



2021 British Columbia Fires

Large parts of Lytton, B.C. were destroyed by fire shortly after breaking Canada's all-time heat record.

In the summer of 2021, as wildfires tore through communities in British Columbia, destroying property, forcing people from their homes and taking lives, Canadians like you came together to support those impacted.

Record breaking temperatures and dry weather created the conditions for devastating wildfires. Many communities across B.C. were forced to evacuate as fires loomed. While some were able to return with their homes still intact, others were not.

The small, picturesque community of Lytton, B.C. suffered untold damage. The once vibrant surrounding forest of pine, fir, and cedar trees are scorched and charred, leaving the village almost unrecognizable.

Your support provided those affected with one-time emergency financial assistance; helped reunite families through our Family Reunification Contact Centre; and provided items to meet their basic needs like hygiene kits, water, cots and blankets.

Thanks to your support, people impacted by the fires received comfort and care when they needed it most.



“It was kind of bittersweet to see Red Cross come and help our people...and help with funds for us to kind of help us get back on our feet. I’m really appreciative of that.”

- **Vivian**, from Bridge River Indian Band, who was forced to evacuate from her home because of the fires

An Inside Look at Lytton: How you were there for those who lost their homes

Because of your contribution, volunteers like Deb could provide much needed support and comfort for wildfire evacuees.



Whether in school gymnasiums or local community centres, after tragedy, Canadian Red Cross volunteers are on-hand at reception and resiliency centres to help those who need it most.

Deb Hollands-McKinnon was the Red Cross Site Manager in Lytton, B.C. in the aftermath of a terrible fire that swept through the town. Deb and her team supported countless people impacted by the fire. She recalls, "It was so heartbreaking. They've lost so much and I think that's when it really takes your breath away...they were just moving forward...the very best that they could."

Resiliency centres play a large role in beginning to restore the lives of those affected. These safe and temporary locations are supported by the Red Cross during and after a disaster to support people who have been evacuated with services that include reception and information, registration and financial assistance, personal and wellbeing services, as well as referrals to appropriate local and provincial resources based on their needs.

Deb was touched by the strength of the community members, as some returned to the town to see what remained of their home and to access supports and services provided by the Canadian Red Cross. "It's rewarding and humbling at the same time, it's been an honour actually, to get to work with them..."

THANK YOU

The Canadian Red Cross wishes to thank our donors, businesses and partners for their contribution to our 2021 British Columbia Fires Appeal.

Your generosity has allowed us to support individuals and communities impacted by devastating wildfire.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION:



28 sites supported, including reception and resiliency centres



\$5.5M+ distributed in Emergency Financial Assistance since November 30



4,100+ emergency supplies distributed, including hygiene kits, after-the-fire kits, clean-up kits, and blankets