

Your generosity at work

Alberta Fires: Five-Year Financial Update

As of March 31, 2021



GRAND TOTAL OF FUNDS: \$334.6 Million

To date, \$326.1 million has been spent or committed on the Alberta Fires and \$5.8 million reallocated to assist the people impacted by the 2020 Fort McMurray and Area Floods. This means a total of \$331.9 million, or 99 per cent of the funds received for the Alberta Fires appeal, have been spent or committed to date to assist the people in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo with recovery from these disasters.

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

Below is the summary of the funds allocated for the fires. The financial summary for the floods will be posted separately at redcross.ca.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS			
TO SUPPORT:		ALLOCATED AS OF MARCH 31, 2021	SPENT OR COMMITTED AS OF MARCH 31, 2021
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.	\$238.1 Million	\$235.5 Million
COMMUNITY GROUPS	These funds were provided to community organizations that are helping to meet recovery needs in the Wood Buffalo region. Further information regarding Red Cross funding for community organizations can be found online by visiting: redcross.ca/CommunityPartnerships	\$52 Million	\$52 Million
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. To further support eligible small businesses, the Red Cross continues to collaborate with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Economic Development and other community partners to explore learning and development opportunities for small business owners in the region.	\$29.5 Million	\$29.4 Million
FUTURE DISASTER PLANNING AND PREPARATION		\$2.8 Million	\$2.8 Million
FUNDRAISING COSTS		\$6.4 Million	\$6.4 Million
		SPENT OR COMMITTED	\$326.1 Million

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Grand total of funds to date: This includes the total funds donated, as well as the initial matching funds of \$104 million thanks to the Government of Canada and \$30 million thanks to the Government of Alberta. In addition, this amount also includes \$2 million each from the Government of Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to assist with interim housing support for people still not back in their primary home after the fire.

Allocation of funds to date: This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total including the government funds (\$334.6 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.

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.

Future disaster planning and preparation: These are the funds that ensure the Red Cross is ready and prepared to respond to future disasters in Canada. This means having pre-positioned stock, emergency supplies, and trained volunteers across the country that are ready to be deployed in their own communities or elsewhere in Canada when the next disaster strikes.

Fundraising costs: Fundraising costs are not applied to funds received from the government. Fundraising costs are only applicable to funds that are donated (\$189M) and will not exceed five per cent of the total donated funds for this appeal. These costs may include donation processing fees; credit card and bank fees; service fees for call centres and digital platforms; and, ongoing communications and reporting to donors.

Five years later: Together, here's what we have made possible

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



2,500+ cots, 3,000+ blankets and 2,800+ hygiene kits to support 8 evacuation shelters in Edmonton, Calgary and Lac La Biche.



1,950 families received interim lodging in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, and other communities across Alberta.



13 call centres set up, taking **147,000+ calls** to assist evacuated people in registering and accessing assistance.



10,900 plane and bus tickets booked to help people return home, as well as **37,000+ clean-up kits distributed** to returning residents.



65,000 families registered to receive support from the Red Cross.

HOW WE CONTINUE TO HELP



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. **After five years**, we continue to support more than **50 families** with their recovery and work to return home.



Over 13,000 children and youth have received mental health and wellness support every year since the wildfires.



Over 10,000 people attended recovery events led by Indigenous communities and supported by Red Cross.



284,000 distributions of financial assistance provided to help residents meet their needs.



More than 145 partnerships with community organizations (completed and ongoing) 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.



3,296 eligible small businesses have 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 20,000 individuals provided with mental health and wellness support in partnership with local organizations. **Over 1,200 people** have received counselling and psychotherapy supported by the Red Cross.