



**July 14, 2015**

Media Release

## **Jasper and the Excelsior Wildfire**

For immediate release

The Excelsior wildfire is located approximately 15 km south east of Jasper, affecting an area of 10 square kilometres within the 11,000 square kilometre expanse of Jasper National Park. With the exception of the Maligne Valley, Jasper attractions and amenities remain open and are welcoming visitors. Recent weather conditions have considerably reduced the amount of residual smoke in the town site, and the fire poses no immediate threat to the community.

"We are incredibly fortunate to benefit from nation-wide support from Parks Canada and other provincial firefighting crews to manage this wildfire," says Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland. "From a public safety and public information standpoint, collaboration between several local agencies has allowed us to provide services for those in need and communicate key information to our residents and visitors."

"Parks Canada is proud of the joint efforts of our staff, the RCMP, the Municipality of Jasper, the province of Alberta and Ontario, Jasper businesses and residents towards the suppression of the Excelsior Wildfire," says Greg Fenton, Jasper Field Unit Superintendent. "As a world leader in fire management, Parks Canada's immediate and coordinated response to wildfire incidents will continue to safeguard the people and facilities in the town of Jasper."

Public safety remains the number one priority, and hot and dry weather conditions indicate that wildfire activity may remain high throughout the summer season. Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper are prepared to respond and take a coordinated approach.

While Jasper is not currently threatened by the Excelsior wildfire, residents should remain aware that as long as the wildfire is active, sudden changes in weather conditions could affect fire behaviour. "Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility, regardless of the nature of the threat," says Fire Chief Greg Van Tighem. "Everyone should be ready to look after themselves for at least 72 hours by having an emergency kit ready and having a plan in place to keep track of immediate family members."

Visit the municipal website under Emergency Preparedness for information and resources on emergency planning, including how to prepare in the event of an evacuation, what to expect and what to do when a disaster strikes.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:

Greg Van Tighem, Fire Chief/Director of Protective Services  
780-852-1595, [gvantighem@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:gvantighem@town.jasper.ab.ca)

For media inquiries, contact:

Christine Nadon, Communications Manager  
780-852-4724, [cnadon@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:cnadon@town.jasper.ab.ca)