



# Gatineau Tornadoes

3 MONTHS ON - DECEMBER 2018

**In the late afternoon of September 21, 2018, a series of tornadoes rapidly formed near Ottawa–Gatineau, forcing people to take cover as the winds picked up and emergency alerts were issued.** Not long after, there were touchdowns across the region. Over 500 homes were damaged and power outages affected entire neighbourhoods.

In Mont-Bleu, a neighbourhood hit hard by the devastating winds, the tornadoes left a wide path of debris and materials, the remnants of roofs strewn across lawns and backyards. As people emerged to take stock of the damage to their homes and neighbourhoods, for many the immediate shock was replaced with the question of what to do next.

Thanks to your support, the Red Cross answered. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, you enabled teams on the ground to set up emergency shelters and distribute financial assistance to help families with their basic needs. In the moment help was needed most, you were there. .

Three months later, your generosity continues to make a huge difference for those who were hit hardest. Families whose homes were damaged or destroyed are being provided with financial support, while partnerships are being built with community groups involved in the recovery process.



“All the responders, the Red Cross and its partners, did an amazing job to support us through this difficult time.”

# Losing a roof, but not losing hope

## The story of Carmen, Bertrand and Maggie



In 2006, Carmen, Bertrand and Maggie experienced a fire in the apartment where they have been living for more than 20 years – the same building that was hit by the tornado on December 21.

**When the tornadoes hit the Mont-Bleu neighbourhood, Carmen found herself behind the wheel. She held on as the powerful winds smashed the rear window of her car. “I’m thankful to still be alive,” she says.**

Carmen overcame a fearful drive home, where she found her husband and little dog Maggie safe and sound despite the severe impact.

For the following days, the three received lodging from the Red Cross. “We immediately felt safe and amongst family. All the responders, the Red Cross and its partners, did an amazing job to support us through this difficult time,” says Carmen.

The tornado was the second disaster the family had gone through together, after being helped by the Red Cross following a fire more than 10 years ago.

“The volunteers did an incredible job,” says Carmen of her most recent experience. “I have nothing but praise for them. They really saved us from the worst.”

### WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER:



**856 people**  
helped in the first 72 hours



**500+ people**  
have received financial support to assist with their recovery



**2 emergency shelters and 1 reception centre**  
opened in collaboration with the City of Gatineau



**1 recovery centre**  
open with space for local organizations



**2,426 shelter items**  
distributed (blankets, pillows, teddy bears, comfort kits)



**222 volunteers**  
mobilized for the response



**2,224 people**  
registered with the Red Cross for assistance

# Your generosity at work

## Financial update for Quebec

**TOTAL FUNDS RAISED AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2018: \$5,641,000** (including \$3M from the Government of Québec)

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS	ALLOCATED TO DATE	SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE
<b>INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES</b> The Red Cross provides temporary accommodation, food, clothing, and financial support for unplanned expenses. Assistance is also offered on an individual basis to meet specific needs.	<b>\$4,257,000</b>	<b>\$1,692,000</b>
<b>COMMUNITY GROUPS</b> Financial assistance is provided to help local organizations meet increased demand for their services in the aftermath of disaster.	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>Commitments in process</b>
<b>COST OF FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$69,000</b>
<b>TOTAL AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2018</b>	<b>\$4,542,000</b>	<b>\$1,761,000</b>

\$1,099,000 to be allocated for emerging needs

### UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Allocation of funds to date:** This is the projected budget across each area of spending for the grand total. The allocations reflect the needs of the people and the community that have been identified to date. Many needs emerge over time and the allocation amounts may be adjusted accordingly.

**Spent and committed to date:** These are the funds that have been already spent to assist those impacted by the tornadoes, as well as funds that have been committed with signed contracts or agreements for recovery projects or initiatives, where applicable.

**Fundraising costs:** The fundraising cost related to this emergency appeal will not exceed five per cent. Fundraising costs are associated to the total funds donated to date, not the grand total including funds received from the government. These costs can include donation processing fees; credit card and bank fees; service fees for call centres and digital platforms; and, ongoing communications and reporting to donors.