



CANADIAN RED CROSS **CROIX-ROUGE CANADIENNE**



NORTHERN ALBERTA FIRES AFTER TWO YEARS

Canadian Red Cross continues to make a difference



When the largest disaster in Alberta's history struck on May 15, 2011 the Canadian Red Cross response was immediate – deploying staff, volunteers and resources to help affected residents.

Red Cross workers registered more than 15,000 people, opened shelters and provided people's basic needs including cots, blankets, food and clothing. After the smoke cleared and families started the rebuilding process, it was evident that the disaster would have lasting affects.

The path to recovery is complex. Red Cross has helped the people of Slave Lake and the surrounding communities as they transition through the recovery process – from supporting basic needs in the early days to interim housing support while homes were being built. Today, we continue to work with communities across the region to support development and full recovery.

FROM CAMP TO HOME

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS RESPONSE



It's hard to believe that just two years ago, there was a risk that the Scouts in Slave Lake would no longer exist.

Watching the Children of the Slave Lake Scouts laugh as they kicked around a soccer ball on a Thursday evening in late spring, it was easy to see their joy.

It's hard to believe that just two years ago, there was a risk that the Scouts in Slave Lake would no longer exist.

After wildfires devastated much of the community in May of 2011, the 17-member Scouts group, ranging from ages five to 11, lost their camping gear and canoes, said Brian Vance, the group commissioner for the Slave Lake Scouts. Along with many of the children losing their homes, they also couldn't enjoy some of the activities that define being a Scout.

Through the Canadian Red Cross, the Scouts are being provided with

approximately \$20,000 to replace the gear and canoes that were lost to the fire, as well as registration costs for a year. With the donated money a trailer was also purchased, making equipment transport easier for camping trips.

"I really think the support from the Red Cross meant the difference between the group continuing or not," says Vance.

With several of its members moving up through the ranks of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers, Vance notes that the local organization is thriving.

"We appreciate the help that we received and all of the people who contributed," Vance says.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

TEACHING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Two years later, those gifts are still helping the community build stronger.



Donations to the Canadian Red Cross helped thousands of residents immediately after the disaster. Two years later, those gifts are still helping the community build stronger.

To help foster a strong community, Red Cross is working with partners such as local schools to address health and safety concerns and prepare future community leaders.

Teachers at C.J. Schurter and E.G. Wahlstrom Schools wanted to provide their students with the tools to develop leadership, adaptability, communication and teamwork. The Leader in Me workshop was just the ticket, if they could only fund it.

“The program helps build resiliency – it gives tools to cope with what we’ve been through,” says Robin Ord-Boisvert

principal of C.J. Schurter. “The teachers, students and staff can take it home and use it.”

The program is built into the school’s core curriculum and everyday language. It has become part of the culture. The students learn new skills and build on their self-confidence so that they can succeed.

“With the Red Cross coming in to help it’s been just amazing for us. Now we can do it right and implement it as it is supposed to be.”

Canadian Red Cross provided \$25,000 to train staff at both schools to effectively implement this youth leadership workshop. The workshops help the school achieve great results while developing future leaders of the community.

HELPING FAMILIES

HOW THE CANADIAN RED CROSS IS HELPING TODAY



Family Fun Night provides small quality moments. It's a chance for families to just come together and have fun.

Canadian Red Cross is working with partners to address health and safety concerns and to better prepare for future emergencies. We also continue to provide recovery assistance to more than 150 people who were directly affected by the wildfires.

Canadian Red Cross is a proud funder of Family Fun Nights. This project started shortly after the fires and continues help the community today; it allows for the creation of new memories and positive experiences for those affected by the wildfire.

Worry-free, stress-free and quality family time, that's what Darcy Hoover, family and community support services coordinator, delivers to the families of Slave Lake through her Family Fun Night initiative.

"Family Fun Night provides small quality moments," says Hoover. "It's a chance for families to just come together and have fun."

For many families in Slave Lake, it's the one night a week that parents can spend one-on-one time with their kids, having dinner as a family.

"Everyone is welcome," adds Hoover.

The project is helping develop resiliency in children and families. The focus is on providing free entertainment, sports activities, crafts, games and a light supper to families.

The program has been incredibly successful with nearly 3000 participants over 24 nights. Family Fun Night continues to evolve from a focus on fire recovery to a sustainable community program.

DONATIONS AT WORK

Total of
\$5.8 million
received for the
Northern Alberta
Wildfire response

\$2 million
More than 20 community
projects have received
funding through the
Northern Alberta
Wildfires Community
Projects Fund.

\$3.8 million
Funds used to support
individuals and families,
the community and
health and wellness
initiatives.

A committee comprised of members from the community manages the fund and uses set criteria in selecting proposed projects.

- food and clothing
- rent and utility assistance
- household goods
- return to work tools
- school supplies
- personal health items
- property and home repair
- interim Library
- mental health and psychosocial support
- service clubs
- food banks
- day cares
- sports teams
- community gatherings

FAST FACTS



- Provided assistance to **3,534 individuals**
- Continuing to support more than **94 families**
- Office in Slave Lake opened in September 2011 to provide **ongoing recovery assistance**
- 90 youth and adults were trained to provide education in **violence, bullying and abuse prevention**
- Provided workshops in dealing with trauma, anger education training and suicide prevention
- **Committed \$2 million** for the Community Projects Fund



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