



LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REGIONAL Wildfire Recovery Plan

The Government of Alberta, the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation thank the many first responders, staff and officials who worked tirelessly to protect the lives, property and way of life of the residents of the Lesser Slave Lake region. We also acknowledge the overwhelming outpouring of support through donations and volunteerism to comfort and support the people affected by the wildfires. These efforts are what have allowed this recovery process to begin.

This document was created using the work of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *National Disaster Recovery Framework*, 2010, and PriceWaterhouseCoopers' *Effective Disaster Recovery – What Lessons can we learn from Australia's Black Saturday Bushfires?*, 2010.

PRODUCED BY:

The Government of Alberta in collaboration with the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, and Sawridge First Nation

PO Box 1360 STN Main
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5J 9Z9

Web site: www.alberta.ca

© Government of Alberta

ISBN 978-0-7785-9749-0 (print)

978-0-7785-9750-6 (online)

This plan is subject to change and the Government of Alberta reserves the right to periodically update the information in it. It is necessary that you ensure that the version of the plan being consulted is the most current version available as of that date.

Table of Contents

2	Background
3	Introduction
4	Vision and Principles
5	Stakeholders
6	Governance, Roles and Responsibilities
8	Regional Recovery Planning Framework
10	Success Factors
11	Recovery Plan Funding
12	Recovery Projects and Activities
13	Conclusion
14	Appendix 1

Background

On the afternoon of Saturday May 14, 2011 two separate fires burned within the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124 near the Town of Slave Lake and Sawridge First Nation. One was southwest of Slave Lake burning toward the South Shore communities of Widewater and Canyon Creek. The other emerged east of the Town of Slave Lake impacting the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124 west of Mitsue and the Poplar Lane neighbourhood, damaging residential property. At 8:15 p.m. the Municipal District declared a State of Local Emergency followed by the Town declaring one shortly after.

The next afternoon, May 15, 100 kilometre-per-hour winds stirred up the fires, threatening lives and infrastructure. Despite efforts by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) the fire entered the Town of Slave Lake. The Lesser Slave Lake Regional Fire Service worked to save the town and homes in

the surrounding Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124. The Town of Slave Lake's 3,479 households (approximately 7,000 residents), the Sawridge First Nation and some residents of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 were evacuated to communities outside the fire zone. This is considered to be one of the largest displacements of residents in Alberta's history. Residents of the affected areas were under a mandatory evacuation order for almost two weeks to ensure their safety. The evacuation order was lifted May 27 and re-entry into the town commenced.

Emergency response personnel from within the province, as well as firefighters from across Canada, helped the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Fire Service combat the disaster. At the peak of the disaster there were more than 1,500 additional emergency workers in the Lesser Slave Lake region. The fires were brought under control and the States of Local Emergency ended on

June 1. Figure 1 shows the extent of the Lesser Slave Lake Region wildfires.

The fire affected about one-quarter of the town, destroying approximately 374 properties and damaging 52. More than 735 individuals and families lost their homes. The town hall, which included the municipal library, town administrative offices and most of the regional provincial government offices, was destroyed. The fires also destroyed 59 properties and damaged 32 others in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124. Fortunately, infrastructure on the Sawridge First Nation was only marginally affected.

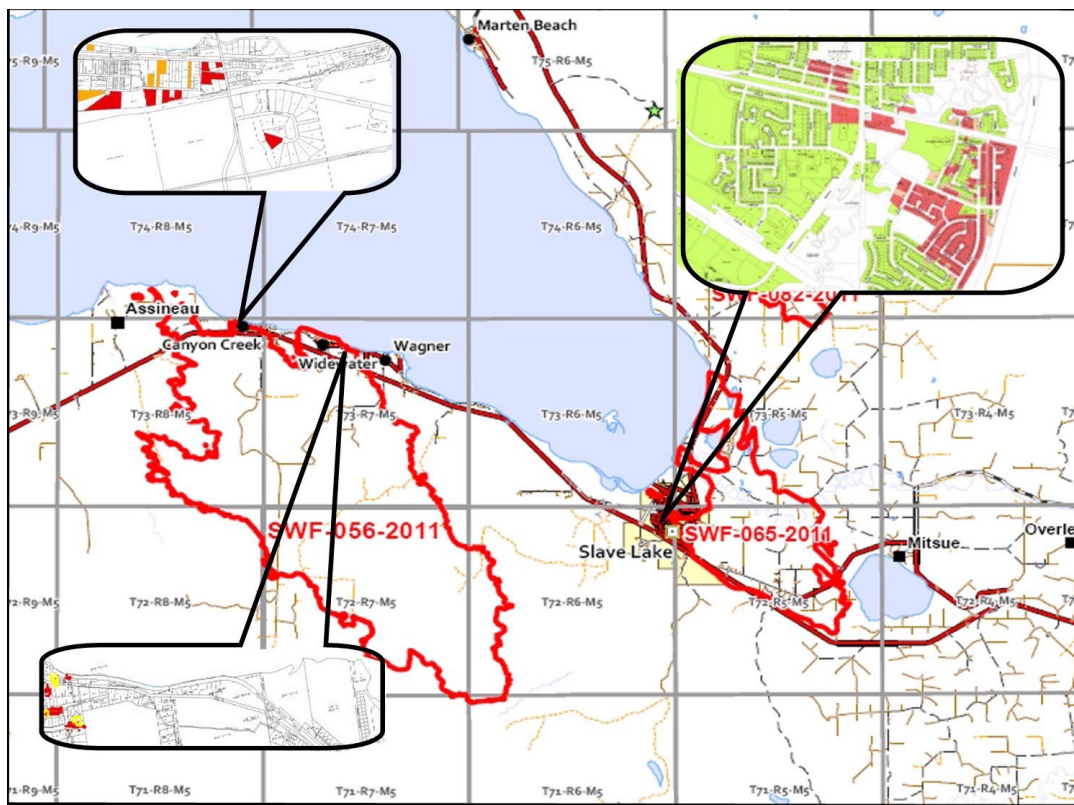


Figure 1 May 2011 Lesser Slave Lake Region Wildfires

As devastating as these fires were, remarkably there were no fatalities directly related to the fires. However, Mr. Jean-Luc Deba, a helicopter pilot, was killed on May 20, 2011 while flying in support of Alberta’s wildfire fighting efforts.

The Government of Alberta activated the Provincial Operations Centre (POC) to coordinate the provincial response to the wildfires. The wildfire was upgraded to a level four emergency, the highest possible designation that involves a sustained government-wide response. The Government of Alberta coordinated a multi-departmental response to provide hands-on support in the Lesser Slave Lake region and at the evacuation centres to help displaced citizens. It also immediately approved \$50 million to ensure the Lesser Slave Lake region’s residents were supported during the States of Local Emergency and throughout the response efforts. Once the fires were under control and States of Local Emergency were over, the Local Joint Emergency Operations Centre transitioned recovery operations to the local authorities. Recognizing the profound impact the fires had on the region, the Government of Alberta created a cross-ministry Slave Lake Regional Recovery Task Force (SLRT) to coordinate provincial government support and the Government of Alberta allocated \$50 million to support recovery efforts.

Introduction

The magnitude of the Lesser Slave Lake regional disaster is unprecedented and will have ramifications to the region for years to come. This level of devastation has not been seen in Alberta since the fire of 1919 that destroyed a large portion of Lac La Biche and left 300 people homeless. By way of recent comparison, the May 2001 fire in the Hamlet of Chisholm, Alberta burned 10 houses and 47 outbuildings. The devastation and destruction to homes created by the Lesser Slave Lake region wildfires is more than 40 times greater than the Chisholm fire. It also displaced approximately 70 times more individuals and families (735).

The economic impact to the region is not yet fully understood but is recognized to be substantial. All Slave Lake businesses

were closed for almost two weeks during the mandatory evacuation. Employees were not able to work, and many were left homeless. The total economic impact of the 2011 Lesser Slave Lake region wildfires could exceed \$1 billion.

Purpose

The objective of the Slave Lake Regional Recovery Plan is to return the region to its pre-disaster state while ensuring that the communities are not socially, environmentally or economically disadvantaged by the wildfire event and are well positioned for future growth. This should not be viewed simply in terms of rebuilding to the previous status quo as this may no longer be sustainable, competitive, or functional in the community. The plan was developed to provide the region with support as it rebuilds the capacity and recovers infrastructure to support its own recovery.

This plan was created through collaboration with the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, the Town of Slave Lake, Sawridge First Nation and the Government of Alberta. The plan is built upon the objectives, goals and vision for their communities.

The Disaster Recovery Process

As a disaster event evolves, response activities transition into recovery operations. Figure 2 shows the normal continuum of response through long-term recovery.



Figure 2

As response actions wind down, stabilization activities become the primary focus. Stabilization activities were completed following the re-establishment of essential services, such as fire, police, and medical staff. Intermediate recovery started on May 27, 2011, when the evacuation order was lifted. Concurrently, long-term recovery planning began. Long-term recovery may continue for months or years depending on the extent of redevelopment and revitalization needed. The goal of long-term recovery is to move the impacted community toward self-sufficiency, sustainability, and resilience.

Vision and Principles

The local authorities have developed a vision and foundational principles for long-term recovery of the region. These principles have been used in the development of the plan and guide recovery, decision making and implementation activities.

THE VISION from the Lesser Slave Lake region is:

The Lesser Slave Lake region is the jewel of Alberta, where you come for a job and stay for the lifestyle.

THE PRINCIPLES for the Lesser Slave Lake region recovery are:

Regional Focus – The disaster affected the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation. Therefore, it is imperative that the recovery be focused on the needs of the entire region. It is important the recovery respect jurisdictional authority and is regionally led. This will allow for regional strengths to be maximized.

Resident Focus – A successful recovery is not only about infrastructure, but also about individuals and families being able to rebound from their losses and sustain their physical, social and economic well-being. The shared recovery objective must empower people to recover from the disaster by assisting them with compassion and providing them with opportunities and tools to meaningfully participate and contribute to the recovery effort.

Sustainability – The plan must have sustainable recovery objectives, projects and activities. Long-term strategies should be sustainable and focused to ensure the recovery of vibrant communities that maintain a strong property tax revenue base.

Service Hub – The region currently services over 30,000 individuals, many in the energy and forestry sectors. The plan should ensure that the region continues to be a service hub that is able to take advantage of all available opportunities to maintain future stability and growth.

Timely – For successful recovery to occur, timely activities and assistance must be delivered through a coordinated and sequential process. Recovery programs and operations should be adaptable to meet evolving recovery needs.

Fairness – Provincial assistance should as a minimum, return the Lesser Slave Lake region to the same level of sustainability that existed prior to the wildfire disaster and provide an advantage only to the extent of offsetting the negative impacts of the disaster.

Preserve Culture – Continue to provide quality services and facilities that maintain the cultural integrity of the region.

Preserve Vision – The plan must consider the existing vision of the local communities.

Resiliency – For successful recovery to occur, communities should implement mitigation and resiliency strategies that maximize the ability to withstand and recover from future disasters.

Model – It is important that experiences associated with the Lesser Slave Lake region wildfires provide lessons learned that will translate into good practices and information resources applicable to future disasters in Canada.

It is recognized that the principles are not mutually exclusive and have elements of overlap. The principles will need to be balanced against one another in order to fulfill the purpose of this plan and achieve the vision of the Lesser Slave Lake region.

Stakeholders

Successful long-term recovery will depend on all stakeholders and every level of government working collaboratively. This section describes the recovery roles and responsibilities of: individuals and families; local, provincial and federal governments; businesses; and not-for-profit organizations.

Individuals and Families

The individuals and families in the region have begun the steps to recovery by returning to their homes or seeking temporary housing. They have returned to their employment, placed children back in school, begun the process of working with insurance companies and are seeking information on the process of rebuilding.

Local Governments

The Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation are responsible for leading and planning the recovery within their respective communities. They have also committed to working together as a joint council to achieve long-term recovery for the region.

Businesses

Local businesses have reopened in the Slave Lake region and are providing goods and services to residents. Businesses damaged or lost in the fire are working with insurance companies, seeking financial assistance through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) loans, and seeking business advice in order to re-establish their presence within the community.

Non Government Organizations (NGO)

The Alberta NGO Council has actively participated in the wildfire response and recovery and has been supporting the Slave Lake Region since the beginning of the disaster. They continue to play a key role in the delivery of needed support to their communities using non-profit/volunteer agencies.

Red Cross

The Red Cross was contracted by the Government of Alberta to work with municipal and provincial governments since the beginning of the disaster. Red Cross and Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs continue to work towards ensuring that residents are able to transition from temporary accommodations into

longer-term solutions. The Red Cross has committed to maintaining support to the Slave Lake Region over the next two years and has opened an office in the Town of Slave Lake.

Government of Alberta

The Government of Alberta provides a support role to the local government recovery. The Government of Alberta appointed the Slave Lake Regional Recovery Task Force to coordinate department support to the region and facilitate the recovery process.

Federal Government

The Government of Canada will provide financial assistance to Alberta through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), administered by Public Safety Canada (PSC).

Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

It is important that local leadership guides the community through recovery back to pre-disaster conditions. Local government primarily has this responsibility and a joint council, consisting of the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation, was established to provide this function. Government of Alberta support for the joint council is coordinated by the Slave Lake Regional Recovery Task Force and is fully supported by all Alberta government departments.

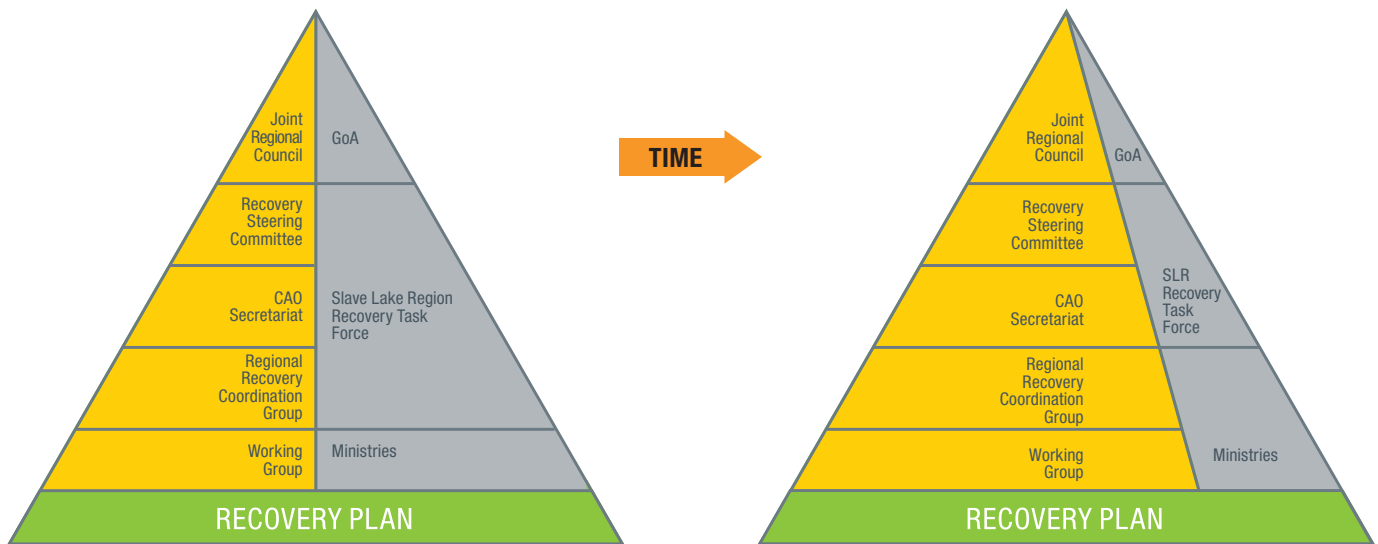
Regional Recovery Governance

There is no longer an immediate threat to life or property in the Lesser Slave Lake region from the wildfires. The objectives have shifted from response to recovery coordination. As such, the governance model has shifted from emergency operations to a recovery operations model. The Recovery Operations governance model in Figure 3 shows how responsibilities will

shift over time as recovery proceeds. The destruction of the town hall in Town of Slave Lake has strongly impacted the ability of the joint council to operate under normal procedures. A number of the records kept by the town have been destroyed and the town officials have been displaced into temporary offices. The Government of Alberta will continue to support the joint council as it develops full capacity to lead recovery planning and implementation.

An important component of the governance model is the Regional Recovery Coordination Group. This group has been identified through best practices with other disasters. Its role will be to coordinate the Lesser Slave Lake regional recovery activities and allow the local administration to concentrate on their normal responsibilities. It provides the mechanism to coordinate recovery activities at the local level while the joint council re-establishes normalcy and rebuilds the town hall.

Figure 3 Regional Recovery Governance Model



KEY

Regional

Government

CAO - Chief Administrative Officer
 GoA - Government of Alberta
 SLR - Slave Lake Region

Table 1 Overview of Organizations in the Recovery Governance

Regional Roles and Responsibilities	Government Roles and Responsibilities
<p>Joint Regional Council ROLE: Recovery planning oversight (consists of the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation)</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and provide regional objectives and priorities to the Recovery Steering Committee. • Provide regional coordination for steering and priority setting. • Communicate recovery information to residents. <hr/> <p>Recovery Steering Committee ROLE: Implementation oversight</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the implementation of the regional recovery operations. <hr/> <p>Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Secretariat ROLE: Local executive accountability</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide executive accountability for the development and implementation of the recovery plan. • Ensure that the municipalities' policies and programs are implemented. • Advise and inform the council on the operation of the municipalities and recovery plan ensuring appropriate staffing is in place. <hr/> <p>Regional Recovery Coordination Group (RRCG) ROLE: Implementation Coordination</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsive to the CAO Secretariat, the Regional Recovery Coordination Group will work closely with staff from local authorities and the SLRT to facilitate, coordinate and plan recovery projects. <hr/> <p>Working Group Leads ROLE: Local content and planning expertise</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop collaborative recovery plans with representatives from local authorities and the provincial government. This is built on input from the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, the Town of Slave Lake, and Sawridge First Nation. 	<p>Government of Alberta (GoA) ROLE: Government-wide oversight</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide executive oversight for overall government coordination and response. • Set priorities and make decisions related to funding. • Support the local authorities as needed to provide information to residents. • Communicate government programs to the region. <hr/> <p>Slave Lake Regional Recovery Task Force (SLRT) ROLE: Approval and decision making</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain communication and coordinate GoA planning activities taking into account information put forward by the Recovery Steering Committee, the Chief Administrative Officer Secretariat, the Regional Recovery Coordination Group, as well as other GoA departments. • Communicate with and report to Government of Alberta on the Lesser Slave Lake regional recovery. • Manage issues and provide direction and guidance where needed. • Coordinate and align projects with related department/organization initiatives. • Communicate/coordinate on matters within respective organizations and with other partners as required. • Develop policy and planning content in key areas. <hr/> <p>Ministries ROLE: Support plan implementation</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the day-to-day operations of the SLRT. • Facilitate the gathering of information to the SLRT for clear decision making paths. • Receive information from the Planning Group to assist with gathering the relevant information needed.

Decision Making

Decision-making will follow the governance model and roles and responsibilities laid out in this recovery plan. This will be done in a collaborative manner between the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation and the Government of Alberta.

Communications

The Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, Sawridge First Nation and Government of Alberta will maintain strong communications through regular planning meetings, reporting processes and timely updates. Communications with the public will also be an important ongoing component of the recovery process.

Regional Recovery Planning Framework

The plan considers four elements: people, environment, reconstruction and economy within the planning framework as outlined in Figure 4. The concept of local community remains at

the centre of each element and provides the lens through which all aspects of recovery are viewed. This approach embraces the regional community’s cultures, values, objectives and goals.

Figure 4 Recovery Framework



People

The highest priority is the overall physical, mental and social well-being of the residents of the Lesser Slave Lake region. This component focuses on aspects that ensure the right resources are in place to support the community’s needs.

Safety

Safety includes the provision of fire and police services, property safety assessments/clean up, site access and essential services such as potable water and sewage.

Health

Health care includes ensuring emergency care, acute care, long-term care and seniors’ health, public health and addictions and mental health activities are monitored over the longer term. This may also include community health assessments and long-term health care strategies if required.

Social well-being

Considerations for social well-being include activities related to community and group support, faith based activities, sports and education initiatives, interim housing and return-to-work support.

Environment

The Lesser Slave Lake region wildfires had significant impacts on the environment as a result of forest and urban destruction.

Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources

The fire event affected precious environmental assets on both public and private lands including a number of nature areas. This element focuses on activities related to water management, potential reforestation activities and management of parks, wildlife and pests. Monitoring of the air, water and soil quality is an essential activity during recovery.

Amenities

Amenities such as recreational facilities to provide leisure opportunities and enjoyment are an essential part of recovery operations. Projects to re-establish or enhance available amenities can assist in meeting the overall plan objective.

Waste and pollution management

Properly and effectively managing waste, particularly in landfills, is essential to the ongoing protection of human health and enhancement of the natural environment.

Reconstruction

The disaster affected approximately one-quarter of the Town of Slave Lake and a large number of properties in the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124. Damaged infrastructure included residential, commercial and public buildings as well as utilities. Prioritizing the needs of the community on a social and economic basis has to be taken into account for the re-establishment of a viable, attractive and sustainable community.

Residential, commercial and public buildings

Rebuilding infrastructure lost in the fire in a predetermined and timely manner is essential to community recovery.

Re-establish Insured Assets

A main component of the rebuild is to establish what is covered by insurance and focus on the rebuilding of those assets.

Architecture and Surveying

After the cleanup of debris, decisions regarding the establishment of architectural controls will need to be taken and the re-surveying of property lines may need to be completed.

Prevention

Steps should be taken to reduce the risk of similar disasters in the future. Adopting a FireSmart community is an option for exploration.

Information for Homeowners and Business Owners

With the diversity of the individual, home and business owners involved in the losses, information on rebuilding will have to be proactively provided.

Planning and Permits

Before rebuilding, careful attention has to be paid to the existing planning requirements and restrictions of the municipalities.

Inspection

The affected areas fall under the *Alberta Safety Codes Act* (Chpt S-1 RSA 2000) for permitting and inspections. At this time Alberta Municipal Affairs will permit, inspect, monitor and assist the municipalities to ensure construction is in compliance with the Act.

Utilities

It is imperative that water, sewer, gas, electricity, and private sewage systems are restored to safe operational levels.

Economy

The economic recovery of the region will help to ensure that people, business and industry, infrastructure and government in the region are able to return to normal. The plan will support the return of economic health in the region, and will help to enhance the economy and offset economic disadvantages experienced as a direct result of the disaster.

Individuals

Individuals require access to insurance adjusters and emergency financial services, career counseling and employment assistance.

Business

Businesses have been impacted by the disruption of service resulting in loss of income, goods due to spoilage and potentially clients and staff. Support could include loans, temporary office space, and advice on how to re-establish their presence within the community. Local labour supply may be impacted due to a loss of housing for employees.

Infrastructure, communications and transport planning

Restoration of effected communications, infrastructure and transportation links are vital to the recovery and enhancement of the local economy.

Government

Support of the local government in the Lesser Slave Lake region is imperative to assist with the economic recovery of the region. Intermediate and long-term supports will be put into place to assist local governments in their recovery goals.

Success Factors

In general, community recovery is successful if it overcomes the impacts of the disaster, re-establishes an economic and social base that instils confidence in the local citizens and businesses regarding viability, and rebuilds the community to be more resilient from future disasters.

A critical issue in defining recovery success is specifying when recovery is complete. Metrics (indicators) of

successful recovery are based on this end point. Recovery is also considered within the context of the trajectory of the community and not based solely on a static pre-disaster state. For example, successful recovery considers the previous population growth of the community not just the total population.

Table 2 Indicators of Successful Recovery

Indicator	Target
PEOPLE	
Population	Overall population in 2015 is consistent with the 2010 census data plus a growth based on historical and current local and provincial rate information.
ENVIRONMENT	
Environmental parameters	Soil, air, water and biodiversity monitoring show that there have been no long-term adverse impacts to the region due to the wildfire.
RECONSTRUCTION	
Rebuild	All destroyed or damaged structures have been rebuilt and growth rate for the community has been re-established.
ECONOMY	
Employment rate	Regional employment in 2015 is consistent with local historical reference and to provincial rates.

Measures for success for each individual project or activity in the plan are required to monitor overall success of the recovery. Government of Alberta departments will work with local authorities to implement these projects. Departments will develop detailed monitoring plans to ensure that the projects are meeting the objectives and goals to support the recovery as part of current business practices.

Recovery Plan Funding

This plan is, and will continue to be, supported to some extent by all levels of government including municipal, provincial and federal; not-for-profit organizations; and support through donations from individuals, agencies and businesses. The federal government will fund some aspects through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). The provincial government will fund some aspects through the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), and other aspects through special programs or financial approvals.

For example, to date, the Government of Alberta has allocated \$100 million for specific activities including both response and initial recovery. Some of these funds may eventually be recovered under the Federal cost-sharing portion of the DRP. A summary of these previously allocated funds is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of Initial Response and Stabilization Funding as of July 19, 2011

Program	Ministry Responsible	Amount
Business Loan Program	Agriculture and Rural Development	7 million
Emergency Relief Assistance Program	Employment and Immigration	14 million
Emergency Accommodation Program	Housing and Urban Affairs	5 million
Phase 1 Interim Housing	Housing and Urban Affairs	6 million
Red Cross Services Contract	Municipal Affairs	2 million
Security Fencing and Initial Clean-up	Municipal Affairs	2 million
Residential Property Tax for lost homes	Municipal Affairs	2 million
Regional Recovery Coordination Centre	Executive Council	2 million
Municipal Emergency/Fire Operations	Municipal Affairs	21 million
Town Of Slave Lake Infrastructure Work	Infrastructure	300,000
Phase 2 Interim Housing	Housing and Urban Affairs	18 million
Currently Unallocated		22.7 million
TOTAL		\$100 million

Previous Government of Alberta funding commitments, including capital expenditure projects, grants, and other programs for the Lesser Slave Lake region will continue, where possible. The Government of Alberta has also endorsed a number of projects for continuation and augmentation in the region that are important for recovery. These projects will continue and be funded through normal business planning practices and are outlined in Appendix 1 - Committed Department Funding/Projects and Disaster Recovery Program Funded Projects.

The Disaster Recovery Program will also fund costs associated with the response and infrastructure damage.

The success of the Recovery Plan is dependent on additional funding for special projects. This funding will address projects for the intermediate and long-term recovery needs of the Lesser Slave Lake region that are not covered by the other funding mechanisms, current programs or insurance.

Recovery Projects and Activities

The plan details the projects and activities that are required to meet the objectives for recovery. These projects have been provided by a number of sources including: recovery actions that are currently being undertaken or completed; joint council (local governments) projects; and Government of Alberta suggested projects.

Table 4 outlines 17 projects which have been proposed by the Town of Slave Lake, the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 and Sawridge First Nation.

Table 4 Special Projects for Recovery

Project Description	Govt Lead Ministry	Estimated Costs (\$)
PEOPLE		
Replacement of fire fighting resources	Municipal Affairs	590,000
Recovery Health Services Provision	Health and Wellness	2,000,000
Community Spirit - Commemorate and Celebrate	Culture and Community Spirit	50,000
Additional Municipal Support for next 3 years	Municipal Affairs	1,500,000
Establish capability for evacuation centre using combination of existing and new structures	Municipal Affairs	3,640,000
Mitsue by-pass / Intersection Upgrade (Hwy 88 - Hwy 2)	Transportation	2,000,000
RECONSTRUCTION		
Performance Monitoring	Executive Council	300,000
Expanded Widewater Firehall	Municipal Affairs	1,500,000
Reimbursement of off-site levies and permit for reconstruction	Municipal Affairs	250,000
Subsidize / provide incentives for FireSmart initiatives	Municipal Affairs / Sustainable Resource Development	20,000,000
Community Ball Diamond	Tourism Parks and Recreation	1,000,000

Table 4 Special Projects for Recovery continued

Project Description	Govt Lead Ministry	Estimated Costs (\$)
ECONOMIC		
Tax Relief / Revenue Stabilization	Municipal Affairs	6,000,000
Planning and advice via AB Finance and Enterprise	Finance and Enterprise	900,000
Increased water supply by linkages through South Shore, First Nation, Town, and Mitsue Industrial Park	Transportation	20,000,000
Mitsue Fire Station	Municipal Affairs	2,500,000
Regional transit from Driftpile to Smith	Transportation	1,000,000
ENVIRONMENT		
Berm or structure for noise barrier	Municipal Affairs/Sustainable Resource Development	1,000,000
TOTAL		\$64,230,000

Regional Recovery Projects Implementation

Projects supported by the Government of Alberta will be assigned to the appropriate ministries whose mandates best fit with the nature of the approved projects. As much as possible, the ministries will follow the normal mechanisms and processes already in place to administer and monitor funding to local authorities. The SLRT will be responsible to report on the overall recovery progress to Cabinet as required.

Conclusion

The devastating fire and full evacuation has had a significant impact on the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124, Town of Slave Lake and Sawridge First Nation. Families waited to hear whether their homes were burned and worried relatives wondered if their loved ones were safe. The various levels of government, the First Nations, not-for-profit organizations, the insurance industry and Alberta communities mobilized to support the victims of the fire. The overwhelming generosity of Albertans provided comfort, food, shelter and financial aid to those in need.

Continued support for the recovery efforts remains a priority for Albertans and this recovery plan provides important first steps.

This plan could not exist without the collaborative efforts of so many individuals during the fire, when the families returned home and during the stabilization process.

Recovery cannot be defined simply by the region's return to pre-disaster circumstances. Recovery is a success when it overcomes the impacts of disasters, and re-establishes an economic and social base that will enable future regional growth. Continued collaboration and support from all stakeholders will be a key enabler of success in the long-term recovery of the Lesser Slave Lake region.

Appendix 1

Summary of Committed Department Funding

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE
Support the development of Provincial Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Layers and primary key protocols to facilitate interoperability during emergency events	Municipal Affairs
Support the development of effective communication systems during emergency events to provide robust early warning system for region	Municipal Affairs/Sustainable Resource Development
Support the emergency warning system	Municipal Affairs
Support the development of clear insurance provisions with respect to fire/disaster and education	Finance and Enterprise
Support the development of a strategic regional emergency plan with First Nations and emergency agencies	Municipal Affairs
Support the development of specialized administrative training for emergencies	Municipal Affairs
Support the Slave Lake Region's efforts to recognize the efforts during the response and recovery of its citizens, neighbouring communities, supportive municipalities, province, federal government and business	Culture and Community Spirit
Review the need for insurance coordination strategies for large scale disasters	Finance and Enterprise
Monitor regions rental situation under the Residential Tenancy Act	Service Alberta
Develop recovery planning models and guidelines based on climate change extreme events	Municipal Affairs
Support development of permanent housing	Housing and Urban Affairs
Extra building and safety codes inspections and presence	Municipal Affairs
Support the Slave Lake Region in achieving a FireSmart community	Municipal Affairs/Sustainable Resource Development
Ensure reporting to utility companies to remove brush that can affect powerlines	Independent System Operation (ISO)
Investigate the transfer of SRD lands in area of Hwy 88 and Hwy 2 to Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, No. 124 control	Sustainable Resource Development
Utilize Alberta Job Corps or Work Force Development to support reconstruction and initiatives (such as FireSmart)	Employment and Immigration
Support access to GIS Implementation and Legacy from fire and non-patented lands, and to Geographic Land Information Management Planning System (GLIMPS)	Sustainable Resource Development
Facilitate regional discussions between the Town of Slave Lake, Municipal District of Lesser Slave River, No. 124 to support regional recovery	Executive Council (Slave Lake Region Recovery Task Force)
Provide advice on approvals required to ensure the municipal water supply requirements and navigational safety of watercraft in the Lesser Slave River	Alberta Environment
Ongoing environmental monitoring	Alberta Environment