



Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society

#702 - 235 1st Ave, Kamloops, BC V2C 3J4 PH. 250-374-2119 - TF. 1-877-374-2119
www.kamloopsefry.com admin@kamloopsefry.com

"We envision a community founded on equality and justice."

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For immediate press release

Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society will be helping qualified low-to-moderate income renters from Merritt and area affected by the floods

Funding for these one-time housing grants provided by United Way's Flood Response Fund

KAMLOOPS - Since the devastating floods in Merritt in November 2021, thousands of individuals and families were evacuated from their homes. Upon their return to Merritt, many of them found out their homes are either uninhabitable and unsafe, or completely gone. Unfortunately, many residents have lost not only their homes, but their jobs and their entire income, making it extremely hard to have their basic shelter and food needs met.

As a specialised provider of services in the area of housing for vulnerable individuals and families, Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Rent Bank received funding from [United Way British Columbia Flood Response Fund](#), to distribute as one-time grants to qualifying renters in Merritt and area who have been severely affected by the floods.

Housing is among the top priorities for residents of Merritt after the devastating flood disaster. Since November 15, 2021 Kamloops & District Rent Bank program received many calls from evacuated residents of Merritt who needed urgent financial help to secure temporary accommodations for themselves and their families. The majority of these renters were ineligible for a no-interest loan from the Rent Bank, due to lost income, loss of jobs, or other factors. Many families are currently using any debt they can access to put a roof over their head. Thanks to United Way British Columbia, our charitable society is glad for the opportunity to help renters at risk of becoming homeless during this unprecedented time of need.

The Flood Response Housing Grants are for low to moderate-income renters who are struggling to pay rent, utilities or damage deposit, as a result of the floods. Applications are open immediately. The one-time Flood Response Housing grants will be directly paid out to landlords and utility companies. The grants will be administered through the Elizabeth Fry Society Rent Bank and follow the already established Rent Bank procedures.

In order to qualify for a grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Annual maximum income level as defined by the BC Housing Income Limits (HILs).
- Have a bank account
- Have government issued photo ID
- Currently housed in a market rental, with agreement from Landlord not to evict or a signed agreement with owner of temporary accommodation such as a hotel
- Demonstrated need due directly to impact by the flood

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- Must complete 1st Money Management Training session

Interested low-to-moderate income renters from Merritt and area who meet the above criteria can start the application process by filling out the pre-assessment form:

<https://apply.bcrentbank.ca/apply/elizabeth-fry-society> or email: rentbank@kamloopsefry.com

About Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society:

Established in 1984, Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society is a member of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. We are an active community based charitable, non-profit agency that offers programs and services in the areas of housing and community justice to marginalized and vulnerable people in Kamloops and the TNRD area, with a focus on women and families.

Our goal is to provide effective programs, services and public education to contribute in building a healthy and safe community by minimizing barriers that individuals may experience, by meeting the diverse needs of marginalized people in the community, and by fostering the individual's personal growth and self-sufficiency.

Website: www.kamloopsefry.com

About United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island

United Way supports healthy, caring and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. Representing the six regions of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, East Kootenay, Lower Mainland, Southern Interior, Thompson Nicola Cariboo, and Trail and District, our organization serves a population of more than 4 million people, with a focus on kids and youth, seniors, poverty, mental health and food security.

Website: www.uwbc.ca



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central
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