

CROSS CONNECT



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KEEPING OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS SAFE

Kimberley Nemrava, B.C. & Yukon
Director, Canadian Red Cross

Nobody expects to suffer an illness or injury that affects their mobility, their independence or their dignity, yet it happens to hundreds of people in B.C. every day. With 77 locations across British Columbia/Yukon, the Red Cross **Health Equipment Loan** program ensures that every senior in need has access to free mobility and health equipment that will keep them safe as they recover.

The program was there for my own family when we needed it most. It put my mind at ease knowing that



my father could rest comfortably at the end of his life, thanks to

equipment from the Red Cross. And more recently, my mother-in-law used the service to keep herself safe as she recovered from illness.

Powered by nearly 1,000 volunteers, your donations helped us loan out more than 142,000 pieces of health equipment last year. The demand

continues to increase each year by around six per cent with the aging of the baby boomer generation.

Please consider making a gift today. Your donation to the Red Cross Health Equipment Loan program means much more than simply purchasing a piece of health equipment. You are ensuring the program will be there for you and your family in a time of crisis, just as it was for mine.

WOMEN HELPING HUMANITY: MY RED CROSS JOURNEY CONTINUES

Cydney Smythies, Co-Chair,
Canadian Red Cross – Tiffany Circle,
B.C./Yukon

I've always cared deeply about helping people. I was first drawn to the Red Cross as a teenager, teaching children to swim. When I became a regular volunteer, I was amazed to learn about the broad scope of Red Cross humanitarian work. Four decades and many roles later (volunteer, Council President, staff member), I've seen

first-hand the tremendous impact our gifts of time, donations and expertise have made.

Today, I'm taking on an exciting new opportunity. I've joined the **Red Cross Tiffany Circle**, an international network of compassionate, philanthropic women committed to creating positive change. The name comes from the beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows in Washington's Red Cross headquarters, funded in 1917 by women's gifts of \$10,000. The windows illustrate virtues such as charity, mercy, fortitude and hope. Tiffany Circle members work together to support local or global projects including health and nutritional assistance for women



Mrs. Lauren Harper, Canadian Tiffany Circle Chair (centre), welcomes B.C. members Anna Hunt-Binkley (2nd from right) and Cydney Smythies (far right).

and children, bullying prevention training, disaster management and many other Red Cross services.

I invite you to join me as a Red Cross Tiffany Circle member. To find out more, please contact me at:

Cydney.Smythies@redcross.ca
or 604-709-6614

“BEING DIFFERENT IS OKAY...”

One year ago, two Nanaimo high schools brought **Red Cross bullying prevention training** into their schools. Just one year later, students from every secondary school in the Nanaimo School district have now been trained in how to prevent bullying and how to deliver bullying prevention training to younger students. Thanks to your support, the Nanaimo School District can proudly claim to be the first school district in the province to establish this vital program in every one of their high schools.

The Red Cross takes a unique and effective approach to bullying prevention. High school students are trained to deliver workshops to younger students in the surrounding elementary and middle schools. The older students are empowered to take leadership, teach younger peers how to safely and effectively intervene in bullying situations and work with teachers to create solutions within their schools.

Grade 12 student Jenna Mirau explains: *“This is an incredible program. I really enjoy working with both the younger and older kids, showing them that being different is okay and that we should all accept one another.”*

We all know that bullying can lead to tragic consequences. When you support the Red Cross bullying prevention program, you are ensuring the children in your community are safer. Congratulations to Nanaimo School District for taking a stand against bullying!



Students at Dover Bay Secondary School completed this bullying prevention training last fall.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK IN THE NORTH



Red Cross staff lead, Becky Row, meets with members of the Lower Post community.

“Sometimes words are not enough,” says Deputy Chief Peter Stone of the Daylu Dena Council, located in the remote, northern village of Lower Post, B.C. *“The Red Cross stood with the Kaska Dena in a time of great need as we faced the daily impacts of a historic flooding disaster. On behalf of Kaska Dena, thank you Red Cross for the help in our time of crisis.”*

We could not have stepped in to help this community without your support. We'd like to share this message of thanks with all Red Cross donors across B.C., especially those of you who recently attended Prince George's fourth annual Evening of Chocolate fundraiser. You raised more than \$54,000 that will help ensure Red Cross can support northern B.C. families during a disaster - such as those evacuated from their homes due to floods last June. Thank you again for helping support B.C. families when they need it most.

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FIELD HOSPITAL READY TO DEPLOY IN B.C.

There is little we can do to predict when the “big one” will strike B.C. Recognizing the fact that one day it will happen, the Red Cross and the B.C. government have signed a unique agreement that will allow a Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU), usually reserved for international disasters, to deploy right here in B.C.

An ERU and its team of highly specialized personnel can be deployed within 48 hours of a major disaster, and can assemble a self-sufficient field hospital the size of a football field in just six hours. Fully trained to lead the surgical team is Dr. Hans Cunningham, the Chief of Surgery at Victoria Hospital. *“The ERU comes with some of the best medical personnel I’ve ever worked with. I would trust any of them with my life,”* says Dr. Cunningham.

Dr. Hans Cunningham being trained to work at the ERU.



The Canadian Red Cross ERU set up in Haiti for cholera treatment.