



# NOVA SCOTIA & ATLANTIC CANADA FIRES UPDATE

MARCH 31, 2025

In May of 2023, the Canadian Red Cross supported provincial and municipal authorities in response to wildfires in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Significant fires in the Halifax Regional Municipality and Shelburne County in Nova Scotia, and Charlotte County in New Brunswick resulted in evacuations of residents.

Red Cross support included registration and providing emergency accommodation at municipally designated shelters in Halifax, Barrington, and Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and in Saint-Andrews, New Brunswick.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, and matching funds from the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, Red Cross provided eligible households with financial assistance to help with costs related to housing repair and reconstruction, distributed one-time financial assistance to contribute to ongoing recovery efforts and continues to offer personalized recovery and interim housing support to those most impacted by the wildfires, working closely alongside people and families in their recovery.

## CANADIAN RED CROSS RESPONSE

- Provided financial support to more than **3,100 households** to assist with unmet needs while people navigate their recovery.
- Supported more than **2,000 households** in their recovery through personalized recovery support. This includes helping those impacted with planning their return home, understanding insurance and community resources, providing information and referrals, as well as providing financial assistance to access mental health services and interim housing support for those who have experienced major damage to, or the destruction of, their primary home.
- Provided in-person assistance to more than **1,500 people**, including registration, emergency accommodation, and psychosocial or well-being support.
- Distributed **1,470 emergency items** to impacted individuals and communities, including hygiene kits, cots, blankets, and teddy bears for children.
- Provided **120 referrals** for other community-based supports.
- Deployed **80 volunteers** to assist impacted communities.
- Provided support at **four reception centres**: in Halifax, Barrington, and Shelburne, Nova Scotia, as well as in Saint-Andrews, New Brunswick.
- Connected with people through more than **70 conversations** for psychosocial or well-being support during the relief phase.
- Worked closely with the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency to identify households needing to access housing support, including providing financial support for households identified by the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency to move into modular homes.



YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

2023 NOVA SCOTIA & ATLANTIC CANADA FIRES APPEAL UPDATE

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025

- I FUNDS DONATED: \$8.2M
- I MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: \$4.6M
- I MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: \$5.0M
- I TOTAL FUNDS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025: \$17.8M

TO SUPPORT:		ALLOCATED AS OF MARCH 31, 2025	TOTAL SPENT OR COMMITTED AS OF MARCH 31, 2025
Recovery assistance for individuals and families	<p>The Canadian Red Cross works with individuals and families impacted by wildfires in Nova Scotia to help them navigate their recovery journey, ensuring they are part of the planning and decision-making processes.</p> <p>Red Cross support may include helping people impacted by the fires with planning their return home, understanding insurance, providing information and referrals, accessing mental health services, as well as providing financial assistance to support with recovery needs. Assistance may also include interim housing support for those who experienced major damage to, or the destruction of, their primary home.</p>	\$8.4M	\$8.4M
Housing repair and reconstruction program	<p>The Canadian Red Cross is working with homeowners impacted by the fires to assist with their return to home. This includes financial assistance to help with housing repair and reconstruction, such as clean-up of their property and home, and/or expenses related to repair or rebuilding, including mitigation activities and professional services.</p> <p>Red Cross also helped people with expenses related to moving to a new location, as well supports for their mental health and well-being.</p>	\$6.5M	\$6.5M
Support to community groups	<p>The Canadian Red Cross funded organizations with grants to support relief and recovery efforts in their communities. Supported activities included transporting volunteers and supplies for firefighters and people who had been evacuated, conducting disaster mapping and debris removal, caring for evacuated pets and distributing pet supplies, as well as training to provide trauma-informed care and mental health support.</p> <p>The Canadian Red Cross also assessed areas impacted by the 2023 Nova Scotia Wildfires to identify local strengths, needs, and priorities. Interviews were conducted with various not-for-profit, community and government representatives with knowledge of the communities that were impacted by the fires and their recovery process. A report was published to help plan and continue to prioritize supports for the long-term recovery of the impacted communities.</p>	\$1.3M	\$1.3M
Emerging needs	<p>These funds have been allocated for emerging needs as they arise, in recognition that recovery from significant events is multi-year and not all needs are evident at this point.</p>	\$1.3M	—
Cost of fundraising		\$0.3M	\$0.3M
GRAND TOTAL*		\$17.8M	\$16.5M

More than 92% of the total funds have been spent or committed as of March 31, 2025.

\*Not inclusive of financial aid programs the Canadian Red Cross administered on behalf the provincial government.

The Canadian Red Cross thanks the generous donors, as well as the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, who provided funds in support of people impacted by the 2023 wildfires in Atlantic Canada.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Grand total of funds to date:**  
This includes the total funds donated, accrued interest, and any matching funds committed.

**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 have been identified to date.

**Spent and committed to date:**  
These are the funds that have been already spent to assist those impacted by the 2023 wildfires in Atlantic Canada 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 are associated to the total funds donated, not the grand total including matching funds received from the provincial and federal government. These costs can include donation processing fees; credit card and bank fees; service fees for call centres and digital platforms; and ongoing communications and reporting to donors. The cost of fundraising related to this emergency appeal will not exceed five per cent. As of March 31, 2025, it is approximately two per cent.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!