AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON COOPERATION IN COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America,

RECOGNIZING the importance of comprehensive civil emergency planning and management, in relation both to peacetime emergencies stemming from accidents, natural disasters and deliberate acts, and to situations of declared or undeclared hostilities including armed enemy attack,

DESIRING to strengthen cooperation between their two countries so as to be able to respond more effectively to such emergencies,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

Consultative Group

1. A Consultative Group on Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management (Consultative Group) shall be established by the Parties.

2. The structure, membership and terms of reference of the Consultative Group shall be as set forth in Annex A.

3. The Consultative Group shall meet at least once in each calendar year at such times and places as may be agreed upon.

ARTICLE II

Principles of Cooperation

Subject to the domestic laws of the Parties, the following principles of cooperation are intended to be used as a guide by civil emergency authorities in Canada and in the United States of America:

(a) Nothing in this Agreement shall derogate from the application of Canadian law in Canada or of United States law in the United States. However, the authorities of either country may request the assistance of the other country in seeking appropriate alleviation if the normal application of law in either country might lead to delay or difficulty in the rapid execution of necessary civil emergency measures.