



6 MONTH DONOR UPDATE

British Columbia Fires



DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Six months ago, we saw hundreds of wildfires sweep across British Columbia, devastating many communities in their path. The impact has taken a heavy toll on those who saw their lives turned upside down, some losing their homes, belongings and jobs.

But during these challenging times, we have also seen your kindness give strength to British Columbians as they return and rebuild their lives. Because of you, individuals and families coping with loss and trauma have continued to receive practical and financial help as well as skilled care to support their recovery and mental well-being.

Over these trying months, your generosity has also helped revitalize small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations cultural livelihoods by providing financial assistance. Through generous government support, we are also helping repair the very fabric of communities by supporting local organizations, municipalities, schools, and First Nations bands.

Thank you once again for your compassion and trust. Your incredible support ensures our friends and neighbours in British Columbia continue to receive the help they need to recover from this disaster.

Sincerely,

Conrad Sauvé
President and CEO

DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Six months after the wildfires, I am struck by the strength and resilience of people. I just returned from Williams Lake where the whole community and surrounding areas are working together to recover from the fires and be more prepared for future risks.

We have teams in Kamloops, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House as well as outreach teams travelling into smaller communities to meet with people, businesses and community organizations affected by the fires and assist them in accessing support. Our priority is providing assistance directly to people affected, followed by working with all levels of government and other agencies to coordinate our work to have the most positive impact.

While we can anticipate some of the challenges people will face, we recognize that disasters affect people in different ways, and every personal situation is unique. We continue to work with the people affected and local leadership to adapt and expand our assistance to support emerging needs. For example, we have extended our help to more communities that experienced financial hardships due to road closures. We have also put in place initiatives to help impacted rural communities meet their immediate needs over the winter months.

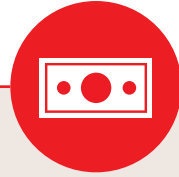
Red Cross is committed to working with people to see how we can best assist them along their road to recovery and I want to assure British Columbians that the Canadian Red Cross will be there in the weeks, months and years ahead to help them.

Thank you for your generosity. It is having an incredible impact on those affected by this disaster.

Kimberley Nemrava
Vice President, British Columbia and Yukon

Six months on:

What your support has accomplished



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

61,000+ 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

5,100+ consultations to provide emotional support for affected individuals

1,000+ referrals to external mental health and wellbeing supports

160+ outreach visits to impacted communities



RE-ENTRY AND RECOVERY

21,000+ households supported in their return with help such as financial assistance and clean-up kits

2,600+ households received financial assistance for their ongoing recovery, including support for temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, fuel to heat homes, mental health and well-being supports and replacement of medical prescriptions

12 community partnerships to support local organizations
2,500+ cash transfers to eligible small businesses
3,690+ one-on-one meetings with individuals and families needing ongoing help to recover

How your generosity is helping a BC senior start over

At 86 years old, Al Starkenburg never imagined he would be starting his life from scratch.

“When you hit 86, it becomes more of a dream to say you can start over.”

Yet that’s exactly where Al found himself this summer. For more than 20 years, Al had built his life in the community of Boston Flats, a mobile home park outside of Ashcroft, B.C. He spent his days visiting with neighbours and restoring antique furniture in his backyard shop. However, the life he knew changed in an instant after a wildfire destroyed nearly all 49 homes in the park.

“I lost everything – my house, my shop, my tools – everything,” Al says. “In that moment, I really couldn’t see a future.”

Al was several hours away from Boston Flats when he heard about the evacuation order. Instead of returning home, he found himself at an emergency reception centre in Kamloops where Emergency Support Services and the Red Cross were helping evacuees with a place to sleep, food and comfort.

“The most difficult part was not knowing where I was going to go. It was a lot of stress.”

It was during this time of uncertainty when Al first met with the Canadian Red Cross.

“The Red Cross gave me everything I needed in that moment,” he recalls. “I can’t say enough about how much that meant.”

While the financial support has been helpful, Al finds himself at a loss for words when it comes to the kindness and compassion he has received from strangers at the Red Cross and beyond.

“People I don’t even know at all have helped me during this,” he says.

Six months after the wildfire, Al is hopeful he will soon have a place to call home again. He recently purchased a mobile home with plans to fix it up this year. And while he knows there is still a long road ahead, Al says the care and support he continues to receive keeps him pushing forward.

“The light at the end of the tunnel will stay on thanks to all the good people who have helped.”

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“The light at the end of the tunnel will stay on thanks to all the good people who have helped.”



With your support, a community comes together in healing

While the impact of last summer's wildfires will be felt for months to come, the Bonaparte Indian Band takes comfort in knowing they can count on the same support they have received since the very beginning.

"The Red Cross helped right away," Band Councillor Frank Antoine says. "Most of our community members went to Kamloops, and the Red Cross gave us a place to go because there was nowhere. The organization did such a wonderful job of helping our community members."

Since then, the Red Cross has joined a collective effort with local businesses and community organizations to help people recover from the fires.

"*Knucwentwécw-kp* is a part of our language and it means working together, helping one another physically and mentally," says Frank. "The healing process for us is to plan and to work with what nature has to offer us, but also to work with the people around us who helped."

Bringing the community together is an important part of the recovery process, and that includes recognizing the hard work of the heroes that stood by residents throughout the disaster.

With financial support from the Red Cross Community Partnerships Program, a Firefighter's Appreciation Dinner brought together members of the community for a meal and healing through traditional song, drumming and story sharing. It was a meaningful occasion that paid tribute to those who gave so selflessly during the disaster.

"People do it out of the kindness of their hearts... They believe in helping someone who is in need and we were definitely in need," says Frank. "We're very happy to have that support."

Thanks to the generous support of Canadians, the Government of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada, the Red Cross is supporting community-driven and local initiatives to help communities recover from the British Columbia Fires. For more information, visit: www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnershipsBC.





WITH YOUR SUPPORT, RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO MEET WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES NEEDING ONGOING HELP TO RECOVER.

Your generosity at work

Financial summary

To date, **\$50.8 million** has already been spent and committed to assist those impacted by the fires.

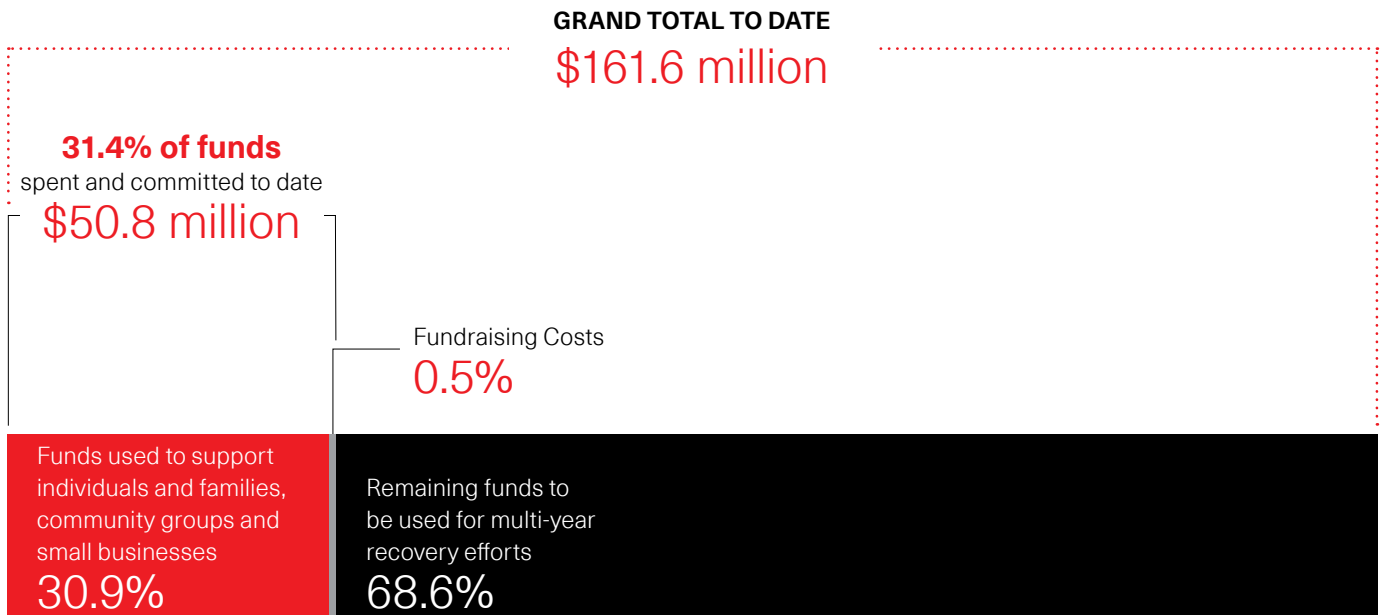
The Canadian Red Cross thanks generous individuals, governments, community groups and corporate partners who donated funds in support of people impacted by the British Columbia Fires. Together, we continue to have a lasting impact on individuals, families and entire communities as they recover.

TOTAL FUNDS DONATED
\$23 million

GOVERNMENT FUNDS
\$38.6 million thanks to the
Government of Canada
\$100 million thanks to the
Government of British Columbia

GRAND TOTAL
\$161.6 million

\$50.8 MILLION
SPENT OR COMMITTED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017



Your generosity at work

Financial details

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS	ALLOCATED TO DATE	SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE
TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES Providing help such as: food, water, winter clothing, items for babies or children, personal services such as hygiene products, and items that may help people return to work. Red Cross could also offer some financial assistance for: repairs to damaged homes, temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, firewood or other fuel to heat homes, mental health and well-being supports, sourcing of traditional food, replacement of prescription medication or dentures, and extermination services.	\$109.8 MILLION	\$41.1 MILLION
TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS Ensuring the needs of the community are reflected in relief and recovery activities. This has included funding 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 harvesting for the winter months. Further information regarding Red Cross funding for community organizations can be found online by visiting: www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnershipsBC .	\$21.6 MILLION	\$2 MILLION
TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL LIVELIHOODS 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. This financial support has provided assistance with unexpected costs as a result of the fires. A second phase of funding will help 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.	\$29.1 MILLION	\$6.8 MILLION
FUNDRAISING COSTS	\$1.1 MILLION	\$0.9 MILLION

\$50.8 Million spent or committed (As of December 31, 2017)

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS



Allocation of funds to date: This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total including the funds from the Government of British Columbia (\$100 million) and the Government of Canada (\$38.6 million) and the generous donors of the Red Cross (\$23 million). The allocations reflect the needs of the people and the community that have been identified to date. Many needs emerge over time and the above allocation amounts may be adjusted accordingly. Funds will be spent over the coming years.



Spent and committed to date: These are the funds that have been already 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.



Fundraising costs: The fundraising cost related to this emergency appeal will not exceed five per cent. Fundraising costs are associated to the total funds donated to date (\$23 million), not the grand total including the funds from the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada. 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.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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