

# Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

## A MESSAGE OF HOPE



**Mennonite Disaster Service is awesome. They have a key role to play. They made it easy for us to partner with them to respond to our neighbours . . . MDS is a message of hope.**

That's what lead pastor Jeremy Vogt of the Cariboo Bethel Mennonite Brethren Church in Williams Lake, B.C. said about the role MDS played in his community following devastating wildfires in 2017.

“When I tell people in Williams Lake about what MDS is doing, their eyes get big,” Vogt said about how MDS brought in volunteers in 2018 to help rebuild and repair five homes in the community. “They can hardly believe it. It touches their hearts. It gives them hope. Someone cares. People from all over North America care. Now wherever I can, I share the MDS story.”

At MDS, we don't see this as only our story—it is the story of the church in action, restoring homes and hope for those impacted by natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, floods and fires.

In 2019 5,569 volunteers from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion to build 68 new homes, complete 313 repairs and do 352 cleanups. This volunteer labour was valued at \$13.8 million.

**For 2020, our story is quite different—as is yours.**

The pandemic caused us to close all our projects on March 13; a week later we suspended all projects through the summer. Our hope is to get back and running in late fall, if it is safe to do so. If not, we will resume operations when given the all clear from government and health authorities.

In these uncertain times, the only thing we know for sure is “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Ps. 46:1) During this challenging time, we invite you to pray for the work of MDS; the ministry of the church across North America and around the world;



for all those involved in health care; and for leaders in the U.S. and Canada. It is a difficult and challenging time for everyone.

We continue to be grateful for your support, and for the opportunity to partner in ministry with the Canadian and provincial Mennonite Brethren conferences. We pray that you, your families and your churches are safe and healthy, and that God will give you all grace, peace and comfort at this time.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations

## Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



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