



# LAC-MÉGANTIC THREE YEARS LATER



After supporting Lac-Mégantic residents, business owners, and community organizations during the disaster and the months following the tragedy, the Red Cross is now helping to implement community recovery and reconstruction projects. Despite the wounds and painful memories, Lac-Mégantic is making progress — with the Red Cross at its side.

# A WORD FROM THE MAYOR OF LAC-MÉGANTIC



**Lac-Mégantic learned the true meaning of solidarity on July 6, 2013.**

As reconstruction continues in our city, our thoughts go out to Fort McMurray. We know that their community will have to be courageous, determined and resilient, much like the residents of Lac-Mégantic continue to be three years after the tragedy.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Red Cross' Lac-Mégantic Support Fund. Your assistance supports the successful implementation of projects that allow us to keep going forward.

**Jean-Guy Cloutier**

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# A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RED CROSS IN QUEBEC



**No matter the type or scope of an emergency, the Red Cross is there for anyone who needs help. Our organization was on the scene in the midst of the Lac-Mégantic disaster and is still active three years later as the community continues to recover.**

When disasters turn lives upside down, such as in Lac-Mégantic and more recently Fort McMurray, it is critical to support initiatives that help communities believe in a better tomorrow and emerge stronger than ever. By supporting education projects or offering arts and crafts workshops for seniors, the Red Cross is deeply invested in helping the community recover.

**Pascal Mathieu**

# SUMMARY OF OUR RESPONSE



**3,299 people** have been assisted, including:



**286 workers and students** who lost their jobs



**254 self-employed workers** and business owners who were evacuated or otherwise affected by the tragedy



**114 grieving families**, including **32 children** who lost one or both parents



**62,800 cash cards** and vouchers have been distributed



**590 volunteers**, including **150 local volunteers**, participated in the response

## Support for:

**232 businesses**

**17 non-profit organizations** affected by the disaster

**51 assistance projects** submitted by non-profit organizations

**7 healthcare projects** carried out in collaboration with the Le Granit healthcare and social services centre

**12 education projects** in collaboration with the Hauts-Cantons School Board, its business services division, and Cégep Beauce-Appalaches

**98 projects** funded through specific support for businesses

**7 community recovery and reconstruction projects**

	Assistance provided	Assistance planned	Total
 Assistance to evacuees, workers who have lost their livelihoods, and grieving families (including emergency assistance)	\$4,255,000	-	\$4,255,000
 Specific support for small businesses	\$2,220,000	\$280,000	\$2,500,000
 Community recovery and reconstruction	\$500,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,900,000
 Health projects	\$1,600,000	\$400,000	\$2,000,000
 Support for job-creating entrepreneurship	\$1,514,000	-	\$1,514,000
 Support for non-profit organizations	\$1,120,000	-	\$1,120,000
 Education projects	\$500,000	\$50,000	\$550,000
 Disaster prevention and preparedness	\$60,000	\$140,000	\$200,000
 Community support	\$120 000	-	\$120 000
 Fundraising costs (5%)	\$736 000	-	\$736 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,625,000</b>	<b>\$2,270,000</b>	<b>\$14,895,000*</b>

\*Interest generated is reinvested in the Lac-Mégantic Support Fund.

# PROJECTS FOR A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITY

## Support for schools

In the last three years, the Red Cross has contributed to 12 education projects. "These projects are restoring balance to elementary schools and the local high school," said Isabelle Dagneau, Director of Complementary Education and Special Education Services at the Hauts-Cantons School Board. "Yes, things are certainly going better, but it's still tough for many people. Some students will never be able to make up for what they lost. However, the assistance helped us get back on track and provide greater support to many students."

To learn more about the school board projects:  
[redcross.ca/megantic](http://redcross.ca/megantic)

## A cross-generational fitness circuit

The outdoor fitness circuit, which opened in spring 2016 near the Mégantic Sports Centre, gives everyone the opportunity to work out, have fun, and enjoy the natural beauty of Chaudière River Park. The Red Cross contributed to the project, which will provide long-term support to the community and therefore aligns perfectly with the recovery and reconstruction component of its assistance program.

## A community health project

In collaboration with the Le Granit healthcare and social services centre, the Red Cross developed a community health project in Lac-Mégantic for seniors, adults with a loss of independence, and their caregivers. The project is based on the existing Red Cross Arts and Crafts program.

The Arts and Crafts program was created after the Second World War to promote veterans' independence and self-esteem using craft projects. The program then grew to include workshops for seniors, adults with a loss of independence, and their caregivers. It helps break down barriers of isolation and loneliness by encouraging social interaction. Through crafting, the program aims to help develop or maintain fine motor skills and cognitive abilities.

To learn more about the project: [redcross.ca/megantic](http://redcross.ca/megantic)



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