

# In-Canada Emergency RESPONSE



**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA





## The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

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## Why do Anglicans respond to in-Canada emergencies?

Anglicans take their faith seriously. They respond with compassion when they read the words of Matthew 25:35:

*“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”*

The potential for extreme weather emergencies or natural disasters has increased, in Canada and elsewhere. There is a consensus among climatologists that these disasters are no longer isolated episodes. In recent years, some communities in Canada have been affected by particularly large and consequential disasters and Anglicans have offered support.

Congregations have expertise in outreach, information sharing and dissemination, volunteer engagement as well as real-time awareness of their communities. Faith communities have people’s trust. They nurture and maintain relationships and build connections. Anglican dioceses and parishes play key roles in their communities, running food

banks and opening up space for community gardens, supporting shelters and offering safety for those hurting and abused. Acts of caring and justice also inform a desire to support effective response and recovery when there is a natural disaster befalling a community in Canada. Churches know where and how to reach the most vulnerable, those overlooked by others. Church members may be some of the first responders in the event of an emergency; they may also be among the ‘last responders’ in that they will still be there, on the ground, an important part of the community during mid to longer term recovery activities following a disaster.

These guidelines are developed to empower diocesan and community members to act when an emergency/disaster arises. Our hope is that these guidelines will allow for greater preparedness, a better response in the event of an emergency and that the support and respect for all community members at the time and aftermath of an emergency will demonstrate what is important for The Primate’s World and Development Fund (PWRDF) and the Anglican Church—peace, justice and health for all.





## What is an emergency?

Emergency is the term PWRDF and other agencies give to situations during or following a disaster when the lives and livelihoods of many people are threatened. Most emergencies in Canada occur through natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods or fires.

### The objectives of PWRDF's In-Canada Emergency Preparedness and Response Guidelines are as follows:

- To **provide** a framework to help Anglican dioceses in Canada be prepared to effectively respond to emergencies in their dioceses
- To **support** dioceses and parishes to better leverage other national, regional and local resources to enhance their preparedness and response should there be an emergency
- To **clarify** how funds raised by PWRDF can be accessed and reported back to PWRDF



## SECTION 1

### Be ready! A step-by-step plan

- **Appoint** a diocesan emergency preparedness point person to set up and chair a small Emergency Preparedness Diocesan Committee
- **Identify** the types of emergencies/disasters that have affected your region in the recent past
- **Research** the Disaster Preparedness Plans for your region, cities, towns from City Hall, the local Red Cross, fire stations, and other faith-based and secular agencies
- **Identify** church members who may already have been trained in disaster preparedness and response
- **Identify** training and workshop opportunities that may be available
- **Invite** speakers to parish and diocesan events to speak about emergency disaster preparedness in your region
- **Distribute** a “Who to Call” list to parishes in your diocese

## SECTION 2

### Suggested services that dioceses may offer for relief and recovery response

- **Distribute** relief items such as food, water, hygiene kits, gas, clothing, etc.
- **Provide** a place of refuge from extreme cold, heat waves and storms
- **Act** as a temporary relief shelter
- **Provide** a gathering place and emergency services such as washrooms, charging stations, etc.
- **Lead** prayers, offer emotional support
- **Prepare** a list of professionals to provide counseling for post-emergency/disaster victims
- **Invite** these professionals to speak in parishes and gatherings organized by parishes
- **Organize** post-traumatic workshops/sessions for families and communities
- **Co-fund** summer camps for children from communities affected by the emergency/disaster with other faith-based organizations
- **Co-organize** and co-fund community gatherings that bring the community together
- **Identify** and support activities that target community recovery





## SECTION 3

### Working with PWRDF for domestic relief and recover response

#### Communication between PWRDF and the Dioceses

- The PWRDF Diocesan Representative or the diocesan emergency preparedness point person should coordinate all communications with the PWRDF Humanitarian Response Coordinator or other PWRDF staff

#### Role of the Diocese

- Provide PWRDF with information about: funding needs, numbers affected, proposed activities and costs
- Identify local organizations and liaise/work with them
- Communicate information about the program to clergy and other individuals and groups in the diocese who need to be kept informed

#### Role of PWRDF

- Liaise regularly with the PWRDF Diocesan Representative or the emergency preparedness point person
- Decide whether to issue an appeal for donations<sup>1</sup> using text and photos as approved by the diocese
- Inform the diocese when donations are being sent to PWRDF to respond to an emergency/disaster
- Disburse the funds to the diocese upon the signing of the Gift Agreement and with an understanding of how funds will be utilized
- Provide a project reporting template

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<sup>1</sup> In cases where donations exceed what is needed or where local conditions prevent program implementation, PWRDF will redirect funds to similar activities to help people in need. One percent of designated funds will be set aside for program monitoring and evaluation costs.



## Expenditures and activities that may be included in a relief or recovery response budget

- Diocesan/parish staff and/or volunteer honorariums related to relief and recovery response
  - Transportation, vehicle rental, logistics, etc., pertaining to the project/response
  - Suggested activities listed under Section 2, above
  - Gift cards for use by displaced individuals/families for the purpose of purchasing food, water, emergency supplies, needed materials destroyed by the emergency or displacement
- due to a particular emergency/disaster
  - Emergency accommodation
  - Building materials
  - Goods or services directly provided by the diocese/parishes, or jointly with other agencies or outsourced to local specialized agencies
  - Counseling and post-trauma supports
  - Locally identified long-term recovery activities that may help rebuild community assets and increase community resilience



## How does PWRDF decide where and when to respond?

PWRDF cannot respond to all domestic emergencies. A decision as to whether to respond will depend on several factors: the severity and impact of the emergency, the presence of other agencies responding including the government, the extent to which additional support is needed, the time and abilities of the diocese to engage and PWRDF's available

resources. Efforts will be made to ensure duplication is avoided, effectiveness is increased and that all of us work together to be the best stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

For more information, see PWRDF's In-Canada Emergency Response document here: [www.pwrdf.org/incanadaresponse](http://www.pwrdf.org/incanadaresponse)







# YES! I want to support PWRDF

Read PWRDF's annual report: <http://pwrdf.org/who-we-are/audited-financial-statements>

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