

## MDS Region V Response in Newfoundland – Release March 15, 2011

### **Response:**

**MDS Region V** sent investigators Glenn and Esther Buck to Newfoundland during October and November of 2010 to assess the need for a response to Hurricane Igor in Oct and Nov 2010. Little wind damage was reported in the communities investigated. The majority of the damage was water damage due to run off, flooding homes and washing out roads. Some houses in several communities were deemed “uninhabitable” due to the extent of the damage. Other houses floated off their footings/foundations. A number of fishers experienced significant damage to their businesses. Local Atlantic Canada MDS volunteers partnered with Samaritan’s Purse, Christian Reformed WRC, Christian Disaster Response and the St. Peter’s Anglican Local Long-Term Recovery Committee with immediate response. Additional help has been requested from MDS for long-term recovery and rebuilding. **The MDS Region V Board has approved an MDS regional response, starting this spring.**

An additional MDS response in **New Brunswick** due to numerous major late fall and winter storms is also being investigated. Details will be released as plans are made.

### **Response Details:**

**Scope** – Three new house builds (MDS house plans) to start, as well as repairs to other homes.

**Start Date** – May 1, 2011 (short-term volunteers)

- **Project Site** – Catalina, NL
- **Volunteering Restrictions**
  - Max 10 person groups (1:2 skilled to unskilled ratio)
  - Pre-organized groups preferred (5 or 10 persons)
  - Travel Reimbursements Restricted: Due to location and cost we encourage all volunteers to serve for a minimum of two weeks. Volunteers who stay for minimum two week term can apply for travel reimbursement; volunteers can serve for one week, but will not receive travel reimbursement.
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  - Long-term (1 month min. Project Director, Office Manager, Cook) (866) 261-1274
  - Short-term (per above restrictions) (800) 241-8111

### **Response Support:**

**We ask for your prayers as MDS responds to the needs in Atlantic Canada. If you would like to support this response financially, please send your donations marked “Atlantic Canada Response” to:**

**Mennonite Disaster Service, 6A -1325 Markham Rd., Winnipeg, MB R3T4J6 or online at [www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net)**

## ***Background:***

**Hurricane Igor** was an enormous, long-lived Category 4 hurricane. It caused widespread damage in Newfoundland on 21 Sep 2010, even though by that time it had been downgraded to a tropical storm. The change in Igor's classification did not reflect a downgrade in the storm's intensity. Winds had strengthened over 150 km/h, as the storm drew energy from another weather system to the west. Igor was the largest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin, in terms of gale diameter.

Significant wind and flooding damage was reported across much of the island of Newfoundland, in particular from the Burin Peninsula, across to the Bonavista Peninsula in the east. Up to 238 mm (9.37 inches) of rain fell, making Hurricane Igor the third wettest tropical cyclone to be recorded in Canada. Igor caused significant damage in Newfoundland, well over \$100 million.

Roads and bridges were completely washed away as well. After the Trans-Canada highway was closed, all of eastern Newfoundland was cut off from the rest of the island. Nearly 50 communities were isolated for several days as roads that connected them to the rest of the island were washed away or simply destroyed. One death resulted.

---

## ***INTERIM TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY for Newfoundland Project - MARCH 15, 2011 REGION V***

### **Long Term Volunteers**

Our current policy stands for long-term volunteers, paying costs of travel, with two changes for this project:

1. Reimbursement is based on **the lesser cost of travel** – flight cost or mileage cost (46cents/km). Flight costs are based on advanced booking.
2. Long-termers are those part of the leadership team and must serve a minimum of 4 weeks to receive full reimbursement. Those serving for less than 4 weeks on the leadership team, or serving 4 weeks or more and not as part of the leadership team can request the short-term reimbursement listed below.

### **Short-term Volunteers** *(no reimbursements to those under 18 as per usual)*

1. **Option 1:** Pay own expenses with no donation receipt (same as current policy)
2. **Option 2:** Full or part sponsorship by your church or by own sponsor, with no donation receipt (same as current policy)
3. **Revised Option 3:**
  - a. Volunteers coming for only 1 week are welcome but will receive no travel reimbursement.
  - b. Volunteers coming for a minimum of 2 weeks can request “flat rates” listed below which apply whether they fly or drive. Note: All related travel costs such as ferry crossing if

driving, or taxi costs on the island (\$40 each way per person) if flying, are the volunteer's responsibility.

- If from Atlantic Canada \$300 reimbursement per person
- If from Quebec & westward \$400 reimbursement per person