



# MEMBER RELEASE

April 8, 2011

**TO:** Local Government Mayors, Chairs and Administrators  
First Nations Chiefs and Councils

**FROM:** Local Government Program Services, UBCM

**RE:** **Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative**

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The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative is a suite of funding programs managed through the Provincial Fuels Management Working Group – including the First Nations Emergency Services Society, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations and the Union of BC Municipalities. The initiative supports communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

On April 7, 2011, the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, announced that the Province is investing \$25 million into the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to further protect B.C. families and communities from the threat of wildfires.

The intent of the new funding will be to support local governments and First Nations at risk from wildfire to:

- Develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans;
- Develop fuel management prescriptions;
- Implement fuel management demonstration projects, and / or;
- Undertake operational fuel treatment activities

The Provincial Fuels Management Working Group is currently developing the program and application materials for the new 2011 program. We expect this will include changes to some of the cost-sharing formulas, enhanced information on project eligibility, updated application and reporting processes and clearer instructions and requirements for financial reporting.

We anticipate that the application process will open in the coming weeks. The UBCM website will be updated when new program materials are available and all UBCM members will be notified when the 2011 program is launched.

For more information about the funding program, please contact:

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