

## Premier's statement



May 18, 2011

### **Premier Stelmach announces initial \$50 million for disaster recovery**

*Edmonton...* Premier Ed Stelmach announced today that the Government of Alberta has approved an initial allocation of \$50 million towards the immediate needs of the evacuees and the rebuilding of Slave Lake and surrounding communities. The money will be under the authority of the Deputy Minister Task Force appointed by Premier Stelmach to coordinate recovery efforts.

“The unprecedented wildfire disaster in Slave Lake and the surrounding area has touched all Albertans,” said Premier Ed Stelmach. “This funding is an important first step on the road to rebuilding the community.”

The funding will initially focus on the immediate housing, income support and other needs of the evacuated residents. Government of Alberta officials are currently at the evacuation centres to assist evacuated residents in assessing their needs and beginning the process of rebuilding the community.

“The funding will begin flowing by week’s end,” said Premier Stelmach. “As individual residents will have specific needs and requirements, it is important that we have an accurate list of evacuees. So, is crucial that residents who have evacuated from Slave Lake and surrounding communities register with the Red Cross at 1-800-565-4483.”

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