



Boys & Girls Club
of Fort McMurray

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GREAT FUTURE

It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Boys and Girls Club of Fort McMurray Demonstrates Incredible Resiliency as they Announce their Reopening

(FORT MCMURRAY, Dec. 17, 2020) — The Boys and Girls Club of Fort McMurray (BGCFM) is ecstatic to announce they have officially reopened after they were forced to close last spring: first temporarily in March due to COVID-19 restrictions and then for an extended period of time following the Fort McMurray Flood last April when their club sustained catastrophic damage.

Their much-anticipated re-opening comes following an eight-month construction and remedial process to safely restore their child and youth centre. During their closure, close to 100 families were left without the regular in-person support and programming they had come to rely on.

“It was difficult trying to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19 restrictions and support our families, but the uncertainty of an extended closure and trying to rebuild through a pandemic with no revenue was terrifying,” says Michelle Farrow, Executive Director of the BGCFM. “Thanks to many generous individual and corporate donors, we were able to cover most operational costs throughout the closure and rebuild our club in anticipation of this day.”

Despite their closure, BGCFM remained connected to their families by providing virtual summer programming, food security programs, and offering connection to other supports to offset the many hardships their families were experiencing.

“Our biggest concern was always how our closure would impact our families,” says Farrow. “We’re like a big family here. We want the best for our kids and being able to provide a safe space for children and youth to learn, play, and grow is so important to their development. It’s great to be back!”

The BGCFM is now up and running and looks better than ever. In addition to the new flooring and paint that gives their club a warm and inviting feel, the layout has been significantly improved to better accommodate their programming - specifically a designated space for youth programming. All the Club’s regular programming has resumed, with COVID-19 restrictions in place, and they are also accepting applications for available spaces in school-break camps and out-of-school care. A virtual tour will be available to the community in the coming weeks once their families have had the opportunity to view the new space – something the Club felt was an important part of welcoming them back.

-more-



**Boys & Girls Club
of Fort McMurray**

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GREAT FUTURE

It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Despite this recent good news, the Club remains cautiously optimistic as they recognize there will be many more challenges down the road as they continue to operate under strict health guidelines, at reduced capacity and without the ability to host their usual fundraising events which account for more than 25 per cent of their revenue. The BGCFM will be hosting a bi-weekly 50/50 raffle and encourage the community to support them by participating in their [Invest in Their Future Lottery](#) or donate directly via their [website portal](#). Organizations and individuals who would like to help support the Club in other ways are encouraged to reach out directly to their Executive Director at ed@fmbgc.ca.

-###-

About the Boys and Girls Club of Fort McMurray:

The FMBGC has been providing childcare and youth programs to the community for over 35 years. Community-based services. Positive relationships. Life-changing programs. As one of Wood Buffalo's largest child and youth-serving charitable organizations, The Boys and Girls Club of Fort McMurray provides vital programs and services to children, youth and families. Services include childcare, out of school care, school break camps, summer camp and youth skill development programs.

www.fmbgc.ca | Facebook [@fmbgc](#)

For media inquires, please contact:

Michelle Farrow, Executive Director

Email: eds@fmbgc.ca

Ph: 780.791.7775