

# Here for You

## Public Information Session #29

February 18 2017

Multicultural Expo// 11am – 6pm

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**Public Participation:** 61 Residents

**Internal Participation:** Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force

**Partner Participation:** N/A

### **Background:**

- The 2016 Wildfire continues to have a prominent impact on many residents across the community. As the RMWB is a very diverse community, the Multicultural expo is an opportunity to reach out to a wide variety of cultures living in the region, specific to recovery issues.
- The Q&A provided to residents included information specific to recovery, including: Firesmart, Hazardous Tree Removal, Trail Remediation, Firebreak Restoration, Addictions and Mental Health Supports, Insurance, Red Cross supports and Financial Assistance.

### **Feedback from Residents:**

- Many residents are happy with the recovery efforts, including Firesmart. One resident was extremely specific, noting,
  - “RE: Birchwood trails Firesmart - the consideration given to the overall forest health was impressive. We noticed the fruiting bodies of many fungi were deliberately left in the areas where the spores could feed the soil. It's nice to see the entire system's health considered, including soil and fungal species - not just trees / animals. Well done”
- Communication via social media was appreciated during the evacuation. It should not be overlooked in the case of another emergency
- Making sure that the region is prepared in case of another wildfire should be critical
- Privacy has now become an issue for many citizens, as the clearings created from Firebreaks have now created openings behind their house that were not there before the fire
- Residents are still experiencing issues with their insurance providers
- More services offered in different languages would appeal to a broader, multicultural audience

### **Next Sessions:**

Friday, February 24

5 pm-8pm

WinterPLAY at the Syne

Saturday, February 25

10 am- 8pm

WinterPLAY at the Syne

Sunday, February 26

10 am- 8pm

WinterPLAY at the Syne



Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



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