



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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City of Vernon extends gratitude to ESS volunteers and partner agencies

The City of Vernon would like to offer its deep gratitude and thanks to everyone who has helped serve in its Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reception Centre over the last several days.

Since Thursday, Vernon has been welcoming and assisting residents from neighbouring communities who have been evacuated due to wildfire. As the situation has evolved, the local Reception Centre has received and registered more than 500 evacuees.

Most residents who have registered in Vernon have come from the areas of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, Westside Road, Kelowna, and Lake Country; however, some residents have also travelled to Vernon from the Shuswap near the Bush Creek and Adams Lake fire.

“Words cannot properly express how grateful we are for the time and care our ESS volunteers have provided while helping neighbours in their greatest time of need,” said Mayor Victor Cumming.

“We have seen an immense outpouring of kindness and generosity, all while folks have been working very long hours, helping to navigate complex situations. On behalf of the City of Vernon, I’d like to thank each and every person who has been part of this emergency response. This has been a difficult time for many people and our volunteers have made a big and positive difference in many lives.”

A number of partner agencies have also provided staff, volunteers and resources to help serve the needs of evacuees within the Reception Center.

“We’d like to extend a big thanks for the pet care provided by the SPCA, food support for volunteers by the Salvation Army, evacuee support by BC Services, First Aid by St. John Ambulance, and Disaster Psychosocial Services by volunteers with the Provincial Health Services Authority,” said Mayor Cumming. “And of course, thank you to our local accommodation providers, restaurants, stores and service providers who have helped fulfill the needs of evacuees for basic and critical resources.

“In addition to these formal supports, we’ve also seen a huge outpouring of kindness and help being offered throughout the community by local businesses, organizations, and individuals just

wanting to give a helping hand wherever possible. Seeing this kind of response – which is common for Vernon – makes me incredibly proud to be your Mayor.

“Although a lot of work has happened already, today we were reminded by those working on the front lines of these fires that there’s still a lot more work ahead. So with that in mind, I’d also like to take a moment to thank all the firefighters, emergency responders, and their agencies for the incredible work they’re doing to protect communities and try to bring these fires under control, particularly while working in grueling conditions. Your efforts never go unrecognized.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with every single person, family, business, organization, and community who has been impacted by these devastating wildfires. Vernon is – and will continue to be - here to support you as best as possible, as we all face the continued impact of these events.”