

# Mackenzie County 2020 Flood Recovery



## June 8, 2020 Telephone Townhall Outstanding Questions – Part 1

### **If the community will be moved up the hill, who will decide which residents get which pieces of land, will they be the same-sized lots as we have now and how will this process look?**

- We are at the very beginning of the recovery phase after the floods and are currently gathering information that will help us develop a plan to access DRP funding for specific elements that will be included in a disaster recovery plan.
- There are a number of elements to consider in the plan including housing, repairs, rebuilds, flood management and mitigation and long-term community planning.
- Residents will have opportunities to provide input on how we move forward as a community.
- We will have to input property statistics (size, dwelling, etc.) to the plan and compare each case to available land and development plans. This will take time and will be in the Recovery Phase after the Phase that gets everyone back into the community.
- With community input, every effort would be made to keep neighbors with neighbors whenever possible.

### **If I have to move my house, who will pay for that and what will happen to those properties on the flood plain?**

- The Alberta Government announced an initial budget of \$47 million to support Mackenzie County's disaster relief efforts. This money will go to support specific items that will be identified in our recovery plan. We are currently gathering information to help us put forward a plan to negotiate with the Alberta Government.

- Long-term community development and resiliency will be key considerations in our planning, and it is too early in this process for any of those decisions.

### **When can you start rebuilding houses with basements?**

- Mackenzie County is granting temporary permits to allow residents to make repairs to their houses which have been deemed structurally sound from the first floor and higher.
- We are not recommending you invest money in repairing or upgrading basements at this time.
- If you are planning to make any repairs to make your house habitable, please contact the County office at: 780-927-3718 or 1-877-927-0677 and ask to make an appointment for a temporary permit.
- Working with Samaritan's purse can also provide advice on which repairs to do and how to do them or get help doing them.

### **When will cleanup be finished?**

- Cleanup in the affected areas of the Hamlet has been ongoing for several weeks and will continue for some time to come. Mid-term issues such as removing tree debris from the riverbank will be done in due course.
- Dumpsters have been available for residents as they clean up their properties. They will be removed this week, and residents can bring home clean up debris to the waste transfer station during regular business hours.
- If you are concerned about a neighbour, ask them if they need help.
- If you have yard debris, please place safely at curbside for removal during hamlet clean up this week.

### **Is there a possibility that the county could buy out all of the homeowners?**

- We are looking at a number of options as part of our disaster recovery plan including housing, flood management and flood mitigation measures.
- Investing to move homes or provide compensation are part of the DRP process we are discussing with the AB Emergency Management Agency.
- Housing, flood management and rebuilding are all elements that we are considering but no decisions have been made.
- All affected residents will be engaged in the planning of our communities.

### **What is happening with the \$47 million that was going to the flood victims of Fort Vermilion?**

- The Alberta Government announced an initial budget of \$47 million to support Mackenzie County's disaster relief efforts.

- We did not receive a cheque. All investments of DRP funds must be approved by AEMA, in consideration of DRP applications made by individuals and the County for its infrastructure damage, emergency response to the flood, and evacuee support of food & lodging.
- The DRP funding will support specific items identified in our recovery plan. We are currently gathering information to help us put forward business cases that are the basis for discussions with the Alberta Government.

### **Can I claim the devaluation of my property as a loss that qualifies for DRP funding?**

- Uninsurable losses may be covered under DRP funding. The deadline for DRP funding is August 5, 2020. Residents are encouraged to submit their applications for funding as soon as possible.
- Applications can be submitted on-line at:  
<https://recovery.alberta.ca/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- If you have questions about your specific application, contact the Alberta Emergency Management Agency by e-mail at: [drp.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at: 1-888-671-1111
- If you need help with your DRP application, please contact the FCSS offices in Fort Vermilion, High Level, or La Crete and book an appointment.

### **My home has been severely damaged by the floods and ice jams and I don't know if it can be repaired or will have to be rebuilt.**

- Inspectors have been working in the community for several weeks and we continue to receive evaluation reports on properties in the flood-affected areas.
- Mackenzie County is granting temporary permits to allow residents to make repairs to their houses if they were deemed structurally sound from the first floor and higher by evaluators.
- If you are planning to do any repairs to make your house habitable, please contact the County office at: 780-927-3718 or 1-877-927-0677 and ask to make an appointment for a temporary permit.

### **What insurance do we have if mold starts to form in a renovated home?**

- Contact your insurance provider to discuss what your specific insurance policies cover.
- If you have broad insurance questions, you can contact the Insurance Bureau of Canada at [ibc.ca](http://ibc.ca), 1-844-227-5422 or [askibcwest@ibc.ca](mailto:askibcwest@ibc.ca).

**Will we be in our homes before school starts?**

- Mackenzie County is currently developing a plan for phased temporary housing in the community. Our priority is to get residents back into the community as quickly and safely as possible.
- With the support of the Fort Vermilion Recreation Society, temporary housing units will be installed on the running track at the recreation centre and we hope to have residents moving into the units starting the week of June 15, 2020.
- Mackenzie County staff will be working directly with evacuees to discuss the temporary housing options available to them.
- We will communicate with residents about this question and others as soon as we can, but it is still under discussion with the AB government.
- It is too early for us to have evaluated individual circumstances, structural damage and remediation efforts to give a blanket answer.

**Will people with children get priority for temporary housing?**

- Mackenzie County is currently developing a plan for phased temporary housing in the community. Our priority is to get residents back into the community as quickly and safely as possible.
- Mackenzie County staff will be working directly with evacuees to discuss the temporary housing options available to them.

**Is Samaritan's Purse still available to help tear out damage to our home?**

- Samaritan's Purse volunteers spent several weeks in the community assisting residents with their property clean up and will have case workers available soon to help residents work through longer-term issues that the flood has caused for them. You can reach out to Samaritan's Purse at: 1-866-628-6565.

**We applied for disaster funding but have not heard from the case manager.**

- Every application has been assigned to a case manager with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). You can e-mail AEMA at: [drp.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at: 1-888-671-1111.
- If you have been assigned a case number, you can also check the status of your DRP application online at: [recovery.alberta.ca](http://recovery.alberta.ca)