



YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

2016 ALBERTA FIRES UPDATE



MARCH 31, 2026

In early May 2016, a wildfire tore through Fort McMurray, Alberta, destroying neighbourhoods and threatening an entire community. More than 80,000 people fled through smoke and fire to reach safety. In the largest wildfire evacuation in the province's history, many residents left with almost nothing and some with nowhere to go.

Over the past 10 years, the Canadian Red Cross helped people impacted by the Horse River Wildfire recover from the disaster. Individuals, families, community groups, and small businesses in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) all set their own pace for recovery and, for some, the journey was long. Recognizing that recovery takes time, we were there to help for every step along the way.

Presently, the Red Cross continues to work with the RMWB to strengthen community resilience and support enhancements to their wildfire response, preparedness, and community protection capabilities.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- More than **2,500 cots, 3,000 blankets and 2,800 hygiene kits** were provided to support 8 evacuation shelters in Edmonton, Calgary and Lac La Biche.
- **13 call centres** were set up and received more than **147,000 calls** to assist evacuated people in registering and accessing assistance.
- Over **69,500 families** registered to receive support from the Red Cross.
- **1,950 families** received interim lodging support in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, and other communities across Alberta.
- More than **10,900 plane and bus tickets** were booked to help people return home, as well as over **37,000 clean-up kits** distributed to returning residents.
- More than **16,000 families** received recovery assistance, including assistance with rent, mortgage, utilities, household goods, repair and reconstruction support, as well as referrals to other community resources.
- Over **10,000 people** attended recovery events led by Indigenous communities and supported by Red Cross.
- Over **13,000 children and youth** received mental health and wellness support each year for five years following the wildfires.
- Over **284,000 distributions of financial assistance** provided to help residents meet their needs.
- More than **20,000 individuals** provided with mental health and wellness support in partnership with local organizations.

- **3,296 eligible small businesses** received financial assistance. This support helped cover uninsured losses; rental of business equipment; clean-up and minor repairs, including debris removal and bin rental; moving costs; and storage fees.
- More than **145 partnerships** with community organizations to help provide services to assist people and the entire community with recovery from the wildfire. This includes 22 partnerships with Indigenous organizations working to enhance culturally appropriate support structures and programs to help address emerging recovery needs and priorities.
- Over **1,200 people** received counselling and psychotherapy supported by the Red Cross.

HOW WE CONTINUE TO HELP

- The Red Cross is partnering with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to support enhancements to their wildfire response, preparedness, and community protection capabilities, as well as to help augment their FireSmart Home Rebate Program. This contribution will enhance their current programming with the goal of strengthening community resilience and reducing wildfire risk for residents in the region.
- Financial support is being provided to households to assist with costs related to adapting and mitigating their homes. This support is helping people to better prepare for and reduce the risk and impacts of future wildfires.

2016 ALBERTA FIRES APPEAL UPDATE

The Canadian Red Cross extends its gratitude and thanks for the outpouring of generosity to assist those impacted by the wildfire. Individuals, governments, community groups and corporate partners across Canada and around the world rallied together to assist people who were impacted.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

- I FUNDS DONATED: **\$190.9M**
- I FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA: **\$35.1M**
- I FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: **\$107M**
- I FUNDS FROM THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO: **\$1.3M**
- I TOTAL FUNDS AS OF MARCH 31, 2026: **\$334.3M**

TO SUPPORT:		ALLOCATED AS OF MARCH 31, 2026	TOTAL SPENT OR COMMITTED AS OF MARCH 31, 2026
Individuals and Families	Providing help such as immediate supplies and shelter; direct financial assistance during the evacuation and throughout recovery to cover costs associated with urgent needs, transportation home, replacement of household goods, and assistance to help pay for rent, mortgage and utilities; repair and reconstruction of uninsured homes; emotional support to address the psychological wellbeing of people affected by the fires; and, projects to support and enhance community resiliency.	\$240.3M	\$240.3M
Community Groups	These funds were provided to community groups (including charities, non-profits, Indigenous communities and the regional municipality) that helped to meet recovery needs in the Wood Buffalo region. Further information regarding Red Cross funding for community groups can be found online by visiting: Community Partnerships—Canadian Red Cross	\$53.4M	\$53.4M
Eligible Small Businesses	This financial support has helped cover costs such as the replacement of essential items including business tools and equipment; assistance with clean-up expenses; moving or storage; professional cleaning; small repairs; help with overdue utility bills; lease payments; and short-term lease of business equipment or vehicles. Businesses that received assistance included: corporations (franchise and not franchised); individual/sole proprietorships; partnerships; and other business entities. The Red Cross also collaborated with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to provide learning and development opportunities for small business owners in the region.	\$29.6M	\$29.6M
Fort McMurray and Area Floods	Funds used to help individuals impacted by the 2020 floods in the region.	\$4.6M	\$4.6M
Cost of Fundraising		\$6.4M	\$6.4M
	GRAND TOTAL	\$334.3M	\$334.3M

100% of the funds received for the Alberta Fires appeal have been spent or committed to assist people in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Grand total of funds to date:

This includes the total funds donated and any earned through interest.

Allocation of funds to date:

This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total. The allocations reflect the needs of the people and the communities that were identified to date.

Spent or committed to date:

These are the funds that have been already spent to assist those impacted by the 2016 wildfires in Alberta as well as funds that have been committed with authorized contracts or agreements for recovery projects or initiatives, where applicable.

Cost of fundraising:

Fundraising costs were only applicable to funds that were donated and did not exceed five per cent of the total donated funds for this appeal. These costs may have included donation processing fees; credit card and bank fees; service fees for call centres and digital platforms; and ongoing communications and reporting to donors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!