



The Skilled Trades Advantage.

REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING AFFILIATES:

BOILERMAKERS
Lodge 146

BRICKLAYERS
Local 1

CARPENTERS
Local 1325

CARPENTERS
Local 2103

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL WORKERS
Local 92

CONSTRUCTION & SPECIALIZED WORKERS
Local 1111

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS
Local 122

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS
Local 130

IBEW
Local 424

INSULATORS
Local 110

IRONWORKERS
Local 720

IRONWORKERS
Local 725

IUPAT
District Council 17

MILLWRIGHTS
Local 1460

OPERATING ENGINEERS
Local 955

PLASTERERS & CEMENT MASONS
Local 222

SHEET METAL WORKERS
Local 8

TEAMSTERS
Local 362

UNITE HERE
CULINARY WORKERS
Local 47

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
Local 488

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
Local 496

May 10th, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Words cannot describe how deeply saddened we all feel at this unbelievably difficult time for many of our members and the community of Fort McMurray. This is a community that has provided livelihoods for Building Trades members for decades, and created much of who we are, not just here in Alberta but for a lot of us throughout Canada. Indeed many of our brothers and sisters from across Canada are sharing in the feeling of helplessness that comes with such a catastrophe and want to reach out and offer their assistance in any way they can. While we must grieve that two young people lost their lives in the evacuation process there is solace in knowing at this time that astoundingly, no others have been severely hurt or injured directly due to the fire.

The impressive reaction and outpouring of generosity of our fellow Albertans and all Canadians has been nothing short of remarkable. It demonstrates the strong bond we all share when responding to disaster. Many of our members, officers and organizations, at both the Local and International levels, have offered swift and significant support by way of financial donations to the Red Cross (such as the UA's generous donation of \$500,000) or by volunteering their time directly in relief efforts. This has occurred in many different ways ranging from assisting in evacuee relief centers, to gathering and donating essentially needed goods such as clothes, food and water (see our FaceBook posting on LIUNA Local 92's outstanding efforts) or by attending to those in need stranded on the roads. While I have mentioned only two specific instances above I can assure everyone that these efforts are ongoing and taking place behind the scenes with all of our affiliated organizations and members in varying degrees every day! Everyone who belongs to a Building Trades affiliated union can take pride in the fact that collectively the Building Trades of Alberta and Canada are doing their part to assist in the immediate relief efforts.

We are so very fortunate and privileged as Canadians to have the type of emergency response infrastructure that we can see working hard for us every day, and this disaster is no exception. We are humbled by the service of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian and Alberta Forestry Firefighting Services, along with our own local firefighters, police and other emergency response personal. With all of this world-class expertise in place, it's sometimes hard to figure out where we can best put our own skills and resources to work.



I would like to suggest that while much of the immediate need is currently being managed, there will come a time when the fire will be extinguished and when the evacuee centers are closed, leaving thousands of displaced people wondering what they will do next and how to move forward. And while I'm sure there will be a plan in place, this brothers and sisters, is where I believe we can have the greatest impact. This is where we can pledge to never forget, by supporting the Wood Buffalo Region well into the future. I believe the Building Trades has a responsibility to the community of Fort McMurray and to our members, to ensure the city of Fort McMurray and those affected by the fire are supported in the long term as their uncertain future unfolds. In fact, there will be an even greater need in the coming weeks, months and years for ongoing support and assistance as Fort McMurray rebuilds their community and restores the services and infrastructure which we have benefitted from in the past and for that which we will certainly benefit from in the future. We all owe a debt of gratitude and we can repay it by acting now.

We have established a Building Trades "Rebuild McMurray" Hope Fund which will ensure that the community and those that will require future assistance will not be forgotten. While there is no immediate certainty as to exactly how these funds will be allocated, it will be used to assist with the rebuilding of vital infrastructure, ensuring adequate health care and other public services are available, assisting to build or put in place adequate temporary residences or to provide additional necessary donations to the Red Cross or other relief efforts. Every dollar donated or allocated to the cause will find its way to good use. What we will be able to achieve is dependent on the size of the fund. Each and every donor to the fund will be recognized and receive regular updates in regards to the how the proceeds are being used.

The Building Trades of Alberta Executive Board will manage the allocation of funds and kick things off with an initial \$250,000 donation. If you wish to contribute to this fund, and no amount would be refused, please make your donation payable to the **Building Trades of Alberta, Re: "Rebuild McMurray" Hope Fund.**

Thanks In advance for your thoughtful consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Warren Fraleigh', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Warren Fraleigh,
On behalf of the Executive Board
of the Building Trades of Alberta.