



# Town of Small Point to Adams Cove

## What We Heard — Town Hall #3

### Meeting Summary

The third recovery town hall was on **December 1, 2025**. The town hall brought together **42 participants**. There were 20 people in person and 22 people online. Representatives from the **Town Council**, **Community Foundations of Newfoundland**, and the **Canadian Red Cross** gave updates. They also talked about funding and supports for the 2025 wildfires.

#### Presentations

The Town talked about how they are coordinating and planning recovery initiatives. The Town Council also introduced the **Recovery Framework**. This framework has strategic direction, approaches, and strategies on how the Town will lead recovery. The Town will post the framework on its website.

The Town gave updates on recovery efforts since the November town hall. These efforts include coordinating with partners on:

- Hosting a wildfire event debrief
- Recruiting staff and volunteers
- Hosting media and events such as the We Stand on Guard Once More benefit concert
- Developing communications
- Developing new and extended recovery programming

The Town presented on behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Town talked about the government's supports so far. The government has given over \$3.1 million in direct financial aid. This aid is for:

- Evacuations
- Early recovery supports
- Establishing a Mental Health Wildfire Recovery Team
- Municipal Special Assistance Grants to support the Town

The Town also gave an overview on:

- The federal Disaster Financial Assistants Arrangements
- The provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Program

The Town described how these programs work. The programs help offset the Town's costs from the wildfire response and recovery.

The **Community Foundations of Newfoundland and Labrador** (CFNL) discussed their three funds to support the wildfire recovery.

The CFNL raised approximately \$68,000 for the Adam's Cove fire. These funds will support the North Shore Volunteer Fire Department.

In response to the Kingston fire, CFNL launched two recovery fundraisers:

- The North Shore Fires Recovery Fund will support primary households' needs.
- The 2025 NL Forest Fires Recovery Fund will support organizations and infrastructure.

As of October 31, 2025, the two funds raised over \$341,000. CFNL has flexibility with how they can use the funds. They are working to distribute the funds effectively. The funds will support ongoing needs.

The **Canadian Red Cross** (CRC) gave an update on the 2025 Newfoundland and Labrador's Wildfire Appeal. And they gave an overview of active supports.

The CRC has raised \$4.4 million so far. This amount does not include the matching funds from government. The CRC is still calculating the total amounts with matching funds.

The CRC talked about their programs. It has programs for **households, small businesses, and not-for-profits**. CRC gave details on two new programs:

- Support for Housing Repair and Reconstruction
- Ask an Expert

CRC also promoted a survey. The survey will help CRC understand community needs. CRC emailed this survey to households on the North Shore on **December 1, 2025**. The survey will help identify:

- Needs and gaps that households are experiencing
- How households' needs have changed since they returned home
- Future programming for the Town

## **Community Feedback**

### **Gaps in accessing support**

Residents are having difficulty accessing CRC supports:

- Getting through to talk to a case manager can be difficult. There are issues with the call systems and follow-ups.
- Residents need to retell their story or redo their intake multiple times. People who are supporting or speaking on behalf of loved ones find this especially hard.
- Residents need clearer instructions on where to go for their appointments.
- Residents need to understand how to escalate if they continue to have difficulty accessing support.

- Address authentication (verification) can be difficult.

CRC reassured residents that they would address issues with contacting case managers. They shared that they would continue to gather feedback. And they will adjust their services as needed.

### **Funding and allocations**

Residents shared the following feedback:

- It is unclear how funds will be spent.
- It is unclear what supports will be available for rebuilding homes. Not knowing makes it difficult to plan.
- Many people advocated for supports for those who do not have insurance.
- Some people advocated for revitalizing natural spaces. The current landscape is a negative reminder of the wildfire. Restoring the landscape would help restore positive relationships with the area.

### **Communication between agencies and with the public**

Residents shared the following feedback:

- There are gaps in coordination between the supporting agencies.
- It is unclear who can access supports.
- It is unclear how to access support.
- There are many representatives from the different service agencies.
- The agencies have different messaging or rules.
- It is difficult to navigate between programs.

### **Closing Notes**

The Town reaffirmed that they would continue to plan and coordinate. The town will make sure they use funds responsibly, fairly, and effectively.

Funding continues to be raised. The Town is formalizing structures for administering the funds. The Town can then plan for using funds to meet needs throughout recovery.

The Town encouraged residents to sign up for the advisory and working group committees. These committees will give residents a voice in the recovery work. It is an opportunity for residents to share their perspectives and expertise.

Representatives from CFNL, CRC, and the Town stayed to answer questions.