

May 11, 2016

**The Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce encourages its members
to Step up to Help Fort McMurray**

This type of tragedy is hard to watch from a distance. It's even tougher to imagine being in the thick of it – fleeing with nothing but the clothes on your back. There are many transplanted New Brunswickers living in Fort McMurray so there is a strong tie between our two provinces. Premier Brian Gallant has extended support and many other New Brunswickers are rallying to support the relief effort. There are radiothons and concerts being held and billboards, websites and social media campaigns all urging local residents to donate what they can. Maritime volunteers with the Red Cross have already headed to Alberta including two local residents from Moncton.

Members of the GMCC and citizens of Greater Moncton in general may be hundreds of miles away but this horrible event has had a ripple effect across this country. Especially in Greater Moncton where so many have family members and close friends and relative living in Fort McMurray. Greater Monctonians are supporting every effort and in every way that they can.

“This is just such a massive tragedy and our hearts are with those in Fort McMurray,” says *Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce* CEO Carol O'Reilly. “A large number of Greater Monctonians have ties to people living there, myself included. It's heartbreaking to see so many people on such a large scale having to deal with a great loss like this one.”

Apart from the personal stories of loss, there will be an impact to the business community in the days and weeks to come, once the fire situation has been resolved however at this time the humanitarian needs must come first.

“This devastating event was cause for over 80,000 people to be evacuated, it's almost unthinkable.” says O'Reilly “Our thoughts are with those families and we applaud their courage and strength at such a difficult time.”

Albertans are known for their toughness in the face of adversity, and we know they will face this situation with both strength and resilience.

Please donate to the Canadian Red Cross by visiting RedCross.ca or simply texting "RedCross" to 30333 to make a \$5 donation.



The Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the business community for more than 825 businesses representing more than 35,000 members in Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview and the vicinity.

Media Contact:

Bonnie Porter, Director of Communications and Operations

Tel: 506-856-4004 Email: bporter@gmcc.nb.ca