



# Flood Recovery Update

---

## FOR MACKENZIE COUNTY

March 1 | ISSUE 07

Disaster Services

### Mackenzie County Flood Mitigation Plan Approval

In May 2020, the Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta announced the Government of Alberta's \$147 million in financial assistance through the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) to those affected by the Northern Alberta Overland Flood.

This funding was approved to assist in the emergency response, safe evacuation, and housing for flood-affected residents; clean up efforts; damage repairs to existing infrastructure, homes, and businesses; and any additional efforts required.

The following communities were eligible to make an application for financial assistance under the DRP:

- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Mackenzie County
- Northeast quadrant of the City of Calgary, City of Airdrie and Rocky View County
- Big Lakes County
- Birch Hills County
- County of Grande Prairie No. 1
- County of Northern Lights
- County of Two Hills No. 21
- Municipal District of Greenview No. 16
- Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130
- Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133
- Sturgeon County
- Thorhild County
- Town of Peace River
- Town of Sexsmith
- Village of Donnelly
- Village of Hythe
- Village of Rycroft
- Town of High Prairie

<https://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs.aspx>

Mackenzie County was identified as one of the Municipalities that were approved for a portion of this funding. DRP applications closed January 31, 2021.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, and to ensure all affected residents had a voice, Councillors and the **Disaster Recovery Team (DRT)** met with residents in July in community-based meetings.

Through these meetings, it was identified that residents wanted a solution, however relocation would not be financially obtainable by some/most residents. As part of the updated mitigation plan supported by Mackenzie County residents, administration provided a request for relocation funding that ensures most if not all costs of relocation efforts would be included, reducing the financial concerns for residents.

During the winter months, Mackenzie County's DRT continued to work towards a flood recovery plan for developing a long-term strategy to address the impacts of April 2020 flood and develop mitigation plans to prevent the need to evacuate residents in the future. Through multiple agency meetings to gather information, and thorough flood mapping reviews, the DRT continues to identify safe areas for the relocation of residents.

DRT staff met with flood-affected residents and businesses to provide support with questions regarding the DRP application process and future planning. In addition, the DRT coordinated with multiple agencies to make support resources for individuals and businesses accessible, some of which included a Psychological First Aid workshop, Budgeting & Finance webinar, and Stress Management webinar. The DRT continues to work with community agencies to identify further supports.

Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) personnel reviewed flood-affected business cases and assisted in determining funding options available through Government of Alberta grants. DRT and AEMA staff ensured that all avenues were addressed that would ensure residents were protected against flooding and the cultural and historical heritage of the area was considered.

With today's announcement that mitigation funding has been approved, the Mackenzie County Reeve and Council are thankful for the support provided by the Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta; former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu; former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Tracy Allard; current Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ric McIver; and MLA Dan Williams, Peace River in supporting the mitigation plan put forward, and in ensuring the safety of the residents of the Fort Vermilion, Buttertown, and the Beaver Ranch areas.



# Flood Recovery Update

## FOR MACKENZIE COUNTY

March 1 | ISSUE 07

Disaster Services

Living in a floodway with constant risk and uncertainty threatens not only people, and property, but also the very culture of the Hamlet. The goal is ultimately to protect this community, as flooding affects the Hamlet economically, socially, and mentally.

### Interim Housing

The DRT and its counterpart agencies in the Alberta Government worked very hard to identify and provide longer-term interim housing options, at market rental rates. Fifteen homes were secured and moved on site in mid October, ensuring occupancy for residents that could not return to their homes due to flood damage.

### Land Development

It was identified that there are limited serviced lands available within the Hamlet of Fort Vermilion. In response, Mackenzie County has acquired, and is the process of developing land for the residents affected by the flood. As Mitigation has now been approved, additional land options will continue to be investigated and identified for further development outside of the floodway.

### Public Meetings

With this announcement, the DRT is developing a plan to meet with all residents in the floodway, and will be contacting those affected by the flood in the coming weeks to schedule one-on-one meetings. Affected residents and businesses will have questions, which will be part of meeting discussions. Our social media channels and the Mackenzie County website will also be updated as soon as new information becomes available.

### Development Permit Services

Development Permit fees are an eligible expense under the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program. Any home mitigation measures initiated by property owners without prior approval through the Disaster Recovery Program will likely jeopardize future eligibility or may not be reimbursed through DRP. The moratorium remains in place restricting development on all properties within the areas impacted by the flood in Mackenzie County. No Development Permits will be issued on vacant properties or for rebuilds until further notice. Additional development restrictions may be imposed as the mitigation strategy is developed.

### Agency Supports

Mackenzie County continues to work with community partners to make a variety of workshops, webinars, and supports available to residents. Visit the *Mackenzie County Disaster Recovery Page* for more details: <http://mackenziecounty.com/disaster-recovery/resources-and-supports>.

#### Samaritan's Purse:

*Janet Voth, Case Manager*

Email: [jvoth@samaritan.ca](mailto:jvoth@samaritan.ca)

Phone: 780-880-0097

Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

*Mike Voth, Case Manager*

Email: [mvoth@samaritan.ca](mailto:mvoth@samaritan.ca)

Phone: 780-880-0097

Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Metis Nation of Alberta Local 74:

*Bobbi Paul, Case Manager*

Email: [bfpaul\\_80@live.com](mailto:bfpaul_80@live.com)

Phone: 780-927-3788

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Shaye Paul, Metis Community Outreach Worker*

Email: [metislocal74outreachworker@gmail.com](mailto:metislocal74outreachworker@gmail.com)

Phone: 780-502-6556

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Alberta Health Services:

*Alexa Lizotte, Flood Recovery Worker*

Email: [alexa.lizotte@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:alexa.lizotte@albertahealthservices.ca)

Phone: 780-926-1176

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Food Banks:

Fort Vermilion: 780-927-3788

La Crete: 780-928-3967

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