



Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership

Media Release

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GPREP Helps with Southern Alberta Flooding

Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP) team members have returned home from Southern Alberta proud to have assisted with response efforts to recent flooding.

Donelda Laing, Community Social Development Manager, City of Grande Prairie, was deployed to High River for three weeks to assist evacuees. She worked with the High River Emergency Operations Centre helping to plan for the needs of displaced residents and creating the re-entry plan for the community.

Witnessing The Damage

"It's hard to describe the extent of the devastation in the community-from day one, arriving in an eerily silent, evacuated community, to day 21 supporting residents and businesses picking up the pieces of their lives," she says.

"It was an intense rollercoaster ride. I so appreciate working for an organization that willingly extends such support to fellow municipalities. So many residents I met thanked us for being there and I am humbled by their graciousness and resilience."

Laing was joined in High River for a week by Community Social Development colleague Lynn Pack who was site co-ordinator at the welcome centre for a week.

GPREP At Provincial Operations Centre

"It was such a pleasure being able to help out with this crisis at the Provincial level," says Jody Evans, County of Grande Prairie FCSS Liaison.

“This opportunity has been beneficial not only because we were able to help out those affected by the floods but we were also able to gain a lot of knowledge that we are now able to bring back and integrate into the GPREP Response Plan.”

Chris Manuel, Enforcement Services Manager, City of Grande Prairie, and Jennifer Wood, GPREP Co-ordinator, also worked in the Provincial Operations Centre, located in Edmonton, from July 4 to 7.

“The Provincial Operations Centre was running 24 hours a day to support the flooded communities,” says Wood. “We were very pleased to be able to help out. Since GPREP is about being prepared for major emergencies, this situation demonstrates our strength as a combined force to respond.”

Municipal Leaders Praise Efforts

Grande Prairie Mayor Bill Given says inter-municipal co-operation is vital in emergency situations.

“We are proud to take a leadership role in emergency management as demonstrated by the recent signing of the GPREP agreement with our regional neighbours. The flooding in Southern Alberta is an example of how other communities, even across the province, can provide assistance.”

“Although our region wasn’t directly affected by the flooding, these GPREP members stepped in and helped in whatever capacity they could,” says Leanne Beaupre, County of Grande Prairie Reeve. “The members of this partnership showed true compassion and dedication. This is just one of many reasons why the County is so proud to be part of GPREP.”

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