



March 4, 2016

Press Release

For Immediate Release

## Qalipu and Red Cross partner to prepare First Nation communities

Corner Brook, NL—Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation will partner with the Canadian Red Cross to offer Disaster Management training to members in First Nation communities within the Qalipu Wards. This will be the first time that this program will be offered in partnership with a First Nation in Atlantic Canada.

Judy Bond, Red Cross Coordinator for the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Service Centre, notes that disasters can happen at any time, often without warning and it's important to be prepared.

"Flooding, fires, serious storms and other emergency situations can leave you and your family without electricity or access to the supplies you need. The Disaster management and emergency preparedness training we will offer in partnership with Qalipu will raise awareness of those risks and how to plan to function for 72 hours independently if help is unavailable."

Brendan Mitchell, Chief of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation, is pleased to work with the Canadian Red Cross to offer this training to members.

"Our mandate is to support our people in every way possible. Providing membership with an opportunity for this kind of training, to be ready for some of the difficult moments in life that are sure to arise, we are so thankful that the Red Cross has approached our Nation to work together on this."

The first of these two sessions will be launched on March 18<sup>th</sup> in St. George's at the K'taqmkuk Mi'kmaw Museum, and in Flat Bay on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Flat Bay Band Office. Training for both sessions will be from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Registration for this session is free, space is limited.

For more information, or to register, please contact Judy Bond at (709) 634-4626 or by email at [judy.bond@redcross.ca](mailto:judy.bond@redcross.ca)

Members are advised that this training will also be offered in each Ward in the future. Stay tuned for dates in your area.

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