



2021 British Columbia Floods & Extreme Weather Appeal

Donor Update: July 2022

For many, the emergency doesn't end when the water recedes



Last year, after enduring a gruelling summer of record-high temperatures, heat domes, and wildfires, British Columbians were forced to face a climate-related emergency once again before the year was over.

An atmospheric river weather event is a large, narrow stream of water vapour that travels through the air. When it condenses, it can bring a month's worth of rainfall in just a few days. That's exactly what happened in November of 2021.

The torrential rainfall caused flooding, landslides, and power outages, and led to the evacuation of over 17,000 people.

In the days after, shocking images showed major damage to vital highways and bridges. Farmers' fields looked like lakes as water blanketed the land. Thousands were forced to evacuate towards an uncertain future as it became unsafe to stay in their homes.

Because of your support, the Canadian Red Cross was able to meet the immediate needs of people during and after the floods, while also planning for the long-term.

Today, the Canadian Red Cross continues to provide personalized recovery assistance to individuals and families who are still unable to return home, providing them with access to housing supports and helping them transition to longer-term solutions. This also includes help with navigating insurance, providing financial assistance, and Emergency Support Services, like mental health support.

I invite you to read more about the impact your support has made and the lives you have touched in this report.

People in British Columbia are still heavily affected by this unprecedented disaster, but because you chose to act, they do not have to go through it alone. Thank you.

Sincerely,

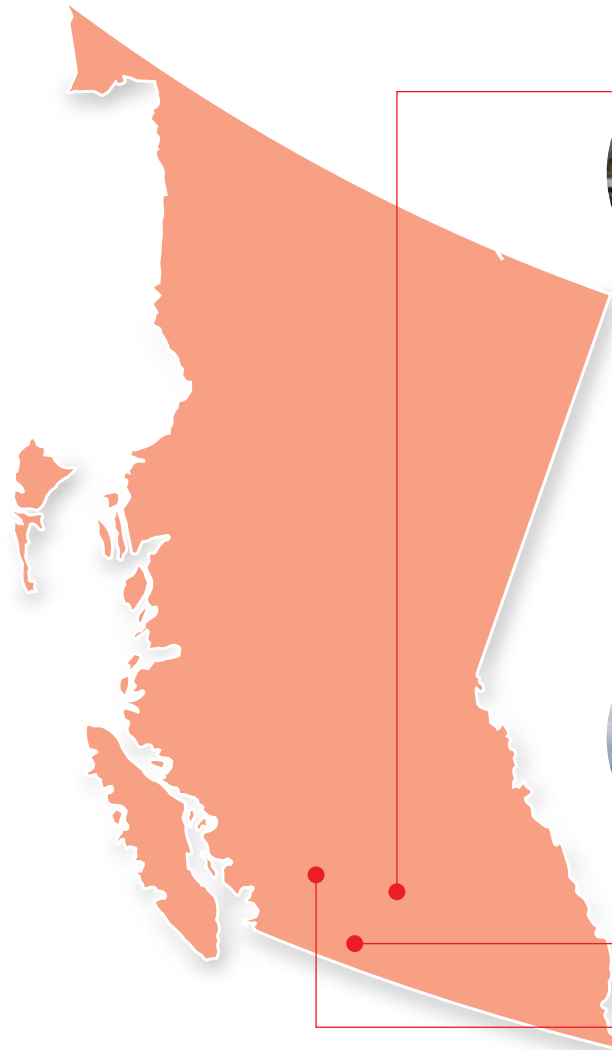
Conrad Sauvé
President & CEO
Canadian Red Cross



A Canadian Red Cross worker surveys a damaged home. Donors like you not only helped during the flooding but also after, as long-term recovery efforts continue.

Where your support was felt in B.C.

Here are just a few places where you made a difference:



MERRITT



- The sudden rise of the Coldwater River **caused extensive flooding in Merritt**, impacting their water treatment plant and temporarily closing the local hospital.
- The Canadian Red Cross continues to support a Resiliency Centre where impacted people can get **support for registration, resources, and connect with a case manager** for personalized recovery support.

ABBOTSFORD



- The Nooksack River overflowed, breaching its dyke, and flooded the Sumas Prairie area. The emergency **forced the closure of Highway 1 and the evacuation of over 1,100 homes.**
- The Canadian Red Cross continues to operate a reception centre where impacted people can get **support for registration, clean-up kits, and connect with a case manager** for personalized recovery support. The centre also functioned as a group lodging facility after the floods, especially for migrant farm workers.

Your Support in Action



7,500 households received more than \$19 million in evacuation-related financial assistance



2,084 Clean-up Kits, 80 cots, 228 blankets, 154 hygiene kits, 330 teddy bears, and 1,800 After-the-Flood guides were distributed



2 roaming Mobile Outreach Teams served remote and cut-off communities

NICOMEN INDIAN BAND



- Located near Lytton, B.C., which endured a **devastating wildfire during the summer of 2021, access to Nicomen Indian Band was cut off** after the only bridge connecting their community to the highway collapsed into the river.
- A Canadian Red Cross Mobile Outreach Team hiked into the community with aid and financial assistance to ensure those unable to leave received the support they needed.

We stop at nothing to reach cut-off communities



Even with washed away roads and collapsed bridges, Red Cross teams still found a way to reach those in need.

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

On November 15, 2021, the only bridge connecting the Nicomen Indian Band to surrounding communities collapsed.

The small community of about 50 people is located 20-minutes from the nearest town of Lytton, in B.C.'s Interior. When the bridge washed out, they lost their only access route to food, animal feed and other basic necessities.

With road access cut-off, there was only one option to reach residents of this small community – by travelling on foot. Red Cross staff and volunteers hiked into the community, bringing resources and flood assistance to set up a temporary support centre.

“Some people are double evacuees, so they were

[also] affected by the wildfires this summer,” shared Kairo Mair, an Emergency Response Team member.

“It’s nice to be able to come to people, especially in this situation, when they are unable to get out.”

In the aftermath of the emergency, Canadian Red Cross Mobile Outreach Teams visited many communities, including multiple First Nations. The Red Cross works in partnership with Indigenous communities and is guided by our Indigenous People’s Framework, rooted in a commitment to reconciliation, cultural safety, collaboration, and community-based service delivery.

As many in British Columbia continue their recovery journey, they can find solace knowing that donors like you across Canada answered their call for help.

“We will spend as many days as we need to in this community and make their life a little bit easier.”

– FRAN CARTER, Indigenous Specialist, Canadian Red Cross

Personalized Recovery – How the Red Cross helps

There are no one-size-fits-all when it comes to emergency responses. Not only is every emergency different, whether a natural disaster, conflict, or humanitarian crisis – each person that has been affected has their own unique needs to be able to recover.

Recovering from a disaster can take years, and the Canadian Red Cross is committed to helping along the way. As part of personalized recovery support, the Canadian Red Cross works directly with individuals and families to address their unique needs and help them to navigate their recovery journey.

To date, 450 households impacted by the flooding in B.C.

connected with the Red Cross for case management support. Case managers support impacted people by providing them assistance and helping them to plan their return home. By identifying next steps and prioritizing actions, understanding insurance and supporting with guidance on available financial supports, obtaining permits from municipalities, providing access to health services and referrals — case management is a vital service to address unique needs and simplify an otherwise complicated task of returning home.

Perhaps most importantly, our case managers also offer emotional support and a listening ear during these challenging times.



Your donation ensures our team has the training, tools and supplies to best help those affected, whether that be one person or entire communities.



“I know the anguish that people have, the uncertainty and fear. When the Red Cross came, I thought, ‘I’m there.’”

– **BARB GAGNON** , Flood Evacuee, Princeton

Flooding devastated the Sumas Prairie region, near Abbotsford, forcing many to evacuate and causing major damage to homes, farms, and businesses.



Jodi, a resident of Merritt, B.C. who was evacuated during the floods shares her appreciation for people like you who opened their hearts and gave to those in need:

“Help came to us from the rest of you – Canada – and thank you to the Red Cross who actually organized that. I know you’re volunteers but you’re there for countless hours, helping us. So thank you. It’s super appreciated.”

– JODI PROCTOR, flood evacuee in Merritt, B.C.

Jodi is just one of the over 19,000 people you lent a helping hand to in response to the flooding and extreme weather.

Thank you for being there for British Columbia



Amelia Washington, an elder in the Nooaitch Indian Band who lost her home in the 2021 floods, is assisted by a Red Cross worker, Fran Carter, in Nooaitch, British Columbia, during an outreach operation. Your support allowed our Mobile Outreach Teams to visit remote and cut-off areas of the province, including many Indigenous communities, to ensure everyone in need had access to support.

The Canadian Red Cross wishes to thank our donors, corporate partners, and Indigenous, provincial, and federal governments for their contribution to the 2021 B.C. Floods & Extreme Weather Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, community groups, and corporate partners, more than **\$40 million** has been raised to assist individuals, families, and communities affected by the flooding and extreme weather in British Columbia. This total does not include government matching funds.

Your gift allowed us to respond to immediate needs like shelter, relief supplies, and emotional support; financial assistance for those forced to evacuate with additional supports for those unable to return home; as well as personalized case management to help people navigate their unique situations. Thank you.



**Thank you for being there for the
people of British Columbia during this
unprecedented emergency.**

Your support helped us respond to their
immediate needs as well as provide
medium- and long-term recovery supports
to help them get back on their feet.