



December Community Conversation Notes

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

1. Red Cross:

- Personalized support through Red Cross for impacted families, help with support with recovery planning, challenging issues, assistance with insurance, and much more. recoveryopslead@redcross.ca email is monitored daily.
- TIP sheets are available on the website <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/alberta-wildfires-2024>
- In-person services in Hinton located at 217 Pembina for residents living in Hinton. As of last week the Red Cross is supporting 1140 case files.

Trend: Residents seeking support due to decreased hours/loss of employment due to the fire, higher emotional needs coming into the holiday season, and difficulty in obtaining winter clothing.

- Granting open – <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/alberta-wildfires-2024/grants-for-community-organizations>
- Red Cross is here listening to community conversations to understand gaps and needs in Jasper.

2. Mamowichitowin Program:

- Busy with referrals from COS. Jasper currently has a waitlist for services. Website: <https://www.mcwp.ca>

3. Community Outreach Services / Community Development:

- Senior Outreach - Social prescribing - Prime Time events coming up, ornament making, soap making, Christmas lights tour, CRA frauds and Scams coming up in January.
- Settlement Services – food insecurity is a main concern clients right now.
- Outreach in general is seeing 10-15 new files per week right now, 80% increase in clientele needing assistance post-wildfire. Santas Anonymous is seeing very high numbers, applications are open until Dec 11th. Raising rents are forcing more people away from Jasper. Canada Post strike is impacting people – work permits in the mail.
- Middle childhood Outreach- Food insecurity at all time high , needing help with groceries. Babysitting course last week- 14 children attended the course.

Trend – stomach aches and other physical discomfort, emotional discomfort, helping children explain.

- Teen Outreach- Seeing teens start to fall apart, as parents are starting to heal and settle into routine.
- Anxiety & sadness, friendship and school stresses, more struggles than ever before this time of year.
- Please be kind and gentle with all teenagers in the community right now.

Trend: Co-living situations – being aware of possible safety concerns as living with others in new situations should be kept in our awareness.

Programming: Rec room next week – last one before the holiday break, Community helpers still meeting – next meeting in new year, Teen adventures back in January.

- Early Childhood Outreach- One-on-one visits have increased, seeing people who have never been seen at COS before, food insecurity, financial distress, weighted Red Cross forms are difficult, families are deciding to leave Jasper, Newcomers especially.
- Indoor playgroup Tues & Thurs – Baby and me seeing new parents each week, going to JPL for new families who need support, mental health and families is focus. Circle of security coming up in 2025.
- Community Development- Red Cross funding assisted the Community Dinner program hire new Community Dinner Coordinator, Darryl Huckulak. There will be a trial for Community Dinner transportation to and from Hinton for displaced residents.
- Community calendar – plug in your events asap – so we can plan events and attempt to plan events not at the same time. <https://www.jasper-alberta.ca/p/calendar>. CEDF – 48 applications, go to council Dec 10th – Food Security Program coming up Dec 30th watch for promotions.
- Opportunity: Anyone to partner with a food-focused program please reach out to Lisa.
- Community Dinners start in January – the first Sunday of January.
- Opportunity: How could we use funds to have a big impact on many people – lunch – universal lunch program at school – proposal, funding – daily, all schools, Jenna to liaise meeting with schools for lunch program – Lisa will find out daycare food costs Eric, Megan, Kathleen interested in attending.
- Opportunity: More recreation programming to come with support from red cross – Drop off rec programming – use of gym for teen sports. Lisa to connect with Marie Claude & Megan Jones on drop in sports.
- LIP- Dec 5th World Tree Lighting – free shuttle available for Jasper residents living in
- Community Development Coordinator- Working on a grant to increase the capacity of non-newcomers to support newcomers in the community – with a disaster recovery guide.
- Program Support- adult programming upcoming ski/snowboard maintenance program, ice climbing, cross country skiing, fat biking, learn to skate, Dec 5th Stories of challenge change and renewal at COS

4. Alberta Health Services:

- Homecare AB Health – RN – Introduction and information sharing
- Recovery Alberta – Seeing lots of emotional decision-making in regards to staying or leaving
- Continuing to promote walk-in services – counseling 8:30-4:30 M-F walk-in for support, most people are coming in that way vs phone intake system. Making it easier to just show up. Increase #'s in walk-in.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. GOA Income support program

- Provincial support program for AB's who need help, employment services, business as usual. Dec 24-Jan 1 closure of office, emergencies can still call the after-hours number – or apply online.

2. Community Futures West Yellowhead

- Community Economic Development – regional – Grant application process currently open for businesses. <https://westyellowhead.albertacf.com/services/business-loans/2024-jasper-wildfire-complex-recovery-loan>

3. Service Canada

- Outreach available in Jasper Dec 12th 10-3 at the library – closed for break over the holidays – back Jan 9th 2025
- Victoria Contact information:
Citizen Services Specialist, Citizen Services and Program Delivery Branch
Service Canada/Government of Canada victoria.dunbar@servicecanada.gc.ca / Tel: (780)357-4156
- Those with no internet or who need more help can call 1-877-631-2657 8:30-4pm M-F,
- Processing CPP & old age 1-800-277-9914, EI 1800-206-7218, Passport Canada 1-800-567-6868
- Service Canada will be at the In-person Recovery open house with JRCC
- Discussion around increased need for services – long line ups, any more workers, or more days? Victoria will bring to managers to see if more help is available.

4. Red Cross

- Community grants – recovery initiatives for organizations until Dec 20th & holiday grant for capacity building, connections – Dec 10th & Support for small business and non-profits

FIRE RELIEF

1. The Canadian Red Cross:

- The Canadian Red Cross is offering personalized recovery support to help households impacted by the 2024 Alberta Wildfires. There is also support available to organizations and businesses.

2. Alberta Government Jasper Recovery Task Force:

- Central connection point to connect with all areas of government and working with MOJ and Parks on priorities. Feel free to reach out to Mike or anyone on the team: Michael.minard@gov.ab.ca. Operating out of the JRCC.

3. Recovery Outreach:

- Two Recovery Outreach Workers have been filled and three more just approved by council, folks are working out of Community Outreach Services to work with individuals and families one-on-one in Jasper.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE & EARLY LEARNING

1. Jasper Library:

- Programs for seniors – from the stacks 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month reading program for seniors, read & discuss. Knitting group Wednesday 10:30am. Evacuation stories Wed's at 6:30pm.

World Tree lighting Dec 5th 6pm – bring decorations. Dec 12th Plant cutting collection exchange. Come visit the library.

- Programs with tweens 9-12yr olds, heightened awareness of the financial state of parents, library drop off's as a safe place to be, COS workers and BEST programming collaboration going very well, Programming: Tween program wraps up next week before the holidays, and resumes Jan 7th. Drop in scavenger hunt on Jan 2nd.
- 2. Jasper Employment and Education Centre:**
- Supporting clients outside of Jasper, challenges with employment
 - Opportunities: Grand Cache work opportunities Dec 5th 1pm, what does it look like to be a taxi driver? 3:30pm tomorrow, English classes, CAEC Dec 10th information session, trades designation for cooks coming up soon. Resume workshop next week.

train@jasperemployment.com; ed@jasperemployment.com

3. Schools:

- EJES- Presentation – 247 registered children pre-fire, down to 201 – net loss of 46 students, funding is a concern for next school year.
- Triggering events at this point in time, Prescribed burns, Halloween, anticipating upcoming holiday season trigger, setting up a holiday gifts from the heart
- Opportunity: Household emergency plan – students to lead with families – Lisa to follow up with school administrators. Give kids control over a plan.
- Ecole Desrochers- Lost 20% of students, funding concerns also. Kids/teens are alone more than they used to be. Less hangouts. No place for teens to be. Demands are high for parents. More demands on their time. No time. School will open on weekends 11-1 or 11-3 drop off to have open gym while parents work on things. Parental fatigue.
- Jasper Jr/Sr High- Wednesdays is a super popular event 30-40 kids at lunch, afterschool Megan will stay till 4pm to help kids daily, how to study program, 85-90 % surveyed, sleeping habits are something they want to learn.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

1. Friends of Jasper:

- Number of programs to get community members outside, meet new people, be outdoors, connect for wellbeing, Xmas bird count coming up Dec 15th 125 anniversary of the bird count, no experience necessary – link on friends social media, J in J- Intro to snowshoeing Jan 18th, Full Moon Hike Jan 13th, Flat packing of trails soon, hoping to have programming on these flat-packed trails.
- Friends of Jasper National Park: heather@friendsofjasper.com or info@friendsofjasper.com

2. Hinton HELP:

- FASD support worker – assisting adults with life skills, women with addictions, PACAP, Help with diagnosis.

Emergency Shelter

- Jasper Hinton Edson Yellowhead County – programs and group workshops to educate, phones are always answered, worker navigates supports.

Seniors Society

- Over 200 people at Seniors lunch yesterday at JPL, a really heart-warming event with renewed relationships. Busy lounge. Waived memberships for this year. Sept 2025 membership fees will restart. Men's Shed using lounge to meet regularly.

INDIVIDUALS

- Resident: In from Ontario – listening to what is happening in Jasper as she is displaced.
- Opportunity: List compiled of hotels/ accoms for people who are displaced to stay in in Jasper to visit the town and see. – an initiative to connect guest rooms with Jasperites

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Budget deliberations, JRCC updated council – they will host in-person sessions – 2 virtual 2 in-person virtual-Dec 11th and 1-5pm in person 14th, Dec 13th Holiday Party.
- Dec 5th book launch in quorum room proceeds to JCTS. The upcoming municipal election for 2025, council working on post-wildfire election logistics.