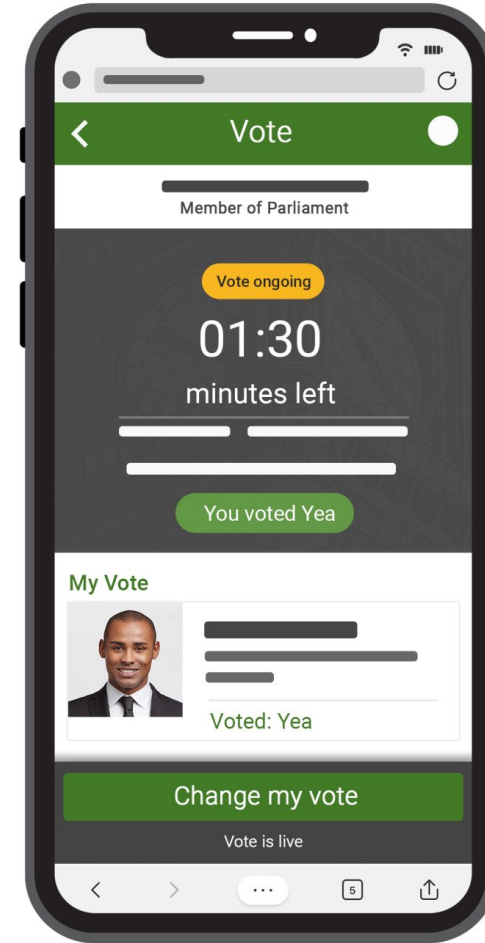
TIMELINE

- **March 2020** – First virtual committees;
- **April 2020** – Special Committee on COVID-19 created;
- **May 2020** – Special Committee hybrid meetings (in the Chamber);
- **September 2020** – Hybrid chamber, Zoom roll-call voting, all committees may meet in a hybrid format;
- **March 2021** – Voting application launched;
- **November 2021** – 44th Parliament: hybrid proceedings resumed (Chamber and committees);
- **June 2022** – Hybrid proceedings renewed (Chamber and committees) until June 23, 2023.

CHRONOLOGIE

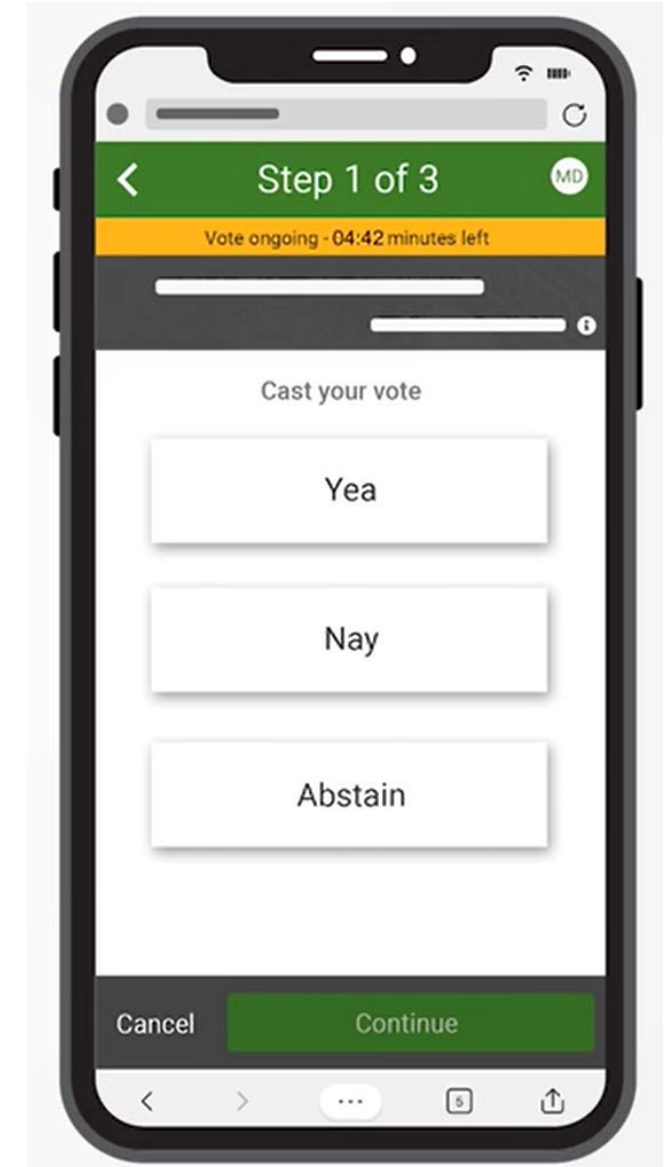
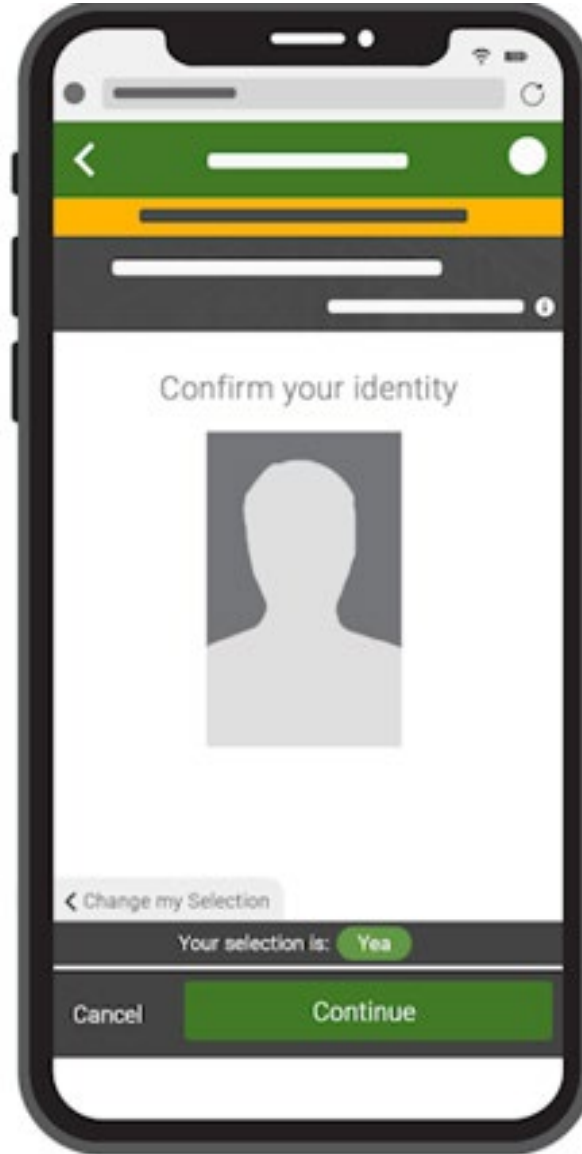
- **Mars 2020** – Premiers comités virtuels;
- **Avril 2020** – Création du Comité spécial sur la pandémie de la COVID-19;
- **Mai 2020** – Réunions en mode hybride du comité spécial (à la Chambre);
- **Septembre 2020** – Chambre hybride, votes par Zoom par appel nominaux, réunions hybrides possibles pour tous les comités;
- **Mars 2021** – Lancement de l'application de vote électronique;
- **Novembre 2021** – Poursuite du mode hybride (Chambre et comités) pour la 44^e législature;
- **Juin 2022** – Reconduction du mode hybride (Chambre et comités) jusqu'au 23 juin 2023. ⏪ ⏩

VOTING APPLICATION / APPLICATION DE VOTE



ELECTRONIC VOTING PROCESS

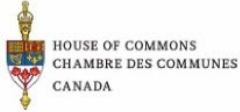
PROCESSUS DE VOTE ÉLECTRONIQUE



PUBLIC LIVE VOTE WEBPAGE

PAGE WEB DE VOTE EN TEMPS RÉEL

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA VISIT PARLIAMENT FRANÇAIS

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Votes > Live Vote

Vote Ongoing **LIVE VOTE RESULTS** 13:17 MINUTES LEFT

! Unofficial Results
This page presents unrevised live vote results. In general they will be displayed for a short period of time. New results will appear when another vote begins. Once revised, official results will be available in the House of Commons Journals after adjournment, and on the OurCommons votes website.

43RD PARLIAMENT, 2ND SESSION
🕒 Sitting No. - Date

SUBJECT
[REDACTED]

MOTION TEXT
[REDACTED]


VOTE RESULTS Results as of 2:41:45 PM EST

2 YEA	2 NAY
-----------------	-----------------

Electronic Vote In Person Vote * Vote was updated

Member of Parliament	Political Affiliation	Vote
Name (Political Riding)	[REDACTED]	Yea* <input type="checkbox"/>
Name (Political Riding)	[REDACTED]	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name (Political Riding)	[REDACTED]	Nay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name (Political Riding)	[REDACTED]	Nay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SPONSOR OF THIS MOTION

 **Name**
Party Affiliation
Political Riding

ELECTRONIC DASHBOARD

Hybrid Proceedings Dashboard NP

House of Commons Sitting No. 100 Current Sitting Votes

January 13, 2021

LIVE Private Members' Business 🖨️ 📄

🕒 1:50:41 PM - 2:00:41 PM (ET)

All Caucuses ✓ 50 ✕ 38

Liberal ✓ 17 ✕ 10

Conservative ✓ 14 ✕ 11

Bloc Québécois ✓ 12 ✕ 8

NDP ✓ 6 ✕ 8

Green Party ✓ 0 ✕ 1

Independent ✓ 1 ✕ 0

Participation (All Caucuses) Vote (All Caucuses)

Virtual Sitting	Vote System	Status	Results	Type
● 91 CONNECTED	● 84 CONNECTED	89 VOTED	✓ 50 YEA	👤 68 IN PERSON
○ 247 NOT CONNECTED	○ 254 NOT CONNECTED	249 NOT VOTED	✕ 38 NAY	🗳️ 21 REMOTELY
			- 1 ABSTAIN	

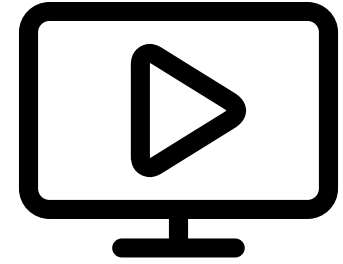
✓ No General Issue

Filter Search 1 - 20 of 338

Name	Caucus	Vote	Virtual Sitting	Voting System
+ [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Abstain * 🗳️	● Connected	● Connected
+ [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Nay 🗳️	● Connected	○ Not Connected
+ [Redacted]	[Redacted]	--	○ Not Connected	● Connected
+ [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yea 👤	○ Not Connected	○ Not Connected
+ [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Nay 🗳️	● Connected	○ Not Connected

TABLEAU DE BORD ÉLECTRONIQUE

ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM SYSTÈME DE VOTE ÉLECTRONIQUE





QUESTIONS

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Remaining Relevant in Response to a Pandemic

The Roles and Responsibilities of Parliament

Hon. Nathan Cooper MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Halifax, Canada
August 20 to 26, 2022



Relevant: closely connected or appropriate to what is being done or considered



Pandemic timeline and early COVID measures

March 5,
first case in
Alberta

March 16,
Members
return to the
Chamber

March 18,
Staff asked to
work from home

March 12, tours
and public
events
suspended
general public
access restricted

March 17,
Public Health
Emergency
declared.






Revised budget process



New Chamber protocols



Ability to extend adjournment

January 2020

	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30					4
5						
12						
19						
26						
2						8

Revised sessional calendar

March 2020

	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

February 2020

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
26	27	28	29	30	31	
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	14	
16	17	18	19	20	21	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
1	2	3	4	5	6	

April 2020

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
29	30	31	1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	13	14	15	16	17	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	



Revised sessional calendar

May 2020							June 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
July 2020							August 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	31	1	2	3	4	5



Extended sitting hours

Fiscal year	House sessional days	House sittings total	Evening sessions	Evening sessions past midnight	Total number of hours
10-year average (from 2013 to 2022, not including 2022/23)	56	97	23	7	341
2020-2021	79	140	45	21	560 (64.2%)
2021-2022*	66	134	43	14	487 (42.9%)





**KEEP
CALM
AND
WASH
YOUR
HANDS**





Government Overreach

2020 Bill 10

Second Session, 30th Legislature, 69 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 10

**PUBLIC HEALTH (EMERGENCY POWERS)
AMENDMENT ACT, 2020**



Government Overreach

3 Section 52.1(2) presently reads:

(2) On the making of an order under subsection (1) and for up to 60 days following the lapsing of that order, a person referred to in subsection (3) may by order, without consultation, suspend or modify the application or operation of all or part of an enactment subject to the terms and conditions that person may prescribe if the person is satisfied that its application or operation is not in the public interest.

3 Section 52.1(2) is repealed and the following is substituted:

(2) On the making of an order under subsection (1) and for up to 60 days following the lapsing of that order, a person referred to in subsection (3) may by order, without consultation,

- (a) suspend or modify the application or operation of all or part of an enactment, subject to the terms and conditions that person may prescribe, or
- (b) specify or set out provisions that apply in addition to, or instead of, any provision of an enactment,

if the person is satisfied that doing so is in the public interest.



Government Overreach





Committee Review



State of public health emergency

52.1 Where, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, the Lieutenant Governor in Council is satisfied that

- (a) a public health emergency exists or may exist, and
- (b) prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property is required in order to protect the public health,

the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make an order declaring a state of public health emergency relating to all or any part of Alberta.

Government Overreach: a remedy



Remaining relevant during recovery





The internet and online communication is the window into your world – but real life, in person communication / connection is the door.

Rasheed Ogunlaru



Lessons learned

Adrian Raeside cartoon: Legislature debate via video conference

Les Leyne column: B.C. politicians are back in (virtual) business

Adrian Raeside
Jun 24, 2020 6:00 AM



| Adrian Raeside

Questions?



Hon. Nathan Cooper

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Email.Nathan.Cooper@assembly.ab.ca



assembly.ab.ca





“THE GOOD, THE BAD, and THE UGLY”

REMAINING RELEVANT IN RESPONSE TO A PANDEMIC:
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARLIAMENT

MPP Catherine Fife (@cfifekw)

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Background Information

- Population: 14,951,800 (Q1 2022)
- 124 MPPs in the Legislature
- 2020 Government Majority

Sitting days per year:

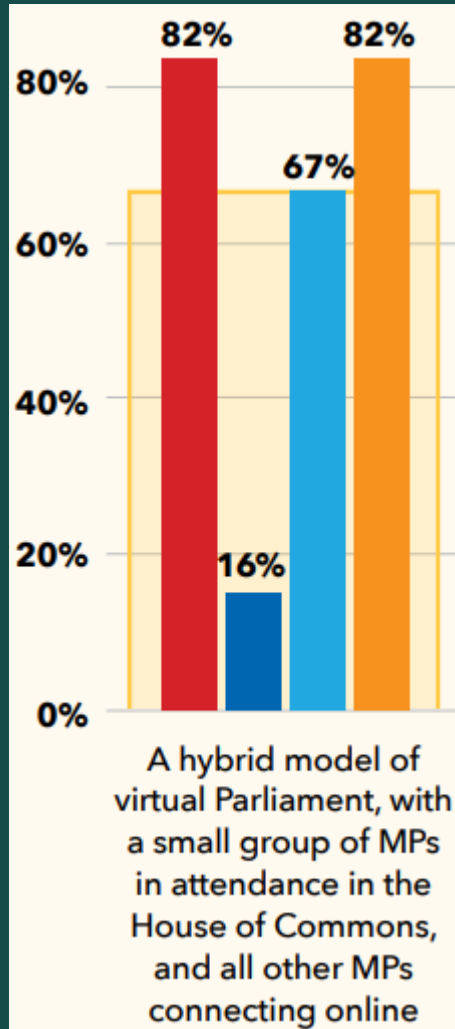
- 2018: 122
- 2019: 75
- 2020: 86
- 2021: 95
- 2022: 130 scheduled

- Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, invoked **March 17, 2020**
- Select Committee on Emergency Management Oversight, **July 15, 2020**
- Reopening Ontario Act, **July 21, 2020**
- Major study to review the Economic and Fiscal state of the province through the Finance Committee **May - August 2020**

Executive Overreach



Making Parliament work... or NOT



- No updated plan for Parliament in a pandemic
- Ontario's opposition parties wanted a virtual Parliament
- The Government did not want a virtual Parliament
- Politics of the moment ruled decisions

Virtual Half Measures



- Legislature transitioned employees to remote work.
- Parliament temporarily allowed some functions (some committees) to happen virtually.



New Reality



A global survey of over 100 national parliaments by the Inter-Parliamentary Union found that by the end of 2020 alone:

- 65% had deployed virtual or hybrid committee meetings
- 1/3 held virtual or hybrid Chamber/Plenary Business

LOST CONTACT BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS –
“WE MISSED EACH OTHER” Apparently..

“Nothing can match the critical human, person-to-person interactions that make Parliament work, that help diffuse misunderstanding and aid the cohesion.”



“MEETING COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS”

- Order to Shelter in Place
 - Health and Safety

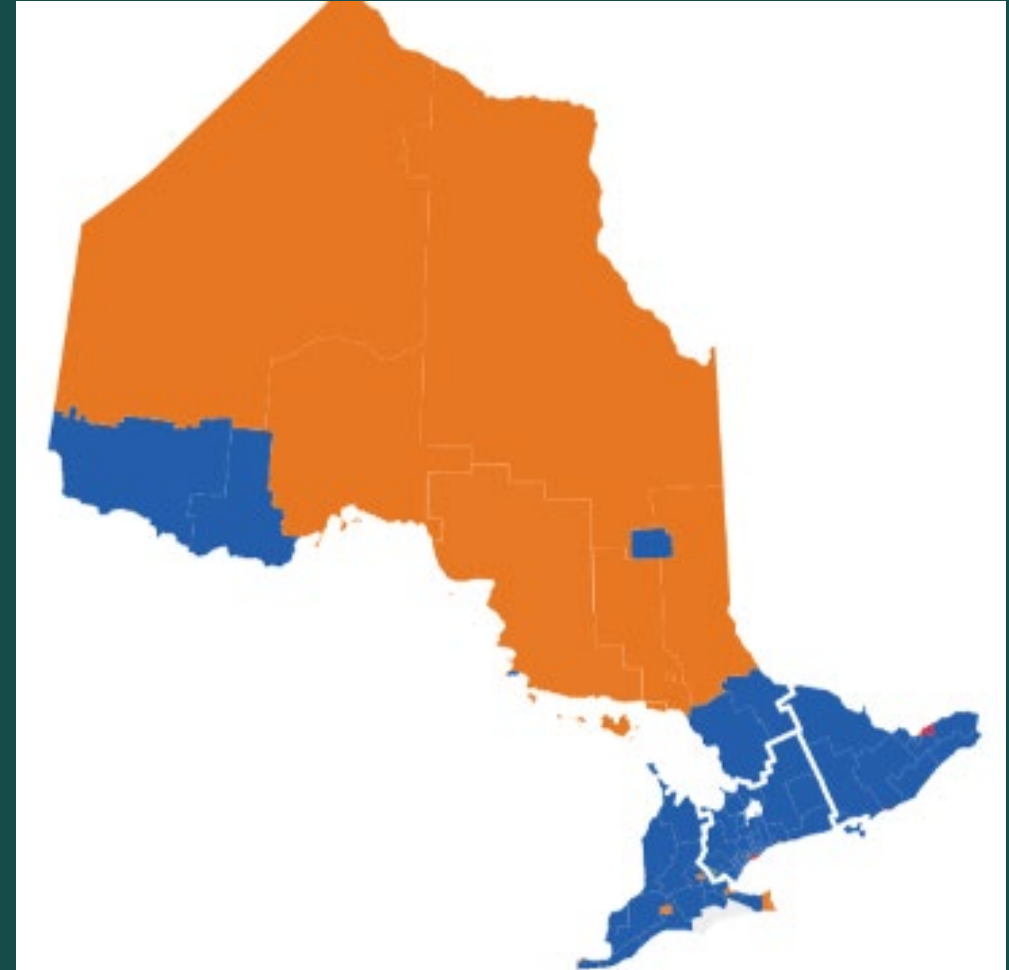


REPRESENTATION MATTERS!



Classic Functions of Parliament:

- Scrutiny
- Legislation
- Representation



Lost Trust



- Public Health
- Public Trust
- Mandatory Masking
- Mandatory Vaccines
- Closing Playgrounds
- Tickets for stopping in parks



From the Clerk's Table



- Permanent Changes
- Future Challenges



CONCERNS GOING FORWARD



- Appropriate Checks and Balances
- Delegate resources and invest in equipment and people so we have capacity when we need it
- Embed emergency planning into the budget cycle of government

Ultimately what makes us relevant is planning with follow up action.



Thank You

MPP Catherine Fife
@CFifeKW





Recommendation:

“Parliaments (both large and small) should develop contingency plans for future pandemics and crises. The contingency plan should make allowances for procedural changes, ensure public consultation where possible and be adaptable in accordance with the specific crisis.”





THANK YOU

