



TWO YEAR UPDATE

2017 British Columbia Fires



DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Disaster recovery is never a one size fits all approach – as we respond to each disaster, we are learning how to build the best recovery for that situation and each person affected. In 2017, wildfires devastated British Columbia, and many communities across the province were greatly affected by the flames. Families lost homes, people lost businesses, and communities lost essential services.

Fires burn quickly, but their repercussions can last for a long time. That is why the Red Cross has a variety of programs suited to help each person, family, and community recover at their own pace.

Since the fires two years ago, your support has made it possible to provide critical programs and aid to the people who need it – people like Al and his dog Pepper, who as you will find in this update, would never have thought they would be the ones to need help recovering.

You've also given communities the support to heal from the emotional trauma a wildfire can bring. Please take a moment to read about the extraordinary work Susann Collins and her team have been able to do, thanks to your support.

As recovery continues, together we can make sure no one is left behind. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Sincerely,

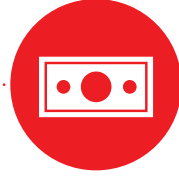
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP Tizi', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Jean-Philippe Tizi

Chief of Canadian Operations
Canadian Red Cross

Two years later:

What your support has accomplished



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

67,800+ 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

6,400+ consultations to provide emotional support for people, both in person and over the phone.

1,700+ referrals to external mental health and well-being supports.

240+ outreach visits to impacted communities.



RE-ENTRY AND RECOVERY

22,600+ households supported in their return with help such as financial assistance and cleanup kits.

3,000+ eligible small businesses, not-for profits and First Nations cultural livelihoods received financial assistance.

3,600+ households received financial assistance to support with their ongoing recovery for needs such as: temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, fuel to heat homes, repair or reconstruction of damaged or destroyed homes and mental health and well-being supports.

176 community partnerships to support local organizations, including 33 partnerships with community groups focused on providing mental health and well-being supports to affected individuals and families.

When a new house finally feels like a home again



Pictured: Al and his dog, Pepper

As Al and his late wife heard the evacuation call, they looked around their home. With only fifteen minutes to spare, they had to leave many personal belongings behind so they could beat the flames coming towards 100 Mile House.

“You could hear the fire,” says Al.

They were evacuated for over a month before they found out that their home had been destroyed. For a retiree with a limited income, rebuilding seemed impossible. Al didn’t know where to begin. Sadly, soon after the fire, Al’s wife passed away. His dog, Pepper, was by his side as he grieved both losses.

So, he reluctantly decided to approach the Red Cross for help.

Al found out that the Red Cross was able to provide him with financial assistance, which he used to purchase supplies to help him get started on rebuilding his home.

Now two years later, Al is still tinkering, and takes pride in working with his hands – and with support from you, the Red Cross, and Pepper, Al has built a home again.

“They’re wonderful people,” says Al. “Until this happened, I never dreamed what the Red Cross would do. It’s amazing.”

As for people who might find themselves in a similar situation, forced from their home due to a wildfire, Al has heartfelt advice.

“Hang on. There is hope. Don’t be embarrassed to ask for help.”

Navigating recovery after fire



Pictured: Executive Director, Susann Collins (left) and Community Navigator, Leah Sinal (right)

When a disaster is over, it's not just the environment that is affected – going through a disaster is often a traumatic experience.

The emotional trauma left from a fire can last for a long time. It's something Susann Collins, Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in the South Cariboo, is all too familiar with – her community was evacuated in 2017. She, along with her team, work with community members to emotionally heal from the trauma, with help from the Canadian Red Cross.

"It can take a long time to heal and recover," says Susann. "For many people, that [wildfire] experience ...triggers other trauma from their past. And so, it can increase the impact of the trauma now."

The Red Cross supports many aspects of recovery, from rebuilding homes to rebuilding resilience and mental health. With financial support by the Red Cross Community Partnerships Program, generously supported by donors

like you, the CMHA hired two Community Navigators. The Navigators help people affected by the wildfires access resources that can help their recovery and improve their mental health.

"We've been doing amazing work, thanks to the Red Cross who were so generous in funding us," says Susann. "Mental health is critically important. It is just as important as physical health."

And your support ensures that prevention and resilience are top of mind, as British Columbia continues to deal with wildfires now and into the future. With these strategies in place, Susann believes they've set the foundation for CMHA South Cariboo to respond to similar events going forward.

Thank you for your support of CMHA, and the Red Cross. With your help, we are working hard to make sure people are safe, happy, and healthy after disaster.

Your generosity at work:

Financial summary

To date, \$148 Million has been spent or committed to assist those impacted by the fires.

Thanks to generous individuals, governments, community groups and corporate partners who donated funds in support of people impacted by the 2017 British Columbia Fires. Together, we continue to have a lasting impact on individuals, families and entire communities as they recover.

**TOTAL FUNDS
DONATED TO DATE**
\$24 Million

GOVERNMENT FUNDS
\$38.6 Million thanks to the
Government of Canada

\$100 Million thanks to the
Government of British Columbia

**GRAND TOTAL
TO DATE**
\$162.6 Million

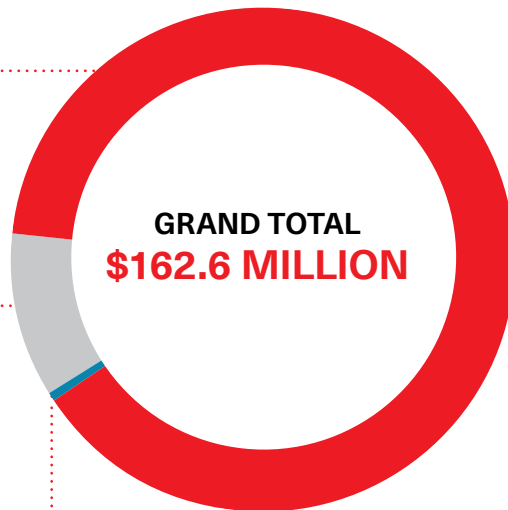
\$148 MILLION

SPENT AND COMMITTED AS OF MAY 31, 2019

**Total spent
and committed**
90.3%

**Remaining
allocated funds**
9%

Fundraising costs
0.7%



Funds spent or committed to date used to support individuals and families, community groups and small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and First Nations cultural livelihoods.

Remaining funds allocated to multi-year recovery efforts supporting people and communities in disaster risk reduction and mental health and wellness initiatives.

Fundraising costs

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

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

Allocation of funds to date: This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total including the funds from government. The allocations reflect the needs of the people and the community that have been identified to date. Many needs emerge over time and the allocation amounts may be adjusted accordingly.

Fundraising costs: In the graph to the left, 0.7% represents the fundraising costs in relation to the grand total of funds received. Fundraising costs are not applied to funds received from the government. Fundraising costs are only applicable to funds that are donated (\$24M) 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.

Your generosity at work:

Financial details

TOTAL ALLOCATED TO DATE:
\$162.6 Million

TOTAL SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE:
\$148 Million



TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

**Allocated
to Date**

**\$74
MILLION**

**Spent and Committed
to Date**

**\$63.1
MILLION**

Providing help such as: food, water, winter clothing, items for babies and children, personal services such as hygiene products, and items to help people return to work. Other assistance may be provided for: mental health and well-being supports, debris removal, temporary accommodations or mortgage payments, firewood or fuel to heat homes, home reconstruction and repairs, and replacement of prescription medications or dentures.



TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS

Ensuring needs of the community are reflected in relief and recovery activities. This has included 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 food for the winter months as well as firewood. Further information regarding projects funded to date can be found online by visiting www.redcross.ca/CommunityPartnershipsBC.

**Allocated
to Date**

**\$29.4
MILLION**

**Spent and Committed
to Date**

**\$25.7
MILLION**



TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

**Allocated
to Date**

**\$58
MILLION**

**Spent and Committed
to Date**

**\$58
MILLION**

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. A second phase of funding helped 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.

Fundraising Costs: \$1.2 Million allocated to date. **\$1.2 Million** spent or committed to date.

**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.**