



CANADIAN RED CROSS AND MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION ANNOUNCE

UNIQUE & INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The *Strength & Spirit Campaign* is an initiative that will work to improve and enhance relationships and partnerships between the Red Cross and First Nation communities in Ontario. The first milestone of this campaign is the establishment of a Red Cross satellite office in a First Nation community. This office will be the first of its kind in Ontario and will support the development and delivery of existing Red Cross programs and services (modified as necessary) or entirely new programs designed to meet local requirements. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for members of First Nation communities.

Interested First Nation communities were invited to demonstrate their interest in hosting a satellite office by submitting a detailed proposal. Submissions were scored on a number of factors and site visits were made to the top two locations.

The Red Cross and community officials are pleased to announce that Moose Cree

First Nation will be the site of the first Red Cross satellite office in an Ontario First Nation community. It is anticipated that the satellite office will open in the fall of 2012.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Research has shown that First Nation communities in Canada are more vulnerable to injury, natural disasters, family violence and suicide. In spite of these challenges, First Nation communities are becoming increasingly empowered and are asserting their rights, responsibilities, freedoms and culture with ever-increasing pride and commitment. However, few communities have the capacity to implement sustainable programs that will help improve the quality of life, health and safety of their residents. It is anticipated that the partnership between the Red Cross and Moose Cree First Nation will increase capacity in this community and be a sustainable model with the potential to be replicated in the future.



ABOUT MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION

The Moose Cree Traditional Territory extends from Hearst, Ontario in the west, to the Quebec border in the east, and from south of highway 11, points north toward the Albany River. Moose Factory is located within this traditional territory and is home to Moose Cree First Nation. The location of the satellite office in the community will be in the new Far North Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre of Excellence, which is already considered a community hub. A youth centre is also located within the same community and an Elder's Gathering Centre is located nearby in Moosonee. The Red Cross branch office in Timmins will be the host branch to the office in Moose Cree First Nation and will work closely with them to establish the new office and set up the Red Cross programs that will be offered.



Many of the values of the Moose Cree First Nation and the Red Cross are similar. The Moose Cree First Nation values of respect, responsibility, communication, learning and diversity are of great importance to the Red Cross. The Red Cross also believes in voluntary service, neutrality and independence. This common ground between Moose Cree First Nation and the Red Cross will be an excellent foundation for the partnership that will be developed in this community.

HOW THE RED CROSS WILL HELP

The Red Cross is known for its programs in violence and abuse prevention. In fact, some of the programs that have been developed in Canada are now being used in countries around the world. The Red Cross office in Moose Cree will offer these same programs - leading to a safer community for everyone. Another priority for the Red Cross satellite office in this community will be the implementation of a disaster management team. Members of the community will be offered Red Cross training so that in the event of a disaster, they are able to respond and assist each other.

The Red Cross is looking forward to partnering with Moose Cree First Nation to educate the residents in this community about making safe choices, preventing injuries and responding to emergency situations. These changes will make a significant difference in the quality of life for residents and will result in a safer and stronger community.

For more information on how your support will make a difference for First Nation communities in Ontario:

CONTACT US

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