

WEBINAR

2026 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports

Overview of program design changes and improvements

July 23, 2025

Funding provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities in partnership with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society and BC Wildfire Service

WELCOME

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



AGENDA

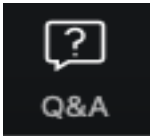
1. Housekeeping
2. Introductions
3. Program overview
4. Program design improvements
5. FireSmart activities and CWRPs
6. Fuel Management
7. Contacts
8. Questions

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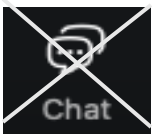
HOUSEKEEPING



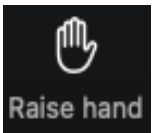
This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



Use the *Q&A* function to ask your question. Questions should be clear and concise and are answered after the presentation.



The *Chat* function is disabled. If you have questions, please use the Q&A function.



If you wish to ask your question live, please use the *Raise Hand* function and we will unmute your line.

INTRODUCTIONS



Danyta Welch
Program Manager, UBCM



Jonas Woodrow
Program Officer, UBCM



BC Wildfire Services
Team and FNESS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



BACKGROUND

- The FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program provides funding to First Nations and local governments in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.
- The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) are working with the Ministry of Forests (Ministry) to deliver the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program.
- The program is funded by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM.



Eligibility

- Open intake (October 1 to September 30)
- Eligible applicants include all First Nations and local governments in the province.
- FireSmart Foundation
- For FireSmart activities: Allocation-based or Application-based funding depending on eligibility
- For fuel management activities: Application-based
- Risk-based: RC 1-3 - up to \$200,000 per year in funding and RC 4-5 up to \$150,000 per year
- Applicants can request one or two years of funding



APPLICATION PROCESS

- Step 1 – Online application tool
- Step 2 - Worksheets
- Eligibility Review
- Technical Review
- Evaluation Committee
- Adjudication period
 - 120 days for application-based projects
 - 60 days for allocation-based projects

PROGRAM DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS



IMPROVEMENTS

- Separation of Fuel Management funding from FireSmart Funding
- Additional funding for impact from wildfires includes impacts from wildfires during the course of the project
- Streamlined applications for regional districts
- Regional projects are now eligible under allocation



FIRESMART ACTIVITIES



NEW FUNDING AND UPDATES

- Junior FireSmart Coordinator (Summer Students/youth position)
- Develop or amend bylaws related to open fires as defined in the Wildfire Act
- Farm and Ranch Assessments
- Training:
 - WMS Train the Trainer
 - FireSmart BC Farm and Ranch Training
 - FireSmart BC Landscaping Course
 - Training to develop cultural and prescribed fire practitioners
 - Wildland Live Fire Training
- FireSmart Structure Protection Units



CWRPs

- New instruction guide and template under development



FUEL MANAGEMENT



FUEL MANAGEMENT

- Funding for fuel management remains an eligible activity, however, the application process has changed to separate fuel management from FireSmart Activities
- Applicants must have and approved 2026 Funding for FireSmart Activities project and the FireSmart foundations in place
- Projects are eligible for up to \$100,000.00 per year in funding. Applicants can choose one or two year projects
- New in 2026 – FM activities exclusively on Crown Land outside of AOI but within eligible WUI may be considered for funding



FUEL MANAGEMENT

Table 1: Summary of Available Funding for Fuel Management Activities		
Location of fuel management activities	Within \$100,000 limit per year	Additional Funding
Eligible WUI on First Nations land or publicly owned land	Up to \$100,000 per year	
Eligible WUI on First Nations land or publicly owned land and extends onto Provincial Crown Land	Up to \$100,000 for First Nations land and/or publicly owned land portion per year	Additional funding (no maximum for portion on Crown land)
Provincial Crown Land within the Eligible WUI that does not originate within municipal boundaries, regional district parks or First Nations land		Additional funding (no maximum for portion on Crown land)
First Nations land that has been recently acquired through a Provincial land transfer		Additional funding (no maximum)



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CONTACT INFORMATION

- **UBCM:** 604 270-8226 ext 220 or cri@ubcm.ca
- **FNESS:** 250 377-7600 or cmackenzie@fness.bc.ca
- **BCWS** Prevention Staff and Wildfire Prevention Officer:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/contacts>





QUESTIONS?



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