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News Release

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Ontario Association of Emergency Managers Joins IAEM

April 28, 2006 (Toronto, Ont., Canada) – Yesterday, the members of the Ontario Association of Emergency Managers (OAEM) voted to become a chapter of IAEM Canada. "This is the single largest membership jump in the International Association of Emergency Managers' (IAEM) history, adding more than 400 new members" said Executive Director Beth Armstrong, on hand for the deliberations. "IAEM is committed to the new partnership with OAEM to deliver membership benefits for emergency management professionals throughout North America and the world." Armstrong indicated that this includes additional representation for Canadians on the IAEM Board of Directors, as membership numbers warrant.

IAEM President Marg Verbeek, also a past president of OAEM, noted that this merger has been in the works for several years, since IAEM began development of its internationalization plan. "We envision the next step is adding a new level to the IAEM governance structure which would ensure that the organization is serving all constituencies globally." This would take the form of a body such as a "World Council" with seats for each member country or continent comprising IAEM.

OAEM President Alain Normand facilitated the action, which included a mandate that the OAEM Board of Directors work in partnership with IAEM Canada to formulate administrative details to support the decision. He said "OAEM goals are to encourage the growth and expansion of the association, to continue improving the level of service to our members and to foster greater recognition of the field of emergency management as a profession. The action taken yesterday is in perfect synch with these goals."

For more information about IAEM visit www.iaem.com , and for more information about OAEM visit www.oaem.ca.

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