

BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres
BCAAFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2026

BC Friendship Centres Supporting Communities Impacted by Wildfires

VICTORIA, B.C. – As wildfires continue to impact communities across British Columbia, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) extends its thoughts to everyone affected, including those who have been evacuated, displaced from their homes, or are facing uncertainty as the wildfire situation continues.

BCAAFC is grateful to the first responders, volunteers, community organizations and others working to keep people safe and provide support during this difficult time, including BC Friendship Centres, who are stepping up to meet the needs of their communities, supporting Indigenous and non-Indigenous evacuees alike.

“Friendship Centres have a long history of responding during wildfires, floods, extreme weather and other emergencies in B.C.,” said Celeste Hayward, Executive Director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. “Once again, we are seeing Friendship Centre staff respond quickly and compassionately to support people facing incredibly difficult circumstances. We are deeply grateful to the staff, volunteers, Elders, and community members who are working tirelessly to make sure evacuees feel welcomed, supported and cared for.”

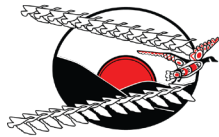
Depending on local needs, Friendship Centres are providing meals, cultural supports, essential supplies, outreach, and other services to help individuals and families navigating evacuation and displacement.

BCAAFC is working closely with Friendship Centres and the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to understand emerging needs and support the response on the ground, including through distributing N95 masks to Friendship Centres to help protect staff and community members from wildfire smoke.

“Our hearts are with everyone impacted by the wildfires, particularly those who have had to leave their homes and communities without knowing when they will be able to return,” said Nox Stikine (Annette Morgan), President of BCAAFC. “We know how difficult and frightening these moments can be. To everyone affected, and to those working around the clock to care for their communities, we are thinking of you during this difficult time.”

As the wildfire situation continues to evolve, BCAAFC will remain in close contact with Friendship Centres and provincial emergency management partners to help identify and respond to emerging needs.

BCAAFC encourages everyone in affected areas to follow evacuation orders and alerts issued by their local government or First Nation and to rely on official provincial and local sources for current emergency information.



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Learn More

For a full list of BC Friendship Centres visit <https://bcaafc.com/about-us/friendship-centres/>

For up-to-date information on active wildfires, current wildfire statistics, and additional resources visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

For emergency support for those affected by wildfires, including accommodation, food, clothing, and other temporary supports visit <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>

For mental health, cultural supports, and other culturally sensitive resources visit <https://fnha.ca/services-and-support/access-and-support/climate-emergencies/wildfire-response/>

Contact

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