

June 30, 2026 - 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lytton Wildfire

## **A Message from Bishop Clara Plamondon:**

Today, June 30<sup>th</sup>, is the fifth anniversary of the 2021 wildfire that devastated much of the community of Lytton, and parts of Lytton First Nation and surrounding area. The loss and trauma of this event continue to weigh heavily on all who were affected. The journey to recovery has not been easy, yet we see signs of renewal and hope in the community.

Unfortunately, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the Sawmill Creek Wildfire led to evacuations and evacuation alerts in the Lytton area. The emotional impact of this fire would have been great, especially for those who lived through the 2021 wildfire. Thankfully this fire was brought under control June 23<sup>rd</sup> and all alerts and evacuations were lifted. We are profoundly grateful to all emergency responders who worked so hard on this fire. Communities came together quickly, providing immediate support where needed.

Sadly, we have now received word that four homes were lost in the Lytton First Nation community. These homes were in an area that had not previously been impacted by the 2021 wildfire. The families involved have been displaced to various locations and will need support in the weeks and months to come.

Please pray for the families who are now dealing with this loss and for the community of Lytton First Nation, the Village of Lytton and the surrounding area.

## **Let us pray:**

*God of healing and mercy, we come before you on behalf of those impacted by the Sawmill Creek Wildfire. We pray that your presence would be felt by those who are grieving and who have lost their homes. We pray for wisdom and safety for those who are responding to those in need. We pray for healing for those who have been re-traumatized by this wildfire. We pray for our church, that it may be a witness to your compassion and care for all who suffer.*

*Creator, you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.*

*We thank you for hearing our prayer.*

