

January 26, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9071 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby,

I am writing on behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) members to express appreciation for the FireSmart Community and Funding Supports (FCFS) program and to encourage the Province to renew funding for this important initiative.

Since 2018, the province has invested \$175 million through the FCFS program to support FireSmart planning and mitigation activities undertaken by First Nations and local governments. To date, 280 communities have benefited from this funding. UBCM values its partnership with the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Ministry of Forests in administering the program.

Local governments and First Nations consistently identify FCFS as one of the most effective tools available to reduce wildfire risk. As climate change continues to intensify British Columbia's wildfire seasons, communities recognize that proactive mitigation will remain essential. In addition to reducing risk, FireSmart initiatives provide visible assurance to residents that meaningful steps are being taken to protect public safety.

The program has also been instrumental in sustaining local capacity. Currently there are more than 200 FireSmart coordinator positions across the province. UBCM estimates that approximately 85 per cent of these positions are funded through FCFS. Without continued program funding, many communities will face significant challenges in maintaining this critical expertise.

With available FCFS funding now reduced to \$25 million, the joint management committee is implementing administrative adjustments to ensure equitable distribution of remaining funds. UBCM will notify First Nations and local governments of these changes on January 28, and anticipates that all remaining funds will be fully committed following the close of the next application period at the end of April.

As your government prepares the 2026 Budget, UBCM urges you, Minister Parmar, and Cabinet to consider the proven value of the FCFS program in mitigating wildfire risk and protecting communities throughout British Columbia.

UBCM appreciates the Province's leadership in addressing wildfire risk. Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'CR', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Cori Ramsay
President, UBCM

CC: *Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests*
Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities