



Samaritan's Purse™
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

News Release

Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief Units in Ontario and Quebec to help flood victims

*Christian disaster relief organization also recruiting volunteers to help with flood recovery
in the Ottawa-Gatineau and Hudson-Rigaud regions*

CALGARY, AB – May 17, 2017 —Samaritan's Purse Canada has stationed staff and two of its specially equipped Disaster Relief Units in Ontario and Quebec to help recruit, train and equip volunteers who will assist struggling people in the Ottawa-Montreal corridor clean their homes, after massive spring flooding.

"Our field teams are on the ground ready to begin receiving requests for assistance, and we are in contact with churches, municipal officials, and other non-government partners in the area to provide volunteers and ensure a coordinated response," said Brent Davis, Samaritan's Purse Canada's response director.

The Christian relief and development organization has stationed its Moncton, NB-based Disaster Relief Unit at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa to support Ottawa-Gatineau clean-up efforts. Local homeowners whose homes are flooded can request clean-up assistance from Samaritan's Purse. The first clean-up teams will start working Friday.

A second Disaster Relief Unit from Caledonia, ON is set up at the Hudson Community Baptist Church to help homeowners in Quebec's Hudson-Rigaud areas, west of Montreal, after floodwaters recede.

The 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 self-contained offices, communications systems, and other supplies.

Samaritan's Purse has a third Disaster Relief Unit based in Calgary.

Trained volunteers in Ontario and Quebec will help remove debris, clean up and sanitize homes. Timely clean-up is crucial for homeowners, because standing water in a home can cause irreversible damage, which may leave a home unsalvageable.

Heavy rainfall and melting snow caused the Ottawa River and its tributaries to flood in late April and early May. As a result, more than 130 communities have been plagued by floods and more than 800 people have been forced to abandon their homes in the Ottawa-Gatineau area alone.

Homeowners needing clean-up assistance in the **Ottawa-Gatineau** area can call **1-844-547-2663**. Those needing help in the **Hudson-Rigaud** area can call **1-844-547-2664**.

Volunteers Needed: To register to volunteer, please visit www.samaritanspurse.ca/2017flood

In recent years, Samaritan's Purse has responded to a wide variety of natural disasters including the catastrophic 2016 wildfire in Fort McMurray, AB; and flooding in New Brunswick, Quebec, southern Alberta, Nova Scotia, and in British Columbia. Its "sister" organization, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada, often provides trained chaplains to comfort and pray with disaster victims. Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains will be in the Ottawa-Gatineau and Rigaud regions.

Samaritan's Purse also responds to international disasters including the 2011 earthquake/tsunami in Japan, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

Donations Needed: To support Samaritan's Purse's domestic and international 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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