



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Immediate Assistance Fund accepting cash donations for the community of Slave Lake**

**Medicine Hat, Alberta (May 24, 2011)** – Sixteen years ago, the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta proudly made its inaugural grant, one of assistance to the City of Medicine Hat after 1995’s devastating flooding.

Today, the Community Foundation reminds those in our region that the foundation is available to assist charitable organizations through the Immediate Assistance Fund.

“The Immediate Assistance Fund began two years ago to collect donations for those affected by the economic downturn,” said executive director Mike Christie. “In 2010 we used this fund for those affected by the flood, this year we are opening up the fund to collect cash donations for our neighbors in Slave Lake.”

Anyone interested in donating money to those left devastated by the fire in Slave Lake can give to the Immediate Assistance Fund. Money will then be distributed to the Edmonton and Grande Prairie Community Foundations who have also set up Immediate Assistance Funds to be used exclusively for those affected by the fire of Slave Lake. In a departure from the foundation’s normal endowed funds, this fund is non-endowed and immediately benefits the community.

“Typically the funds collected here at the Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta are used for the area we serve,” said executive director Mike Christie. “However, are encouraged to see the community banding together to help the recent victims in Slave Lake and want to give the community another option to donate.”

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations to the fund. Donations can be made at the Community Foundation office located at 104 – 430 6<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 2S8. Online donations can also be made through the Canada Helps icon on the foundation website, [www.mhcf.ca](http://www.mhcf.ca)

For more information, please contact the office at (403) 527-9038.