



Reception Centre for evacuees closes

The City of Edmonton Reception Centre that provided a cot for the night or a meal to evacuees forced out of their homes by wildfires in the Fort McMurray region has closed.

The City opened the centre at Northlands Expo Centre at midnight on May 4 as thousands of evacuees from Fort McMurray and the nearby communities streamed into Edmonton. The centre has provided accommodations, food, clothing, counselling and has served as a community hub and resource centre for evacuees.

All evacuees staying at the centre have found medium-term housing. The City of Edmonton has worked with the Government of Alberta, the Canadian Red Cross and other partner organizations to help evacuees find suitable accommodations and to ensure their needs are met as they wait to return home. A voluntary, phase re-entry to Fort McMurray is scheduled to begin on June 1.

Nearly 25,000 people visited the Reception Centre for assistance since it opened. At the height of operations, about 2,000 people stayed at the centre overnight. Approximately 66,000 meals have been served to evacuees. The centre closed its doors at noon on Friday, May 27.

Clothing and other supplies will continue to be available to evacuees at a donation pick-up centre in [Kingsway Mall](#). Operated by Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society, the donation pick-up centre will remain open into July. EERSS's donation drop-off centre is located at [3870 98 Street](#).

Food donations continue to be needed to help evacuees, as well as local families in need. The Edmonton Food Bank is collaborating with the Alberta Food Bank to distribute food to people affected by wildfires, both locally and in Northern Alberta. Food stores and especially baby formula have been depleted. Edmontonians are asked to drop-off donations to the Edmonton Food Bank warehouse at [11508-120 St](#).

Evacuees with questions about support may contact the Canadian Red Cross at 1-888-350-6070.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/HelpingFortMac

Media Contact:

City of Edmonton Emergency Operations Centre - Media Team
780-944-6428

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