



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

**(March 16, 2011 - 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 in response to the powerful 9.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

“We are grateful to SaskCentral and Saskatchewan credit unions for providing Saskatchewan residents with an easy way to help millions of people in Japan receive assistance with search and rescue, emergency medical care, and clean water,” says Cindy Fuchs, Provincial Director with Red Cross in Saskatchewan.

Over 80 Japanese Red Cross health and disaster relief teams are on the ground to provide emergency medical assistance, assist in evacuations and distribute urgently needed supplies including over 30,000 blankets. The Japanese Red Cross has requested financial assistance from the Canadian Red Cross and one Canadian delegate was deployed on March 15<sup>th</sup> to support the response going forward.

“We are deeply saddened by the magnitude of devastation and destruction in Japan,” says Pam Skotnitsky, Executive Vice-President of Corporate and Community Affairs, SaskCentral. “Credit unions are more than willing to support the Red Cross relief efforts in Japan through the collection of donations.”

The best way for Canadians to help is through a donation to the Red Cross Japan Earthquake / Asia Pacific Tsunami fund. Donations to this fund will help provide medical support, basic necessities, and emergency supplies to those affected by this disaster. Canadians can donate online at [www.redcross.ca/helpnow](http://www.redcross.ca/helpnow), 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 the **Japan Earthquake / Asia Pacific Tsunami fund**. Donations will be accepted in all Saskatchewan credit union locations from March 15 to April 15, 2011.

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

**Canadian Red Cross**  
Amanda Ulrich  
Tel: 306.570.4223  
[amanda.ulrich@redcross.ca](mailto:amanda.ulrich@redcross.ca)

**SaskCentral**  
Keri Schwebius  
Tel: 306.566.1314  
[keri.schwebius@saskcentral.com](mailto:keri.schwebius@saskcentral.com)