

# Planning for Recreation Opportunities in Emergency Response and Recovery

Learning from Alberta's Experiences

Gathering Strength: Framework for Recreation in Canada Forum 2018

Regina, Saskatchewan

May 8-10

# Project Background

- ▶ Initiated following the wildfires in Wood Buffalo
- ▶ Looked to the experiences of communities across the province
  - ▶ Slave Lake wildfire (2011)
  - ▶ Southern Alberta flooding (2013)
  - ▶ Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (2016)
- ▶ Brought together recreation practitioners and other stakeholders who have experienced disaster in their community or who have supported others during a disaster (e.g. hosted evacuees)

# Project Goals/Purpose

- ▶ Capture first-hand lessons learned about the sector's role in recent natural disaster situations in the province
- ▶ Support ongoing recovery efforts in Wood Buffalo and other regions
- ▶ Inform other communities' planning processes so that all Albertans have access to the benefits of recreation in the event of future emergency situations

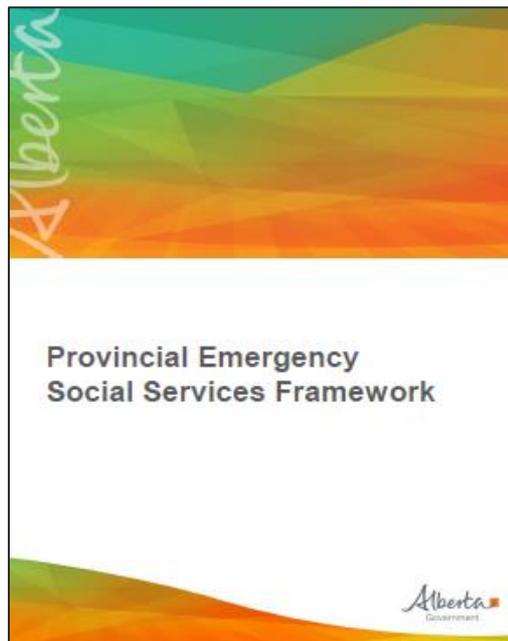


# Emergency Management in Alberta

- ▶ *At all times, local authorities in Alberta's municipalities are responsible for managing the first response to an emergency event. When an emergency event exceeds the capabilities of a municipal response or there is a significant threat to life and property, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency coordinates the Government of Alberta's support to the municipality by linking them with resources to help manage the event.*

# Provincial Emergency Social Services (PESS)

*“The supports that meet the basic essential needs of individuals, households and communities affected by emergencies.”*



- ▶ Municipalities must have an ESS Plan as part of their emergency management planning.

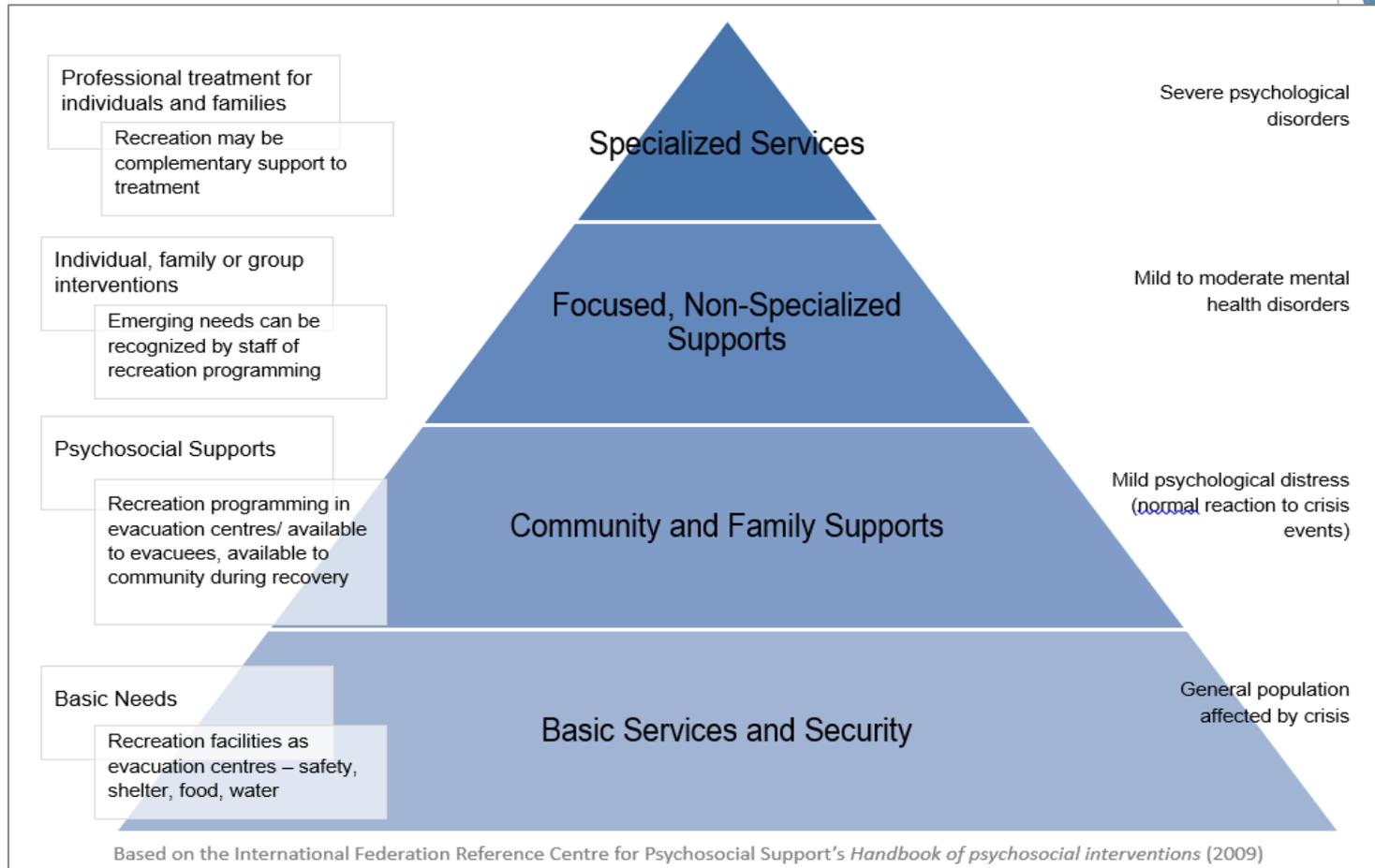
# It's an emergency!

*Why are we talking about recreation?*

Physical,  
emotional and  
social wellbeing  
of individuals,  
families and  
communities.



# Complementary Supports



# Framework for Recreation in Canada:

Putting policy into practice



# Active Living

- ▶ **Foster active living through physical recreation**
  - ▶ 1.1 Enable participation in physically active recreational experiences



# Supportive Environments



- ▶ **Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help build strong, caring communities.**
  - ▶ 4.5 Enhance mental and social wellbeing by creating supportive social environments in the settings where people live, learn, work, and play. This requires strengthened partnerships with schools, social service groups, the arts community, law enforcement, transportation and urban planners, community organizations and the private sector.
  - ▶ 4.8 Adopt a strategic approach to community building that features alignment and collaboration with other community initiatives.

# Recreation Capacity



- ▶ **Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field**
  - ▶ 5.7 Collaborative efforts among governments, recreation associations and colleges and universities to develop new recreation programs and services that meet the evolving and expanding needs within communities.



# Building on the Basics Resource Guide

PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

# What we learned...

Leading Practices & Considerations



**YMCA of Northern Alberta**  
Edmonton | Grande Prairie | Wood Buffalo

We're here for you!

# FREE CHILD MINDING!

## 3 HOURS

For evacuees from Fort McMurray!  
Have appointments to go to?  
Leave the kids with us! Up to 3 hrs!

## Town of Drumheller Offers Free Access to Drumheller Recreation Facilities and Library for the Fort McMurray Evacuees

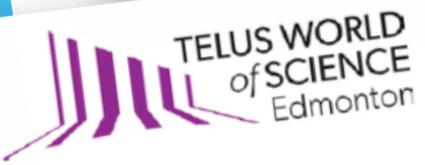
## Edmonton area campgrounds offer free sites to Fort McMurray wildfire evacuees



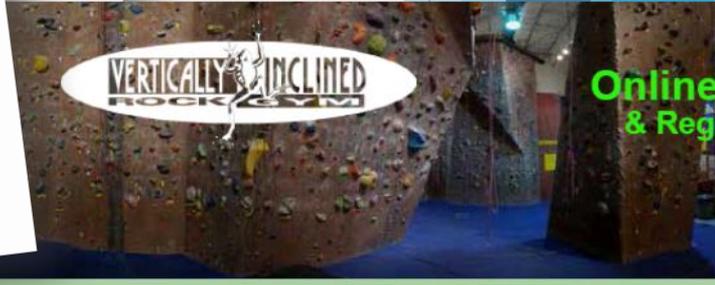
By Sarah Kraus  
Reporter Global News

## News Release

For Immediate Release



TWOSE hosted more than 2,000 families displaced by Fort McMurray wild fire between May 4 – 11



Online & Reg

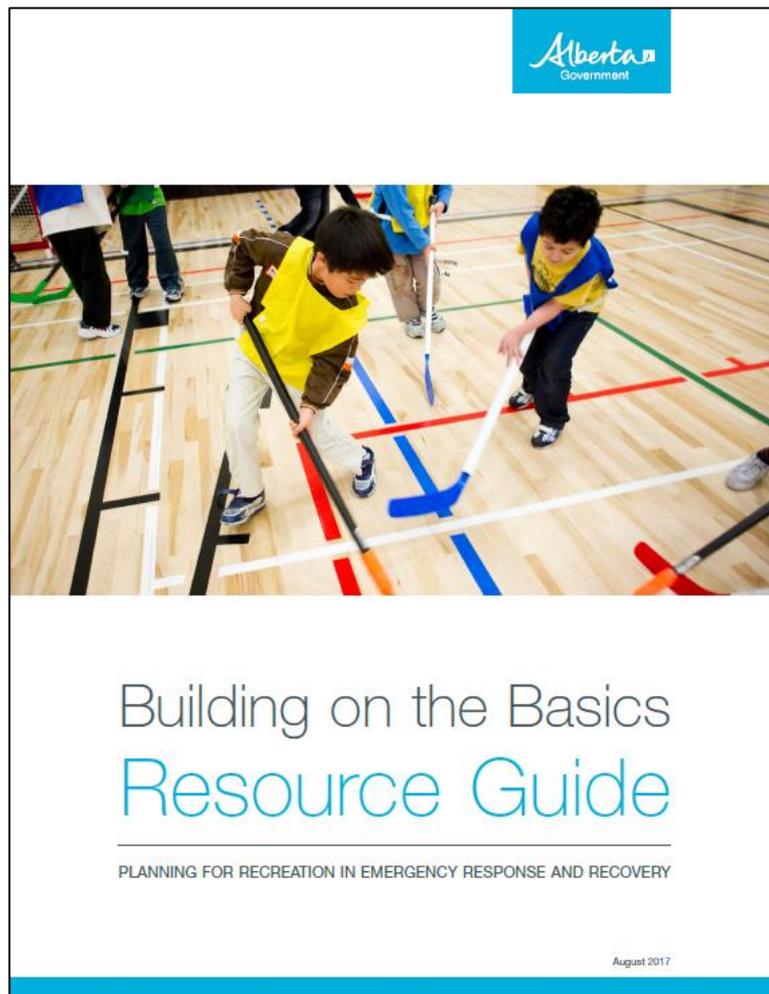
## Free Climbing for Fort McMurray Evacuees

For all Fort McMurray evacuees, come in and climb for Free!

Daypasses, Climbing Adventures and Kids Climbing Adventures are free for those here from Fort McMurray and

# Being prepared, planning ahead

Facilities  
Staff & Volunteers  
Programs & Services  
Partnerships



# Facilities

- ▶ Asset inventory: facilities, spaces & resources
  - ▶ What will be required for basic services?
  - ▶ What could be available to go beyond those basics?
  - ▶ What could remain for recreation purposes only?
- ▶ Potential uses for facilities
  - ▶ Staging Area / Reception Centre / Donation Centre / Accommodation & Lodging / etc.
  - ▶ Know who in the Emergency Management Plan makes the decision about what facilities will be used for what purpose
- ▶ Scaling up and scaling down

# Staff and Volunteers

*Taking care of ourselves as well as taking care of others*

- ▶ Staffing models for different scenarios
  - ▶ What does a staffing model for operating an accommodation centre 24 hours/day look like? Or a staging area for responders working various shifts & times?
- ▶ Staff and volunteer policies and procedures
- ▶ Different roles for different people
- ▶ Specialized training, knowledge or expertise
- ▶ Mental health supports

# Programs and Services

- ▶ Scope and scale of services
  - ▶ What is reasonable/realistic?

- ▶ Approaches

- ▶ Hobfoll Principles

Sense of Safety	Calming	Self and Community Efficacy	Social Connectedness	Hope
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- ▶ Inclusive & Appropriate
    - ▶ Specialized expertise
- ▶ Longer-term / winding down
  - ▶ Depending on the situation, is there an opportunity to follow up or stay connected with participants?
  - ▶ Recovery related subsidies and services & managing expectations

# Partnerships

- ▶ Coordination
- ▶ Existing Partnerships
- ▶ Potential Partners
- ▶ Regional Partnerships /  
Neighbouring Municipalities  
and First Nations communities

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## Potential Partners

- Recreation service providers, private or non-profit
  - Local social service agencies
  - Other municipal departments (Community Services)
  - School divisions
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Funding partners
  - And more...
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# *Communication*



# For Discussion

- ▶ How can the recreation/physical activity sector help individuals, families and communities cope with an emergency and build resilience to carry forward?
- ▶ In your jurisdiction, how might you encourage better integration of planning for recreation/physical activity opportunities into community emergency plans?
- ▶ What tools and/or resources would be helpful?

# Thank You

▶ Contact:

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