



# NEWS RELEASE: REEVE SCHINKEL'S STATEMENT REGARDING LAC DU BONNET FIRE #2

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**Evening, May 14, 2025, LAC DU BONNET, MB:** Yesterday was an extremely challenging day for our region, but it was also a day that showcased the incredible strength, bravery, and kindness of our community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of so many individuals and organizations, we made significant progress in managing a critical wildfire situation.

Today, The RCMP announced the tragic loss of life of two of our residents in the fire. To the family, friends, and loved ones, know that our community is suffering with you during this difficult time. On behalf of our community, the Council of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet offers its deepest condolences and prayers.

## **Recognizing our partners and volunteers:**

We want to thank all our municipal and community leaders who reached out, offering their support without hesitation. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the amazing teams and organizations who stepped up, including:

- Lac du Bonnet Fire Department
- Pinawa Fire Department
- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
- Bird River Fire Department
- Sagkeeng First Nations Fire Department
- Office of the Fire Commissioner
- Conservation and Natural Resources Fire TAC personnel
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and security officers
- Provincial Fire Services (water bombers and helicopters)
- Local Emergency measures officials

To the volunteer firefighters who faced the flames head-on and the water bomber crews who navigated the skies in difficult conditions, your courage is nothing short of heroic. Without your collective efforts, the situation could have been far worse.

## **Support from local businesses and volunteers:**

A special thank you to the local businesses that didn't hesitate to provide food, water, and essential supplies and to the volunteers who worked late into the night, ensuring that those

who were evacuated from their homes had meals, shelter, and comfort. Your kindness has been a light during a dark time.

### **Provincial Government response:**

Special thanks to the response from the Provincial Government. Yesterday during the intense hours of this crisis, I received a call from Minister Glen Simard – Municipal and Northern Relations, who offered any required ongoing assistance to our region. As well today, I received a personal call from Premier Wab Kinew committing his government’s ongoing assistance and offering his condolences to our region on the tragic loss of our two residents.

We also received emails from Minister Naylor offering her condolences and assistance to our region. MLA Wayne Ewasko also reached out offering his party’s support during this difficult time.

### **Ongoing response and next steps:**

We continue to work closely with Provincial Fire Services and our Emergency Management Organization. Damage assessments are underway with Manitoba Hydro, and until power is restored, affected evacuation areas will remain secure. We will keep our community updated with regular information on [our website](#) and the [Lac du Bonnet Emergency Management Facebook page](#).

On behalf of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, thank you for your bravery, generosity, and patience as we continue to face this challenging situation together.

**Loren Schinkel**

**Reeve**

**Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet**

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## **Keep in touch**

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