



The United Church of Canada L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

M E M O

To: Regional Council Members in the three eastern regions of The United Church of Canada

From: Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister

Date: August 13, 2025

Re: Wildfires in the Atlantic Provinces

The wildfires in Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have caused devastating damage and continue to threaten our homes and communities. These fires are causing significant emotional and physical distress, damage, and property loss. The destruction is devastating to our natural habitat and the homes of our wildlife. We need each other's support and prayers as we navigate the challenges of evacuation, relocation, and eventually, rebuilding. Let us hold tenderly those who are getting news that their homes have been destroyed. Let us also remember that our young people, along with their coaches and families who have gathered in Newfoundland & Labrador for the Canada Summer Games, have had their joy overshadowed by the threat that these wildfires bring. Please pay attention to the authorities and the alerts, as it is for the safety of all of us.

We are grateful for all those who are working tirelessly to keep the fires under control and extinguished. I am sure there is a heavy personal toll that they and their families carry. Thank you to our leaders who have been working around the clock for the safety of our people, and the provinces that have been able to send help in these devastating situations.

These wildfires are very scary for many people either directly or indirectly. If you are affected now or in the future, it is very important to care for yourself and your family members. In the midst of such uncertainty, it is good to know that there are places to seek help. Please reach out to your local church community, your colleagues, your minister, and our regional council offices. If there is anything that local churches can do to give assistance for those who are displaced and in comfort centers, please do so by reaching out to the local authorities.

Please continue to hold everyone affected by the wildfires in constant prayer.

Let us pray,

Caring God, you set our lives on a planet where both beauty and danger are found. We acknowledge before you the fear and anxiety that come in the wake of devastating disaster. Help us to recognize that in the depth of our being we are not alone, that you are truly present in these painful hours. Hear our prayers for those who are facing the destruction of fire and the loss of place. Grant tenderness, strength, and wisdom to those who are on the front lines and to all who assist them to minister to the human need. We pray for the fauna who are struggling to survive. May we be moved by compassion, and share willingly and generously where it is needed. May we each be called to do our part to tend to the healing of one another and all of creation. May we always know we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.