



# BC Fires - Helping Communities Recover

Thanks to funding from the Government of B.C., the Government of Canada and generous Canadians, the Red Cross is able to provide programs and services that help communities, households and individuals recover from the fires.

## 1) Individuals and Families:

- Red Cross case workers are meeting one-on-one with individuals and households that need additional assistance - both at the Support Centres and through outreach in the communities.
- Safety and Wellbeing personnel also help ensure people have access to a range of holistic supports and resources that include psychological first aid, coping with stress and adversity, and planning for individualized recovery.
- People needing assistance can phone the Red Cross call centre at 1-800-863-6582 to make an appointment to meet a case worker at a Support Centres (the hours and locations are listed here: <http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/british-columbia-fires/red-cross-support-centres>).
- Those living in small or First Nations communities could also work with their community leadership to arrange for Red Cross workers to visit.
- The Canadian Red Cross addresses immediate psychosocial needs in all its recovery work and considers the needs of special populations and cultures. The Red Cross also coordinates with community and government partners and community stakeholders to ensure communities are empowered to take care of themselves and each other so they can strengthen relationships and networks, and build capacity and resiliency to better withstand future disasters.

## 2) Support to small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and First Nations cultural livelihoods:

- The Red Cross is providing those who are eligible with a one-time emergency grant of \$1,500.
- Interested small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and cultural livelihoods on-reserve First Nations persons were able to apply until October 31 through the Small Business Helpline (1-855-999-3345) or online at [www.redcross.ca/bcfires/smallbusiness](http://www.redcross.ca/bcfires/smallbusiness).
- Details of the next phase of support will be announced in the coming weeks.



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### 3) Community partnerships program:

- Community organizations with programming in communities affected by the 2017 fires can apply for funds that will help promote individual and community recovery and resiliency. These include:
  - Registered charities
  - Not-for-profit organizations
  - Municipalities and First Nation Bands
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - Schools and school boards
  - Indigenous organizations
  - Faith-based organizations
  - Community groups
- Funding is available to help in the following areas:
  - Emergency relief for immediate or urgent needs
  - Community strengthening to support community connectedness and resilience
  - Safety & wellbeing services that address individual wellbeing, violence prevention, and strengthen psychosocial supports for individual and community wellness services
  - Indigenous programming for impacted communities
  - Disaster Risk Reduction to increase preparedness for future disasters
- Visit [redcross.ca](http://redcross.ca) or email [BCCommunityPartnerships@redcross.ca](mailto:BCCommunityPartnerships@redcross.ca) to discuss your ideas.

For more information, please contact:

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