

Samaritan's Purse helping British Columbia flood victims

Christian relief agency sending specially equipped Disaster Relief Unit, recruiting clean-up volunteers

CALGARY, AB – May 23, 2018 — Samaritan's Purse Canada is helping flood victims in the Grand Forks, B.C. region by sending one of its specially equipped Disaster Relief Units to the water-logged area, and recruiting volunteers to clean damaged homes.

Municipal leaders have welcomed the assistance, in response to record-high spring flood levels, and have put Samaritan's Purse information on the Grand Forks town website.

"Many people in Grand Forks are really struggling, and we want to come alongside them," said Tammy Suitor, Samaritan's Purse Canada's disaster relief manager. "Our field teams are assessing the situation and waiting for the water to recede so we can begin clean-up. We're in contact with churches, municipal officials, and other non-government partners in the area to provide a coordinated response."

High temperatures and rapid snow melt caused the Kettle and Granby rivers to spill their banks. As a result, hundreds of homes have been damaged in the area. Roads have also been flooded—leaving many homeowners isolated and fearful.

Anyone needing Samaritan's Purse clean-up assistance can call **1-866-628-6565**. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help clean out flooded homes should visit SamaritansPurse.ca.

Samaritan's Purse has moved Calgary-based equipment, including a Disaster Relief Unit, to Grand Forks so staff with the Christian relief organization can meet with area homeowners and start recruiting and training volunteers.

Disaster Relief Units are tractor trailers outfitted with essential disaster recovery equipment including generators, pumps, hand tools, and safety gear for volunteers. They also serve as volunteer coordination centers, and are equipped with a self-contained office, communications system, and other supplies.

Samaritan's Purse has two other Disaster Relief Units, based in Ontario. One of them is in New Brunswick, where volunteers are using it to help thousands of flooded residents in the Fredericton region.

In recent years, Samaritan's Purse has helped victims of a wide variety of Canadian and international natural disasters including 2017 flooding in Vernon, B.C. and wildfires in Ashcroft and Williams Lake, B.C.; flooding in New Brunswick in 2014, 2012, 2010 and 2008; the catastrophic 2016 wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alberta; and flooding in Quebec, Ontario, southern Alberta, and Nova Scotia.

Samaritan's Purse's "sister" organization, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada, often helps by providing crisis-trained chaplains to comfort and pray with disaster victims. Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains will be in Grand Forks.

Donations Needed

To support Samaritan's Purse's disaster relief efforts, please visit SamaritansPurse.ca (click on "Donate") or call **1-800-663-6500**.

About Samaritan's Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides disaster relief, our work includes collecting and distributing gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, providing safe water, teaching vocational skills, and providing agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at SamaritansPurse.ca.

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