



Okanagan Indian Band

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Phastcat Industries recognized for their contribution to OKIB's fire recovery

The Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) recognized the generosity of Phastcat Industries from Red Deer, which has aided OKIB by providing a substantial discount valued at \$150,000 on the purchase of seven mini-homes. The discount represents a savings of 50 per cent off the regular price.

"On behalf of OKIB members and Council, I want to give a big limlemt (thank you) to Phastcat Industries for providing us a generous discount at a very difficult time," Byron Louis, Chief of the Okanagan Indian Band said. "This kind gesture will help us provide interim housing to members who have been displaced by the White Rock Lake wildfire; allowing them to return to our community while their homes are being rebuilt."

These self-contained mini-homes are fully insulated and are suitable for use through all 4-seasons. The plan for these units is to equip them with a stackable washer/dryer, fridge, and stove. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is in support of OKIB's recovery efforts due to the devastation of the 2021 White Rock Lake wildfire.

"We want to help," said Phastcat president Mike Dell. "And we want this to be a natural reaction from all suppliers at times like these. Many people reach out to us after disasters looking for affordable housing. We have the technology to provide quality custom lamination, a step up from basic drywall or paneling, which you don't normally get on the economy-level models."

The mini-homes are being constructed on the land of band member Wayne Bonneau. The homes can easily be moved to other locations as needed, so as people return to their newly constructed homes, the mini-homes can be added to OKIBs housing inventory. When thanked for allowing his land to be used as the staging area for construction, Mr. Bonneau, who also lost his own home in the fire, stated: "We are all in this together."

Jason Finlayson is the regional manager for Phastcat overseeing his construction crew, and Michael Stahl brought his crew from Stahl Storage. Together the crews are framing at a rate of two homes per day.

To read more about Phastcat Industries and to see some of their innovative housing options, check out <https://phastcat.ca>

OKIB would like to remind people that a Go Fund Me fundraiser is underway for any Band members or members of the public who wish to donate to the recovery effort. While many costs will be covered by governments, insurance and other sources, there are countless expenses that are not covered and the Go Fund Me donations will be used to provide relief.

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OKIB's Recovery Manager Jenelle Brewer (left) inspects a new mini-home with Chief Byron Louis (centre) and Phastcat Industries president Mike Dell (right). The mini-homes will soon be ready for families to move into as an interim measure, to get them back on the reserve until they can move into their new homes.