



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vernon ESS Reception Centre to close on September 9

On August 1, the Vernon ESS Reception Centre opened to receive and assist evacuees from neighbouring communities who were displaced due to the White Rock Lake wildfire.

On September 2, the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) listed the White Rock Lake fire as *being held*. Fire suppression efforts continue and crews are patrolling the fire area, extinguishing hot spots. BCWS says smoke will be visible within the fire perimeter for several weeks; however, at this time there is no threat to further spread.

Given the change in fire status, the Vernon ESS Reception Centre will be closing on Thursday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Some Evacuation Orders remain in place for neighbouring communities, however, the number of evacuees seeking assistance from the Vernon Reception Centre has decreased significantly.

Residents are asked to contact their respective municipal, regional district or First Nation's office if they need further ESS assistance, or if they have questions related to the status of Evacuation Orders or Alerts, re-entry plans or community recovery efforts.

Over the last six weeks, nearly 3,000 evacuees registered for assistance at the Vernon ESS Reception Centre. Additionally, several thousand requests for service were processed by a strongly dedicated team of volunteers.

The City would like to thank every volunteer, staff member, local service provider and community organization that helped make the reception centre operation possible and provided caring and compassionate service for those who have faced incredibly difficult circumstances.

For more information from neighbouring jurisdictions impacted by the White Rock Lake fire, please visit the following websites:

- Okanagan Indian Band: okib.ca
- Regional District of North Okanagan: rdno.ca
- Regional District of Central Okanagan: cordemergency.ca
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District: csrd.bc.ca
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District: tnrd.ca