



## **Saskatchewan credit unions accepting donations for Red Cross relief efforts in Asia Pacific**

**(October 14, 2009 - Regina)** – The Canadian Red Cross is pleased to announce that Saskatchewan credit unions are now accepting cash donations in support of Red Cross relief efforts across the Asia Pacific region. The lives of over five million people have been devastated after typhoons in the Philippines and Vietnam, a tsunami in Samoa and an earthquake in Indonesia.

“We are grateful to SaskCentral and Saskatchewan credit unions for providing Saskatchewan residents with an easy way to help millions of people across Asia Pacific,” says Richard Kies, Team Leader of Public Affairs & Development for Canadian Red Cross in Saskatchewan. “Every donation will directly support the relief work and training of volunteers that is taking place in the Philippines, Vietnam, Samoa and Indonesia.”

Red Cross volunteers are working around the clock in all affected communities to support evacuation efforts, set up emergency shelters and distribute essential items including clean water, food and blankets. Donations will be used to provide essential items for those impacted by the storm, and to support preparedness work including pre-positioning of emergency supplies and both training and equipping local volunteers.

“SaskCentral recognizes the need to support those who are suffering after these devastating disasters,” says Keith Nixon, Executive Vice-President of Corporate and Community Affairs, SaskCentral. “We are proud that Saskatchewan credit unions are able to play a role in helping Saskatchewan residents make donations to assist the Red Cross in their relief efforts in Asia Pacific.”

The best way for Canadians to help is through a donation to the International Disaster Relief Fund, which allows the Canadian Red Cross to provide urgently needed assistance to those who need it most. Canadians can donate online, call toll-free at 1-800-418-1111 or visit their local Red Cross office or nearest Saskatchewan credit union. Cheques should be earmarked to either the **International Disaster Relief Fund**, the **Indonesia Earthquake Fund**, or the **Philippines Typhoon Fund**. Donations will be accepted in all Saskatchewan credit union locations from October 14<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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The Canadian Red Cross is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which includes the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and 186 national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Our mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada and around the world.

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***For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:***

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