



LAC-MÉGANTIC FOUR YEARS LATER



Four years after the tragedy in Lac-Mégantic, citizens remember and are engaged into the future.

The Red Cross, present from the very first day, is still present with them, supporting projects originating from local people, notably in health and education.

The Red Cross is proud to have participated in the reconstruction and vitality of the community of Lac-Mégantic. Along with all who have received help and support since 2013, we are indebted to the generosity and support of Canadians, to our partners and to governments.

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











52 assistance projects submitted by non-profit organizations

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

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

102 projects funded through specific support for businesses

9 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 | \$2,460,000 | \$40,000 | \$2,500,000 |
|  Community recovery and reconstruction | \$1,610,000 | \$290,000 | \$1,900,000 |
|  Health projects | \$2,000,000 | - | \$2,000,000 |
|  Support for job-creating entrepreneurship | \$1,516,000 | - | \$1,516,000 |
|  Support for non-profit organizations | \$1,075,000 | \$45,000 | \$1,120,000 |
|  Education projects | \$500,000 | \$53,500 | \$553,500 |
|  Disaster prevention and preparedness | \$108,000 | \$92,000 | \$200,000 |
|  Community support | \$120,000 | - | \$120,000 |
|  Fundraising costs (2,4%*) | \$360,000 | - | \$360,000 |
| Total | \$14,004,000 | \$520,500 | \$14,524,500 |
| Total funds raised | | | \$14,946,898 |
| Balance outstanding ** | | | \$422,398 |

* Percentage cost of raising funds revised downward

** Distribution of balance will be determined at the next Advisory Committee meeting so as to meet the most pressing needs.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

New members have joined the local Advisory Committee overseeing the allocation of Red Cross support to better meet the needs of the citizens of Lac-Mégantic. We wish them a warm welcome and are thankful for their commitment, as we also acknowledge all members who have been with us from the beginning.

TOWN OF LAC-MÉGANTIC

Jean-Guy Cloutier, Mayor
Marie-Claude Arguin, Director General

LAC-MÉGANTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Daisy Lachance, Director General

CSSS DU GRANIT AND CIUSS DE L'ESTRIE

Dr. Mélissa Généreux, Director of Public Health
Jeannot Gosselin, Community Coordinator

SDE DU GRANIT

Guilaine Beaudoin, Assistant Industrial Commissioner

LAC-MÉGANTIC LOCAL EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Charles Rodrigue, Business Advisor

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Monique Phérvong Lenoir, Director General

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DES HAUTS-CANTONS

Isabelle Dagneau, Director of Educational and Accessory Services

SADC

Ginette Isabel, Director General

MINISTÈRE DE LA SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Denis Landry, Director of Recovery

CANADA INSURANCE BUREAU

Line Crevier

CANADIAN RED CROSS, QUEBEC

Jean-Claude Bellavance, Chair, Board of Directors for Québec
Pascal Mathieu, Vice-President, Québec
Claudie Laberge, Director, Emergency Management

A MULTI-ART STUDIO FOR THE YOUNG

Sponsored by POINTS JEUNESSE DU GRANIT youth center

Since 2013, the Red Cross has been supporting *Points Jeunesse du Granit* youth center for the benefit of their 12 to 17 year-old patrons. A first step was the hiring of an outreach worker. "After the tragedy we had lost track of a number of our young people. We were anxious to know where they had gone," says Mélanie Lemieux, head of the youth center. Another employee was also added to the team of educators: "We were exhausted. Not only here at the youth center, but all over town. The young had pressing needs and we had spent a lot of energy answering them."

As an addition to the sports program, Mélanie had a vision for a room dedicated to the arts. "Something was missing in their lives, so we imagined a room dedicated to music and the arts. Through this project, we now have new infrastructure that will serve for years to come." There were four phases to the project: the building of the studio, the acquisition of quality arts supplies, the procurement of musical instruments, and the hiring of competent teachers. "Several young had already written songs; they brought them in and started to practice with our teachers. This was also an occasion to talk the texts over." Today, although the teaching lessons are finished, the youth still come to practice and to write. "These are occasions for us to engage them into exchanges that are often quite involved, and to discover how talented they are."



Mélanie Lemieux, head of *Points Jeunesse du Granit*, with young musicians at the youth center.

NATURAL LIGHT FOR THE *MAISONNÉE* PROJECT

The idea behind this project for a home to persons with intellectual disability was born some 15 years ago.

"When our children were small, we had much need for respite. In addition now that they are adults, we need to find them a home," explains Céline Godin, mother of one who will be staying at the *Maisonnée*, and also Chair of the *MRC du Granit* Association for the accommodation of intellectually disabled persons.

In 2013, all was set to get the *Maisonnée* project on its way. On July 5 that year, through a grant from the SADC and the CLD, a fund-raising agent was hired. Then, the next day, the tragedy struck. This put a halt to the *Maisonnée* fund-raising program as all hands and energy were devoted to relief for the people and town of Lac-Mégantic, while donors contributed as never before to the Red Cross fund.

Previous disaster experience had taught the Red Cross to set aside some funding for group and community projects, and *Maisonnée* was one of those who benefited. Included in its support, was the purchase of doors and windows around the building. "One can say that the Red Cross is our natural light," sums-up Clémence Rancourt, development consultant. "Since the disaster, people have become familiar with the Red Cross. Before that, the Red Cross was for other people. Now, we know that it is for everyone. It would have been very hard to achieve the *Maisonnée* project without the help of the Red Cross," adds Mrs. Rancourt, whose daughter has for the last few years been a Red Cross volunteer.

Clémence Rancourt and Céline Godin have a joint message to Red Cross donors: **"A thousand times thank you for your help. The Red Cross was deeply involved in the recovery of our community.** For our project as well as for others. Among those, we were so happy to see much support for activities for senior citizens. These people were already quite isolated and then they had to mourn their town and their habits. The Red Cross support is multi-levelled, and we are so grateful from the bottom of our hearts."



Inaugurated in May 2017, *La Maisonnée* will receive its first residents in July.



Development consultant Clémence Rancourt with Céline Godin, Chair of the *MRC du Granit* Association for the accommodation of intellectually disabled persons.



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