

**August 23**

Hi Ms. Tait,

I'm writing in response to your recent email to Sir Clegg.

We share your deep concern for the wellbeing of Canadians in communities impacted by wildfires across the country and have been taking steps to ensure people in impacted communities can access authoritative information from official government agencies, emergency services and non-governmental organizations through our platforms.

This includes activating [Safety Check](#) on Facebook for the wildfires in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories as well as in Kelowna, British Columbia. So far, more than 65K people have marked themselves safe for Yellowknife and Kelowna wildfires. Approximately 750K people have visited the Yellowknife and Kelowna crisis pages on Facebook to find more information and ask for or offer help to one another.

I am including more information on Safety Check below and the additional steps we are taking to connect Canadians with resources from official government agencies, emergency services and non-governmental organizations:

#### Safety Check & Authoritative Sources of Information

- In times of crisis, [Safety Check](#) allows people to request support, check on loved ones and access relevant content from official government agencies, emergency services and non-governmental organizations.
- As mentioned, both Safety Checks (Yellowknife and Kelowna) have reached a significant number of people in the impacted communities connecting them to relevant resources.
- Earlier this summer we activated Safety Check in response to the wildfires in Northern Quebec and we continue to remain vigilant with respect to emerging issues across the country.
- We also provided resources to Red Cross Canada to further amplify their evacuation resource messaging.

#### Access to Information off Meta Platforms

- In addition, people in Canada can continue to access news stories online by going directly to news publishers' websites, downloading mobile news apps, and subscribing to their preferred publishers.
- Meta collaborated with digital literacy expert [Nellie Brière](#) to equip people with information about accessing local news and information online. Find the guide [here](#) which was made broadly available in both French and English.

We have been clear for many months that the broad scope of the Online News Act would impact the sharing of news content on our platforms. We remain focused on ensuring people can

access reputable information from official government agencies, emergency services and non-governmental organizations across our platforms.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marc Dinsdale (he)  
Head of Media Partnerships, Canada