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Slave Lake shares Wisdom Gained on recovery from the 2011 wildfire

Slave Lake ... The Town of Slave Lake has captured many of its experiences based on its recovery from the 2011 wildfire. A Wisdom Gained report highlights the many aspects of disaster recovery that a municipality faces, and offers helpful suggestions.

“Planning to deal with unexpected disasters is important”, reflects outgoing Mayor of Slave Lake Karina Pillay-Kinnee. “We have a long history of fires and we prepare for and fight wildfires, but no one anticipated the unprecedented winds and firestorm of the 2011 Wildfire.”

“Town staff and area stakeholders wanted to share what they learned so that other communities could be better prepared for unexpected disasters,” says Pillay-Kinnee.

The Town asked the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) to help gather this information. The resulting report, *Wisdom Gained*, offers a glimpse into the experiences of Town Council, staff and stakeholders. It also provides checklists that other communities can use to prepare for and recover from major calamities.

“Communities in Alberta and elsewhere are experiencing challenges as a result of natural disasters,” says NADC chair Pearl Calahasen, who is also MLA for Lesser Slave Lake. “This resource will be valuable to all communities working to recover from extraordinary events.”

The report is unique in that it focusses on recovery from a municipal perspective. Topics such as community and staff wellness, Council considerations, communications, donations, helping residents rebuild and waste management offer many useful suggestions.

“The NADC is pleased to have helped the town to share and debrief from very challenging experiences”, adds Calahasen.

The *Wisdom Gained* report is now available online on both the Town and NADC websites: www.slavelake.ca and www.nadc.ca. The NADC office will mail printed reports on behalf of the Town to all northern communities in August 2013.

For more information about the Town of Slave Lake’s website at www.slavelake.ca.

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