

# Alberta REPORT BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

2015-16



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS  
CROIX-ROUGE  
CANADIENNE**





# Message from the VICE PRESIDENT



We are all connected and the past year has demonstrated how we come together at the local, national and international levels to provide assistance to those in need.

Summer 2015 was busy domestically as dozens of Red Cross staff and volunteers in Alberta assisted our Saskatchewan colleagues with their wildfire response by hosting a shelter for evacuees in Cold Lake. While the Alberta fires did not occur in the fiscal year highlighted in this report, we would like to recognize our Red Cross colleagues from across North America who assisted us when wildfires in the Wood Buffalo region triggered the largest evacuation in the province's history.

One of the international efforts we were engaged with the past year was the settlement of refugees from Syria and the surrounding region. Delegates from Alberta assisted families in Germany and at home as Canadians welcomed thousands of refugees to their communities. It was a pleasure to work in collaboration with the City of Calgary and local settlement agencies.

These responses are a few examples of the work of the Red Cross. Other examples can be found in Violence and Abuse Prevention, the Health Equipment Loan Program, Detention Monitoring, Restoring Family Links, First Aid, Swimming and Water Safety, First Nation and Aboriginal Engagement, Community Housing, and International Humanitarian Law. We also kicked off Strategy 2020.

I look forward to my continued work with the Provincial Advisory Committee, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, colleagues, partners, donors, government, and citizens to build on these successes. Thank you for your on-going support.

**Jenn McManus**  
Vice President, Canadian Red Cross, Alberta and Northwest Territories

# Message from the PAC CHAIR



It is my pleasure as Chair of the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Canadian Red Cross in Alberta, to report on the activities of the past year. The PAC is a group of volunteers

across the province that provides a connection to the community and serves in an advisory capacity to the Vice President. One theme that summarizes our activities for the past 12 months is transition.

There have been major changes taking place with the PAC on two levels. One is recruitment. My colleague Diane Carter has been leading a working group tasked with increasing the number of members and ensuring representation from across the province. In 2015-16, we welcomed several new members, including Muhammad Yaseen, Justin Dunphy, Billy Wu, and Shahab Fajar who joined existing members Diane Carter, Mary Jane Dawson, John McCook, Warren Szkolnicki, Allan Works, Ed Stevenson, Chris Diamant, and me. Also last year, Nicholas Conradi resigned from the PAC to pursue further studies. Thank you to Nick for his contributions and dedication.

A second major initiative was the Transition Task Force, with a mandate to update the terms of reference for the PAC that will also allow for increased engagement between the PAC, volunteers, staff and the community. Chris Diamant has been the lead on this effort and is collaborating with provincial and national counterparts.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of my PAC colleagues and thank them for their dedication and contributions. We are committed to moving the mission of the Red Cross forward in Alberta and Northwest Territories.

**Patrick Lichowit**  
Provincial Advisory Committee Chair, Alberta

# SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Paula Goldrup, Community Liaison Officer, Red Cross

**“It was incredibly rewarding. I loved going there.”** That is how Red Cross staffer Paula Goldrup describes her days working with Syrian refugee children in Calgary.

Goldrup was the site supervisor at one of the locations where refugee families initially stayed on their arrival in Calgary. Red Cross was asked to support the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) by providing safe spaces for children and youth while their parents were undergoing language assessments, education orientation and other programs.

**“I absolutely loved the interactions,”** Goldrup says. **“To trust people in a new country and people to trust you with their children is a pretty incredible gift.”**

Red Cross assisted CCIS with 42 staff members and volunteers from the beginning of February until Easter weekend. An average of five Red Crossers were with the children seven days a week. They didn’t just supervise the children on site. They also took them on field trips to places around the city, helping them become familiar with their new home.

In all, Red Cross assisted with more than 250 children. Goldrup says, **“People expressed their gratitude. It was very difficult to say goodbye. They want a better life for their children.”**

You may find more on the Syrian Refugee Crisis and Refugee arrival in Canada at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)



Barb Hay, Red Cross HELP office, Red Deer.

## HEALTH EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM VOLUNTEER ALWAYS ON THE GO

Barb Hay retired from busy careers in nursing and real estate years ago, but that doesn’t mean she is slowing down any time soon.

These days, Hay spends her time at the Canadian Red Cross office in Red Deer volunteering for the Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP). Hay says her life has “always been busy.”

HELP provides short-term medical equipment loans to people coping with illness, injury or surgery. The program reduces the financial burden of illnesses or injuries because people do not have to purchase or rent costly medical equipment. **“We’re very, very busy in our Red Deer office,”** Hay says. **“There are lots of people who need help.”**

Staff and volunteers work together in the office and do their best to meet clients’ needs. Equipment is typically loaned out for a maximum of six months.

With HELP, Hay also assists at the front desk, answering phone calls and greeting people.

She decided to apply for the position after a close friend told her the Red Cross was recruiting volunteers. Hay was looking for an activity that would involve the community, and says she has “tremendous respect for the Red Cross.”

Now twice a week, Hay drives 30 kilometers between her hometown and Red Deer to volunteer.

**“I think to myself, coming home after a day at the Red Cross, I have helped people who have worse problems than I have. If you can help, then I think you have a more satisfied feeling with yourself. That’s what the Red Cross does for me.”**

There are seven HELP sites in the province.

# RED CROSS BY THE NUMBERS

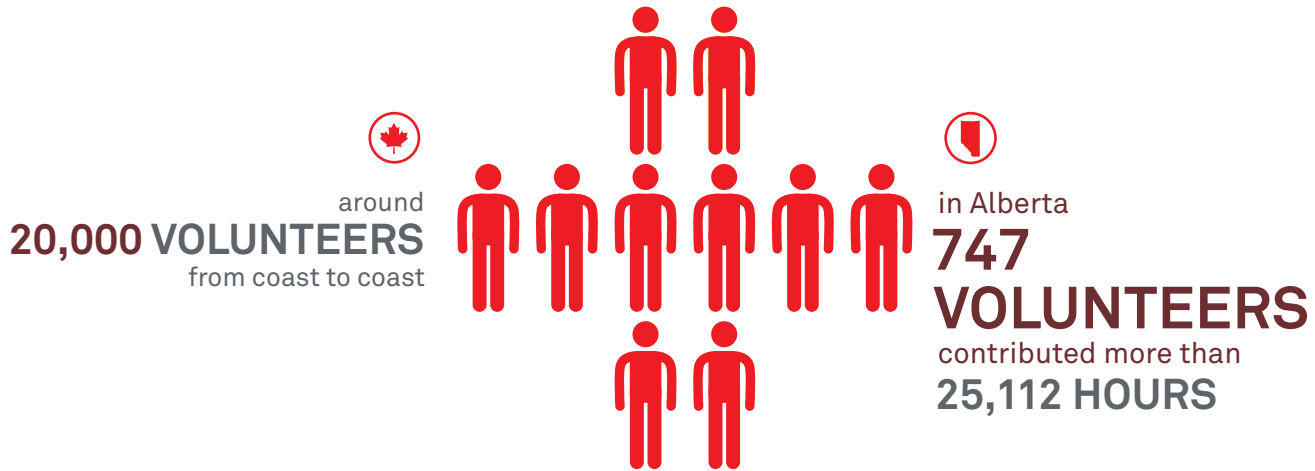
APRIL 2015 – MARCH 2016

 Canada-wide stats

 Alberta

## OUR STRENGTH

is in our volunteers and donors



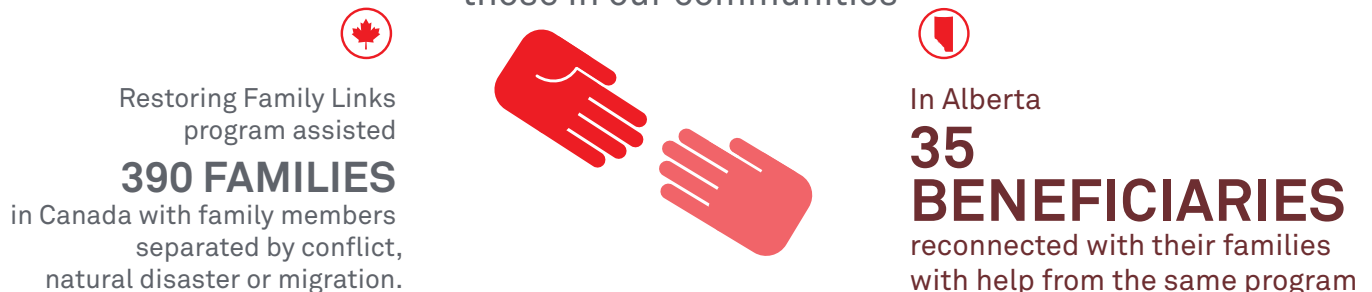
## READY TO RESPOND

when disaster strikes




## READY TO SUPPORT

those in our communities



# READY TO PREVENT

injuries and abuse

 **742,322** Canadians took violence, bullying, and abuse prevention training.

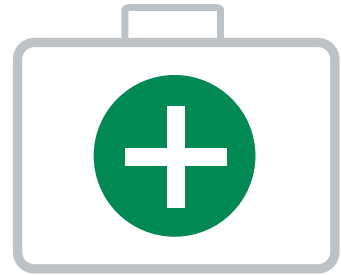
 **76,818+** took the same training in Alberta



**1,170,014** Canadians took Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety lessons



**192,358** people took the same training in Alberta



 **625,585** Canadians took Red Cross First Aid courses

 **123,780** people took the same training in Alberta



## HEALTH EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM (HELP)



**25,657** clients served in Alberta  
**47,346** pieces of equipment loaned



## INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

Red Cross took part in **77 missions** in **62 countries**

### Emergency and Recovery Activities

**176** Canadian Red Cross delegates were deployed

**1** Emergency Response Unit field hospital deployment supported in Nepal

### Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Disaster Preparedness, and Violence Prevention

**5,289** volunteers provided support in **24** countries

**4,313,663** clients supported

**959** communities supported





# HUMANITARIANISM IN AN AGE OF SECURITY:IHL CONFERENCE 2016



L-R: Christopher Harland, Kelly Sundberg, Andreas Tomaszewski, Jenn McManus, Israr Kasana, Catherine Gribbin, and Duane Bratt

As Canada and other countries continue to welcome thousands of Syrians and other refugees fleeing violence in their homeland, the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War.

“The numbers are absolutely staggering and it has led to a lot of confusion,” observed Duane Bratt, a Mount Royal University (MRU) professor at a discussion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Calgary.

On March 7, 2016, academics, legal professionals and guests examined the issue of “Humanitarianism in an Age of Security” at a Red Cross IHL conference at MRU. It was led by three speakers: Catherine Gribbin, senior legal advisor for Canadian Red Cross; Chris Harland, legal advisor for the International Committee of the Red Cross; and Kelly Sundberg, an associate professor at MRU.

Gribbin identified the groups protected under IHL, which include wounded or sick soldiers,

detainees, and civilians. She suggested the outpouring of refugees from Syria “can be seen as a failure to abide by the rules of IHL.” However, Harland argued the “basic rules on lawful targeting of persons under IHL” are too vague.

The speakers debated the idea that humanitarian principles are threatened with the rise of security concerns at a global and local level.

Sundberg stressed the importance of security and cautioned that accepting refugees into the country is not enough. “It’s one thing to accept people; it’s another thing to invest in the newcomers.” All speakers agreed there needs to be a balance between security and humanitarianism.

Next year’s IHL conference will be held for the first time in Edmonton at the University of Alberta. It is scheduled for early February 2017.



Increasing the personal safety of young children is the purpose of *Be Safe!* kits. The initiative of the Red Cross Respect Education program is intended to educate parents, teachers, and children about childhood sexual abuse and help prevent it.

Recently, 50 schools in the Edmonton area received the kits and training, thanks to a \$20,000 grant provided by the Telus Community Foundation. The kits are designed for children ages 5 to 9, and use puppetry and songs to educate them about sexual abuse.

Ryan Myers, Respect Education associate, explains the kits aim to “help kids set boundaries for themselves.” They are also intended to provide children who have been affected by sexual abuse with information about how to get help.

## BE SAFE! KITS PROVIDED TO EDMONTON SCHOOLS

Each kit contains eight lessons which can be given over several weeks. The Respect Education program hopes to see a kit in every Grade 1, 2, and 3 class across the country.

An updated version of the former C.A.R.E. kits, the new *Be Safe!* kits align with the Alberta school curriculum and now use photos instead of cartoon drawings.

The reception in schools to the new kits has been positive. “Teachers like that it applies to the curriculum,” Ryan says.

For more information about *Be Safe!* kits, please contact the Respect Education department at your local Red Cross office or call:

**1-877-356-3226**

# CANADIAN RED CROSS HELPS SAVE LIVES IN CHINA



Second from right: Kevin Paes standing beside CRC volunteer John Napier with the Chinese Red Cross delegation

The Red Cross Society of China intends to roll out its own water safety program across its coastal provinces soon. The move comes five years after Canadian Red Cross staff and volunteers first visited China to help reduce the number of drowning deaths in the country.

The program is the result of a longstanding partnership between the two National Societies.

**“The Red Cross Society of China reached out to us,”** said Kevin Paes, CRC manager of swimming and water safety training partner development.

**“The Canadian Red Cross is one of the few Red Cross’ globally that has a Learn to Swim program, so they wanted to start one based on our model.”**

Paes said the Canadian program, developed over the years, has been adapted to suit China.

**“We taught on coastal cities, where there is no winter, so we took out ice safety and things specific to a Canadian environment.”**

The program has been launched in two Chinese provinces and has been educating those at highest risk of drowning. In its first year, more than 40,000 fisherman and 2,000 migrant children attended public education seminars.

In November, Paes gave a presentation about the collaboration at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Malaysia, where hundreds of delegates from around the world gathered.

**“People were very interested in understanding how the partnership works,”** Paes said.

Canadian Red Cross has been teaching swimming safety since 1946.



## HEROIC ACTIONS RECOGNIZED

*Survivors and rescuers following the award ceremony.*

A plane crash and a Sunday game of flag football prompted passersby and friends to rescue three people and earn special recognition for their heroic actions.

It was an emotional evening in April as ten people from Alberta and British Columbia were recognized for their efforts during two life-threatening events. They were given Canadian Red Cross Rescuer Awards at a ceremony in Calgary.

Rescuer Awards honour non-professional rescuers as well as off-duty first responders who take life-saving actions such as providing first aid and CPR.

On August 30, 2014, a plane piloted by Dr. Michal Kantoch with passenger Jane Lavallee crashed in Crawford Bay, B.C. The two were pulled from the plane just before the fuel tanks exploded.

Brant Hannah, Dr. Debbie McAllister, Alexandra Johnston, Jody Jones, Darryl Jenner, Melanie Desjardins, Robert Hynes and Penny Karpowich assisted with resuscitation and first aid.

Dr. Kantoch survived and spent three months in

hospital. Unfortunately, Lavallee did not survive despite everyone’s best efforts.

Dr. Kantoch was emotional as he thanked his rescuers, expressing “heartfelt, sincere gratitude.” He acknowledged people risked their own lives to save his. “There was a lot of fuel in the tanks,” said Dr. Kantoch. “It just shows how we can help each other.”

Two other rescuers were honoured for saving the life of their friend, Neil McFarlane. On June 7, 2015, McFarlane and his friends were enjoying a flag football game when he became unwell. His friends, Jamie Kormos and Matt Sauer, initially believed McFarlane was suffering from a heat-related emergency, but it turned out to be a cardiac arrest. They called 911 and performed CPR.

McFarlane tearfully commended his friends saying: **“Thank you for reacting, being brave, taking care of me and giving me a chance to go home to my daughter and my wife.”**

Knowing **CPR and first aid** can help you save a life!

Red Cross volunteers and staff,  
Fort McMurray



# SOUTHERN ALBERTA FLOODS 2013 – 3 YEAR UPDATE



**9,459**  
families  
assisted by  
Red Cross

**229** homes  
repaired and  
rehabilitated



**104** community  
initiatives  
have been funded

**40** small business  
owners provided  
personal  
consultations and  
guidance



## RED CROSS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

HUMANITY      VOLUNTARY SERVICE  
IMPARTIALITY      UNITY  
NEUTRALITY      UNIVERSALITY  
INDEPENDENCE

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## ALBERTA FIRES 2016

Devastating wildfires that swept through the Municipality of Wood Buffalo, including Fort McMurray, last spring prompted an unprecedented outpouring of support from Canadians that will help thousands of people and their communities recover from the disaster.

Although the wildfires did not occur within this fiscal year, the Canadian Red Cross wants to thank people across the country. As of August 3, 2016, \$299 million was raised, including matching donations from the governments of Canada and Alberta. A Red Cross office is now open in Fort McMurray, where personnel continue to meet daily with people to assess their emerging needs.

In addition, Red Cross is working with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and provincial government to support small business recovery in the community. As recovery efforts continue, Red Cross will also provide support for services and projects that improve the preparedness of families and communities to face any future disaster.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

The Red Cross would like to extend its sincere thanks to the following corporate and major gift donors for making a financial investment in Alberta programs with the Canadian Red Cross, along with all the other companies, institutions, governments, schools, and thousands of individual donors who gave their support this year. Thank you for making it possible for the Red Cross to provide life-saving and life-changing services to the most vulnerable in Alberta.

### Donors of \$10,000 or more in Alberta

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