



# QUESNEL EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

500 North Star Road  
Quesnel ♦ B.C. ♦ V2J 5P6

## M E D I A R E L E A S E

**For Immediate Release**

**July 5, 2006**

**ESS team mobilizes to assist evacuated Nazko residents**

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**QUESNEL, B.C.** - Quesnel's Emergency Social Services team mobilized Tuesday evening to assist more than 140 residents of the Nazko First Nation Reserve and surrounding areas who have either been evacuated from their homes or left voluntarily due to forest fire.

The team is a volunteer-based organization that provides services to evacuees in the event of an emergency. Thirty members attended the Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre, which acts as this community's primary emergency reception centre. They helped provide those affected with accommodation, meals, clothing and pet care.

ESS Director Jeff Norburn said the training his team of dedicated volunteers has received helped immensely during the process.

"The response from our volunteers was inspiring," said Norburn. "They were ready and willing to help a group of people faced with an emergency. When a situation such as this arises, the community needs to come together and support those affected. Our volunteer team accepted that challenge last night and exceeded expectations."

This was by far the largest number of evacuees Quesnel's ESS team has ever had to assist. They responded to a number of incidents last year, including helping families affected by flooding and land slippage.

"In each case our team rose to the challenge," said Deputy ESS Director Ron Potter. "By providing this service, our volunteers make a crisis for evacuees a little bit easier to face."

Also of note was the response from a number of local businesses and organizations, who, without being asked, provided food for the evacuees upon their arrival at the Arts and Recreation Centre.

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The ESS team is always looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities needed to help in a wide range of roles, both before and during an emergency, including assisting with registration and referrals, and providing administrative services, pet services, emotional support and food services to evacuees.

Quesnel ESS has more than 50 active members on its team. Regular training opportunities are provided, with meetings held five times a year. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Quesnel ESS team is invited to contact Jeff Norburn at 992-8206.

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This release is also available at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca).

For further information please contact:

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