



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 26, 2023**

Introducing "**Alberta Recovers**" - Bridges of Love Ministry Society pioneers an on-line donation platform for disaster victim assistance.

**High River, AB** - Bridges of Love, a nonprofit organization is proud to announce the launch of its pilot program "Alberta Recovers," an innovative online donation management system designed to streamline and enhance assistance for those affected by disasters in the Alberta region.

In the wake of numerous natural disasters that have struck Alberta in recent years, including wildfires, floods, and other unforeseen emergencies, there has been a pressing need for a comprehensive and efficient platform to manage donations in support of the affected communities. "Alberta Recovers" addresses this critical need by leveraging front-line technology to ensure that aid reaches those in need swiftly, effectively, and compassionately. In the past, donation management and volunteer coordination has been difficult to administer, with mounds of donations becoming as large a problem as the disaster itself! Stockpiling and the need for warehouse space can be eliminated or diminished through this forward-looking initiative!

Key Features of "Alberta Recovers" include:

- **Seamless Donation Management:** "Alberta Recovers" provides an easy-to-use and secure platform for individuals, organizations, and businesses to make monetary contributions in support of disaster victims. Users can choose from various payment options and receive instant tax receipts for their charitable donations.
- **Real-Time Impact Tracking:** Donors can track the impact of their contributions in real-time. "Alberta Recovers" offers transparency by displaying how donations are utilized, giving donors confidence that their generosity directly benefits those affected by disasters.
- **Targeted Assistance:** The platform allows disaster victims to submit their specific needs, enabling Bridges of Love to allocate resources more efficiently and prioritize aid where it is needed most. Disaster victims' identity remains confidential to public viewing.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** "Alberta Recovers" serves as a hub for volunteers to register their availability and skills, facilitating a streamlined approach to disaster relief efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** The platform fosters a sense of community by enabling individuals/churches/businesses to connect with disaster victims, each other, share experiences, and offer support during challenging times.

Amid the ongoing challenges faced by disaster-affected communities, "Alberta Recovers" aims to empower the spirit of compassion and togetherness, making it easier for people from all walks of life to contribute to the recovery and rebuilding process.

"We are thrilled to introduce 'Alberta Recovers' as a game-changer for donation management and disaster recovery efforts," said Marg Pollon, Bridges of Love Founding Executive Director. "This platform will serve as a powerful tool to bring together donors, volunteers, and those in need; united in the shared mission of rebuilding lives and restoring hope."

To experience the impact of "Alberta Recovers" firsthand or to contribute, please visit [Alberta Recovers](https://www.bridgesoflove.net/albertarecovers) <https://www.bridgesoflove.net/albertarecovers>.

**About Bridges of Love Ministry Society** - Bridges of Love, a registered nonprofit charitable organization, is committed to supporting communities/churches in emergency preparedness (FEPI), community emergency response team (CERT) training, and now through "Alberta Recovers," assisting disaster victims in the recovery phase. With a focus on compassion, transparency, and community engagement, the organization aims to foster unity and hope during times of crisis.

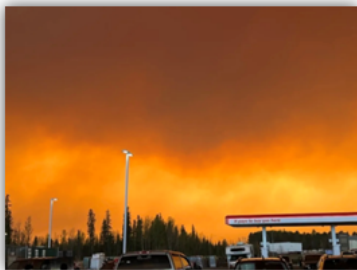
A BIG thank you to our summer student, Timothy Rugg, a 4th year honors Computer Science UofA student who developed this 'pilot' platform while employed by Bridges of Love due to a grant from the Alberta Civil Society Fund (CSF). ***"The Power of Civil Society, Moving at the Speed of Trust!"***

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>"GO AND DO LIKEWISE"</b> Luke 10:30-37</p> <p>Little things express our love for God and for our neighbour. In the Good Samaritan Parable, Jesus teaches three principles about loving our neighbour.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of love is often easy to justify, even though it is never right;</li> <li>2. Our neighbour is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need; and</li> <li>3. Love means acting to meet the person's need, wherever you live, whatever the need.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>NO ONE IS USELESS IN THIS WORLD...</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marg Pollon, Founding Director #6, 609 Centre St. SW High River, Alberta T1V 2C2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office Phone - 403.649.0087</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Website - <a href="http://www.bridgesoflove.net">www.bridgesoflove.net</a></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alberta Recovers Link</b> <a href="https://www.bridgesoflove.net/">https://www.bridgesoflove.net/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Questions</b> <a href="mailto:margpollon@bridgesoflove.net">margpollon@bridgesoflove.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Charitable #</b> 84741 4471 RR0001</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRIDGES OF LOVE</b> </p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>WHO LIGHTENS THE BURDENS OF ANOTHER</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Alberta Recovers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRIDGES OF LOVE</b> <i>Alberta Recovers</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Let us love</i> not in word or speech, but in truth and action 1 John 3:18</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>THE POWER OF CIVIL SOCIETY, MOVING AT THE SPEED OF TRUST!</b></p>
<p><b>Report a wildfire</b></p> <p>If you see a wildfire in a forested area:</p> <p style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Call: 310-FIRE (3473)</b></p> 		

## ALBERTA DISASTERS



TORNADO, JULY 1, 2023 MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY



The smoke seen here is from the wildfires raging 30 km southeast of Edson, Alta.

Wildfires in Alberta nearly double the five year average!

## Alberta Recovers

The devastation that wrecked havoc on Alberta communities, due to the 2023 summer wildfires, motivated Bridges of Love to develop an on-line portal to facilitate the donation process, streamline administrations and improve overall efficiency for assisting those affected. Alberta Recovers is a platform dedicated to match donations with disaster victims with our Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) churches assisting with deliveries, spiritual help, etc.

Disaster management has been a difficult process, with mounds of donated items often stock-piled. This site eliminates the need to warehouses or store mounds of donated items which may or may not be needed by those who have lost home and possessions. Having an on-line donation site eliminates the need for a store-house, as those who have donations hang on to them, until a match is made.

Alberta Recovers is patterned after the disaster donation model pioneered by RECOVERS.ORG. After the 2013 Alberta Flood, Bridges of Love was very fortunate to have a dedicated website shared by RECOVERS. It worked like a charm! Bridges of Love matched hundreds of items from automobiles to furnaces and everything in between.

Our initial focus for this platform was the wildfire recovery response but due to a recent Tornado outside the town of Didsbury, we are in the process of adapting the site to address both disaster recovery efforts Alberta is now facing.

Bridges of Love thanks Timothy Rugg, our summer Computer Science U of A student for his tremendous work, completing this site in a timely fashion! Thank you TJ!

### Need help?

If you have been affected by the 2023 Alberta Wildfires and need support, we'll do what we can to help you.

[Submit a Request](#)

### Want to help out?

We are looking for people who can donate money or goods, as well as those who can volunteer their time. You can view a request to donate to it.

[View Requests](#)

If you're affiliated with a church, consider asking them to sign up for the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative!

[Register for FEPI](#)

[WILDFIRES](#)

[TORNADOS](#)

[FLOODS](#)

[TERRORIST ATTACK](#)

[RAILWAY SPILLAGE](#)

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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