MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
of the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

and

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Public Safety Canada (hereinafter "the Sides"), recognizing that the United States and Canada face growing security threats and disaster risks, intend to foster greater alignment on activities related to operational plans and priorities to encourage readiness, civil protection, and disaster risk reduction along our shared border.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) reflects the mutual desire of both sides to work toward building greater understanding and identifying opportunities to align each other's plans and capabilities for civil protection between the two nations. Large-scale emergency events have the potential to impact communities on both sides of our shared border and call for a coordinated approach to incident and consequence management. A crisis or incident, whether natural or human-induced, often affects both populations and requires responses from both federal governments. Therefore, the Sides of this MOU intend to pursue greater civil coordination and to strengthen the Canada-U.S. relationship as both countries desire to build resilience and to plan for future shared impacts.

Through this MOU, the Sides commit to drafting a charter for the Joint Emergency Management Council (Council), which would aim to address these binational threats with deliberate joint planning and coordination. The Council is intended to focus on the urgent joint emergency management readiness and catastrophic planning needs of both nations.

The Sides note that the emergency management authorities in Canada and the U.S. share certain commitments to meet the challenges of growing demands on the emergency management community in response to the increasing range and complexity of disasters and binational threats. The Sides intend for the Council to complement and to be guided by existing commitments that include:

a. **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**: The Sendai Framework advocates for the substantial reduction of disaster risk, and both Sides recognize the

ongoing importance of implementing the Framework's principles. It is expected that the Council would support Priority Two: *Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.*

b. **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept, endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of NATO Allies, defines the Alliance's three core tasks: deterrence and defense; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security. Further, NATO will pursue a more robust, integrated and coherent approach to building national and Alliance-wide resilience. Resilience is a national responsibility and a collective commitment. The Council will focus its efforts on enhanced bi-national resilience.

c. **The Canada-U.S. Civil Assistance Plan (CAP)**: The CAP provides a framework for the military of one nation to provide support to the military of the other nation while in the performance of civil support operations to the primary agency.

d. **The Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Emergency Management Cooperation**: This agreement outlines general principles of cooperation for civil emergency management authorities.

2. SIDES/PARTICIPANTS

a. FEMA. The primary mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the United States from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.

b. Public Safety Canada. The mission of Public Safety Canada is to build a safe and resilient Canada by ensuring coordination across all federal departments and agencies responsible for national security and the safety of Canadians.

3. AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

a. The Sides commit to drafting a charter that would establish the Council and would describe the Council's purpose, structure, and procedures. The Sides intend for the Council's priorities and work to be directed by the Administrator of FEMA and the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Emergency Management and Programs Branch of Public Safety Canada. The Sides also intend for the leadership of FEMA and Public Safety Canada to meet biannually.

b. It is expected that the Council would aim to foster joint readiness and to identify opportunities for interoperability between U.S. and Canadian civil emergency management authorities to prepare better for current and future threats, catastrophic crises, or disasters affecting both nations. With growing and unprecedented challenges ahead, it is also expected that the Council would strive to coordinate civil disaster

situational awareness and capabilities for consequence management, with the possible expansion towards a coordinated civil-military response by both countries. Once identified, the intent is for the Council to share information with respective government officials that can be used for opportunities for interoperability to carry out joint operations within their respective geographic jurisdictions that bolster readiness in both nations and along the shared border.

4. OPERATIVE DATES, MODIFICATIONS, AND DISCONTINUANCE

a. Operative Date: This MOU becomes operative upon the date of the last signature.

b. Modifications: This MOU may be reviewed or modified upon request by either Side. It is intended that any modifications would be applied with the mutual understanding of both Sides that the modifications would be recorded in writing with signatures by both Sides.

c. Discontinuance: This MOU is expected to be operative for five (5) years from the date of the last signature, and either Side may discontinue this MOU before then with notification to the other side.

5. STATUS

The sides do not expect this MOU to constitute a treaty under international law. This MOU is not intended to be legally binding, and no legal obligations or legal rights are expected to arise between the Sides from this MOU.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT

The following individuals are designated points of contact for this MOU:

a. FEMA:

Administrator
500 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20472

b. Public Safety Canada

Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management and Programs Branch
269 Laurier Ave
Ottawa, ON K1N 6P7

7. SIGNATURES

PRINCIPAL Administrator FEMA	PRINCIPAL Assistant Deputy Minister Emergency Management and Programs Branch
2/28/24 (Date)	MAR 19 2024 (Date)