

BURNING ISSUES



PREVENTION • PROTECTION • PUBLIC EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Douglas M. Popowich

It is 3:00 a.m with inclement weather conditions. Your department has responded to and is attending a working structure fire. An interior attack combined with search and rescue operations is underway. All of a sudden, there is an explosion in the structure. You have no idea what has caused this event but all the windows in the living room area on the first floor have blown out. An immediate call for assistance comes across the radio. "Firefighter down" is transmitted.

Where are your people? How many are in the structure? How many are on the fireground in total? Where are they assigned? Do you have a Rapid Intervention Crew available for immediate deployment? How long have personnel been in the building? The list of questions can go on and on. The main issue is, what is in place within your department to ensure the safety of your personnel in the event an emergency occurs involving them? Both the '5' Step Action Plan promoted by our Office and the new proposed

"Firefighters Code of Practice" developed by the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs talk about the need for an Incident Management System. This document also specifies the need for a Personnel Accountability System. NFPA 1561 outlines the requirements for an Incident Management System. Although NFPA standards are not the law they certainly are the standard your actions will be compared to. An important component of any Incident Management System is a Personnel Accountability System.

The Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs has developed and endorsed a Provincial Personnel Accountability System. It is a 2-tag system that is easy to use and relatively inexpensive. At last count less than 25% of our fire departments had made arrangements to put this system into use. If you currently have an accountability system in your department that works good for you, good, but if not I strongly urge you to consider adopting and implementing the Provincial system. Even if you have a

system in place, you should give consideration to the Provincial system for mutual aid operations and other incidents where you would have to work with other departments. I understand that the system will be on display at this year's MAFC convention. Also, a session on using the system will be offered at this year's Emergency Services Conference. If you require additional information or have questions or concerns, you may contact Jack Robertson, Chief of St. Andrews Fire Department. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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Visit Our New Web Page

Visit our new web page at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca. The website includes information on all sections of the Office, building, plumbing, occupancy permits that can be downloaded, statistics, the Course Catalogue, the Lending Library, a complete information

package on the Public Fire Protection Program, Burning Issues and archive issues and pictures of the Conference. Once you have visited our site, please let us know what you think. Please call 1-888-253-1488 to give us your opinion.

MEDICAL

Firemen, Policemen, EMS, & Dispatchers

I wish you could comprehend a wife's horror at 3 in the morning as I check her husband of 40 years for a pulse and find none. I start CPR anyway, hoping to bring him back, knowing intuitively it is too late. But wanting his wife and family to know everything possible was done to save his life.

I wish you could read my mind as I respond to a to an EMS call, "What is wrong with the patient? Is it minor or life-threatening? Is the caller really in distress or is he waiting for us with a gun?"

I wish you could be in the emergency room as a doctor pronounces dead the beautiful five-year old girl that I have been trying to save during the past 25 minutes. Who will never go on her first date or say the words, "I love you Mommy" again.

I wish you could know the frustration I feel in my cruisers or the cab of the rescue, with my foot pressing down hard on the pedal, my siren and air blasting again and again, as you fail to yield the right-of-way at an intersection or in traffic. BUT when you need us however, your first comment upon our arrival will be, "It took you forever to get here!" or "What took you so long?"

I wish you could know my thoughts as I help extricate a girl of teenage years from the remains of her automobile. What if this was my sister or my friend? What are their parents reaction going to be when they opened the door to find a police officer with hat in hand?"

I wish you could know how it feels to walk in the back door and greet my parents and family, not having the heart to tell them that I nearly did not come back from the last call.

I wish you could know how it feels dispatching police officers, fireman and EMT's out and when we call for them and our heart drops because no one answers back or to here a bone chilling 911 call of a child or wife needing assistance.

I wish you could feel the hurt as people verbally, and sometimes physically, abuse us or belittle what we do, or as they express their attitudes of "It will never happen to me."

I wish you could realize the physical, emotional and mental drain or missed meals, lost sleep and forgone social activities, in addition to all the tragedy my eyes have seen.

I wish you could know the brotherhood and self-satisfaction of helping save a life, or being able to be there in time of crisis, or creating order from total chaos. I wish you could understand what it feels like to have a little boy tugging at your arm and asking, "Is Mommy okay?" Not even being able to look in his eyes without tears from your own and not knowing what to say.

Or to have to hold back a long time friend who watches his buddy having rescue breathing done on him as they take him away in the ambulance. You know all along he did not have his seat belt on. A sensation that I have become too familiar with.

Unless you have lived with this kind of life, you will never truly understand or appreciate who I am, who we are, or what our job really means to us...I wish you could though.

APPRECIATE AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL EMS WORKERS, FIREFIGHTERS, & LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN YOUR AREA. ONE DAY THEY'LL PROBABLY BE SAVING YOUR PROPERTY OR YOUR OWN LIFE.

WHEN YOU SEE THEM COMING WITH LIGHTS FLASHING, MOVE OUT OF THE WAY QUICKLY. THEN PRAY FOR THEM. Steven Sutherland

Submitted by Shirley Dufresne, OFC

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

(Continued from Page 1)

Remember your number one irreplaceable resource is your personnel. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that we do as much as

possible to ensure their safety. An Incident Management System that uses an effective and efficient Personnel Accountability System will go a long way in providing the level of safety required at an emergency

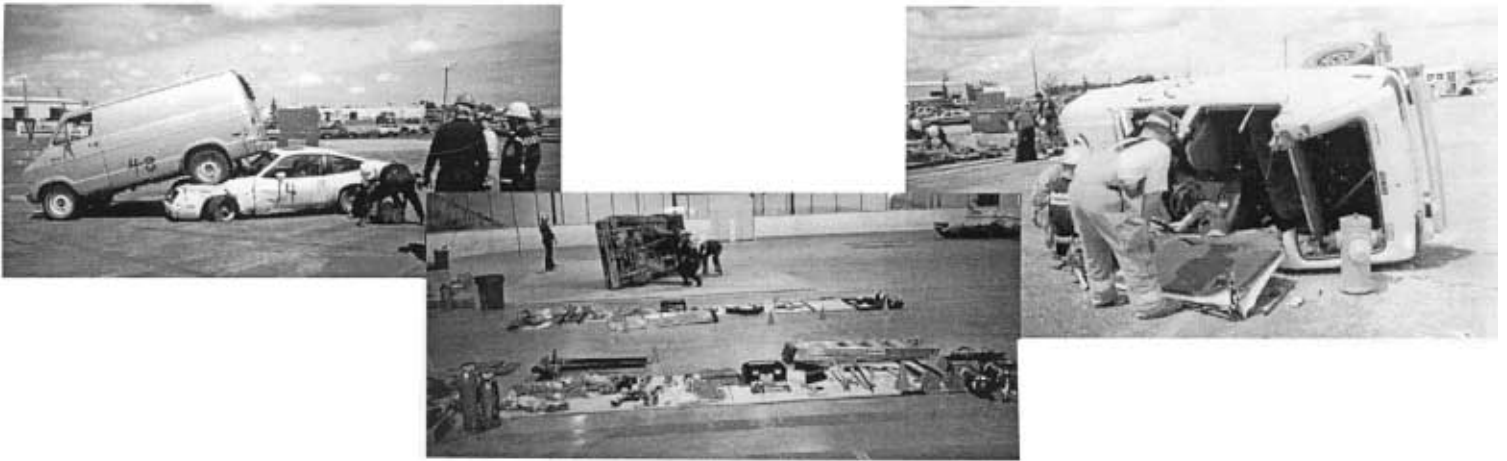
incident. Remember, safety of responding personnel is the number 1 priority of any Incident Commander. Let us work to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can!

EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE

The Manitoba Emergency Services Conference will be held October 11th - 14th.
Watch your mail for the Conference brochure.

Manitoba 2001 Western Canadian Vehicle Extrication Competition

Wednesday, October 10 & Thursday, October 11
Manitoba Emergency Services College



Designed as a learning competition, this event allows vehicle rescue personnel to gain real life on the street experience in a controlled, safe environment. Teams consist of 5 competitors and 1 alternate and they compete in two events, a limited (hand tools) and an unlimited (powered hydraulics).

Judges are supplied by the Canadian Automotive Rescue Society and they also provide informational critiques to teams after each event.



EDUCATION

New Videos in the Lending Library

Youth Fire Stop

Healing Inside Too - Jed Franklin was eight years old when something happened in a flash. It changed his life. On January 30, 1987, as evening approached, Jed knew it was time to fire up the gasoline generator. He didn't know a propane pilot light was burning in the shed beside him. The explosion was about 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. In the middle of it, Jed threw himself to the ground. He stopped, dropped and rolled. His Mother saw his snowsuit melting into his flesh. "Put me in the fish pond," he said. "Don't panic Mom." Thus began the long uphill climb to wellness, recovery and help. Jed's message is strong and is a message to

people his own age; "here's how you can help a guy like me to heal on the inside too." This is a simple and very powerful video, aimed at "well children."

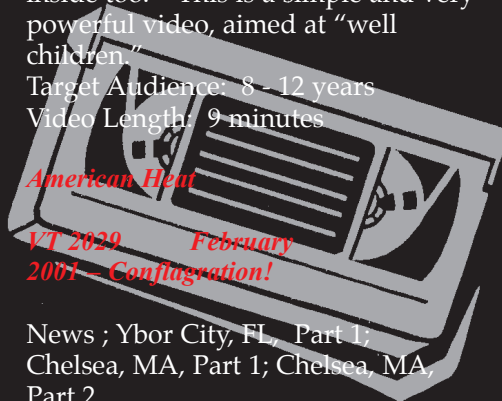
Target Audience: 8 - 12 years

Video Length: 9 minutes

American Heat

VT 2029 February
2001 - Conflagration!

News ; Ybor City, FL, Part 1; Chelsea, MA, Part 1; Chelsea, MA, Part 2
Ybor, FL, Part 2; Ybor, FL, Part 3; Ybor, FL, Part 4; Chelsea, MA, Part 3; Back to Basics; Firefighter Safety, Part 1



VT 2030 March 2001 - Incident Command

American Heat News Update; Philadelphia 10 - Alarmer: The Eastern American Fire, Part 1; Incident Command Background; Philadelphia 10 - Alarmer: The Eastern American Fire, Part 2; The Philadelphia Incident Command System; Back to Basics; Firefighter Safety, Part 2

VT 2031 April 2001 - Taming the Wildland / Urban Interface

American Heat News Update; Laguna Beach, Part 1 and 2; Los Alamos, Parts 1 and 2; Education; Back to Basics; SCBA, Part 1

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

We have had a recent incident near Prince Albert where some people went away for the weekend and on returning they found the inside of their house extremely hot. The house was so hot that they could not take their shoes off to walk on the floor, the linoleum was soft from the heat that the chair legs sank into the floor covering, all candles in the house were melted down completely and when they attempted to pick up some coins off of a dresser, they had to drop them as they were burning their hands. After some investigation the problem was traced to a "Hunter" programmable/electronic thermostat that they had installed in their home. There is no problem with the thermostat itself, it was working fine but the battery in it had gone dead. After replacing the battery it is working fine again. The company was contacted and what we found was that when the battery goes totally dead and the thermostat shuts off, it stays in whatever mode it was in when the battery goes dead. In this case, it was in the mode of "calling" for heat from the furnace and that is where it shut off. The reverse could also happen and the house could freeze up. When it locks in the heating mode the temperature in the house will be controlled by the high limit control on the furnace that is usually set at around 200 °F but can be set as high as 250 °F. If something happens that the high limit control is not working due to lack of servicing and testing, then there is nothing controlling the maximum temperature. The company advises that it will display a "low Battery" warning on the display for two to three months before the battery goes dead. The problem is that most people set up the programs on the thermostat and then never look at it again as what happened in this case. It is possible that other electronic

thermostats that require a battery may have this same problem, it is not known at this time. If you know anyone who has these installed in their homes, please pass this information on to them and advise them to check for low batteries at least once a month. It would be a good idea to replace the battery once a year on a regular basis, like every fall before the start of the heating season.

Submitted by: Brian Bentley, Assistant Chief Staff Development & Safety, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services.

Yuk Shing Industrial Co. Ltd. and CSA International Announce Corrective Action of "Tech Lights" rope light. "Tech Lights" is a flexible light product commonly known as rope light. This preventive action will help guard against a potential electrical shock hazard in the event the product is ever cut and spliced by the consumer. Contact 1-800-294-1546 for more information.

Voluntary Recall by DeWalt Industrial Tool Co. and Black & Decker for 12" Miter Saws. Models 3660 TY1 and 36880 TY1 are voluntarily being recalled. Bolts on the saw could loosen and the blade could detach. This recall involves only 12" miter saws. For further information, you can contact 1-888-771-4540.

Encon Eye Protection Announce Voluntary Recall of Industrial Eye Protectors. Encon is voluntarily recalling industrial eye protectors. The side shield on the protectors, all with the model designation NASCAR, does not meet the requirements of the applicable CSA standard, CAN/CSA-A94.3-00, Industrial Eye and Face Protectors. Please contact 1-814-274-8581 for more information.

EDUCATION

Attention Boat Operators!

Operating Competency for Emergency Response Personnel

Section 2. (1) The Application section of the Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations states:

These Regulations apply in respect of pleasure craft that are fitted with a motor and that are operated for recreational purposes in Canadian waters, other than the waters of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

While working, training or in the line of duty, Emergency Response Personnel, Fire Fighters, Harbour



Patrol Officers and Natural Resource Officers who are not using boats for recreational purposes and therefore the Operator Competency regulation will not apply to them while engaged in these work and rescue related activities.

UPCOMING COURSE DATES

| | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------|
| May 29 | - Fire Investigator Accreditation Testing - written exam - | - Brandon & Winnipeg |
| June 18 - 22 | - Fire Investigator Accreditation Testing - practical exam - | - Brandon |
| Sept 15 - 16 | Basic CISM | Gimli |
| Nov 17 - 18 | Basic CISM | Winnipeg |

CLASS OF 2000 - 2001



Fire Investigation

Find the cause A fire chief from a small community called me the other day and told me an interesting story. It seems a farm couple had discovered some paper burning on their kitchen table one morning shortly after breakfast. Now this couple did not smoke nor were there any matches or lighters or any other source of ignition left on the table. As a matter of fact, the only thing on the table was a tablecloth, the paper and a recently purchased small fish bowl with one fish in it. This fire presented quite a mystery until the following morning at approximately the same time they noticed that the tablecloth had begun to smoke and char. A closer examination revealed that the sun was shining through the fish bowl and this fish bowl had some magnifying properties. The sunlight had been magnified by the fish bowl and on two separate mornings ignited a fire that left unattended would very likely have destroyed the home.

As luck would have it, the farm couple were present when the fire occurred but had they not been home and the house burned, our point of origin would have been the remains of a kitchen table and a glass bowl. Discovering the cause of a fire like this may have presented quite a challenge.

Submitted by Murraray Bedford, ESO, OFC

Public Fire PROTECTION GRADUATION

35 students graduated from the Manitoba Emergency Services College on Friday, April 27th. The Honourable Scott Smith, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Doug Popowich, Fire Commissioner addressed the graduates. Ms. Brenda Popko, Manager of the College presented the graduates with their certificates. Curtis Earl and Shannon Anderson, as class representatives, provided the Farewell address to the Class of 2001.

EDUCATION

Youth Fire Stop Workshop

A Youth Fire Stop Workshop was held at the Manitoba Emergency Services College on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22. There were 16 participants from several different disciplines. Instructors for this Workshop were Dr. Noreen Ek, Brad MacKay, Brandon Emergency Services, Marc Proulx, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Mark Pople, Department of Justice and Marilyn Lamb, OFC. The

judges in our court system, as part of the sentence for these individuals are ordering them to attend the Youth Fire Stop Program. The judges are also using the Alternative Measures program for sentencing as well. Are you prepared to provide this program to persons in your community? The dates for the next Workshop will be published in the Course Catalogue.

Chief Life Line is coming to Manitoba!

Teaching Kids Fire Safety!



This is a unique experience in teaching kids fire prevention and evacuation techniques, while parents are able to view their child on an exterior monitor. There is no charge for the fire safety house. Chief Life Line information was sent out with the Winter Edition of Burning Issues. To have Chief Life Line visit your community call Peter at (450) 563-1119 to reserve your date.

Sparky celebrates the big 5-0!

On March 18, 2001, Sparky turned 50 years old. That's 350 doggie years to you and me! Worried that Sparky might be slowing down in his old age? If you are, you're barking up the wrong tree! Sparky is getting a little older, but he's busier than ever. (To find out about Sparky's adventures as a puppy, read the Story of Sparky.)



Sparky celebrated his birthday with cake and candles. But he wants to remind everyone that only adults should light candles. Remember: matches and lighters are grown-up tools, not toys. Never play with them! If you find matches or lighters in your home, tell a grown-up right away or give them to an adult!

New Theme for Fire Prevention Week - October 7th - 13th



“Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire.” is this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme. Annex Publishing will mail your NFPA Fire Prevention Week kits directly to you. Your ESO’s will deliver the Fire Prevention Canada kits. **“Cover the Bases”** theme uses a ball field as the main logo with first base being cooking fires, second base heating fires, third base, electrical fires and home base talking about home escape



planning. The Office of the Fire Commissioner will be partnering with McDonalds once again. Materials will be available from our Office. More information will follow in June. **NFPA announces winners of FPW 2000 “The Great Escape” contests. New Minas, Nova Scotia, and Petersburg, Alaska, residents are going to Walt Disney World!**

Roderick Vasquez, a third-grader from Petersburg, Alaska, is the winner of “The Great Escape” contest from the general public category. Charles Huntley, a second grade student from New Minas, Nova Scotia, and the son of Joseph Huntley of the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department, is the winner of “The Great Escape” contest for immediate family members of the fire service. The winners will each receive a grand prize ‘great escape’ vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., valued at \$10,000. In addition, the school and local fire department of each winner will receive a set of NFPA’s *Risk Watch* comprehensive injury

School of the Year

Valleyview School in Brandon was the last year’s winner of the \$1,000.00 School of the Year Award. The School has used the award to help create an outdoor laboratory. May 1, 2001 was the deadline for this year’s awards. The selection committee will be choosing a winner by the middle of May. Remember, your schools can participate too, this is a five-year award with this being year two.

NEW! Carbon Monoxide Safety Brochure

Manitoba Hydro is producing carbon monoxide brochures and they are available from your District Offices. This brochure will provide information on carbon monoxide (CO) safety. It provides information on the potentially dangerous gas and how you and your customers can keep it out of your homes. Please call you district Manitoba Hydro offices for copies.

Child Car Seat Safety

Fire departments continue to check car seats in their communities. MPI keeps copies of all the recalls on car seats. Information on these recalls can be checked by calling 1-888-767-7640 or check their website at www.mpi.mb.ca



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 1ST & 2ND, 2001

**“RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SAFETY OF YOUR PERSONNEL”
THE PAS, MANITOBA**

Registration Fees: \$140.00

Suppliers sponsored fishing derby on May 31st - no charge - bring your own tackle, rod and fishing license.

Come to The Pas and learn about the North! Join us for a weekend full of learning, networking and fun!

Following is a list of hotels/motels and their telephone numbers:

La Verendrye Motel - (204) 623-3431

Super 8 Motel - Book through The Pas Fire Department - (204) 727-1120/1121

Kikiwak Inn - 1-888-545-4925

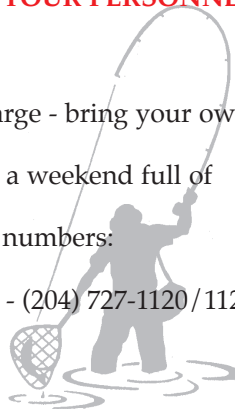
Wescana Inn - (204) 623-5446

Golden Arrow Motel - (204) 623-5451

There are lodges and camping grounds available too.

When booking, please mention the Fire Chiefs Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in June!



Codes and Standards

BUILDING SAFETY NOTICE

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & YOURSELF FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

There is currently a significant issue of health safety in our homes with respect to negative pressures caused with the installation of exhaust devices that exhaust air at a rate greater than what is being replaced. This phenomenon is called "building de-pressurization". If you have combustion equipment in the house -- gas & oil furnace or heater, a wood stove or fireplace, or a gas water heater, stove or clothes dryer -- you should have your house tested to see if the exhaust equipment in your home when operating is not causing spillage of carbon monoxide from combustion appliances.

There has been situations in Manitoba where "deaths" have resulted from de-pressurization caused by the installation of exhaust fans which created the spillage of carbon monoxide from combustion appliances.

All homes and buildings require fresh air to deal with moisture, odours and indoor pollutants. All homes constructed today are required by the Building Code to have a mechanical ventilation system capable of providing this fresh air.

A home is said to have poor indoor air quality when the inside air contains enough substances to adversely affect the comfort, health or safety of the occupants. Substances in air common to every home include:

- Odours
- Chemical pollutants
- Radon gas
- Biological pollutants (from people, pets & plants including moulds and mildew)
- Particles such as dust, pollen & cigarette smoke.

Air Pollutants Commonly Encountered in Homes Are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Formaldehyde: | Source being furnishings, rugs, glues, insulation, some processed wood products |
| Radon: | From ground through cracks in foundation |
| Carbon Dioxide: | Respiration (human and animal), fuel burning equipment |
| Carbon Monoxide: | Combustion appliances, fireplaces, and vehicles operating in attached garages |
| Nitrogen Dioxide: | Combustion appliances (kerosene heaters, fireplaces) |
| Volatile Organic Compounds: | Furnishings, pesticides, hobbies, adhesives, solvents, plastics, cleaning & cooking products |
| Water: | Household activities such as washing, bathing, showering & cooking |
| Respirable Particles: | Smoking, wood smoke, unvented appliances |

PLAY IT SAFE

- ✓ **DO** Install a CO detector in your home
- ✓ **DO** Consult with your local building inspector when installing exhaust type devices
- ✓ **DO** Have a trained professional inspect combustion appliances on an annual basis
- ✓ **DON'T** Plug combustion air ducts
- ✓ **DON'T** Disconnect make-up air fans
- ✓ **DON'T** Idle the car in a garage
- ✓ **DON'T** Sleep in a room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater

Submitted by Alex Campbell, Acting Manager Codes and Standards

FAREWELL!

Farewell to Kimberly Souliere from Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada. Kimberly has been the District

Coordinator for Manitoba and North Western Ontario. Kimberly has been working very hard with the Emergency Services in Manitoba to make Muscular Dystrophy more understood. All the best in Mississauga Kim!

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada



Association Canadienne de la Dystrophie Musculaire

Staff Update



Congratulations to **Maxene Pelletier**, Administrative Assistant and Mark on the birth of their baby girl, Abigail. Abigail was born on May 1, 2001 and weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. Congratulations Maxene and Mark!

Welcome to **Bill Mayuk**. Bill is an Assistant Instructor with the Public Fire Protection Program at the College. Bill was Deputy Fire Chief and Training Coordinator with the Swan River Fire Department.

Get Well Wishes to **Scott McBain**, Lead Instructor for the Medical Program at the College. Scott had surgery in March and is recuperating at home. Get Well soon Scott!

The Office of the Fire Commissioner produces the Burning Issues newsletter.

The Burning Issues are updates from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, news and views from the Manitoba Fire Service and information on public safety.

EDITOR: Marilyn Lamb

Deadline for submissions for the Spring edition of Burning Issues is **September 15th, 2001**. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. If you have news items, please send or fax them to Marilyn at (204) 726-6847 or e-mail mlamb@gov.mb.ca.