

July 22, 2020

## **A letter to Delegates, Speakers and Sponsors of the Ontario Disaster & Emergency Management Conference**

### **Introducing *VIRTUAL DEMCON!***

Without question, 2020 has been, and will continue to be, the most challenging time of our lifetime, personally and professionally. While past generations had to bear the horrors of war and depression, we have lived a relatively charmed existence for many decades, until March 2020 when COVID-19 landed on our shores and advanced across the nation.

It is now more vital than ever before to take a pause from your day-to-day operations and plan 2-days over October 7-8 to keep yourself up to date on the latest best practices, to share your stories with peers and bring that new knowledge into play as the pandemic fight continues.

The DEMCON Planning Committee has developed a fantastic Program that includes three renowned Keynotes, 18 diverse concurrent sessions, and an interactive Closing Panel with a focus on how the pandemic has changed your profession.

Conference Management brings to you super low registration fees with a superior easy-to-use interactive online platform for live access to all Sessions, Networking, Round Table Forums, Demo Stage, Vendor products/services and a fun Happy Hour to close out the first day.

In closing, I tip my hat to you, emergency management and business continuity professionals. This ongoing pandemic is bringing out the very best in you keeping our communities safe, businesses and operations running and supply chains intact.

On behalf of all Canadians, THANK YOU!



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### Post-Script – why virtual and why now?

The pandemic brought about an immediate shut-down of the economy that included the exhibition industry. At the time of this writing only New Brunswick and Alberta have approved exhibitions may reopen, (as well as Germany, France, Italy and Spain). Since a B2B event requires several months of advance notice to plan, regrettably we had to make the decision to go virtual only for our Ontario, BC and Quebec Fall meetings. For the curious, please go to [www.CAEM.ca](http://www.CAEM.ca) (Canadian Association of Event Management) for details on how the exhibition industry can open safely and responsibly.