



**CANADIAN DISASTER RELIEF  
2021 YEAR IN REVIEW**



**Samaritan's Purse®**

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF | CANADA

# LIFTING UP THE NAME OF JESUS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Many Canadians hoped 2021 would be the year when the pandemic ended and life returned to normal, where families and friends could gather and social tensions diminished.

Unfortunately for many, this was not the case. Not only did life get more complicated, but we had unprecedented natural disasters to deal with on top of COVID restrictions.

As we planned and prayed for the 2021 hazard season, we sensed the year would require something different. We needed to position ourselves to say “yes” more than we said “no,” stepping into new areas of service.

The year started with COVID crisis responses in Thunder Bay and Attawapiskat, Ontario. In Thunder Bay, we assisted with stop-gap measures for organizations overwhelmed with sickness and lack of staffing. In Attawapiskat, we helped set up an isolation center, developed procedures, and trained First Nations staff. It was an incredible opportunity, expanding our ability to respond to crises.

In addition, donations from generous Canadians enabled Samaritan’s Purse to spend considerable time in British Columbia responding to two major disasters.

Wildfires ravaged much of the province’s hot, dry interior, and we spent much of July through to the beginning of October sifting properties. One of our Disaster Relief Unit (DRU) tractor trailers was set up in Cache Creek, serving the town of Lytton and surrounding First Nations properties.

In response to the White Rock Lake fires, another DRU was set up in Vernon. Our Site Leadership Team (SLT) and volunteers sifted through the rubble to find precious heirlooms and keepsakes that might have survived the flames, which destroyed hundreds of homes.

Then came catastrophic rain and flooding in late November, which caused

an estimated \$450 million in insurable losses. Over 600,000 farm animals were lost, hundreds of homes flooded, and major roads and bridges were washed out, leaving communities isolated.

Samaritan’s Purse was asked to run a group lodging facility in Abbotsford, which stretched us into new territory. SLT members took on the challenge to learn, grow, and serve to the best of their abilities, and with the amazing support of local churches, this response was a huge success.

We sent out DRUs to Abbotsford and Merritt. These responses came with significant challenges because of winter weather conditions; mudding out homes in minus temperatures is less than ideal. However, the saving grace in this was the record-breaking number of volunteers coming out to serve their neighbors.

I thank our incredible donors, enthusiastic volunteers, excellent church partners, and faithful SLTs. Together, we said “yes” more than we said “no,” enabling us to care for people in very tangible and meaningful ways.

Thanks to each of you for a fantastic year, where people truly experienced the love of Christ!

Tammy Suito  
Canadian Disaster Relief Manager



2021 CANADIAN DISASTER RESPONSES



MERRITT, BC



ATTAWAPISKAT, ON



ABBOTSFORD, BC



VERNON, BC



THUNDER BAY, ON



CACHE CREEK/LYTTON, BC

# 2021 CANADIAN DISASTER QUICK FACTS



One of the worst wildfire seasons in the history of British Columbia burned many homes in the province's hot, tinder-dry interior—including almost all of the village of Lytton.



In November, catastrophic rain caused two rivers to flood, leading to the most devastating floods to ever hit two areas of BC—the Lower Mainland and Merritt, a town in the province's interior.



The BC flood destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses in Merritt, Abbotsford, and Princeton.

The catastrophe also wiped out 1,200 acres of blueberry crops and drowned hundreds of thousands of cattle and chickens.



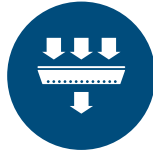
COVID-19 outbreaks caused healthcare emergencies in two Ontario communities—Thunder Bay in March and Attawapiskat in June. Samaritan's Purse was asked to step in and provide stop-gap help until the waves passed.

# Samaritan's Purse Canada's Response

## 2021 STATISTICS



**143**  
Homes Mudded-out



**73**  
Ash Siftings  
(properties)



**13**  
Content Removals  
(properties)



**84**  
Homes Sanitized



**27**  
Tree, Bush, and Yard Cleanups  
(properties)



**341**  
Families  
Assisted



**1,041**  
Volunteers



**2,702**  
Volunteer Hours



**283**  
COVID-19  
Patients Helped



**16**  
Salvations



Starting the day in prayer, Abbotsford, BC.

# THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS



Franklin Graham, President | 20 Hopewell Way NE, Calgary, AB T3J 5H5

[SamaritansPurse.ca](https://www.SamaritansPurse.ca) [@SPCanada](https://twitter.com/SPCanada) [@SPCanada](https://www.instagram.com/SPCanada)

© 2022 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.