



# WEBINAR

## 2026 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports

Transition to Closed Intake

February 4, 2026

*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

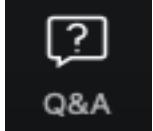
1. Housekeeping and introductions
2. Transition to a closed intake
3. Winter/Spring 2026 Closed Intake
4. Currently approved projects
5. Questions



# Housekeeping



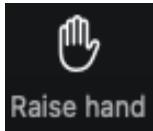
This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



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. For 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

- Amanda Reynolds, Mitigation Manager, FNESS
- Cathy Mackenzie, Wildfire Resiliency Supervisor, FNESS
- Danyta Welch, Manager, Local Government Program Services, UBCM
- Jonas Woodrow, Program Officer, UBCM
- Lynsay Pacey, Program Officer, UBCM



# Intent of this Webinar

- Focus is on program administration
- We do not have information on future funding
- Budget 2026
- Q&A – only program administration questions will be addressed
- FAQ document provides full details



# Why Transition to a Closed Intake?

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# Why is the Change so Sudden?

- High subscription in 2025 and 2026 meant funds have drawn down faster than expected.
- Approximately \$25 million remaining.
- If the open intake continued, communities with more capacity to complete and submit applications would have accessed the remaining funds.
- A competitive intake based on merit and priority provides a more equitable way to distribute the remaining funds.



# 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake

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# 2026 Closed Intake Details

- Application and allocation-based funding will continue
- Fuel management and impacts of wildfires will no longer be funded
- All requests limited to one-year funding
- Minor changes to eligible FireSmart activities (noted in the new 2026 Winter/Spring program guides)

Due to the expected high volume of applications and limited funds, it is likely that this intake will be substantially oversubscribed.

# Who Can Apply?

All eligible First Nations and local governments that:

- Were not approved under the 2026 open intake
- Do not have an application currently under consideration from the 2026 open intake
- Have met reporting requirements on previous projects

All activities funded under the 2023, 2024 and 2025 intakes must either:

- Be complete with its final report submitted, **OR**
- Submit Interim Report Form before April 30, 2026 (to give 120 days notice of end of current project)

# Adjudication

- Competitive adjudication process based on merit and priority.
- All applications received before the deadline will be considered together.
- Applications will be screened for eligibility and then scored based on alignment with program intent, merit and priority.
- Application and allocation requests will have 120 day adjudication process.



# 2026 Closed Intake Timeline

Applications and allocation requests submitted by **April 30, 2026**

Adjudication will be **120 days (May to August)**

Grants approved by **August 31, 2026**

Project Completion by **Sept. 2027**

# What About Currently Approved Projects?

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# Previous Approvals

Approvals prior to January 30, 2026 are **not** impacted by these changes

We recommend that applicants review the timeline of currently approved projects prior to submitting an application under the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake.



# What Needs to Happen Before April 30?

	Finalize Application, WS2, WS4	Use Allocation Funds for FM	Interim Report <u>OR</u> Final Report		New Application
No current project/application					✓
2023				✓	✓
2024		✓		✓	✓
2025	✓	✓		✓	✓
2026 Open Intake	✓				

# Amendment Requests

- Amendment requests will continue to be considered for projects funded under past intakes
- Requests for top-up funding to support previously approved FireSmart and fuel management activities will **no longer be considered**.



# 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**  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/contacts>





QUESTIONS?

