



Williams Lake, BC

2017 Fires

Physical & Mailing Address:

MDS
833 Western Ave
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2J5

Telephone/E-Mail:

204-588-8691 (Office)
431-335-7382 (Project Director)
williamslake@mds.mennonite.net

Directions:

From Vancouver/Abbotsford: Take Hwy 1 E till Cache Creek then merge onto Hwy 97 N till Williams Lake. Turn left onto Carson Dr and then right onto Western Ave, the church will be a short ways down on the left.

From Kamloops: Take Hwy 1 W till Cache Creek then turn onto Hwy 97 N till Williams Lake. Turn left onto Carson Dr and then right onto Western Ave, the church will be a short ways down on the left.

From Williams Lake Airport: Coming out of the airport take Hwy 97 S (left turn). Turn right onto Toop Rd and then right onto 11 Ave N. Turn left onto Huston St and then right onto Western Ave, the church will be on your left.

Location

Williams Lake, BC is located in the central interior of British Columbia and is the largest urban centre between Kamloops and Prince George. The city population is approximately 10,832 but it services a large rural area. Williams Lake has a humid continental climate with warm summers and mild winters. While beginning as a trading post between two goldfields, the primary industries are now forestry, logging, sawmilling, mining and ranching.

Disaster

In July 2017 the province of British Columbia declared a state of emergency for the first time in 14 years with more than 200 fires burning, mostly in central BC. This was the longest state of emergency in the province's history, lasting 10 weeks. 65,000 people were evacuated and between the 3 most notable fires over 787,311 hectares burned.

MDS

MDS volunteers will be staying at Cariboo Bethel Church in Williams Lake. Sleeping accommodations, washroom facilities and dining facilities will be in the church with a shower trailer set up in the parking lot. Volunteers will be working on rebuilding and repairing work with the possibility of some brush clearing and fence building as well.

Transportation Options

It is the responsibility of short-term/weekly volunteers to plan, schedule, and pay for their transportation to and from the project in Williams Lake. If you choose to fly in or take a bus, you will need to be sure to arrange for transportation from the station to the project, as MDS is not able to pick up weekly volunteers. If you have questions about this, please call the Volunteer Placement Coordinator at 800-241-8111.

- The Williams Lake Regional Airport is the closest airport, about 14 kilometers north of the city. This is a small airport serviced by Central Mountain Air and Pacific Coastal Airlines, both of these airlines only fly to and from Vancouver. Rental cars are available through National Car Rental (1-800-227-7368 or 250-9894261).
- There are also two Greyhound Bus lines that run through Williams Lake, one from Prince George to Vancouver and one from Vancouver to Prince George. Both lines only run once a day. The bus station is about 1 km from Cariboo Bethel Church.