

2017 BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRES UPDATE



February 2019



DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Just over a year and a half ago, wildfires displaced thousands of people from their homes across B.C. The effects were far-reaching, impacting families, businesses and communities as a whole.

While some people and families have now adjusted to their new circumstances, others continue to work on their recovery, whether it be through repairing or rebuilding their homes, or by making use of resources to help in the emotional healing process. Regardless of where a family, individual or community finds itself along the path to recovery, the Red Cross remains committed to assisting in that process.

In the coming months, we'll continue with our recovery work in communities. Help is still underway for those who are rebuilding or repairing their homes. For communities looking forward to their long-term recovery needs, the Red Cross will continue to assist through our Community Partnerships Program. By supporting community-led initiatives that focus on reducing future disaster risk and strengthening mental health and well-being resources, we aim to equip these communities with resources that will facilitate resiliency going forward.

Recovery is a process that takes time. Your generosity has made this ongoing recovery work possible.

Thank you for your care, compassion and support.

Kimberley Nemrava

Vice President, British Columbia and Yukon

18 MONTHS LATER

What your support has accomplished



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

67,000+ distributions of financial assistance (including electronic funds transfers, cash cards and cheques) to impacted individuals and families to help during their evacuation and as they recover



SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

6,100+ consultations to provide emotional support for people, both in person and over the phone

1,500+ referrals to external mental health and well-being supports

240+ outreach visits to impacted communities




RE-ENTRY AND RECOVERY

22,600+ households supported in their return with help such as financial assistance and clean-up kits.

2,900+ eligible small businesses, not-for-profits and First Nations cultural livelihoods received financial assistance.

3,500+ households received financial assistance to support with their ongoing recovery for needs such as: temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, fuel to heat homes, repair or reconstruction of damaged or destroyed homes and mental health and well-being supports.

149 community partnerships to support local organizations, including **15 partnerships with community groups** focused on providing mental health and well-being supports to affected individuals and families.

A woman with grey hair, wearing a red headband with white snowflake patterns and a red and black plaid jacket, is smiling warmly. She is standing in a field with a wooden fence and bare trees in the background. The ground appears to be covered in gravel or small stones.

JUDY STROLLS DOWN THE NEWLY REPAIRED, WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TRAIL. THIS TRAIL IS ANOTHER SMALL PROJECT THAT HAS MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO HORSEFLY.

Horsefly, BC: a community rallies to recover

Horsefly is not unlike many small communities in British Columbia: tight-knit, resilient and resourceful. You don't need to go very far to find someone who's a passionate advocate of the community. People have made this place their home, and they're committed to it.

Horsefly's resourcefulness was put to the test in the summer of 2017. Much of the community was left without electricity for days, while some of those in outlying areas were forced to evacuate. Judy Hillaby, a volunteer fire fighter with the Horsefly Fire Department, remembers it well. Her husband was among those evacuated.

"I was coming home and I could see the smoke billowing up," said Judy. While her husband evacuated, Judy stayed behind to assist at the fire hall, which was powered by generators and became a hub for all those left without electricity.

In the early days of an emergency, like that of the 2017 BC Wildfires, the Canadian Red Cross is ready to assist with immediate needs to ensure people are safe, warm and dry. Financial assistance can be provided to help with things such as food or clothing—basic needs we often don't think much about until faced with an emergency.

Recovery Beyond the Basics

Lesser known are the lasting impacts an emergency can have on a community, long after families and businesses have returned. Community resources are strained. Festivals are cancelled. And while cancelled festivals may seem a minor detail, for communities like Horsefly, it's yet another reminder that things aren't back to normal.

"The impact of the 2017 fires was that all the community events ended. Nothing went on. The Red Cross took a broader view of things and decided to help with festivals this year that would have been impossible otherwise," says Judy.

Through the Red Cross Community Partnerships Program, Horsefly's Salmon Festival went ahead as planned in 2018, bringing the community together once more, as they had done so many summers before. Helen Englund, an organizer of the Salmon Festival, sums it up simply: "It just...makes people happy."

Judy strolls down the newly repaired, wheelchair accessible trail. This trail is another small project that has made a big difference to Horsefly.

"The Red Cross has been great at getting people to think about what they really need," says Judy. Communities are encouraged to think beyond immediate needs and consider projects that will have a lasting impact by bringing people together and helping in long-term recovery.

The story of Horsefly is just one of many stories of communities finding their own paths to recovery. All this work has been possible thanks to the generosity of donors. And, Judy's message to them is very simple. "Thank you."

THE HORSEFLY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BECAME A HUB FOR PEOPLE AND FAMILIES LEFT WITHOUT ELECTRICITY.



Your generosity at work:

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

To date, \$144.2 Million has already been spent or committed to assist those impacted by the fires.

Thanks to generous individuals, governments, community groups and corporate partners who donated funds in support of people impacted by the 2017 British Columbia Fires. Together, we continue to have a lasting impact on individuals, families and entire communities as they recover.

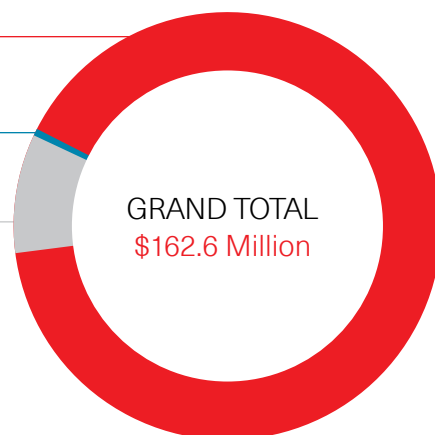
TOTAL FUNDS DONATED TO DATE	GOVERNMENT FUNDS	GRAND TOTAL TO DATE
\$24 Million	\$38.6 Million thanks to the Government of Canada \$100 Million thanks to the Government of British Columbia	\$162.6 Million

\$144.2 Million
SPENT AND COMMITTED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

TOTAL SPENT AND COMMITTED
88%

FUNDRAISING COSTS*
0.7%

REMAINING ALLOCATED FUNDS
11.3%



Funds spent or committed to date used to support individuals and families, community groups and small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations cultural livelihoods.

Remaining funds allocated to multi-year recovery efforts supporting people and communities in disaster risk reduction and mental health and wellness initiatives.

Fundraising costs

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Spent and committed to date: These are the funds that have already been spent to assist those impacted by the fires, as well as funds that have been committed with signed contracts or agreements for recovery projects or initiatives.

Allocation of funds to date: This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total including the funds from government. The allocations reflect the needs of the people and the community that have been identified to date. Many needs emerge over time and the allocation amounts may be adjusted accordingly.

***Fundraising costs:** In the graph to the left, 0.7% represents the fundraising costs in relation to the grand total of funds received. Fundraising costs are not applied to funds received from the government. Fundraising costs are only applicable to funds that are donated (\$24M) and will not exceed five per cent of the total donated funds for this appeal. These costs may include donation processing fees; credit card and bank fees; service fees for call centres and digital platforms; and, ongoing communications and reporting to donors.

Your generosity at work:

FINANCIAL DETAILS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

TOTAL ALLOCATED TO DATE

\$162.6 Million

TOTAL SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE

\$144.2 Million



TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

ALLOCATED
TO DATE

\$73.1 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED
TO DATE

\$63 Million

Providing help such as: food, water, winter clothing, items for babies and children, personal services such as hygiene products, and items to help people return to work. Other assistance may be provided for: mental health and well-being supports, debris removal, temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, firewood or fuel to heat homes, home reconstruction and repairs, and replacement of prescription medications or dentures.



TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS

Ensuring needs of the community are reflected in relief and recovery activities. This has included a variety of projects and initiatives such as welcome back gatherings for the community, support for emotional and psychological well-being, and support to First Nations communities with traditional food for the winter months as well as firewood. Further information regarding projects funded to date can be found online by visiting www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnershipsBC.

ALLOCATED
TO DATE

\$27 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED
TO DATE

\$23.4 Million



TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

ALLOCATED
TO DATE

\$61.3 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED
TO DATE

\$56.6 Million

Experience has shown us that support for small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and cultural livelihoods that support First Nations communities are essential to the full recovery of the people and communities affected by a disaster. A second phase of funding helped small businesses with fixed and new expenses they incurred when they lost business due to the fires. These funds could help business owners with things like: uninsured losses, deductibles, equipment, minor repairs to property, and clean-up of property.

FUNDRAISING COSTS: \$1.2 Million allocated to date. \$1.2 Million spent and committed to date.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.

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With your support, the Red Cross continues to be there
for individuals and families recovering from these
devastating wildfires.