



Canadian Red Cross



**Saskatchewan
Credit Unions**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2008

Saskatchewan credit unions making it easier to help survivors in both Myanmar and China

(Regina, May 30, 2008) – The Canadian Red Cross and SaskCentral announced today that, along with cash donations already being accepted for relief work in Myanmar, Saskatchewan credit unions will now also accept donations to help victims devastated by the earthquake in China.

A 7.9-magnitude earthquake devastated the south-western province of Sichuan on May 12 and has left more than 65,000 dead (as of May 26), with more than 23,100 missing, 360,000 injured and 11.3 million people displaced, according to the emergency response office of the state council. In addition, 5,500 children are now orphans as a result of the earthquake, according to Sichuan provincial civil affairs department.

Tropical cyclone Nargis has devastated large parts of the mid-south of Myanmar. Casualty figures continue to rise. Latest reports indicate more than 78,000 people killed, 56,000 people missing and 2.4 million people affected. It is a huge disaster by any measure.

Red Cross response to both disasters was immediate. More than 35,000 Red Cross volunteers are providing first aid and relief supplies in China and over 27,000 volunteers are working around the clock to help survivors in Myanmar. Canadian Red Cross is appealing to Saskatchewan residents to support these efforts.

“Following both the cyclone in Myanmar, and the earthquake in China, we have seen an outpouring of support and concern from Saskatchewan residents,” says Cindy Fuchs, Regional Director for Canadian Red Cross in southern Saskatchewan. “We are grateful to Saskatchewan credit unions for making it easier for people to donate to Red Cross and support relief work already underway.”

Donations to the China earthquake relief and Myanmar Cyclone relief will be used to provide survivors with basic supplies, emergency shelter, and to ensure people have access to health care and clean water. More detailed assessments are being carried out to determine the longer-term needs of vulnerable communities.

“more”



Canadian Red Cross



**Saskatchewan
Credit Unions**

“Our deepest sympathies are with the people who are suffering after these devastating natural disasters,” says Keith Nixon Vice-president Democratic Support / Corporate Secretary, SaskCentral. “We are pleased that Saskatchewan credit unions are available for Saskatchewan residents to make donations to help the thousands of people in need in China and Myanmar.”

Saskatchewan credit unions have an ongoing arrangement with the Canadian Red Cross to assist them in all of their relief efforts.

Canadians wishing to help may also make a financial donation by calling Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111. The 24-hour toll free line accepts Visa and MasterCard. Donations can also be made at any local Canadian Red Cross office, or online at www.redcross.ca.

-30-

For more information, please call:

Alison Frehlich
Public Affairs Coordinator
Canadian Red Cross
(306) 721-1629
alison.frehlich@redcross.ca

Dale Johnson
Senior Consultant
Marketing & Communications
SaskCentral
(306) 566-1439
dale.johnson@corpserv.ca