



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmartTM

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

Territorial Acknowledgement



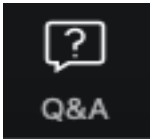
Agenda

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

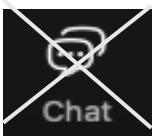
Housekeeping



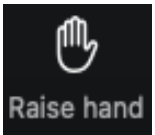
This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



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?



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



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?



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
- **FNESS:** 250 377-7600 or wildfireresiliency@fness.bc.ca
- **BCWS**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/contacts>





QUESTIONS?