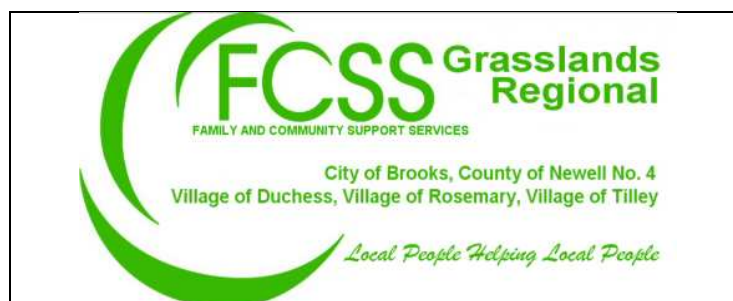

XL Foods
Community Response Committee
Final Report

Tuesday March 12, 2013

Submitted to: Joint Services Committee
City of Brooks and County of Newell

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Grasslands Regional FCSS Society



XI FOODS COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

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XL Foods Layoff

Community Response Committee

Final Report

BACKGROUND

Located within the Newell County, the City of Brooks has been transformed from a socially conservative and mostly Caucasian town to what has often been described as the most diverse place in Canada, often call the 'City of 100 Hello's'. Brooks has become a vibrant microcosm of the world embracing a rich, diverse mosaic of cultures.¹

Much of what has driven the changing demographics is JBS Canada (formerly *XL Foods Inc*) or Lakeside Packers as it is more commonly known. Lakeside began operations in 1966 and today employs over 2200 workers. Located just outside of the City of Brooks, the plant is a major employer in our area and depends on immigrant employees to fill positions at the plant. Global recruitment patterns has meant ever-changing demographics within the City of Brooks and continuous evolution of appropriate services and programs for the newcomer population.

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE XL FOODS LAYOFF

On September 27, 2012, an estimated 200 probationary staff were laid off at the XL Foods meat packing plant with the remaining 2000 workers receiving layoffs on October 13th. The XL Foods layoff had the potential to have a devastating impact on the XL workers, their families and all community sectors. What we saw instead was the determination of the workers to stay in our community and a response from all levels of government, community and funders that provided hope and concrete help for workers and their families.

An immediate need was identified for workers to apply for EI with all levels of government involved. Additional federal, provincial and non-profit Human Service staff resources were brought into Brooks to ensure efficient processing of EI applications through the offices of Canada Services Centre, Alberta Works, Brooks & County Immigration (BCIS) and the SPEC Association for Children and Families (SPEC) Links Program. During this time, all levels of government were kept fully apprised of the situation through our municipal councilors and staff. It should be noted that an estimated 200 workers live in Medicine Hat and it is likely that EI applications and emergency services were provided there.

¹ Pye-Matheson, Lynn (2011) *Brooks: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities Over Time*. Strathmore, AB:Opening Doors Conference

On October 16, members of the City of Brooks/County of Newell Joint Services Committee met to discuss the XL Foods situation. Also in attendance were Grasslands Regional FCSS and Alberta Culture representatives. The Joint Services Committee requested that Grasslands Regional FCSS coordinate a community response to the layoff. FCSS initiated a call-out for the roundtable held on October 17 facilitated by Alberta Culture's Community Development Unit and Grasslands Regional FCSS - these two organizations continued to co-facilitate the community meetings.

On October 17, forty-one representatives from all levels of government, business, education, government services organizations, health and non-profits sectors met at an *XL Foods Community Roundtable* to discuss an emergency, short-term community response to the crisis. From October 17, 2012 to December 17, 2012, CRC members identified pressure points, service and program priorities, capacity within specific organizations and acted to ensure the XL Foods workers' needs were being met.

On February 11, 2013, CRC members met to discuss the XL Foods community response and develop key recommendations for future community responses to large scale community crises including the role of the Community Response Committee.

Financial and in-kind support was raised from a variety of sources to support the XL Foods workers. Funders, community organizations and community residents responded primarily to the peak need for resources during the seven week period following the mass layoff on October 13. Financial and in-kind resource allocation included the City of Brooks and County of Newell Councilors and CAOs, The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta, the United Way, JBS USA, private donations, St. Vincent de Paul, Churches, the Salvation Army, the EID Ministerial, Canadian Red Cross, UFCW Local 401, local businesses and residents, the Town of Strathmore, the City of Calgary, Alberta Culture, Community Development Unit and Grasslands Regional FCSS. In some cases, expenses exceeded estimated needs and organizations generously over-contributed by fundraising or freeing up additional funds within their budget: The final cash contribution is estimated to be \$194,058.28 and several thousand manpower/in-kind services hours were contributed to the crisis (Appendix A)

The response to the XL Foods layoff is another example of the deep commitment which people feel toward their communities. This is a story of the XL workers resilience and sense of community belonging and the willingness of government and all sectors to work together for the 'greater good' to give members of our communities a hand up when times are tough.

Community Response Committee

Purpose: To examine the community impact as a result of the XL Foods plant close and develop a short-term, coordinated response with potential to develop a longer term Community Response Action Plan.

From October 17, 2012 to February 11, 2013, CRC members identified priority needs, key pressure points, service and program priorities, capacity within organizations and actions to ensure the XL Foods workers' needs were being met. Meetings were co-facilitated by Julie Friesen, Alberta Culture, Community Development Unit and Lynn Pye-Matheson, Grasslands Regional FCSS.

CRC MEETINGS SUMMARY

ROUNDABLE: October 17, 2012

CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE (CRC)

Focus on:

XL Workers and emergent, primary needs

Basic Assistance Needs:

- Food: Clothing; Housing; Medical; Financial; Transportation ; Language appropriate services.

Employment

- Employment Insurance: immediate and follow-up support for applications and reporting
- Job Opportunities with focus on retaining workers in the area
- Resume Services
- Potential for Job Fair if needed

Fundraising/Community Building Events

- Food Drive; Community Barbecue

Support for Situational Stress

- Build into other services or specific counselling services

Retention of XL Foods employees in our communities

- Critical to the workers and their families
- To ameliorate the negative impact to all sectors and the community at large

Key pressure points

Resource capacity to accommodate:

- Financial and social supports to potentially 2000+ workers
- Language and cultural differences
- Differing status of workers: refugees; temporary foreign workers; economic, sponsored; permanent residents; Canadian born.

Actions:

- Concrete resources and mechanisms put in place
- A *Community Response Team Contact List* created
- *Community Priorities and Service Providers Chart* created
- Circulation of Charts to Service Providers.
- Regular FCSS Updates to Community Partners and Key Stakeholders

COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE MEETING: October 24

Focus on:

- Sharing information regarding the impact of the lay-off
- Key pressure points and emerging needs
- Need to simplify mechanisms for workers to access available resources and to avoid duplication by creating formal points of entry/central screening points
- Need to ensure consistency and detailed understanding of services being offered for XL Foods workers/ clearly defined services.

Actions:

- An *Emergency Service Providers* sub-committee formed
- Emergency Service providers pooled/expanded resources
- An *Emergency Service Flow Chart* was created
- Flow Chart widely circulated to all CRC members and those working with former XL employees
- Regular Updates provided by FCSS

Note: SPEC' Links Program and BCIS expanded their regular services and took the lead to conduct initial needs assessments, develop action plans, provide advocacy and referrals to other key resources. Together, all Emergency Service Providers worked tirelessly with a focus on people having their needs met while ensuring that finite resources were allocated to those that most needed help.



COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE MEETING: November 5

Focus On Key Pressure Points:

End of October and beginning of November

- Workers returned to work November 1st with reduced hours
- No paycheques
- The 2 week waiting period for EI
- May be some cheques coming in
- Rent and mortgage payments are due

Mid November

- Pressures on Food Bank
- There may be workers without pay for a month
- Are banks willing to go to interest payments only? How long are the arrangements at the banks going to be?

December 1

- May be a utility bill crisis. If the workers weren't able to pay their November bill, they are already a month behind.

Actions:

- Creation of a "Do You Need Help" multi-language Poster (City of Brooks Communications; Alberta Works; SPEC; FCSS; BCIS)
- FCSS contact banks and landlords
- SPEC and BCIS will advocate for clients
- Regular FCSS Updates to Community Partners and Key Stakeholders

Volume 16 Issue 178 Brooks and Area Weather

Brooks Online	Today Mainly Cloudy -2	Saturday Sun & Cloud High 2 Low -4	Sunday Sunny High 5 Low -3
	NASDAQ 3,020.06 ▲ DOW 13,232.62 ▲ TSE 12,499.76 ▲ NATURAL GAS \$3.67 ▼ OIL PRICE \$8		

Donations To Help XL Lakeside Workers

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta delivered a \$10,000 Vital Impact grant cheque to FCSS through the City of Brooks on Tuesday. The money will be used to assist individual needs, such as accommodations, utilities and health costs.

While workers have gone back, the Community Foundation notes that those probation or are temporary foreign workers are in even tighter financial constraints. As it is, pay cheques will not be issued until November 9th, at the earliest.

The Brooks Response Committee has recognized the complexity of the individual needs and have coordinated and motivated an excellent community response. While the situation is improving all the time, hundreds of people are in distress and in need.

The most obvious needs to be faced in the upcoming weeks will be keeping people fed and warm.

The Community Foundation will also match donations. If each dollar is matched, a total of \$30,000 will be donated to provide relief for those affected by the closure of the Lakeside Plant.

JBS USA, which has taken over management of the plant, also donated \$20,000 to the Brooks Food Bank. The UFCW also donated \$20,000 to the Food Bank.

The Brooks Red Cross collected 1000 pounds of food yesterday in Stuff the Bus. Others in the community are helping out with many of the schools also collecting for the Food Bank.

The good news is that XL Lakeside has announced that all shifts are back operating.

A Giving Community
November 2nd, 2012

COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE MEETING: November 26

Focus On Key Pressure Points:

- December: 2 week layoff (if it happens)
- November 30 to December 14
 - Rent and utilities are due
 - For evictions, landlords must give 14 days notice.
 - Finally getting paid but it is not much
- January (another pressure point if 2 week layoff happens)

Check Up of Community Responses

What has worked well?

- Putting this group together so quickly
- Constant updating
- Every agency set their time aside to get together for a common goal
- Pride in community was shown
- Have a “small town spirit” for a city
- Relationship of the group – information sharing
- Documents brought clarity
- Facilitators have been excellent
- Communication to their own group
- Worked well for clients, having 2 points of entry and people knew they had a spot to go. Having accurate, timely information
- Much more aware of the supports that are available in Brooks
- More formalized structures
- Shows welcoming and inclusive community and this develops trust
- Wonderful agencies
- Increased knowledge of what’s provided by organizations
- The municipalities are very impressed with all the agencies that came together and relationship building that occurred.
- The willingness to do whatever it takes to get something done

Recommendations:

- Better communication with the beneficiaries or clients with what is going on from their point of view. More feedback.
- More information from Service Canada
 - Such as not getting paid for the two week waiting period
 - Fact sheets

Actions:

Plan In the Event of a Two Week Layoff in December

- St. Vincent de Paul is comfortable to go into January
- Food Bank –Difficult to provide additional food after Christmas. The number of hampers will go up and there will be a need for food between January and March. Food Bank will be having a board meeting on December 10th. If things stay the same, it will go into April by the time they catch up.
- Red Cross is comfortable to go into January. They have allocated \$10,000
- Salvation Army probably can continue into January
- The Well can probably continue into January
- SPEC can continue into January
- BCIS can probably continue into January
- Alberta Works can continue into January
- FCSS will continue to do Updates and Coordination
- Alberta Culture and FCSS will continue facilitation if necessary prior to Review and Recommendations meeting.

Good News For XL Plant **XL Can Ship Beef** **To US Market Again**

Since the Canadian government gave the go ahead for production to resume at the XL Lakeside Plant, the weekly hours per shift have been reduced. Without a United States market to ship beef to, production was reduced.

The company had indicated that for full production to be restored and weekly shifts back to regular hours, the border had to be open to the United States.

The Americans closed it quickly once E-Coli was discovered in products from the XL Plant in September. Even though the CFIA gave the plant the go ahead, it becomes very political in the United States, as they become protective of their cattle industry.

As of Saturday, the border did open, which will mean production at the plant can get back to producing at levels it was before.

That is good news for workers who were receiving less in wages. That has a trickle down effect to the entire local economy.

Alberta Agriculture Minister Verlyn Olson called it very good news for the province, beef producers, employees and employers at the

plant, and for the community of Brooks.

Brooks Wildrose MLA Jason Hale said, "The news beef exports from XL Foods can resume to the U.S. is a relief to the community of Brooks and indeed the province of Alberta. The recall of the beef products and subsequent temporary closure of the plant resulted in hardships on the workers, ranchers and community.

The resumption of exports to the U.S. indicates the situation has stabilized, which is certainly welcome news in my constituency of Strathmore – Brooks. We must remain vigilant that this never happens again.

While the recall was a devastating event, the community pulled together to overcome this challenge. With co-operation of the CFIA, the federal, provincial and local governments, as well as the community as a whole, Brooks and its partners pulled together when it counted."

"I look forward to a full investigation into the incident so we might learn how to prevent this from happening in the future," Hale concluded.

Brooks Online
December 10th, 2012

COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE MEETING: February 11

On February 11, 2013, CRC members met to discuss the XL Foods community response and to develop key recommendations for future community responses to large scale community crises.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

What Worked?

- Tools development for XL Foods and future crises.
- Central Coordination
- Constant Updates
- Planning Process
- Collaboration and Teamwork Worked to:
 - a. C.R.C. – discussions and honesty at the table
 - We knew who could do what
 - Figure out solution together
 - No one organization feels responsible
 - b. Strengthen community partnerships
 - c. How fast community coordinated
 - d. C.R.C. continued analysis and identified pressure points for planning
 - e. People did not move out “EN MASSE: contribute to Sense of belonging
 - f. Increased awareness of what is available in community
 - g. Trust and respect for each other’s mandates
 - h. Good job on impact analysis
 - i. Positive press
 - Positive image of community
 - Positive shift in how people view community (within and broadly)
 - j. Coming together and sharing information about what we all do
 - Determine priorities and who could respond
 - k. No increase in crime
 - l. Increased community capacity
 - m. People became aware of all the resources and help available to them
 - n. Employees are now more grateful for jobs
 - o. Employees are thinking about other opportunities and options
 - p. This is “Home”
 - q. Benefit to community far outweighed the cost
 - r. Skill level of staff working with clients
 - Different languages
 - s. Eye opener to community/councils about community strengths
 - t. FCSS coordination and committee coming together within 24 hours and ongoing
 - u. All levels of government and series came together efficiently, effectively and quickly.

Learnings:

- Community and government putting aside individual mandates to work together and address issues and participate fully
- Crisis brings people together
 - Learning
 - Excitement
 - Proved their collective strength
- Even if we have lived here a long time, we learned even more about what was here
 - Gaps identified
 - Learned about other services , programs, organizations
- Brought everyone together and responded to what was 'in front of you'
- Developed Emergency Response Tools
- Gave confidence to people and helped them feel this was home
- Understanding of different perspectives - e.g. Economic impact
- Diversity of staff – diversity of languages
- Got organizations together right away
 - Found out what each other does
 - Mapped out visually – timelines, impact, pressure points
 - Clear process with good planning tools
- Lakeside not at table made it very difficult to plan and respond without information from them.
- Word of mouth powerful way of getting word out



Grasslands Regional FCSS and the Brooks Alliance Church host a Thank You Luncheon for Community Response Committee December 12th

Everyone Returns To Work Today

After scattered shifts were returning to work at XL Lakeside this week, word came yesterday that all shifts are to report today.

This was the announcement, “**XL Lakeside announces that all employees are to report for work at their regular start times and shifts for November 1st.**”



This is great news for the 2200 workers, for the cattle industry and for the community.

There had been talk that some workers had left the community, but with few options, that was unlikely. The community also came together quickly to help in the immediate needs of the workers.

Beef Producers Meeting In Brooks Tonight

The topic of discussion at the Alberta Beef Producers meeting will likely be XL Lakeside. The Zone 1 meeting is at Bow Slope, with a free supper at 6:00 pm and the meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

Science Director, Beef Cattle Research Council, Reynold Bergen, will be the guest speaker.

Workers Return to Work!!

Brooks Online
November 1st, 2012

XL WORKERS POST-SERVICE PROVISION QUESTIONNAIRE

This short, informal Questionnaire was created to provide the opportunity to give feedback about the services received during the crisis and whether assistance increased a sense of belonging. It also helped community service providers ensure that available resources assisted those impacted to remain in the community and resume/find other employment.

Sample Size: 15 Individuals

1. How were you helped?

- Alberta Works helped with EI application and job search/resume.
- Service Canada issued EI until I returned to work.
- Service Canada helped with EI application.
- SPEC helped to phone bank and landlord
- Food Bank and St. Vincent De Paul helped with Food and winter clothing
- Salvation Army helped with clothing, too.
- Alberta Works helped with job search ad resume but not rent- we had to make payment arrangements with the landlord.
- A lot. Service Canada helped with EI application and the EI benefits helped us.
- Alberta Works helped with dental emergency, job search and IQAS application.
- Food Bank helped with regular hampers.
- St. Vincent De Paul helped out with bills
- Service Canada helped with EI application but was denied benefits for as not enough hours.
- SPEC referred my family and I for food, winter , gas voucher, help with rent and utilities
- Alberta Works help with resume and job search. Did not qualify for financial help.
- Food Bank was a great help with the Food Hampers.
- Service Canada helped with EI application but was denied benefits for insufficient hours.
- SPEC helped my family go to St. Vincent de Paul to get help with our rent and power bill
- Alberta Works help with resume and job search. Did not qualify for financial help.
- SPEC helped me talk to my bank so I could miss a mortgage payment
- Food Bank was a great help with the Food Hampers.
- Service Canada helped with the EI application and the EI benefits helped.
- Alberta Works could not help financially yet they did help with job search. He also job searched from home.
- Newell Housing denied the Rental Supplement.
- The Food Bank did not help and because he was fairly new to Brooks did not feel he knew the community well enough.
- BCIS referred me to the Red Cross for help with my prescriptions.

2. Did the assistance enable you to return to work at_____?

Yes 14

No 1

Comments:

Yes

- The radio ads were helpful in keeping us informed as to what was going on.
- The call from my XL Foods Supervisor to ask us to return to work was also helpful
- Yes. The radio ad and call from XL Foods kept us informed with what to expect and when we were expected back to work
 - Yes, in addition to the Radio Ads and the call from the XL Food Supervisor to return to work. Information on the TV was informative and helped.
 - Yes, in addition to the radio ads and the call from L Food were helpful in keeping us informed as to what to expected and when to return to work.
 - Brooks Facebook messages were also very helpful and encouraging
 - The EI did help and he was able to return to p/t work within 4 weeks, so that meant in had some incoming income.
 - The radio Ads were very helpful and the XL Food call in

No

I found a job in the oil industry.

3. Did the assistance enable you to stay in your community?

Yes 15

No ____

Comments:

- Yes, especially the Food Bank and the Church support
- Both the initial help from the community and then later the EI benefits helped us stay. The family recently moved to Brooks in July 2012 and were any way adjusting to life in Brooks, so they were not prepared to leave because of a crisis
- Yes, in addition to the supportive network of friends in Brooks helped them stay
- Moving is expensive and has a wife and 2 children under age 2 yrs. He knew XL was going to reopen and it was only a matter of time. He has supportive coworkers and appreciates the community spirit so was not going to move at the first challenge
- When I needed help I went to SPEC and they helped me get the help. I do not speak English very well and they translated and went with me to get help.

4. Did the assistance increase your sense of belonging in the community?

Yes 15

No ____

Comments:

- Yes. If I go to any other community I always want to come back to Brooks because of the people here.
 - Yes, we felt really cared for and that everyone was reaching out to help in any way possible
 - Yes, the community concern and response made us feel very welcomed
 - Yes, it did increase
 - The people at work, Church and in the Brooks Community are caring and friendly. This really helps make Brooks home and gives a sense of belonging. The emotional support is what got us through the crisis.
 - We want to stay in Brooks because our friends and family are here
 - We feel safe in Brooks and know the community cares as we found out after we were laid off
 - We would want to help others like we were helped
5. Any other comments.
- Thank you. Expressed sincere gratitude
 - No overtime at JBS currently is resulting in financial hardship as they depend on the overtime for additional funds.
 - Expressed that they are very grateful for the Brooks Community and the support.
 - It has been a difficult financial adjustment and recovery

We know that an estimated 2000 workers returned to work meaning that the plant lost only 200 workers. It is this writer's understanding that this is a number not inconsistent during regular plant operation. Although the Post-Service Questionnaire sample size is small (15), results indicate that a variety of services were accessed and that services assisted XL workers to remain in the community and return to work. Respondents also stated that the assistance/community response increased their sense of community belonging and expressed gratitude that the community reached out to help them.

Note: Thank You to Alberta Works for assisting FCSS in collecting feedback from XL Workers

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Demonstrated need for Central Coordination
2. Make use of Emergency Response Tools created.
3. Ensure established Point/s of Entry for Screening
4. Consider establishing a Central Screening and Resource Location
5. Collect Post-Service Questionnaires throughout process to optimize feedback.
6. Immediate Outreach to ensure those impacted are informed of available resources:
 - i. Posters “Do You Need Help?” to include contact information for central screening points in different languages to persons impacted and key services (health facilities and clinics, schools, non-profits; post offices; government offices) businesses (work sites; grocery stores; banks; community gathering places; landlords).
 - ii. Circulate Posters through Websites/ Facebook/ Twitter
 - iii. Media Releases: Government; Radio; Newspapers
7. Build mechanisms and strong relationship prior to/at the beginning of crisis for involvement and information flow with meat packing plant/other relevant employers/key stakeholders so employees get available resources information when given their Record of Employment
8. Public Awareness: Put word out right away to general public because they want to help clarifying how they help and specific information:
 - What is needed
 - Who to contact for more information
 - Where to go to donate time/money/other resources.
9. Fundraising: establish one pot of money/central location for collecting donations
 - Easier for donors
 - Easier to distribute
 - Planning and leverage
 - Coordinated, consistent dollar amount for vouchers
 - Diligence in identifying need
10. Emergency Response Action Plan:
 - Complement or Link with Disaster Services Plan (EOC)
 - FCSS meet with Kevin Swanson, Fire Chief and Disaster Services Manager
 - Share with other communities
11. Future role for Community Response Committee:
 - Meet annually in January or February to:
 - i. Share Information
 - ii. Review response/tools/resources to potential large scale community crisis.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS (Appendix A)

FCSS gathered information shared at the CRC meetings and the Emergency Service Providers sub-committee to develop tools which were used to provide clarity and common understanding/agreement of the process and resources available throughout the crisis.

These Tools Included::

- i. Community Response Committee Contact List
- ii. Community Priorities and Service Providers Chart
- iii. *Do You Need Help?* multi-language poster
- iv. Emergency Service Providers Flow Chart
- v. Timelines and Key Pressure Points Charts
- vi. Common Screening Tool
- vii. Post-Service Provision Questionnaire to those receiving services
- viii. Process and Timelines Chart
- ix. XL Foods FCSS Updates
- x. Services and Expenditures Summary Chart.

FUNDING AND GRANTS (Appendix B and C)

Financial and in-kind support was contributed from a variety of sources:

- Alberta Culture: Facilitation and Fund Development
- Alberta Works: Financial Assistance Program for eligible XL workers; EI Applications
- BCIS : Central Screening and Referrals; EI Applications
- Canadian Red Cross: up to \$10,000
- City of Brooks donated 3 months free rent to the Brooks Food Bank; Communication; Fund Development; Media
- EID Ministerial/ Churches: Various cash contributions from churches within the County of Newell
- Community Foundation of Southeast Alberta agreed to provide a 10,000 Relief Grant. to The City of Brooks for St. Vincent de Paul to administer rent and utilities assistance to XL Foods Workers. The Foundation also agreed to match up to an additional \$10,000 for worker assistance. City and County Councilors, CAO's and Staff contributed as part of the matching grant.
- Grasslands Regional FCSS: Coordination , Facilitation, Information Gathering, Reporting, Fund Development; Media
- Salvation Army: up to \$25,000 for Gas Vouchers and Winter wear (WalMart Vouchers)
- Service Canada: EI Applications
- SPEC: Central Screening and Referrals; EI Applications

Note: Expenditures exceeded original commitment for some contributors: St. Vincent de Paul; Salvation Army.

Note: Above organizations also had representation around the Community Response Committee table.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Alberta Works
- Alliance Church
- Brooks & County Immigration Services
- Brooks Food Bank
- Canadian Red Cross
- City of Brooks
- Community Foundation of Southeast Alberta
- Community Response Committee members
- County of Newell
- EID Ministerial
- Grasslands Regional FCSS
- Government of Alberta: Alberta Works and Alberta Culture
- Government of Canada: Service Canada
- Media: Brooks Bulletin; The Chronicle; Q13; 101.1 FM; CTV; CHAT Medicine Hat.
- MLA Jason Hale's Office
- MP LaVar Payne's Office
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Salvation Army
- Service Canada
- SPEC Association for Children and Families
- St. Vincent de Paul
- The Chronicle
- The Well Ministries
- UFCW Local 401
- United Way

For more information on the Community Response Committee, please contact Lynn Pye-Matheson, Executive Director, Grasslands Regional FCSS Society at grasslands.fcss@telus.net or phone 403 362 4549