

SULLIVAN BREEN

Robert E. Simmonds, QC (Counsel) + Peter E. Ralph, QC + Rosellen Sullivan + Erin K. Breen, QC + Marianne T. Rennie

August 13, 2021

Commissioner James Igloliorte
Public Inquiry Respecting Ground
Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons
Ground Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
100 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

VIA EMAIL

Commissioner Igloliorte,

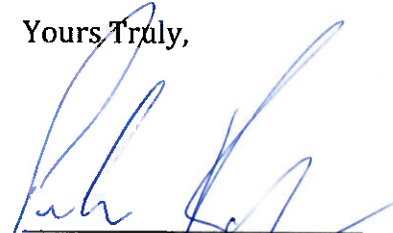
Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment upon the draft discussion paper respecting the organization and operation of ground search and rescue in the Province, in accordance with rule 12 of the Inquiry's Rules and Procedures.

Having reviewed the draft discussion paper, I wish to bring the following points forward for your consideration. Under Section 5.3.6 Equipment, commencing at the last paragraph of page 11 and continuing onto page 12, there are two points I wish to clarify.

- a) First, there is reference to 'duty officers' of the Emergency Services Division (ESD) being on call 24/7. This is indeed correct however, the correct name for this position is Regional Emergency Management and Planning Officer (REMPO).
- b) Secondly, the ESD does not currently contact the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) or the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) to request air assets.
 - i) ESD Requests for Assistance from the Government of Canada for air support of GSAR missions are channeled to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Halifax. It is the JRCC who would assess the availability of a CCG air asset to provide assistance in support of a GSAR mission.
 - ii) Section 1 (g) and (h) of the CASARA memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Justice and Public Safety specifies that a provincial task means a search and rescue activity tasked by a Provincial Police Force. Therefore, the ESD is unable to task CASARA to support a GSAR mission.

If you require further information, I may be contacted at 709-739-4141 or pralph@sbdefence.ca.

Yours Truly,



PETER E. RALPH, QC

PR/nlg