

# 2018 BRITISH COLUMBIA FLOODS UPDATE



February 2019

# Kimberley Nemrava



**KIMBERLEY NEMRAVA** WITH **DAN DERBY**, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR IN GRAND FORKS.

## DEAR CANADIAN RED CROSS SUPPORTERS

When water from the Kettle and Granby Rivers flooded into communities like Grand Forks and Christina Lake in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary last May, it changed the lives of thousands of people. Almost 2,000 households were evacuated, and the Canadian Red Cross responded immediately alongside local authorities to get emergency help to people in need.

The Canadian Red Cross, together with the B.C. Government, developed the Household Emergency Assistance Program, a new disaster recovery initiative in British Columbia. This pilot program was designed to assist residents beyond the initial emergency social services support. Funding was provided by the Province, and the Red Cross administered the support to people on a case-by-case basis. The program began in July 2018 and was extended to provide monthly financial assistance through March 2019. It helps people find safe housing and supports their recovery needs. It's also helping people with extensive flood damage to their primary residence to repair their homes.

In addition to financial assistance, Red Cross continues to support the mental health and well-

being of those in the Kootenay Boundary Region. Disasters are stressful and their impact on people can't be underestimated. Our team has and will continue to provide referrals to community partners to assist people in their long term recovery.

Small businesses are re-opening in Grand Forks, bringing people back to the region. More than 100 operators have been assisted by the Canadian Red Cross through the Support to Small Business. The B.C. Government generously provided an additional \$2.9 million to expand the program. Applications are being processed and our team is working to distribute assistance to small businesses in the area.

Our team is truly humbled by the resiliency of people affected by flooding. While recovery is underway, there is still more to be done. It is through the ongoing generosity of Canadian Red Cross donors that our team is able to help people in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. Thank you for your continued support.

**Kimberley Nemrava**

Canadian Red Cross Vice President, BC & Yukon



# Jennifer Rice

## DEAR SUPPORTERS

As we enter 2019, many of our province's communities continue to recover from the devastating floods and unprecedented wildfires of 2018. Throughout it all, the B.C. Government has been working with the Canadian Red Cross to provide support for the immediate needs and long-term recovery of both individuals and communities impacted by these natural disasters. This is a partnership that serves this province well and shows collaboration in action as we continue to provide critical aid and services with help from the generous donations of British Columbians, who make us proud in their willingness to help their fellow communities.

After the catastrophic flooding in Grand Forks, we worked with the Canadian Red Cross to launch the Household Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP), first-of-its kind in Canada, to help people in Grand Forks and the Kootenay Boundary Regional District with essential housing, food, utilities and transportation support. We are also working with the Canadian Red Cross to support small businesses in Grand Forks, recognizing that these businesses are so critical to the economy and community.

Recovery continues, and the Province of B.C. will continue to work with agencies such as the Canadian Red Cross to harness their expertise and resources to help communities like Grand Forks move forward. It's a strong working relationship based on a shared commitment to the long-term recovery of communities impacted by disasters and we will continue to provide support through our partnership now and into the future.

The Canadian Red Cross are critical public safety partners in British Columbia and do so much to support our province's wellbeing. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish together, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership and help British Columbians in their times of need.



**Jennifer Rice**

Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness



**JENNIFER RICE** PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, WITH **DAN DERBY** DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS REGIONAL DISTRICT KOOTENAY BOUNDARY (LEFT), AND **GARY CARLETON** RED CROSS FIELD OPERATIONS TEAM MANAGER.

# What your support has accomplished

As of December 31, 2018



437

households in total received financial assistance in Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. Support was allocated on a case-by-case basis, based on needs. Some households accessed support in more than one way.

409

households were supported with funding for additional needs such as medical supplies and prescriptions, mental health and wellbeing supports, and fuel to heat their homes through the generosity of Red Cross donors.

216

households received financial assistance for their ongoing recovery, including support for temporary accommodations, food and utilities, through the Household Emergency Assistance Program.



1,410

one-on-one meetings were held with individuals and families as they move forward in their recovery.



318

referrals were made to external mental health and well-being supports.



844

clean-up kits (brooms, gloves, cleaning products, etc.) were distributed to those returning home.

# Your generosity at work:

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

To date, \$3.65 Million has already been spent or committed to assist those impacted by the floods in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

Thanks to generous individuals, governments, community groups and corporate partners who donated funds in support of people impacted by the 2018 British Columbia Floods. Together, we continue to have a lasting impact on individuals, families and the entire community as they recover.

TOTAL FUNDS DONATED TO DATE

\$1.42 Million

GOVERNMENT FUNDS

\$5.68 Million thanks to the Government of British Columbia

GRAND TOTAL

as of December 31, 2018

\$7.1 Million

\$3.65 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

Total spent and committed

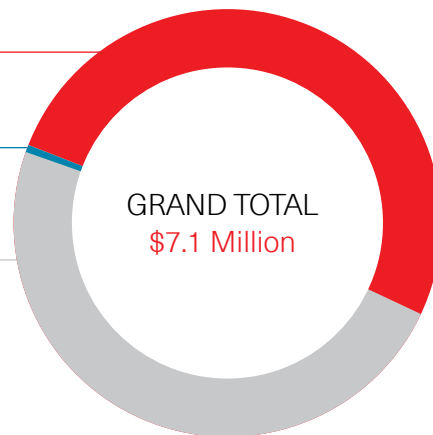
50.4%

Fundraising costs\*

1%

Remaining funds

48.6%



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

**Remaining funds allocated to recovery efforts supporting people and communities.**

**Fundraising costs**

### UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Allocation of funds to date:** This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total. 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.

**Spent and committed to date:** These are the funds that have been already spent to assist those impacted by the floods, as well as funds that have been committed with signed contracts or agreements for recovery projects or initiatives, where applicable.

**\*Fundraising costs:** In the graph to the left, 1% 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 (\$1.42M) 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.

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# Your generosity at work:

## FINANCIAL DETAILS

TOTAL ALLOCATED TO DATE

\$7.1 Million

TOTAL SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE

\$3.65 Million



### TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

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ALLOCATED  
TO DATE

\$3.27 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED  
TO DATE

\$3.05 Million

Providing help such as: food, water, 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, temporary accommodations, utilities, and replacement of prescription medications or dentures.



### TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS

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Ensuring needs of the community are reflected in relief and recovery activities. This has included a variety of projects and initiatives such as support for emotional and psychological well-being, and community food projects.

ALLOCATED  
TO DATE

\$530,000

SPENT AND COMMITTED  
TO DATE

\$230,000



### TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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ALLOCATED  
TO DATE

\$3.23 Million

SPENT AND COMMITTED  
TO DATE

\$300,000

Experience has shown us that support for small businesses, not-for-profit organizations are essential to the full recovery of the people and communities affected by a disaster. Funding will help small businesses with fixed and new expenses they incurred when they lost business due to the floods. These funds could help business owners with things like: uninsured losses, deductibles, equipment, minor repairs to property, and clean-up of property. Support to small business applications for eligible businesses are currently being processed. For additional information visit [www.redcross.ca/bcfloods/smallbusiness](http://www.redcross.ca/bcfloods/smallbusiness).

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FUNDRAISING COSTS: Allocated to date \$70,000. Spent and committed to date \$70,000.



# Rebuilding: the Road to Recovery

“We have to go. The dyke breached.” That’s the text message Tanya McKimmie received from her sister-in-law the night water poured into her home in the Ruckle neighbourhood of Grand Forks.

“We opened the front door of the house, and looked at our neighbour across the street; it was like the Kettle River was rushing through her yard, right up to our front porch,” Tanya said.

Despite placing sandbags around her home before the dyke breached, the powerful Kettle River quickly overwhelmed her family’s flood defences. Tanya and her husband Colin grabbed what they could, and scrambled to their truck, along with their two children.

“My daughter was crying, I couldn’t carry her because the ground was so muddy,” Tanya recalls.

After safely dropping off their children with family, Tanya and Colin went back to their home and tried to recover what they could, but it was impossible salvage anything. The water was already up to the running boards along the side of the truck.

“To not even have a toothbrush and toothpaste with you the next day was hard,” Tanya said.

The Canadian Red Cross and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Emergency Social Services helped the McKimmie family with money for groceries, and other extra expenses, as they suddenly found themselves living in a tight space with extended family.

It was July before power was restored to their property. This summer, the McKimmie’s lived in a camping trailer, parked outside their damaged home. With help from the Household Emergency Assistance Program funded by the B.C. Government and administered by the Red Cross, the McKimmie’s began refinishing their home. By December much of the drywall was replaced, and the family was grateful to move back inside, using space heaters to stay warm.

“At least we have an indoor bathroom that works, we’ve got somewhere to cook food that’s not a little cramped trailer, and we’ve got somewhere to sit as a family,” Tanya said.

The McKimmie’s had moved to the community of Grand Forks just a few months before the flooding, and still face uncertainty.

“We thought about going back to Langley, but after what this community’s just done for us, we can’t leave this community.”



FLOOD DAMAGED ITEMS AND DRYWALL HAD TO BE PULLED FROM THE MCKIMMIE HOME AFTER THE FLOODING.



# A Spoonful of Support

There is no mystery to Kayla Sebastian about what helped save her business, the popular Wooden Spoon Café in Grand Forks, B.C.

“It definitely wasn’t luck that we were able to save as much as we did,” Kayla repeats adamantly, emphasizing the round-the-clock efforts made by her and dozens of others to save the local landmark as water started flowing down Market Ave., through the heart of downtown.

At one point, about 40 people, including her employees and café regulars, were sandbagging and bailing water out with huge pickle barrels.

Thanks to the support and monumental effort of such a large and dedicated group, the Wooden Spoon Café was largely protected from the floodwaters.

Unfortunately, two days later, extensive sewer back-up caused the basement to flood, contaminating everything that was stored inside the building, including catering equipment and over \$4,000 worth of food.

The Wooden Spoon Café received an initial \$1,500 Support for Small Business assistance, which Kayla used to replace the catering equipment that was in the flooded basement. This meant that new catering supplies arrived just in time for the busy holiday season.

Kayla remembers the Red Cross also being there for her employees who lived in town, some of whom had been severely impacted.

“For the ones that had lost their homes, the Red Cross was there right from the beginning, understanding just how they could help everyone,” says Kayla.

Kayla highlights that the Red Cross donations “directly impacted the community, and every penny that was donated to this town was used to its full potential on what it was needed for.”

Sometimes “just supporting someone through that next difficult month” can make all the difference. Red Cross donations are at work as Grand Forks continues to rebuild and recover.



KAYLA SEBASTIAN RECOVERING ALONGSIDE HER COMMUNITY AT THE WOODEN SPOON CAFÉ



# THANK YOU

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To our donors and the **Government of B.C.**, thank you. Your support is key to mobilizing our teams quickly to provide shelter, personal hygiene kits, household emergency assistance, and emotional support to those in need.

To our **volunteers**, thank you for giving your time and compassion. Red Cross volunteers came from all over B.C. to support people affected by spring flooding.

To the people of **Grand Forks, Midway, Christina Lake**, and **surrounding communities**, the road to recovery is long. Red Cross continues to work alongside local authorities and partners to provide support for individuals, families and businesses where it is needed most.