



## Alberta Fires 2016

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

One Year Update



The Canadian Red Cross Community Organization Partnership Program is supporting local groups in Fort McMurray and other areas affected by the Alberta fires. This program is funding a range of projects and initiatives identified by community groups, municipalities, registered charities and other organizations requiring financial assistance as a result of the fires.

To date, the Canadian Red Cross has spent or committed **\$24 million** in support of community groups by funding **54** projects that have a direct impact on the community of Fort McMurray and surrounding areas.

As part of the Community Organization Partnership Program, the Red Cross leads the Community Partnerships Table alongside the United Way of Fort McMurray. The Community Partnerships Table also includes representation from Indigenous leadership, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo administration, the Alberta government, the Industry Recovery Working Group, Social Recovery Task Force, and Community Wellness and Resilience Committee.

As well as reviewing and providing recommendations on funding applications, table representatives will identify any trends, gaps, vulnerabilities and needs in communities as they recover from the wildfires. This ensures that funded projects better reflect the community's voice, meaning the process is entirely community-led and community-driven.

Consistent with the approach in past responses, projects and activities in support of Fort McMurray and other fire-affected communities must meet the eligibility criteria and clearly be categorized under one of five funding streams.

- 1. Emergency Relief**
- 2. Community Strengthening Ties**
- 3. Building Back Better**
- 4. Building Community Capacity for Future Disasters**
- 5. Restoration, Conservation and Non-Structural Mitigation Measures**

*\* For more detailed information on our funding streams and application criteria, please visit [www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships](http://www.redcross.ca/communitypartnerships) .*

Below is a list of our partnerships to date. Please note, partnerships indicated are reflected as of April 13, 2017.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF

To date, the following projects have been funded by the Community Organization Partnership Program under the stream of Emergency Relief. This means the project or initiative supported immediate relief and early recovery efforts including re-entry.

PARTNER	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
1. Alberta Foodbanks Network Association	Distribution of food and support for personnel	Provided financial assistance for the provision of food to several food banks across Alberta where evacuees impacted by the fires were located.
2. Alberta Teacher's Association – Local 48	Support to teachers to replace classroom items	Provided financial assistance for teachers at the start of the school year to begin rebuilding their stock of school supplies lost in the fires.
3. CMHA – Alberta North East Region	Community BBQs, Community Cafe, and training	Provided financial assistance to host several community-led and community-based events centered on overall mental wellness and coping strategies.
4. Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society	Distribution of relief items to evacuees	Provided financial assistance for emergency food and other relief supplies to be distributed to evacuees.
5. Fort McMurray Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Evacuation and Re-entry Support	Provided financial assistance for emergency relief services and materials to evacuees during evacuation and re-entry to the community.
6. Fuse Social	Volunteer Management in Wood Buffalo	Provided financial assistance for volunteer management services in Fort McMurray.
7. Goldeye Centre	Emergency feeding and accommodation	Provided financial assistance for emergency feeding and sheltering to evacuees.
8. Métis Urban Housing Corporation	Emergency accommodation for evacuees	Provided financial assistance for emergency accommodation to evacuees.
9. Norwood Child & Family Services	Support to evacuee children and families in Edmonton	Provided financial assistance for emergency relief and care for evacuated children and families while in Edmonton.
10. Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo	Re-entry BBQ	Provided financial assistance for a re-entry BBQ for individuals and families returning home from June 1 to 8, 2016.
11. Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo	Thanksgiving Food Hampers	Provided financial assistance for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Thanksgiving event through the purchase of food items which were distributed by the municipality to 1,300 area residents.
12. Rehoboth Alliance	Community Celebration	Provided financial assistance for a one-day community celebration offering food, children's activities and guest speakers for fire-impacted members of the community.
13. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northern Alberta	Emergency accommodation for children with specialized medical needs	Provided financial assistance for emergency accommodation to evacuees with children who have special needs.
14. Salvation Army of Fort McMurray	Operation of homeless shelter (summer months)	Provided financial assistance to support a local homeless shelter.
15. Save the Children	Child and youth-friendly spaces	Provided financial assistance for the creation and management of child and youth-friendly spaces in Edmonton for those evacuated from the Wood Buffalo region.
16. SOS for Crisis Prevention	Summer Recreation and Camp Program	Provided financial assistance to support their children's summer camp with extended hours and an extended time frame.
17. Vista Ridge	WildPlay Wood Buffalo "Rebuild Special"	Provided financial assistance to ensure access to affordable family-friendly recreational activities, by supporting costs related to opening facilities throughout the late summer.
18. Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association	Emergency Relief Hamper Program	Provided financial assistance to support the Emergency Relief Hamper program.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING TIES

To date, the following projects have been funded by the Community Organization Partnership Program under the stream of Community Strengthening Ties. This means the project or initiative aims to strengthen a sense of community, reduce social isolation and create ties between fire-affected communities.

PARTNER	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
1. Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta	Community consultation and French-speaking mental health programming	Provided financial assistance to determine and respond to the ongoing medical and mental health needs of the Francophone community in Fort McMurray, as well as to support additional psychosocial and mental health programming in French.
2. Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta	French-speaking mental health supports for the Francophone population	Provided financial assistance for psychosocial support and mental health in French.
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters	Annual Duck Race	Provided financial assistance for a community event to bring together youth and families in the community.
4. Borealis Counselling	Mindfulness for Wellbeing Support Groups	Provided financial assistance for a facilitated group process to mitigate stressors and increase coping by facilitating social cohesion and reducing isolation.
5. BrainSTEM Alliance	READesgin-Literacy with STEM concepts	Provided financial assistance to support youth in Fort McMurray to collaborate and build resiliency through science, technology, engineering and math programming.
6. Educare	Support with repairs & clean up	Provided financial assistance to ensure continued access to programming for children, through the replacement of materials not covered by insurance, and costs for cleaning up as required by Alberta Health Services.
7. Family Christian Centre	Family Community Christmas Event	Provided financial assistance for a Christmas event to bring families and community together through music, entertainment and food from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
8. Fort City Church	Summer camp with extended hours	Provided financial assistance to support a summer camp for children and youth with extended hours to provide flexibility as families get ready to go back to school.
9. Fort City Church	City Lights Tours	Provided financial assistance to provide families with bus tours around the city to view holiday lights, accompanied by holiday music, food and beverages.
10. Fort McMurray Catholic School District	Santas Anonymous	Provided financial assistance for the provision of holiday hampers for families and affected community members in need.
11. Fort McMurray First Nation 468	Healing Gathering for Land and Water	Provided financial assistance to the Healing Gathering for the Land and Water.
12. Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association (Frank Lacroix arena)	Beacon Hill Re-entry Luncheon	Provided financial assistance to support a re-entry luncheon at the arena for residents of the Beacon Hill neighbourhood.
13. Fort McMurray Tourism	Annual Community BBQ	Provided financial assistance for an annual BBQ at the Oil Sands Discovery Centre.
14. Girls Inc.	Staying Strong	Provided financial assistance to deliver the Staying Strong Program, to increase resilience and coping skills of girls ages of 8-14 in Fort McMurray.
15. Golden Years Society	Drop-in Program for Seniors	Provided financial assistance for a weekly seniors drop-in program to share common experiences as a result of the wildfires.
16. Keyano College	5th Annual Arts and Humanities Conference	Provided financial assistance towards the annual Arts & Humanities Conference with the theme "Coming Through Fire: Rebuilding, Reconciling, Rethinking".



<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
17. Layla Isaac Foundation	Children's Play Days	Provided financial assistance for free, inclusive play activities for children to engage with peers outside of school hours in a safe space.
18. Legacy Counselling Centre	Fort McMurray Crisis Aid	Provided financial assistance to fund an additional counsellor to support increased need for counselling services and workshops in Fort McMurray.
19. McMurray Métis MNA Local 1935	Summer Student Program	Provided financial assistance for the annual Métis Summer Student Program in Fort McMurray.
20. McMurray Métis MNA Local 1935	Métis Festival	Provided financial assistance for the annual Métis Festival in Fort McMurray.
21. Mikisew/Treaty 8	Round Dance and Graduation Ceremony	Provided financial assistance for a graduation ceremony for students who finished their year in Edmonton, as well as a round dance as part of the celebration of returning home.
22. MS Society of Canada	Accessible Community BBQ	Provided financial assistance for an accessible community BBQ.
23. Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre	National Aboriginal Day Celebration	Provided financial assistance for National Aboriginal Day celebration in Fort McMurray.
24. Northern Alberta Athletics Association	First Responder Appreciation Weekend	Provided financial assistance for a First Responders Appreciation Weekend, in conjunction with the Oil Barons opening weekend.
25. Psychologists Association of Alberta	Fee-free psychological counselling services	Provided financial assistance to support increased demand for psychological services for those impacted by the wildfires across Alberta.
26. Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo	Baseball Canada Cup	Provided financial assistance for the Baseball Canada Cup 2016 in Fort McMurray.
27. SOS for Crisis Prevention	Volunteer Coordinator for 24/7 Crisis Line	Provided financial assistance to rebuild a volunteer team that runs their 24/7 Crisis Line.
28. St. Aidan's Society	Healing Our Way	Provided financial assistance to support an opportunity for social connectedness through multiple partner agencies and education/awareness sessions for organizations.
29. Stephen's Backpacks	Backpacks for Fort McMurray students	Provided financial assistance for the provision of backpacks and back to school supplies for students in Wood Buffalo returning to school.
30. United Nations Association in Canada	Sport-in-a-Box Program	Provided financial assistance for the UN's Sport-in-a-Box program in Fort McMurray.
31. United Way of the Alberta Capital Region	Emergency Community Fund	Provided financial assistance to invest resources in programs and community building activities through targeted investment decisions in and around the Alberta Capital Region.
32. United Way of Calgary and Area	Emergency Community Fund	Provided financial assistance to invest resources in programs and community building activities through targeted investment decisions in and around the Calgary area.
33. Willow Lake Tiny Tots Society	Welcome back party	Provided financial assistance for a welcome back BBQ for daycare students and families.
34. YMCA of Northern Alberta	Programming and access to services for children, youth and families	Provided financial assistance for summer camps, access to facilities through free memberships for youth and children, and family support programs to help those affected by the fires.
35. Youth With a Mission	Thursday Night Suppers	Provided financial assistance for free weekly community gathering space where low-income families in Fort McMurray can access meals, homework help, child and youth programming, and resource referrals.

## PROJECTS COVERING MULTIPLE FUNDING STREAMS

To date, the following project has been funded by the Community Organization Partnership Program under multiple streams including Community Strengthening Ties, Building Back Better, Building Capacity for Future Disasters, and Non-Structural Mitigation Measures. This project falls under several funding streams as it will support recovery activities of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo over a duration of three years.

PARTNER	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
1. Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo	Road to Recovery	Providing financial assistance for a range of recovery activities including support for annual resiliency activities and public artwork; support for residents in the most impacted neighbourhoods including playground restoration; support for risk reduction through the FireSmart program; recovery programming for youth in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo; psychosocial workshops and education.

The above list will continue to be updated as new applications are received, accepted and formalized by the Red Cross. **THANK YOU** to our partners who have joined us in helping the community of Fort McMurray and the surrounding areas return to a sense of normalcy. Together, we are creating lasting results and building back better.



## Helping individuals, families and the community recover through the Community Partnerships Program



### 54 Partnership Projects



**59,000**

evacuees in Edmonton reached with **emergency supplies**



**20,660**

people reached through **community events** such as welcome home BBQs and holiday gatherings



**12,700**

people reached through **local food banks**



**10,000**

**family pets** given emergency care and/or reunited with families during and after the evacuation



**6,300**

families provided with **holiday hampers** for Thanksgiving and Christmas



**4,270**

children and young people with **safe places to play and learn**, through programming to support their recovery



**4,100**

people participated in **First Nations and Métis community events**



**830**

educators and childcare professionals supported to **restock classrooms and daycare centres with supplies**



**53**

**social profit organizations** received one-time financial assistance to support costs or expenses that were incurred as a result of the fires



**9**

community-led projects supporting **mental health and well-being** in recovery across the community

## BRINGING A COMMUNITY BACK TOGETHER AFTER THE FIRES



Photo Credit: Jennifer Jones

On a cold Friday night in January in Fort McMurray, a family movie night brings out more than 400 people to the YMCA Eagle Ridge Community Centre. Young and old alike come together – children shriek with joy as they play together in inflatable bouncy castles and parents catch up with friends and neighbours. It's an opportunity for families to reconnect.

Through her work at the YMCA of Northern Alberta, Vice President Janet Giles has seen just how vital these events are in supporting residents in their recovery.

"It's nothing very big sometimes, but it's reducing social isolation, building that sense of community, and it's really what we see as our long term role," Janet explains.

Thanks to the generosity of Canadians who donated to the Red Cross, the YMCA of Northern Alberta is playing an important role in rebuilding community in the Wood Buffalo region since the wildfires.

Janet notes that a major part of the recovery process is getting things back to normal. YMCA has been able to help re-establish routine for families whose lives hadn't seen consistency in months.

Upon residents returning to Fort McMurray after the evacuation, Janet says the organization wasn't sure if it would be able to launch its annual summer camps. However, the support provided from the Red Cross ensured the organization was able to get the camps up and running.

"(The camps) allowed children to forget about the trauma a little bit and be kids again, and it let parents get back to work, and deal with insurance issues. Camps gave parents a chance to get their family's lives back together."

To help continue healing in the Fort McMurray community, YMCA also hired Wellness Workers to provide supports to families and bring the community together, and launched a teen program to encourage teens to use the facility and connect with peers.

"Because the recovery of this community is going to be long term, we see the need for programs for young people," Janet says. "We want to keep young people engaged, active, and connected."

Through the support of Canadians across the country, the YMCA of Northern Alberta is bringing a new normal back to the Fort McMurray area.

"We're slowly recovering. We will have a new normal, and we will be stronger than we were before," Janet says. "So thank you, thank you, thank you."

The financial support provided to the YMCA of Northern Alberta is part of the Canadian Red Cross Community Organization Partnerships Program. This program is funding a range of local initiatives that are community-driven to help the Fort McMurray area. For a list of our community partners to date, visit [www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnerships](http://www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnerships).