



# Flood Recovery Update

## FOR MACKENZIE COUNTY

August 21, 2020 | ISSUE 06

THE DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM

### The Recovery Plan

The **Disaster Recovery Team** for Mackenzie County (DRT) continues the work of developing a mid- and long-term strategy to address the April flood and evaluate mitigation plans to prevent resident evacuations in the future. CAO Len Racher and DRT lead (and County Director of Finance) Jennifer Batt traveled to Edmonton on July 23-24 to meet with Paul Wynnyk, Deputy Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Case managers from AEMA/Recovery were in Fort Vermilion on July 21-23 to meet with impacted area residents and assist their applications for **Disaster Recovery Program (DRP)** assistance. Residents still in need of assistance with their DRP application, can contact the Samaritan's Purse case workers that are on site in Fort Vermilion at (780) 880-0097 to make an appointment.

Although the deadline for DRP applications from flood-impacted residents of Mackenzie County and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo have been extended to **September 6, 2020**, the vast majority of affected residents in Fort Vermilion, Buttertown, and the Beaver Ranch area have already submitted their applications. This means they have been assigned case managers and are well on the way to accessing financial assistance.

DRT staff have been working with approximately 28 impacted **Fort Vermilion businesses** to review repair and/or relocation to other lots in the downtown area. The Red Cross is offering small business owners and social non-profit organizations that were directly impacted by the floods up to \$3,000 in funding to provide support for things such as:

- Uninsured direct losses (damage, lost equipment/inventory) Insurance deductibles
- Specialized clean-up costs that might not be eligible under other programs
- Ongoing expenses, such as rent for a commercial space or utility costs

This program is similar to the one previously offered to residents.

Information on eligibility and the application process is available at <https://www.redcross.ca/in-your-community/alberta/alberta-major-disaster-responses/fort-mcmurray-and-area-floods/support-to-small-businesses-and-not-for-profit-organizations-program>. The application deadline is **September 30, 2020**. For assistance, call 1-800-863-6582.

The DRT has presented DRP personnel in Edmonton with an analysis of flood impacts and options to mitigate floods and help prevent residents from being flooded and evacuated in the future.

AEMA personnel are reviewing the business cases and determining what funding is available through the DRP and other Government of Alberta departmental budgets. We expect final recommendations will go to the Minister and possibly the Alberta Cabinet in September. In the meantime, we are working very closely with our Edmonton DRP contacts to develop an actionable Recovery Plan, subject to budget decisions in Edmonton.

### Temporary & Interim Housing

As more residents are finding longer-term accommodations, the DRT is removing more trailers from the Temporary housing location at The Track. 23 trailers currently remain on-site.

The DRT and its counterparts in the Alberta Government hope to have longer-term interim housing available, at market rental rates, by early October, subject to a successful government procurement process. The County has acquired some land for use by the Recovery Team, and expects to acquire more in the near future to assist with further interim housing sites being available through the winter.

### Public Meetings

There are no Flood Recovery public meetings planned for the near future due to the lack of new information to share. We continue to communicate via our social media channels and the Mackenzie County website, which is updated as soon as new information becomes available. This by-weekly Update is another convenient source of information for impacted residents.

### Development Permit Services

Planning & Development Staff will be available at the Fort Vermilion County Office on Monday's and Wednesday's starting August 24, 2020 to assist residents in completing Development Permits, etc.

This Update is provided by the Disaster Recovery Team for Mackenzie County, and distributed on Friday. For more information and discussion, visit Facebook [www.facebook.com/MackenzieCounty](https://www.facebook.com/MackenzieCounty) or our website [www.mackenziecounty.com/disaster-recovery](https://www.mackenziecounty.com/disaster-recovery)