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### **Biography of Tom Kontra, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management Ontario**

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Tom joined Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) as the Operations Officer in 1998. Since his arrival he has overseen the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre through a number of operations like SARS and the Blackout in 2003, as well as changes and renovations to improve its functionality. He has also overseen the increase in operations staff, after 9/11, from one person to a round the clock operation, with a team of six full-time and a number of part-time staff. In the process he has moved from Operations Officer to Supervisor to Assistant Chief and finally to Deputy Chief Operations & Analysis. Tom was appointed the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of Emergency Management Ontario on February 1, 2011.

During his time at EMO he has taken all the emergency management courses offered by Emergency Management Ontario and by Public Safety Canada at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior and Ottawa.

Tom came to EMO following some thirty years in the Canadian Forces as an Infantry Officer in The Royal Canadian Regiment. His military experience spanned a good mix of command, administration and educational positions. His last post was in Toronto at the Canadian Forces College from where he joined EMO.

**TOM'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS IS ON APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> AT THE CENTRE IN DRYDEN**