

bridging the gap

Wood Buffalo Housing to help uninsured fire victims

Pilot program will help under- and uninsured home owners who lost primary residences in Fort McMurray wildfire

FORT MCMURRAY, AB, May 26, 2017 / The Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation (WBHDC) has announced a pilot program to assist un- or under-insured victims of the Fort McMurray wildfire who lost their homes.

The Board of WBHDC has approved the development of a pilot program through which eligible fire victims could purchase a home. The program is an extension of an existing home ownership program operated by WBHDC since 2004 but previously available only to first-time home buyers.

“Our Board of Directors is making it a priority to offer help to a group hard-hit by the wildfire,” said Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing’s President and CEO. “We have been able to take a program that has already seen us help more than 350 people to their goal of home ownership and adapt it to create this pilot project.”

The pilot project is designed to help those who have been directly affected by the wildfire and meet the following criteria:

- Applicants’ homes must have been damaged or destroyed by the fire or during the efforts of fighting the wildfire;
- Applicants with damaged homes must first apply to the NGO’s Supporting Uninsured, Underinsured Recovery (NSUUR) for assistance in repairing their home.
- Applicants must provide evidence of home ownership as shown on the RMWB tax rolls;
- Applicants must prove that the home was owner-occupied at the time of the fire (no revenue properties);
- Program covers one home per family;
- Applicants must show evidence that they had no insurance or were under insured on the affected home;



- Applicants must surrender all rights to the lot on which their damaged or destroyed house was located to their financial institution.

To apply, interested applicants should call 780-799-4050 or email homeownership@wbhadc.ca.

“As the lead housing agency in the region, Wood Buffalo Housing has assisted a wide spectrum of community members affected by the wildfire,” said Hunter. “As the recovery continues and our community starts to rebound, we are working to make sure we can help as many people as possible .”

WBHDC's regular home ownership program, available for first-time buyers who meet financial eligibility requirements, is also open for applications to every resident of the community. The WBHDC also continues its other program work to find solutions for a variety of housing challenges from homelessness to home ownership. For more information visit our website at www.wbhadc.ca.

About the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation: Founded in 2001, WBHDC is committed to helping people in our community find the right home in affordable neighborhood surroundings. Since 2001, we have helped more than 7,000 people in northeastern Alberta find the right apartment, the right townhouse, or the right way to achieve their goal of home ownership.

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