



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**FireSmart**™

# WEBINAR

## 2026 FireSmart

# Community Funding & Supports

Overview of program design changes and improvements

October 1, 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**

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**TERRITORIAL  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



# AGENDA

1. Housekeeping
2. Introductions
3. Program overview
4. Program design improvements
5. FireSmart activities and CWRPs
6. Fuel Management
7. General Tips and Tricks
8. FNESS Presentation
9. Contacts
10. Questions

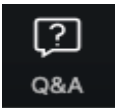
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Forest Fire Centre*



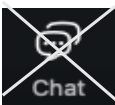
# HOUSEKEEPING



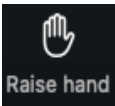
This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



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



Cathy Mackenzie  
Wildfire Resiliency  
Supervisor, FNESS



FireSmart BC and BC  
Wildfire Services Teams



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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# 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.



# General Eligibility

**For all applications (application/allocation, FireSmart/fuel management):**

- Open intake (October 1 to September 30, funding permitting)
- Eligible applicants include all First Nations and local governments in the province.
- Applicants can request one or two years of funding





# Eligibility - FireSmart

## Application-based

- FireSmart foundation must be in place or application is limited to plan, position, collaborative and limited other activities
- Risk-based: RC 1-3 - up to \$200,000 per year and RC 4-5 up to \$150,000 per year

## Allocation-based

- Required FireSmart foundation (plan, position, committee)
- Risk-based: RC 1-3 only
- Base funding: up to \$200,000 per year



# APPLICATION PROCESS

- Step 1 – Online application
- 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 for 2026

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# IMPROVEMENTS

- Separation of Fuel Management funding from FireSmart Funding
- Additional funding for impacts 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

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# 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
- FireSmart Structure Protection Units
- \*Updated application requirements for FireSmart projects for Critical Infrastructure, Community Assets
- \*Updated CSGS Checklist and Assessment for Fuel Management Prescription
- \*Cross-train cooperative community wildfire response organizations where supported by the applicant.
- \*Updated Wildland Live Fire Training application and final reporting requirements

*\* Updated September 2025*



# NEW FUNDING AND UPDATES

## 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

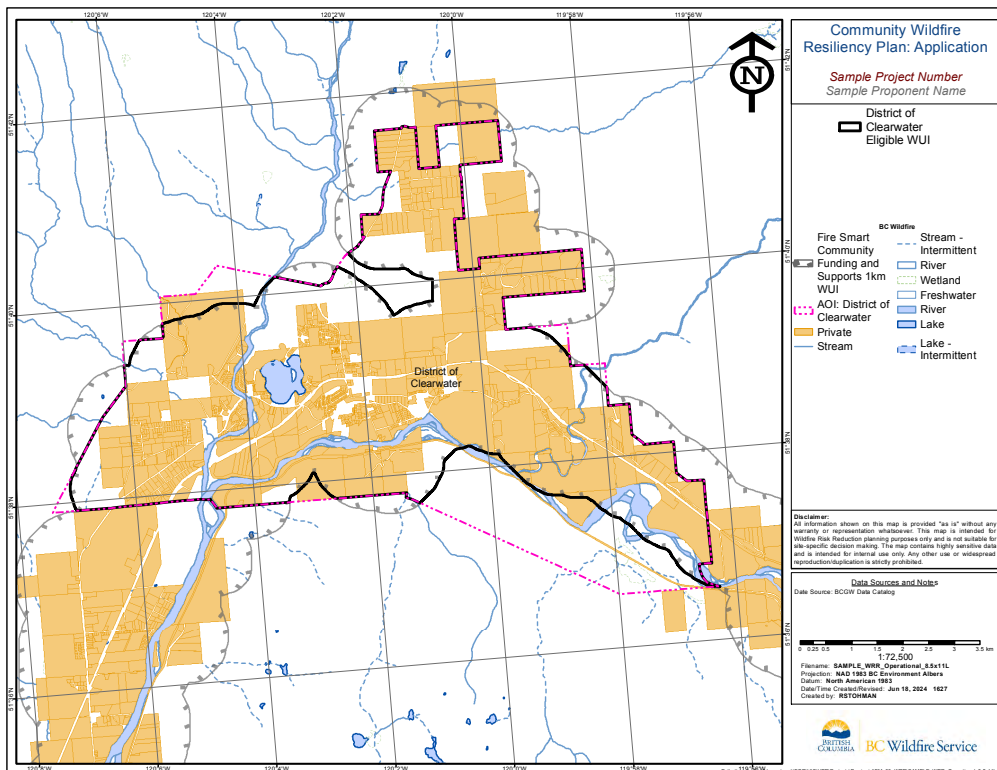


# CWRPs

- New instruction guide and template under development
- **Area of Interest (AOI):** The AOI is the geographic scope of the CWRP. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, the AOI is the area within the municipal boundary, regional district boundary, or boundary of First Nations land.
- **Eligible Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):** For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, the Eligible WUI is generally defined as a maximum of one kilometer from structures within the AOI with a structure density class greater than 6.



# CWRPs



# FUEL MANAGEMENT

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# 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 an 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
- \*Updated application map requirements
- \*Land owned by colleges and universities may be eligible for fuel management with support from BCWS/FNESS

*\* Updated September 2025*



# FUEL MANAGEMENT

Land owned by colleges and universities may be eligible for fuel management with support from BCWS/FNESS

For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, lands owned by colleges and universities are generally not considered publicly owned land. However, with rationale and support from FNESS and/or BCWS, land owned by a university identified in the Universities Act, Thompson Rivers University Act or Royal Roads University Act and/or land owned by a college identified in the College and Institute Act may be considered for funding for eligible fuel management activities.



# 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
<b>Eligible WUI on First Nations land or publicly owned land</b>	Up to \$100,000 per year	
<b>Eligible WUI on First Nations land or publicly owned land and extends onto Provincial Crown Land</b>	Up to \$100,000 for <b>First Nations land</b> and/or <b>publicly owned land</b> portion per year	Additional funding (no maximum for portion on Crown land)
<b>Provincial Crown Land</b> within the <b>Eligible WUI</b> that does not originate within municipal boundaries, regional district parks or <b>First Nations land</b>		Additional funding (no maximum for portion on Crown land)
<b>First Nations land</b> that has been recently acquired through a Provincial land transfer		Additional funding (no maximum)



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# TIPS & TRICKS

- Focus on Table 1 in the program guide
- Extensions to application deadlines are usually available
  - Project amendments can be considered
  - Progress payments are usually available
- Extensions to final report deadlines are available
- Program Officers are always available to answer questions
- Post-grant approval meetings are required and very beneficial



# First Nations' Emergency Services Society



***First Nations'  
Emergency Services Society***

O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

- Wildfire Resiliency Advisors
- FireSmart Advisors
- Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialists





# CONTACT INFORMATION

- **UBCM:** 604 270-8226 ext 220 or [cri@ubcm.ca](mailto:cri@ubcm.ca)
- **FNESS:** 250 377-7600 or [wildfireresiliency@fness.bc.ca](mailto:wildfireresiliency@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?**

