



## **The British Columbia Disaster Psychosocial (DPS) Volunteer Network**

In 2001, the Disaster Psychosocial Program (DPS) was formed with a mandate to develop and provide psychosocial strategies. Working across emergency management systems, the DPS Program accomplishes its mission by collaborating with multiple partners, managing its volunteer network/resources to build provincial psychosocial service capacity, promoting system integration and by developing education and training strategies for leaders, front line workers, and the public.

The program develops and provides these strategies with a continuum of supportive services targeting both the public and responders affected by an emergency or disaster. These services are intended to empower people to help themselves and connect them to local resources, minimizing the long-term psychosocial effects of a disaster. The program also encourages community recovery by providing educational tools and resources to increase resiliency and healthy coping.

In September 2014, CCPA became an official member of the BC DPS Council which facilitates members like you to be called upon as local, community-based volunteers when the need arises. Furthermore, CCPA attended and was one of the sponsors for the spring 2016 International DPS Conference held in Vancouver, BC.

The DPS Services Volunteer Network is comprised of professional and paraprofessionals from:

- BC Association of Social Workers
- BC Psychological Association
- BC Association of Clinical Counsellors
- Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association
- Police Victim Services of BC
- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care

DPS volunteers are engaged through the DPS Program by its program lead and coordinator, as well as guided and supported by the DPS Council. The DPS Council has representatives from each of the above professional groups, as well as the Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army, Emergency Social Services, and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).

**If you are a BC CCPA Certified member (CCC) and are interested in volunteering with the Disaster Psychosocial program, [please submit an application online](#).** Please note that volunteers are screened to ensure they have the necessary credentials.

Through the Continuing Education Credits (CEC) Program, CCPA also recognizes members who engage in pro bono work in a professional counselling or psychotherapy capacity such as consultation, crisis counselling and disaster response.

For more information about the DPS Program, please visit the following website:

[http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/health-emergency-management-bc/disaster-  
psychosocial-program](http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/health-emergency-management-bc/disaster-<br/>psychosocial-program)