

# Northern Activity Report

Yukon – Northwest Territories – Nunavut

2013-14



**CANADIAN  
RED CROSS**

Iqaluit, Nunavut

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### Readiness and Response in Nunavut

Simply stocking up on groceries, children's clothing and other household supplies requires careful planning for the people of Nunavut. Since access to their northern region is limited, they must arrange to have virtually all their food and supplies flown in or shipped at great expense. So, it is little wonder when disaster strikes, the challenges faced by citizens increase dramatically.

That is why the Canadian Red Cross is working closely with the City of Iqaluit and other communities to identify hazards and risks that are often unique to a northern environment. One recent initiative involved a community mapping exercise that identified areas of potential risk during disasters. The project provided valuable information and insight that will help Iqaluit develop a municipal disaster response plan.

Also in Iqaluit, the Canadian Red Cross Emergency Response Team, comprised entirely of volunteers, continues to train annually. The team works to pre-position disaster relief supplies, such as blankets, cots and comfort kits, in the community so they are ready to respond and help their neighbours, just as they did after three house fires last year.

Red Cross reaches more than **10 PER CENT** of the total northern population through training and services. **MORE THAN \$420,000** donated from individuals and territorial governments to support the Red Cross.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**A donation to Canadian Red Cross of \$25,000 was made by the Yukon government to help communities struck by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.**



Photo: Canadian Red Cross volunteers in Whitehorse accept a cheque for donations raised for the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan.

### **Yukon Shows Us the Power of Humanity is Stronger Than Ever**

With an increase in natural disasters around the globe, the world can seem like a frightening place. But it is in these times that the Yukon demonstrates the power of humanity.

When catastrophe strikes, an offer of assistance is virtually automatic from the Yukon government to the Canadian Red Cross. A willingness to lend a hand to people in need is apparent to all those who have spent time in the land of the midnight sun.

This commitment to helping others was certainly true when Typhoon Haiyan raged through the Philippines last November. On behalf of the Yukon people, the Canadian Red Cross received a cheque for \$25,000 from the Yukon government to support lifesaving efforts being made in the storm-ravaged country.

It was with support from the Yukon and other communities across Canada that the Red Cross field hospital was sent to Ormoc, Philippines. The field hospital delivered hundreds of babies, performed lifesaving surgeries and left a legacy in the region that included an increased capacity to respond to future disasters. From Canada's North to Southeast Asia, Yukon shows us the power of humanity is stronger than ever.

### **Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens...**

Margaret Mead once wrote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world," and the Yukon Disaster Response team exemplifies just that. The team is now 12 members strong. This may not seem like a large group, but their reach and level of activity defies their numbers.

Nine Canadian Red Cross Disaster Management training courses were held in addition to a joint training exercise, dubbed 'Exercise Nanook,' and run with Emergency Social Services (ESS). The focus of these training courses was on registration and relief operations during times of crisis.

In addition to the training, an assessment of the current capacity in the Yukon to support family reunification during disasters was conducted. And the team still found time to support local fundraising and outreach activities during the recovery phase of Typhoon Haiyan.

If that wasn't enough to keep this dedicated team busy, two local Canadian Red Cross volunteers also made time to travel to Alberta to help flood-affected communities during the largest domestic disaster response in Canadian Red Cross history.

Considering all the work they do, there is no doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can help change the world, just as Mead suggests.



## HEALTH EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

### YUKON BY THE NUMBERS

**9 volunteers** dedicated more than **730 hours** of time to **more than 200 clients** who benefited from almost **400 HELP items**

Photo: Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) volunteers in Whitehorse, Yukon. Back row (left to right): Mike Bartsch, Al Alcock, Jules Leblanc. Front row (left to right): Lynn Alcock, Nicole Lecroix, Linda Newell and Linda Bartsch.

## HELP(ing) Yukon

In the Yukon, HELP experienced its strongest year to date, supplying almost 400 pieces of medical equipment to more than 200 clients throughout the vast territory.

Nine volunteers devoted more than 730 hours of their time to ensure that clients had access to walkers, bath chairs, crutches and other essential items to assist with their safe, healthy recovery from illness or injury.

Residents hailing from communities throughout the territory, including Dawson City, Burwash Landing, Carcross, Haines Junction, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Watson Lake and Teslin, were some of the many who benefitted from the program. HELP has been supporting clients in Whitehorse and surrounding communities with quality, home-use medical equipment for close to a decade. The program continues to demonstrate steady annual growth.

## FIRST AID, SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

### Staying Alive and Afloat in the North!

#### HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

##### Yukon

**3,508** Yukoners trained in First Aid

**15** Training Partners delivered Red Cross programs in Yukon last year

##### Northwest Territories

**1,474** people trained in First Aid in NWT

Total of **2,750** people participated in Canadian Red Cross programs in NWT

**1,276** people took swimming lessons in NWT last year

##### Nunavut

**432** people trained in First Aid in Nunavut





Photos (left to right): Students participate in the Embrace Life walk in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, to mark World Suicide Prevention Day; and youth mentors pose with their certificates after successfully completing Canadian Red Cross training in Baker Lake, Nunavut.

## VIOLENCE AND ABUSE PREVENTION

- Pilot RespectEd workshops conducted in 3 communities.
- Trained 20 local professionals and youth.

**“What feels really good in Nunavut is coming forward with a prevention team that lives in the community, it’s not comprised of just southern service providers, but Inuit people”.**

– Sarah Burke,  
RespectED Director for the  
Canadian Red Cross  
in Western Canada.

## VIOLENCE AND ABUSE PREVENTION Readiness and Response in Nunavut

Recognizing that high rates of suicide, violence and abuse are top concerns in Nunavut, the Canadian Red Cross was invited in August 2013 to conduct training workshops on these topics with local professionals. Invited by the Embrace Life Council (ELC), a non-governmental arm of Nunavut’s administration, the goal was to find a territorial training solution for the root causes of violence in the region. Workshops were conducted in Baker Lake, Cape Dorset and Clyde River.

In advance of this pilot, all training materials were translated into Inuktitut by the ELC. As a result, 20 community members including teachers, elders, RCMP, daycare workers, psychiatric nurses, child protection workers and youth were trained in violence and abuse prevention and certified by the Canadian Red Cross.

On September 11, 2013, Nunavut’s education minister read a proclamation in the legislature that all children in the territory would receive Canadian Red Cross child abuse prevention education (called Be Safe!) The minister also vowed that all communities would have Red Cross Violence and Abuse Prevention Education programs and services. A contribution agreement was subsequently signed in December 2013 that incorporates First Aid and Disaster Preparedness components:

- Every school in the region will have first aid and disaster kits, and 20 additional shock blankets.
- The three education regions in Nunavut will have lead certification centres for first aid with state-of-the-art equipment, including mannequins with smart chips that interact with the SMART boards.
- All middle-year students will receive babysitter training.
- The new pool in Iqaluit will offer Red Cross water safety and first aid training.
- The Ten Steps to Creating Safe Environments Course has already been completed with the City of Iqaluit leadership.