

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



**First Nations'  
Emergency Services Society**

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# FNESS Board of Directors

The Board of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC recognizes the hard work of communities this past year of unprecedented emergency events that dramatically impacted so many. Collaboration was (and remains) critical for FNESS in emergency response, recovery and future planning.

In the interests of continuous improvement of services, we are committed to continuously encouraging our members to reach out to FNESS at any time throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming communities that want to truly be a part of making a positive safety difference by becoming active members with us.

While we will be ready to 'roll up our sleeves' for the work in the year ahead, the Board reminds all of the past. With the recent passing of an original FNESS Board member, Richard Norman (Norm) Brooks, we reflect upon all those who have developed community safety principles. Please always remember and recognize those who have led us forward. We share some excerpts from Norm in past years. Thank you Norm!

## BY: NORMAN R. BROOKS – DIRECTOR

It's that time once again; to put your trust in some as your Director. And I thank those over the years who have voted for me to represent them.

I've spent 32 years as Fire Chief and a Co-founder of this Organization. I've spent 9 years as a volunteer and a fully paid Chief. I received 27 Certificates and 3 National Awards over the years as a Fire Chief and I share them with you, because I cared. Each and every one of you has played a role to make this organization what it is today. Co-founders, Fire Chiefs, Staff, Program Contractors, First Responders and the families and wives who stood by their fellow emergency personnel within their communities. Those volunteers that are active take time out to shake each other's hand. "At times people forget". They are there to serve those who are in need.



## BY: NORMAN BROOKS – PRESIDENT

Once again it's that time, and I would like to thank those who put their trust in me. I've served on the Board since day one – since the day of SNIFF as the first President, and then Clifford became Head Sniffer.

One of the most important things I've learned is to stop and listen to the concerns of our fellow First Nations groups, and I've always maintained trust, and had self-esteem. And I've always said respect is earned, not just given.



# Executive Director's Report

## COLLABORATION


I offer a similar opening statement we have given in the past: "FNESS offers the Annual Report for the larger FNESS family for all First Nations communities that we serve. While the Annual Report is focussed upon the previous fiscal year, safety is not fiscal year dependent, but is longer term in nature. Within our mandate, FNESS continues to reinforce our commitment to the First Nations Leadership Council of BC (FNLC) in order to "protect the rights, lands, resources, and infrastructure of all communities."

As we move into another year, this commitment remains valid and will always be enhanced in the interests of continuous improvements. Communities (and FNESS staff) need to be recognized, respected and rewarded for their steadfast and long term enhancements to community safety. FNESS's collegial, informal, and nimble work environment allows staff to utilize their collective knowledge base and experiences to develop culturally congruent, timely and accessible programs and services for communities.

A Practical Guide to (Structural) Fire Protection will continue to be a focal point for our Fire Services. Also, utilizing a culturally congruent participatory approach, FNESS will collect and analyze 'updated' community protection (structural firefighting and emergency management) needs, hazards, and related data to develop customized regional programs for First Nations communities in BC – focusing on fire prevention (e.g., education), risk reduction, fire service operations, and community emergency preparedness. Mental health (CISM) aspects will always be included in service reviews.

Wildfire resilience will take more focus during the year ahead, specifically around education, fuels management, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency partnerships, and cross training. Given the emergency events of this past year as a result of climate change and other factors, the heightened levels of experience and capacity within communities will be critical engagements moving forward.

I commend the First Nations leaders, FNESS Board, and FNESS staff for the admirable efforts and huge time commitments this year past, and their unwavering focus on the year ahead.



FNESS Board of Directors, FNESS Executive Director and special guest

From left to right: Ed Mountain (President – Board of Directors), Karen Alexandre (Administrative Support FNESS Forest Fuel Management), Brent Langlois (FNESS Executive Director), Adam Olsen (MLA – Saanich North and The Islands) Anthony Moore (Director – Board of Directors), Micheal Kelly (Director – Board of Directors), Barbara Morin (Secretary/Treasurer – Board of Directors) and Sonny Hunt (Vice President – Board of Directors)

## Our Vision

Safe and Healthy First Nations Communities

## Our Mission

FNESS serves First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through:

- Emergency planning, training, response and recovery;
- Fire training, education and prevention;
- Forest fuel and wildfire management; and
- Leadership and collaborative relationships



## Our Values

### Courage

Strength and curiosity while determining the most beneficial actions with communities.

### Honesty

Open and transparent environments in all actions.

### Integrity

Consistent and accountable for all actions, assessing and adapting as needed.

### Passion

Acknowledging enthusiasm and initiative; rewarding success regularly.

### Respect

Inclusiveness and teamwork that allows fairness, balance and harmony in all activities; appreciative of all cultural diversities.

### Trustworthiness

Providing credible and state-of-the-art recognized services.

# Fire Services Department

FNESS Fire Services working with ISC has restructured the workshop and deliveries to incorporate an updated comprehensive suite of combined programs.

The 'tiered' approach has been developed to reflect programming based upon Foundational, Home Fire Protection, Community Fire Protection, and Fire Department capacities.

**Foundational** – fire protection leadership and governance support with community leadership

**Tier 1** – Home fire life safety activities that have the greatest potential for preventing fires and saving lives.

**Tier 2** – Community Fire Protection focusses on enhancing education and awareness, that requires a greater degree of community organization and support in order to be effective.

**Tier 3** – Community Fire Departments may be considered once a community has established Foundational and Tier 1 & 2 activities. Several factors are fully explored; capacity, recruitment, retention, operations, maintenance, partnerships and service agreements to support long-term sustainability of community fire protection and prevention.



## Fire Prevention Leadership and Governance Workshops

These workshops provide a foundation for community safety and are directed to Chief and Council, band administration and fire department chief officers. Participants from twenty-one communities learn about fire protection in terms of leadership roles, responsibilities and accountability. Developing and implementing fire prevention Band Council Resolutions and by-laws is also an important part of the workshops.

The goal of these workshops is to provide First Nations leadership with the necessary information, resources and support to increase their community's fire prevention and protection capacity.

		# of Programs Delivered
<b>Foundational Training</b>	Fire Protection Leadership and Governance	18
<b>Tier 1</b>	Home Fire Life Safety Education	17
<b>Tier 2</b>	Home Fire Safety Inspection Education	14
	Youth Engagement Initiative	4
	School Fire Education & Development Of Champion	17
	Provincial/National School Poster Contest	1
<b>Tier 3</b>	Provincial/National Fire Fighter Competition	1
	Firefighter Training	4
<b>Non-Tier Programs</b>	Engaging Municipal Service Providers	3
	Fire Safety Assessments Kick Start Activities	25

## Home Fire Life Safety and Home Inspection Workshops

The Home Fire and Life Safety Workshop is directed to community residents. Topics include the common causes of home fires, what can be done to reduce the risk from fire, essential safety equipment that needs to be working in every home, and how to escape a home fire. A total of 234 community members benefited from receiving this workshop.

The Home Inspection Workshops is directed primarily to Leadership and staff who have responsibilities for housing and community safety. The workshop focuses on how to develop, enhance and implement a community home inspection program.

Both workshops focus on mentoring community fire safety champions and fire department personnel to work on their community's fire safety priorities. The champion receives information about installation, maintenance and use of fire safety equipment such as smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers. Seventeen communities participated in these workshops and eleven champions were identified and mentored.

## Provincial/National Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest

The FNESS Poster Contest used the NFPA 2017 Fire Prevention Week Theme of "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" to encourage students to learn more about home fire escape plans. Fourteen schools sent in 212 posters for the annual poster contest.

First Nations schools were invited to have their students enter the Fire Prevention Week iPad contest, delivered in collaboration with FNESS, the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC and the Office of the Fire Commissioner. One iPad was awarded to a student attending a First Nation operated school.

FNESS appreciates the support and collaboration received from the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada and the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC.

The winners of the iPad contest can be seen at <https://www.fpoa.bc.ca>



Students at Prophet River School working on posters



Poster by: Cassidy Calahassen, Grade 6 - Neqweyqweilsten School - Simpcw First Nation



FSO Liz Wilson working with Beecher Bay Housing and Maintenance staff spent the day discussing the implementation and running of a Home Inspection Program for their community.

## School Fire Education

Children and youth in Head Start programs, preschools, elementary and high schools in seventeen communities participated in age-appropriate fire safety education. Thirteen champions from school staff and faculty were identified and mentored.

The School Fire Education workshop covers topics such as kitchen and home heating safety, smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, home escape practice, lighters and matches safety and cooling a burn. These informative lessons help children to stay safe. Safety messages are shared with school staff, parents and families. A total of 934 school-aged participants benefited from this program.



FSO Reo Jerome at Kitsoo Community School.

## Youth Engagement Initiative

The FNESS Youth Engagement Initiative's main objective is to include First Nations youth in community fire prevention safety and volunteerism. FNESS appreciated the collaboration of the First Nations engaged in this program, school districts, schools and local fire departments for hosting the Boot Camps. These workshops encourage youth to learn about fire prevention and the qualifications and training needed to volunteer and work in the fire service. The workshops also provide youth with opportunities to develop public speaking and firefighter skills. A total of five Fire Prevention Boot Camps were delivered and 97 youth benefited from this initiative.



### Fire Prevention Youth Boot Camp Penticton Indian Band (PIB)

Collaborators:

- Penticton Indian Band: Host Territory
- PIB Fire Department: Sponsored firefighters and Chief participated
- Penticton Fire Department: Sponsored Firefighters and Chief participated
- BC Wildfire Service: Guest speaker
- School District 67: Sponsored students and chaperones



### Fire Prevention Youth Boot Camp Westbank First Nation

Collaborators:

- Westbank First Nation: Host Territory
- West Kelowna Fire Rescue: Sponsored, location, firefighters and Chief participated
- School District 23: Sponsored students and chaperones
- Tronson Logging: Guest Speakers

## FNESS Safety Expo, Provincial Fire Fighter Competition and Training

In June 2017, the FNESS Safety Expo was held in conjunction with the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC's Education Summit and BC Fire Expo in Vernon, BC. This scheduling allowed firefighters, fire chiefs, members of fire protection agencies and community members to observe the FNESS events and network with each other.

Thanks to the contribution from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Fortis BC in 2017, FNESS was able to provide a more robust event to participating First Nations. Eleven First Nations Fire Departments competed in the Provincial Fire Fighter Competition held at Alexis Park Elementary School.

### Competition Results

A second team from Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw was awarded "Most-Sportsman-Like Team"

1st

Saik'uz

2nd

Nisga'a Village of  
Gitwinksihlkw

3rd

Heiltsuk



Saik'uz Fire Department. 2017 Regional champions attended the National Fire Fighters competition at Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick.





FEB  
2018

**Fire Prevention Youth Boot Camp  
Lil'wat First Nation**

Collaborators:

- Lil'wat First Nation: Host Territory
- Lil'wat Fire Department: Sponsored firefighters and Chief participated
- Xet'olacw Community School: Sponsored students and chaperones
- BC Wildfire: Guest Speakers
- Pemberton Fire Department: Sponsored firefighters and Chief participated



MAR  
2018

**Fire Prevention Youth Boot Camp  
Xaxli'p First Nation**

Collaborators:

- Xaxli'p First Nation: Host Territory
- Xaxli'p Fire Department: Sponsored firefighters and Fire Chief participated
- Lillooet Fire Department: Sponsored firefighters and Fire Chief participated
- School District 74: Sponsored students and chaperones
- Lillooet Secondary School: Sponsored location, students and principal participated



MAR  
2018

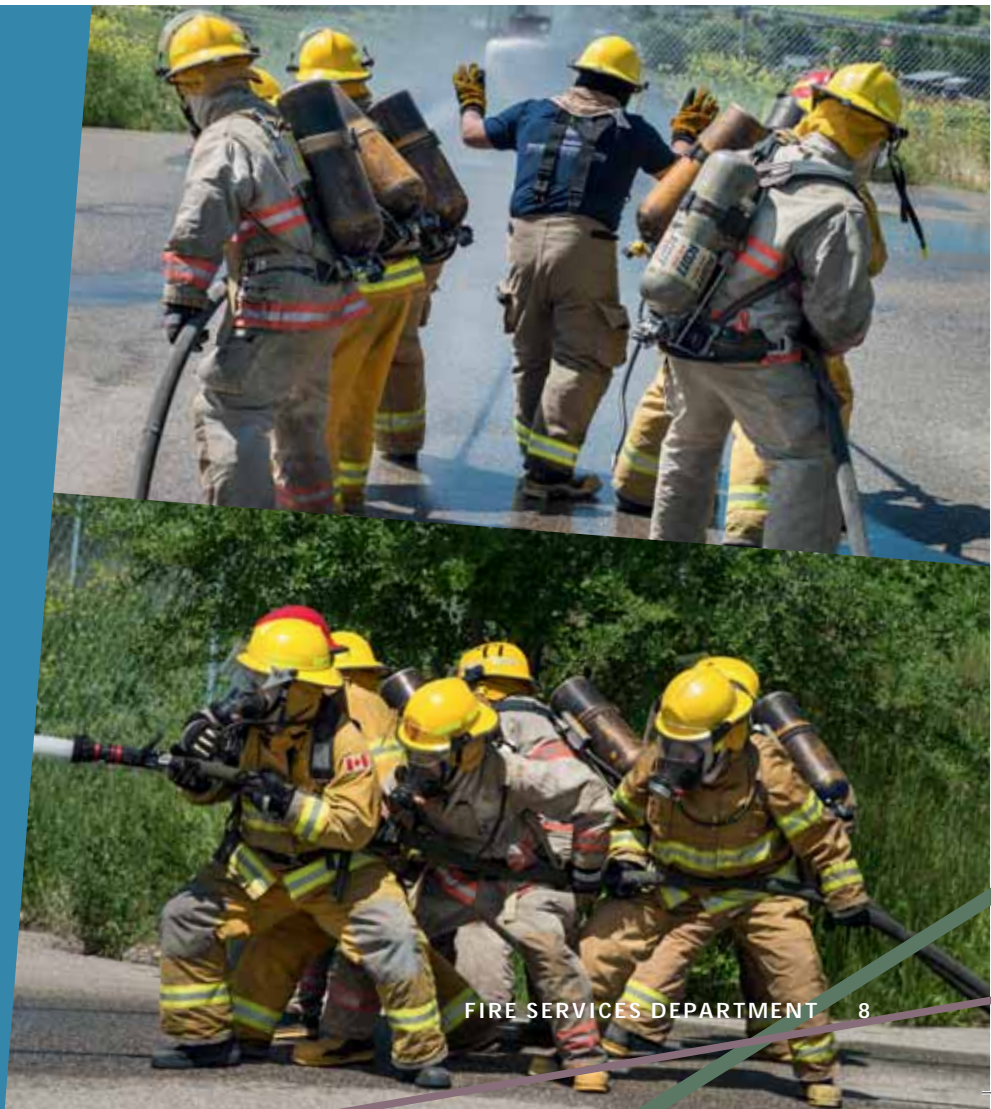
**Fire Prevention: Be A Firefighter  
Gathering Our Voices Indigenous  
Youth Leadership Training (GOV)\***

The workshop was available to delegates attending GOV 2018 in Richmond, BC. FNESS worked with Richmond Fire Rescue at their training grounds to deliver this two-day workshop. FNESS also staffed a booth at the two-day GOV career fair. Information about FNESS services and fire safety was provided to delegates who visited the booth.

\*GOV is an event organized by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres available for all Indigenous youth. GOV 2019 will take place in Port Alberni.

FNESS delivered two days of Exterior Operations: Live Fire training at Vernon Fire Training Centre. For those who completed the two days of training, the Justice Institute of British Columbia provided credits for the 1051 and 1052 Car Fire and Dumpster Fire and Class "A" Material training. A total of 60 firefighters from twelve First Nations participated in the training and 56 participants earned these credits.

FNESS presented WorkSafe BC Research on Indigenous Leadership on Structural Firefighting in a panel discussion format to address the two topics of Communication and Recruitment/Retention. All participants had the chance to express their concerns, make inquiries and share best practices and useful resources for making improvements to their fire departments. There were 24 participants at this session. FNESS also sponsored a guest speaker to deliver an additional evening presentation which included an update on the BCEHS First Responder program.



# Smoke Alarm and Kitchen Fire Extinguisher Program

ISC and FNESS work in partnership to provide smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers for BC First Nations communities. Smoke alarms are economical devices that are easy to install and it can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. The smoke alarm program was launched in 2013 and the Fire Extinguisher program in 2016. Since the commencement of the program FNESS continues to engage First Nations for the first time and to provide supplementary orders to those previously engaged. Working smoke alarms can save lives!



Lil'wat First Nation is installing in their homes the combination smoke/CO alarms provided by FNESS

FNESS takes great pride in promoting and distributing smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. The complimentary smoke alarm and fire extinguisher are available to all First Nations communities throughout BC. To apply and learn more about the Smoke Alarm/Fire Extinguisher program please visit the FNESS website where an application form named 'Expression of Interest' is available for download, <http://fness.bc.ca/smoke-alarm-campaign>.

Fire extinguishers, working smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, and ongoing fire safety education are essential to the safety of our families, homes and communities.

## Important Recall Message

FNESS would like to continue to inform all BC First Nations Communities, of the recall sent from Kidde Canada advising of a recall on fire extinguishers models E5, M5C, BC5GD. FNESS has a replacement program available and at **no charge** to the community. FNESS receives the recalled fire extinguishers and replaces the same number of recalls with **new** fire extinguishers. The Fire Services department has been working diligently with First Nations to ensure the recalls are replaced.

Malahat nation really appreciates the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors that ISC and FNESS have sent to keep the members of our nation safe. We have been renovating and upgrading the safety of our homes and with your help we are making them safe for the members and elders and all our children.

Marven Morgan BA Fire Chief of Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihkw Fire Department, replied by stating: We applied for smoke detector and fire extinguishers through FNESS and ISC and were successful in our application, receiving more than our fire department had expected.

Our Fire Department and our community members are very happy with the two products. Our volunteers visited every home in our community and installed the units. We advised the home owner on where we were placing the units and why that would be the best place. We gave the home owner instructions on how the units worked.



## Follow-up on Fire Safety Assessments

Indigenous Services Canada, in partnership with FNESS, provided grants to communities to kick-start activities that address the recommendations outlined in their Fire Safety Assessment reports. Twenty-three communities submitted applications and were approved for grants of up to \$10,000 to help them complete the identified three activities.

Communities used the funds to implement community fire prevention programs that included installation of smoke/CO alarms and fire extinguishers; cleaning of chimneys, dryer ducts and furnaces; community events; and distribution of fire safety information during maintenance visits and through newsletters and pamphlets. Other communities used the grant to acquire wildfire firefighting training, such as S-100, S-185 and Chainsaw Basics.

Left: Dzawada'enuxw First Nation doing chimney cleaning in the snow.

Right: Semiahmoo First Nation installing smoke/CO alarms

## Joint Work with Fire Protection Agencies

FNESS was honoured to establish a Letter of Agreement with the BC Fire Training Officers Association (BCFTOA). This partnership will assist in promoting fire training, developing a fire incident reporting strategy and delivering programs to First Nations. FNESS continues to nurture the relationship with partner organizations such as FCABC, BCFTOA and FPOA. Moreover, meetings and conversations have been held with the BC Burn Fund and Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) regarding the establishment of a partnership to create more initiatives that will benefit First Nations. Two of the initiatives are promoting and including more First Nations at "Burn Camps" (an initiative implemented by BC Burn Fund) and developing more opportunities for regional Fire Officer Development training to be delivered in conjunction with JIBC.

Fire Services appreciates the contributions made by community members, fire prevention organizations and our sponsors and funders. We look forward to continuing to work together on community safety.

## Fire Fighter and Fire Officer Training

FNESS and the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) have been working together to implement training to communities using a regional approach. This initiative has been confirmed and will be implemented in 2018-2019.

Saik'uz Fire Department started receiving firefighter training through FNESS and completed five modules out of the eight. McLeod Lake Indian Band Fire Department was engaged in this program and received a Fire Department assessment. Furthermore, FNESS is developing a regional approach to be able to assist more First Nations-led fire departments throughout the fiscal year.



## Forest Fuel Management Department (FFM)

The FFM department works with First Nations of BC, Provincial and Federal governments and agencies, to assist with wildfire prevention activities. Many First Nations in BC are impacted by the threat and risk of loss to community structures and assets due to wildfires. The FFM department supports access to funding to communities to reduce the risk and loss to wildfires through planning, education, and implementation of wildfire threat reduction activities.

### Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI)

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) is a suite of funding programs managed through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Working Group – FNESS, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

*N.B: All programs are currently under review by the Province of BC.*

To access program guidelines and funding stream applications follow the link to UBCM at <http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/strategic-wildfire-prevention/2018-swpi-program.html>

### 2017-2018 Summary of Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI)

1st Quarter  
(April 1 to June 30, 2017)

2nd Quarter  
(July 1 to Sept 30, 2017)

3rd Quarter  
(Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2017)

4th Quarter  
(Jan 1 to Mar 30, 2017)

Total \$ New  
Applications

Total \$  
Completed  
SWPI

#### Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed	Total \$ New Applications	Total \$ Completed SWPI
2	7	0	11	2	4	1	0	5	24
\$42,274.50	\$47,578.00	\$0	\$77,012.00	\$32,290.00	\$31,776.30	\$18,633.00	\$0	\$93,197.50	\$156,366.30

#### Forest Fuel Prescriptions

New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	Total \$ New Applications	Total \$ Completed SWPI
0	0	0	0	2	0	7	5	9	5
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,664.00	\$0	\$64,125.75.00	\$31,661.25	\$85,789.75	\$31,661.25

#### Operational Fuel Treatments

New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed	Total \$ New Applications	Total \$ Completed SWPI
0	7	0	1	2	0	5	4	7	8
\$0	\$177,337.26.00	\$0	\$388,295.00	\$427,374.90	\$0	\$725,021.75	\$670,810.25	\$1,152,396.65	\$1,236,442.52

**Total Funds Approved**  
\$1,331,383.90

**Total Funds Dispersed**  
\$1,236,442.52

**Total # of Projects**

22

35

#### Hectares (Ha) Treated

52.4

90.8

0

223.4

**Total Ha Treated: 366.6**

Opposite page left: ?Aq'am  
Operational Treatment (ISC)

Opposite page centre:  
Xwisten (Bridge River)  
On-Reserve Prescription  
Development and  
Operational Treatment of  
Polygon 11GH

Opposite page right:  
Sekw'el'was On-Reserve  
Prescription Development  
and Operational Treatment  
of Polygon 6E, net 10 Ha

## National FireSmart Canada – Community Recognition Program

We have been very active assisting First Nations, local governments, regional districts and other agencies to engage in the FireSmart Community Recognition Program, with the objective of assisting communities to reach and attain FireSmart community recognition. Jeff Eustache, RFT Manager of the FFM, is the Province of BC territorial representative/liaison in a shared role with the BCWS Communications and Engagement Specialist. He works with BCWS to support First Nations local governments and regional districts and other agencies with the FireSmart community recognition program.

For a list of all 2017–18 communities that received and/or renewed their FireSmart Canada Community Recognition, go to <https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/firesmart-communities/provinces/british-columbia>.

## Emergency Management Assistance Program 2017–18 Wildfire Prevention Initiative

In 2017/2018, 26 First Nations communities in British Columbia (BC) completed on-reserve operational forest fuel treatments. The purpose of this component of the FNESS Wildfire Prevention Initiative was to coordinate on-reserve fuel reduction activities for up to 26 BC First Nations communities. These communities met specific criteria and guidelines to implement the forest fuel reduction treatments that were identified in completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Forest Fuel Management Prescriptions referenced as high priority treatment units and assessed as being in either high or extreme wildfire threat rated areas, particularly in the wildland urban interface (WUI). This funding process was application-based and modeled after the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) and the Aboriginal Forestry Initiative (AFI).



Shuswap Band Recognized FireSmart Community in 2017

## FireSmart Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Project

A project proposal was initiated in August 2016 as a partnership proposal for Fort Nelson First Nation IR # 2 through ISC and Forest Enhancement Society (FES) that approved the project in October 2016. The project was leveraged as a partnership initiative through the BC Rural Dividend Program which approved the project in March 2017. The project area of interest expanded to include the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

An interim project report has been produced. Decision support tool training and implementation, second round HIZ training and assessments on Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and second round UAV training is scheduled for April and May 2018.



## FNESS First Nation Adapt Project (FNAP)

Revitalizing traditional burning – Integrating Indigenous cultural values into wildfire management and climate change adaptation planning a multi-year project (2017–2019) – officially commenced in October 2017.

FNAP Case studies will enhance holistic knowledge and observations of wildfire management to inform climate change adaptation planning for First Nations communities of similar scale and needs.

## 2017–2018 First Nations Wildland Firefighter Training & BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Interagency Suppression/Response

Overall, the proposed FNESS-led wildland firefighter training and skills development initiative is intended to contribute to capacity building of wildland firefighting personnel in BC. The training, skills development, and required interagency wildfire suppression contract arrangement process to have First Nations crews recognized and acknowledged will be identified, discussed with provincial and federal government agencies, and presented to First Nations communities in advance of the 2018 wildfire season.

The following certified courses were delivered in the Central Kamloops Region, Cariboo Region and Southeast Region.

- 1 S-100: Basic Fire Suppression**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)*
- 2 S-185: Safety and Fire Entrapment Avoidance**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)*
- 3 S-212: Fire Line Communications**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)*
- 4 S-230: Single Resource Leader/Crew Boss**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)*
- 5 Basic Chainsaw Safety**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Forest Safety Council)*
- 6 WCB Occupational First Aid Level 1**  
*(RECOGNIZED by WorkSafeBC)*
- 7 Transportation Endorsement Certificate**  
*(RECOGNIZED by WorkSafeBC)*
- 8 ICS-100: Incident Command Safety**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the Justice Institute of BC)*
- 9 Wildlife Danger Tree Assessors: Wildland Fire Safety Module**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Forest Safety Council)*
- 10 S-235: Burning Off and Backfiring**  
*(RECOGNIZED by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Rural Development—FLNRORD, specifically BC Wildfire Service)*



Photos from 2017 Wildfires in BC

# Emergency Management Department

## Summary 2017 – Floods and Wildfires

First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) supported its mission to serve First Nations communities to develop and sustain safer and healthier communities by acting as liaisons, advocates, and information, service and training resources for BC First Nations Communities during the historic 2017 BC wildfire and flood season. For FNESS staff, it was an unforgettable year.

Our qualified and professional personnel provided support to Provincial Emergency Coordination Centres (PECC) and Provincial and Regional Emergency Operation Centres (PREOC) in Victoria, the BC Interior and Cariboo Regional centres where traditional knowledge was shared to better understand the needs of, and offer support to, First Nations communities.

### Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Joint work with Agencies

The Emergency Management department is working towards building strong relationships with several agencies, such as First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Red Cross, Emergency Management BC (EMBC), BC Municipalities and more.

FNESS provides Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) to First Nations with the support of FNHA. A total of 29 communities were provided CISM in 2017–2018 and 30 communities were assisted by FNESS with the support of EMBC, Red Cross, Wildfire Liaisons and First Nations leaders. Overall, FNESS assisted 59 communities through the Emergency Management department.

FNESS will continue to enhance its intimate knowledge of Indigenous communities in BC and will focus on the learnings and identified gaps discovered during its involvement with the 2017 BC Flood and Wildfire response and subsequent research activities. This transferred knowledge will be utilized to assist our First Nation communities to achieve success in the field of emergency management/response and recovery, as they travel their individual pathways towards self-reliance.

FNESS Emergency Management department would like to thank EMBC, ISC and FNHA for their support. And to all the First Nations communities that have engaged with FNESS Emergency Management services, we look forward to continuing our work with you.

**FNESS supported 40 directly-affected FN communities (Local Authorities) by providing the following services and supports:**

- Support PECC in Victoria providing Liaison/Advisory services for First Nations Communities
- Support PREOC in Kamloops, Prince George and Victoria, and work closely with MAR/MIR to develop re-entry and recovery plans for the affected communities
- Provide front line support to communities with regards to EOC centers within evacuated communities
- Provide CISM Services to workers, community staff and members alike
- Assist communities on their path to recovery by providing resource information, training and advisory services as required





FIRST NATIONS' EMERGENCY SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

A Financial Overview for 2017/2018 – Sources and Uses of Funds

Funding by Source

	Dollars (\$ 000)	%
ISC* – BC Region	3,363,359	72.2%
BC Forestry** (UBCM***)	642,035	13.8%
Emergency Management BC	351,209	7.5%
First Nations Health Authority	111,496	2.4%
FNESS Own Source/Miscellaneous	161,424	3.5%
Donations	30,050	0.6%
Memberships	1,520	0.0%
	<b>4,661,093</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Funding by Use/Programs

	Dollars (\$ 000)	%
Fire Services	1,050,919	23.9%
Emergency Management	2,265,448	51.5%
Forest Fuel Management	733,459	16.7%
Administration/Board/AGM	349,426	7.9%
FNESS Own Source Revenues	1,833	0.0%
	<b>4,401,086</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

\*\* BC Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations

\*\*\* Union of BC Municipalities

*Not shown above are Provincial SWPI (Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative) funds that were committed to First Nations communities for approved application for 2017/2018 totaling \$1,331,383.90. In addition, funds approved for projects completed for 2017/2018 totaled \$1,424,470.07. FNESS plays a significant role in assisting First Nations to receive this funding.*

FNESS currently receives funding primarily from government sources and uses these funds according to the terms and conditions of their Agreements.

NOTICE TO READER: This financial presentation is unaudited and has been prepared by management for the sole purpose of this annual report. The information excludes capital amortization and deferred revenue adjustments, loss (gain) on sale of assets but includes purchases that are capital in nature.

# Communities Engaged by FNESS 2017–2018

Band #	Band Name	EM	FFM	FIRE
604	?Akisq'nuk First Nation	✓	✓	
709	?Esdilagh First Nation	✓	✓	
684	Adams Lake Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
659	Ahousaht First Nation			✓
710	Alexis Creek First Nation   Tšideldel	✓	✓	✓
602	?Aq'am	✓	✓	
685	Ashcroft Indian Band	✓	✓	
640	Beecher Bay First Nation			✓
547	Blueberry River First Nations			✓
686	Bonaparte Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
700	Boothroyd Indian Band		✓	
701	Boston Bar First Nation		✓	✓
619	Burns Lake Indian Band			✓
713	Canim Lake Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
583	Chawathil Band			✓
584	Cheam First Nation		✓	✓
693	Coldwater Indian Band	✓	✓	
694	Cook's Ferry Indian Band	✓	✓	
642	Cowichan Tribes		✓	
502	Daylu Dena Nation (Liard)		✓	
662	Ditidaht First Nation			✓
548	Doig River First Nation	✓		
636	Dzawada'enuxw (formerly Tsawataineuk) First Nation			✓
711	Esk'etemc First Nation	✓	✓	✓
644	Esquimalt Nation			✓
543	Fort Nelson First Nation		✓	✓
531	Gitanmaax Band Council			✓
537	Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs			✓
677	Gitlaxtaamiks Village Government (Nisga'a Village of New Aiyansh)		✓	
535	Gitsegukla Indian Band			✓
536	Gitwangak			✓
724	Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nation			✓
627	Gwawaenuk Tribe			✓
676	Haisla Nation		✓	

Band #	Band Name	EM	FFM	FIRE
546	Halfway River First Nations			√
538	Heiltsuk Nation			√
661	Hesquiaht First Nation			√
703	High Bar First Nation	√		√
552	Homalco Indian Band		√	
664	Hupacasath First Nation			√
663	Huu-ay-aht First Nations			√
624	K'ómoks First Nation			√
704	Kanaka Bar Indian band	√	√	√
532	Kispiox Band Council		√	√
540	Kitasoo Band Council			√
680	Kitselas First Nation		√	
681	Kitsumkalum First Nation	√		√
610	Kwadacha Nation			√
560	Kwikwetlem First Nation			√
607	Lake Babine Nation		√	√
643	Lake Cowichan First Nation		√	√
674	Laxkw'alaams Village Government			√
611	Lheidli - T'enneh First Nation	√		
721	Lhoosk'uz Dene ' Government Administration	√	√	√
715	Lhtako Dene Nation	√		
557	Lil'wat (Mount Currie) Nation	√	√	√
689	Little Shuswap Lake Indina band	√	√	
606	Lower Kootney Indian Band	√	√	
695	Lower Nicola Indian Band	√	√	
598	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	√	√	√
705	Lytton First Nation	√	√	√
647	Malahat Indian Band		√	
618	McLeod Lake Indian Band		√	√
530	Moricetown Band Administration		√	
630	Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation		√	
556	N'Quatqua		√	
612	Nadleh Whuten Band			√
614	Nak'azdli Band			√

## Communities Engaged by FNESS 2017–2018 Cont.

Band #	Band Name	EM	FFM	FIRE
649	Nanoose First Nation			✓
720	Nazko First Nation	✓	✓	✓
726	Nee-Tahi-Buhn		✓	
690	Neskonlith Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
696	Nicomen Indian Band	✓	✓	
671	Nisga'a Village of Gingolx			✓
679	Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw		✓	✓
678	Nisga'a Village of Laxgalt'sap			✓
699	Nooaitch Indian Band	✓	✓	
639	Nuchatlaht First Nation			✓
539	Nuxalk Nation	✓		
616	Okanagan Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
669	Old Massett Village Council			✓
692	Oregon Jack Creek Band	✓		✓
596	Osoyoos Indian Band	✓		✓
541	Oweekeno/Wuikinuxv Nation			✓
658	Pacheedaht First Nation			✓
650	Penelakut Indian Band			✓
597	Penticton Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
586	Peters Band		✓	
544	Prophet River Band		✓	✓
615	Saik'uz First Nation			✓
567	Samahquam First Nation		✓	✓
581	Seabird Island Indian Band		✓	
569	Semiahmoo First Nation			✓
591	Sekw'elw'as (Cayoose Creek)	✓	✓	
698	Shackan Indian Band	✓	✓	✓
605	Shuswap Band	✓	✓	
691	Simpcw First Nation	✓	✓	✓
706	Siska Indian Band	✓		
687	Skeetchestn Indian Band	✓	✓	
707	Skuppah Indian Band	✓	✓	
573	Skwah First Nation			✓
648	Snuneymuxw First Nation			✓
572	Soowahlie Indian band			✓
708	Spuzzum First Nation		✓	
555	Squamish Nation		✓	

Band #	Band Name	EM	FFM	FIRE
559	Sts'ailes Nation		√	
723	Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek) First Nation	√		√
641	Stz'uminus First Nation			√
578	Sumas First Nation			√
608	Takla Lake First Nation		√	
501	Taku River Tlinget First Nation		√	
593	T'it'q'et	√	√	
688	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops)	√		
554	Tla'amin Nation		√	√
617	Tl'azt'en Nation			√
712	Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office	√		√
603	Tobacco Plains Indian Band	√	√	
718	Toosey Indian Band	√	√	√
666	Toquaht First Nation			√
595	Tsal'alh		√	√
653	Tsartlip First Nation			√
654	Tsawout			√
609	Tsay Keh Dene			√
665	Tseshahat First Nation			√
594	Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation	√	√	
575	Tzeachten First Nation			√
722	Ulkatcho First Nation	√	√	√
697	Upper Nicola Band	√		√
599	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	√	√	√
545	West Moberly First Nations			√
601	Westbank First Nation	√	√	√
623	We Wai Kai Nation (Cape Mudge)			√
702	Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band	√	√	
719	Williams Lake Indian Band	√	√	√
716	Xat'súll First Nation (Soda Creek)	√	√	√
592	Xaxli'p First Nation	√	√	√
714	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government	√		
590	Xwisten		√	√
576	Yekweakwioose First Nation			√
589	Yale First Nation		√	√
728	Yekooche First Nation			√
717	Yunesit'in Government (Stone)	√		

Cariboo Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
Alexandria	709
Aloxia Creek	710
Carim Lake	713
Carose Creek	723
Esketemo	711
Kluskus	721
Nisko	720
Red Bluff	715
Soda Creek	716
Stone	717
Tl'et'en Government Office	712
Toosey	718
Uinattha	722
Williams Lake	719
Xeni Gwa'tin First Nations Government	714

Coastal Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
Ah-sa-ah	656
Ah-she-lah	558
Bancher Bay	040
Bodhroft	700
Boston Bar First Nation	701
Burrard	549
Campbell River	622
Cape Mudge	623
Chawathl	583
Chatham	584
Chuhalls	559
Chummaus First Nation	541
Comox	624
Conwicheam	642
Da-naad-yw First Nation	635
Dialohi	682
Dogfish	561
Enwathl	634
Esquimalt	644
Gitksan-Nakwaxda'w Band	724
Gwe-wan-muk Tribe	627
Haida	645
Hillbut	558
Hesgalah	661
Himelko	582
Hupacasath First Nation	664
Hu-yeh-ah First Nations	663
Ka-yu-X'ho-Ch'ek-l'ies-let'w First Nations	638
Katze	563
Klaskan	540
Klahpate First Nation	553
Kwakiwilt	626
Kwawwukw First Nation	564
Kwawwukw-Aspi	580
Kwawwukw	628
Kwkwakwaka'wakw-ah-mish	625
Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation	550
Lake Cowichan First Nation	643
Le-pi-mel First Nation	579
Lydson	646
Malahat First Nation	647
Mamalakulla-Qwe'Qwe'Sot'Em	629
Melziq	565
Mount Currie	557
Mowachah/Muchalah	630
Musquam	550
Namgis First Nation	631
Nanoose First Nation	649
New Westminster	566
NQ'atqua	556
Nuchatl	639
Nuxalk Nation	539
Oweekno/Wukinaw Nation	541
Pacheedih First Nation	658
Pauquachin	552
Pemlakut	650
Pelam	586
Rockam	585
Quakwam First Nation	651
Quaticho	633
Samaquiem	587
Scowitz	568
Seabird Island	561
Sechelt	551
Semahmoo	599
Shw'ah-y Village	570
Shw'owhamel First Nation	587
Sikatin Nations	562
Skowahook First Nation	542
Skowkoke	571
Skwah	573
Slammon	554
Sonweymurw First Nation	648
Songhees First Nation	656
Sowahle	672
Spuzzum	708
Squamish	655
Squwaka First Nation	674
Sunog First Nation	678
Ta-o-pa-ah First Nations	660
Talastawala	632
Tl'at'as Tribe	637
Togwaht	666
Tsartlip	653
Tsawathneuk	636
Tsawout First Nation	654
Tsilwawassen First Nation	577
Tsuhah	665
Tsuyocm	655
Tsow-ye First Nation	657
Tsuechten	575
Uchuckosault	667
Ukweli First Nation	666
Union Bar	688
Yakwakwoose	576
Yale First Nation	589

Prince George Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
Blueberry River First Nations	547
Dosa River	548
Fort Nelson First Nation	543
Halfway River First Nation	546
Kwackwaka	610
L'Hecht'eyneh	611
ME'not Lake	618
Nadish Whalen	612
Nekardil	614
Prophet River First Nation	544
Sak'uz First Nation	615
Sauteau First Nations	542
Stellat'en First Nation	613
Takla Lake First Nation	608
Tl'at'en Nation	617
Tsuy Keh Dome	609
West Moberly First Nations	545
Yakooche	728

Kamloops Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
Adams Lake	664
Ashcroft	695
Bonaparte	696
Bridge River	590
Cayoose Creek	591
Goldwader	693
Cook's Ferry	694
High Bar	703
Kamloops	698
Kanaka Bar	704
Little Shuswap Lake	699
Lower Nicola	695
Lower Simkameen	598
Lytton	705
Neskonlith	690
Noonem	696
Nooatch	699
Okanagan	616
Oregon Jack Creek	692
Osoyoos	596
Pentiction	597
Saton Lake	595
Shackan	698
Simsoo First Nation	691
Siska	706
Stantchein	687
Skuppah	707
Spakmicheen	600
T'at'at	593
Tl'akw'ayaww First Nation	594
Upper Nicola	697
Upper Simkameen	599
Westbank First Nation	601
Whispering Pines/Clinton	702
Xwilt'p	592

North West Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
Burns Lake	619
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	620
Daylu Dena Council (see note 1 and 2)	1059
Dease River (see note 1)	504
Gitmanaw	531
Gitanyow	537
Gits'egukla	535
Ghwangak	536
Gitskaala Nation	672
Glen Vowell	533
Hazelton Village	534
Hartley Bay	675
Iskut	683
Kasproo	532
Klamsat	676
Klucwanam	680
Lake Babine Nation	681
Lak-w'alsama	674
Melkottah	673
Morokotom	630
Nee-Tah-Buhn	726
Nisga'a Village of Gangoz	671
Nisga'a Village of Chetwinstlow	670
Nisga'a Village of Laxgal'sag	678
Nisga'a Village of New Ayanah	677
Old Massett Village Council	669
Skidegate	670
Skin Tree	729
Tahlan	682
Tako River Tlogit (see note 1)	501
Wet'suwet'en First Nation	725

South East Fire Centre	
First Nation Name	Identifier
?Aks'ruk First Nation	604
Lower Kootenay	606
Shuswap	605
St. Mary's	602
Tobacco Plains	603

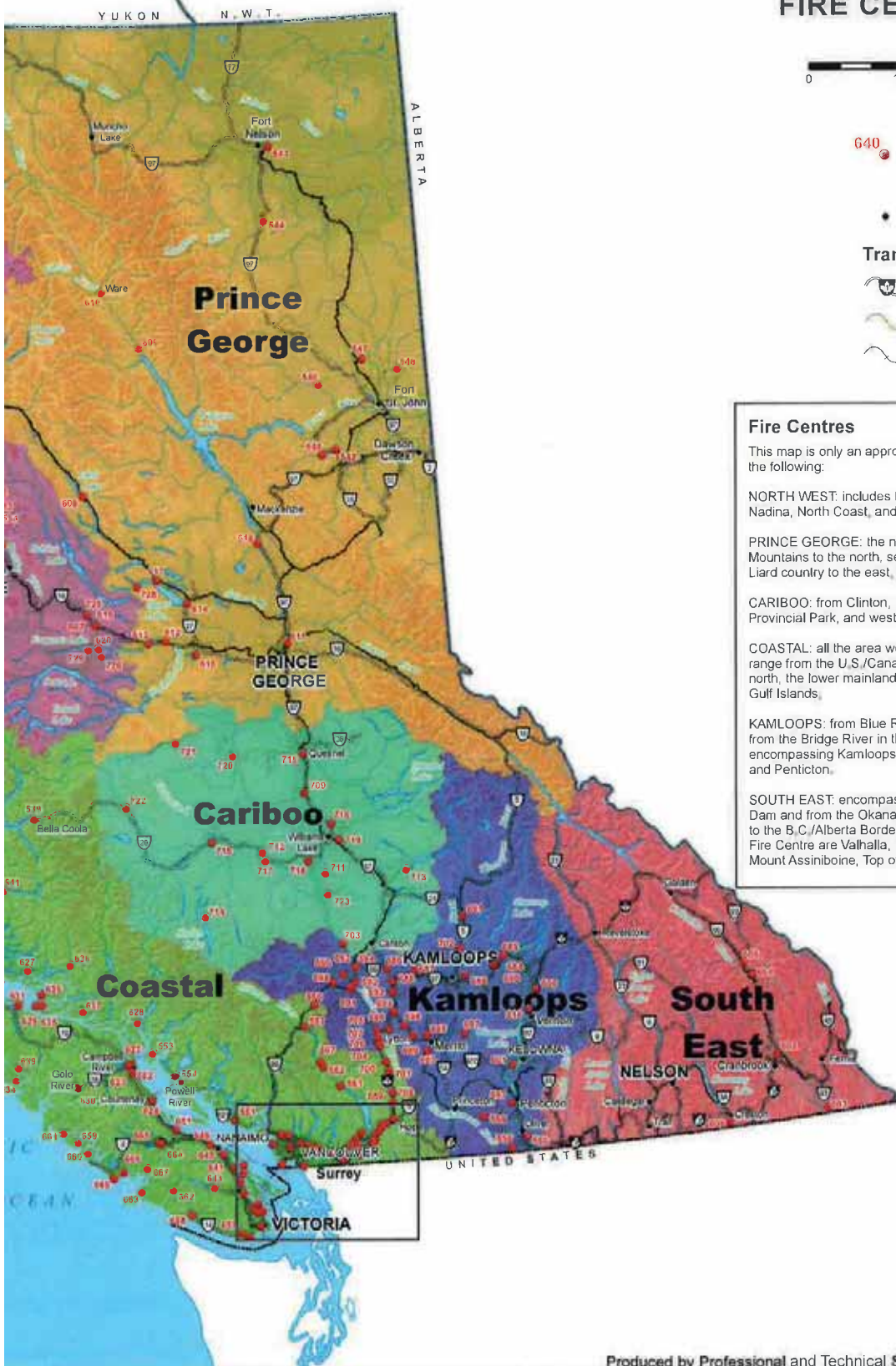


- Notes
- Band or group is administered from INAC Yukon Region. Main community is located in BC.
  - Daylu Dena Council (1059) is not registered as a band under the Indian Act. However, they do function as an independent band and sign separate funding agreements with INAC. All registered Indians in this group appear under Liard River (502) in the Indian Register.





# First Nations in British Columbia FIRE CENTRES OVERLAY



Location of First Nation main community, as obtained from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

City or Town

### Transportation

Highway

Local Roads

Railway

### Fire Centres

This map is only an approximation. The Fire Centre Regions are based on the following:

**NORTH WEST:** includes the forest districts of Kalum, Skeena-Stikine, Nadina, North Coast, and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

**PRINCE GEORGE:** the northern part of the Interior Plateau, the Omenica Mountains to the north, sections of the Rocky Mountain Trench and the Peace Liard country to the east, and part of the Cariboo Range to the south.

**CARIBOO:** from Clinton, north to the Cottonwood River, east to Wells Gray Provincial Park, and west to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

**COASTAL:** all the area west of the height of land on the Coast Mountain range from the U.S./Canada border at Manning Park to Tweedsmuir Park in the north, the lower mainland, the Sunshine Coast, all of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

**KAMLOOPS:** from Blue River in the north to the U.S. border in the south and from the Bridge River in the west to the Monashee Mountains in the east, encompassing Kamloops, Clearwater, Lillooet, Salmon Arm, Merritt, Vernon and Penticton.

**SOUTH EAST:** encompasses the area extending from the US Border to Mica Dam and from the Okanagan Highlands/west side of the Monashee Mountains to the B.C./Alberta Border. Provincial Parks included within the Southeast Fire Centre are Valhalla, Kokanee Glacier, Monashee, St. Mary's Alpine, Mount Assiniboine, Top of the World, and Elk Lakes.

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2018 – 1:00pm

### Songhees Wellness Centre

Traditional Territory of Songhees Nation  
1100 Admirals Road  
Victoria, BC

## Corporate Directory

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **Edwin Mountain Sr.**

President  
Xaxli'p First Nation

#### **Sonny (Stephen) Hunt**

Vice President  
Heiltsuk First Nation

#### **Barbara Morin**

Secretary/Treasurer  
Stswecem'c-Xgat'tem  
(Canoe Creek Band)

#### **Anthony Moore**

Director  
Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw

#### **Micheal Kelly**

Appointed Director  
Leq'a:mel First Nation

### LEGAL COUNSEL

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aiourom@telus.net  
604.228.1798

#### **Ally Workplace Law Corporation**

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604.609.6162

### AUDITORS

#### **Clearline CPA**

Chartered Professional Accountant  
789 West Pender Street, Unit 1010  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1H2  
604.639.0909

### CORPORATE OFFICE

#### **First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS)**

#### **Squamish Nation Traditional Territory North Vancouver Office**

102-70 Orwell Street  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7J 3R5 Canada  
T 604.669.7305  
F 604.669.9832  
1.888.822.3388  
info@fness.bc.ca

#### **Tk'emlups te Secwepmc (Ttes) Traditional Territory Kamloops Office**

A 274 Halston Road  
Kamloops, BC  
V2H 1P7 Canada  
T 250.377.7600  
F 250.377.7610  
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