

Emergency Response
United Church Responds to Attawapiskat
December 8, 2011

The housing crisis in Attawapiskat is real and immediate. Sadly however, many Aboriginal communities across Canada face similar deplorable living conditions. In the long term, Canada must prevent such crises by addressing the ongoing social needs and structural obstacles that restrict the lives of Aboriginal people in this country.

The United Church of Canada is responding by

- contributing \$10,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society for immediate needs in Attawapiskat as recommended by the community of Attawapiskat itself, the Assembly of First Nations, and the ecumenical coalition KAIROS. This money comes from The Ann Baker Estate Trust Fund.
- creating a financial pool, as part of its Justice and Reconciliation Fund, to enable an immediate and effective response to emergent needs in Aboriginal communities that may arise in the future.
- continuing its advocacy with and for Aboriginal people to have the federal government meaningfully address outstanding land claims, unfulfilled treaty rights, and underfunded education and living conditions in Aboriginal communities.

Please pray for the people of Attawapiskat and others facing dire housing and infrastructure shortfalls.

We welcome support to the Emergent Needs pool of the Justice and Reconciliation Fund. You can make a donation by going to The United Church of Canada's home page (www.united-church.ca) or by going directly to the announcement (<http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/response/111208>).

We also invite you to add your voice to calls for just solutions by writing the government. Visit the KAIROS website (www.Kairoscanada.org) for background information on the situation in Attawapiskat and to support the coalition's appeal for action and support.