

# WEBINAR

## 2025 FireSmart

# Community Funding & Supports

Overview of program design changes and improvements

October 2, 2024



*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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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



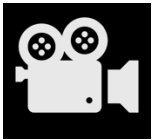
# AGENDA

1. Housekeeping
2. Introductions
3. Program overview
4. Program design improvements
5. FireSmart activities
6. CWRPs Fuel Management
7. FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations
8. Additional Funding Opportunities
9. Contacts
10. Questions

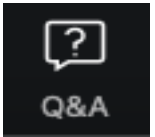
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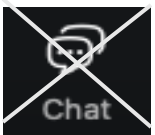
# HOUSEKEEPING



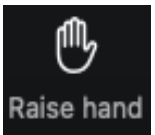
This webinar is recorded. The recording and webinar slides will be made available on our website after the session.



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



UBCM Team



FireSmart BC and BC  
Wildfire Service



# 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), the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) 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.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

- Eligible applicants include all First Nations and local governments in the province. The program operates on an open intake and applicants can choose between Allocation-based or Application-based funding depending on eligibility.
- Applicants with foundational elements (position, committee, plan) in place can apply for funding for FireSmart activities and fuel management. Applicants without the foundational elements can apply for a position, committee, plan but will be limited in other activities they can apply for.
- Applicants at a higher risk of wildfire (Risk Class 1-3) are eligible for up to \$200,000 per year in funding and applicants at a lower risk (Risk Class 4-5) are eligible for \$150,000.
- Applicants who have the foundational elements in place and are in Risk Class 1-3 can request Allocation-based funding for FireSmart activities only.





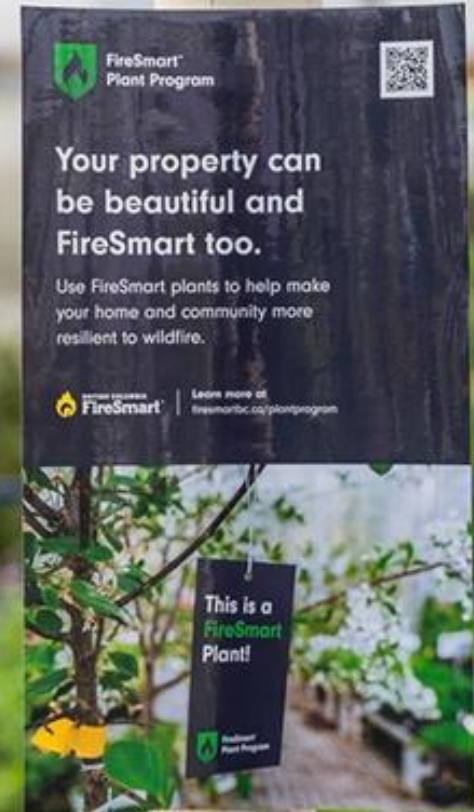
# APPLICATION PROCESS

- Start the application process through the LGPS Online Application Tool which is accessed through the UBCM website and once submitted applicants are emailed applicable application worksheets.
- All application worksheets are required to be reviewed by BCWS/FNESS staff prior to application submission.
- Applications then go through review and the evaluation committee provides funding recommendations.



# PROGRAM DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

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# INCREASED AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- General – Cost maximums have been increased to account for increased costs faced by applicants.
- Increased funding - Lower risk communities (risk class 4-5) – up to \$150,000 per year (for up to two years)
- Additional funding - eligible fuel management activities within First Nations land or publicly owned land may apply to exceed the base funding to a maximum of \$100,000.



# INCREASED AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- Additional funding - eligible fuel management activities within First Nations land recently acquired from a Provincial land transfer may apply to exceed the base funding maximum for only the fuel management on the recently acquired land.
- Additional funding – Communities impacted by 2024 wildfires can apply for additional FireSmart funding up to \$100,000. Communities put under evacuation alert on recommendation of BCWS are now eligible for the additional funding.





# FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

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# NEW FUNDING AND UPDATES

- FireSmart BC Education Program – up to \$600 per year per school to support the program in local school districts.
- Checklists/Assessments for Critical Infrastructure, Community Assets, Culturally Significant Sites and Greenspaces - the cost is an eligible expense provided the assessment is completed within six months prior to the date of application submission.
- Wildfire Mitigation Program (formally Home Partners Program) WMS Training – up to \$2,200 per person to travel to attend a WMS training session. WMS fees are no longer being collected.





# CWRPs & FUEL MANAGEMENT

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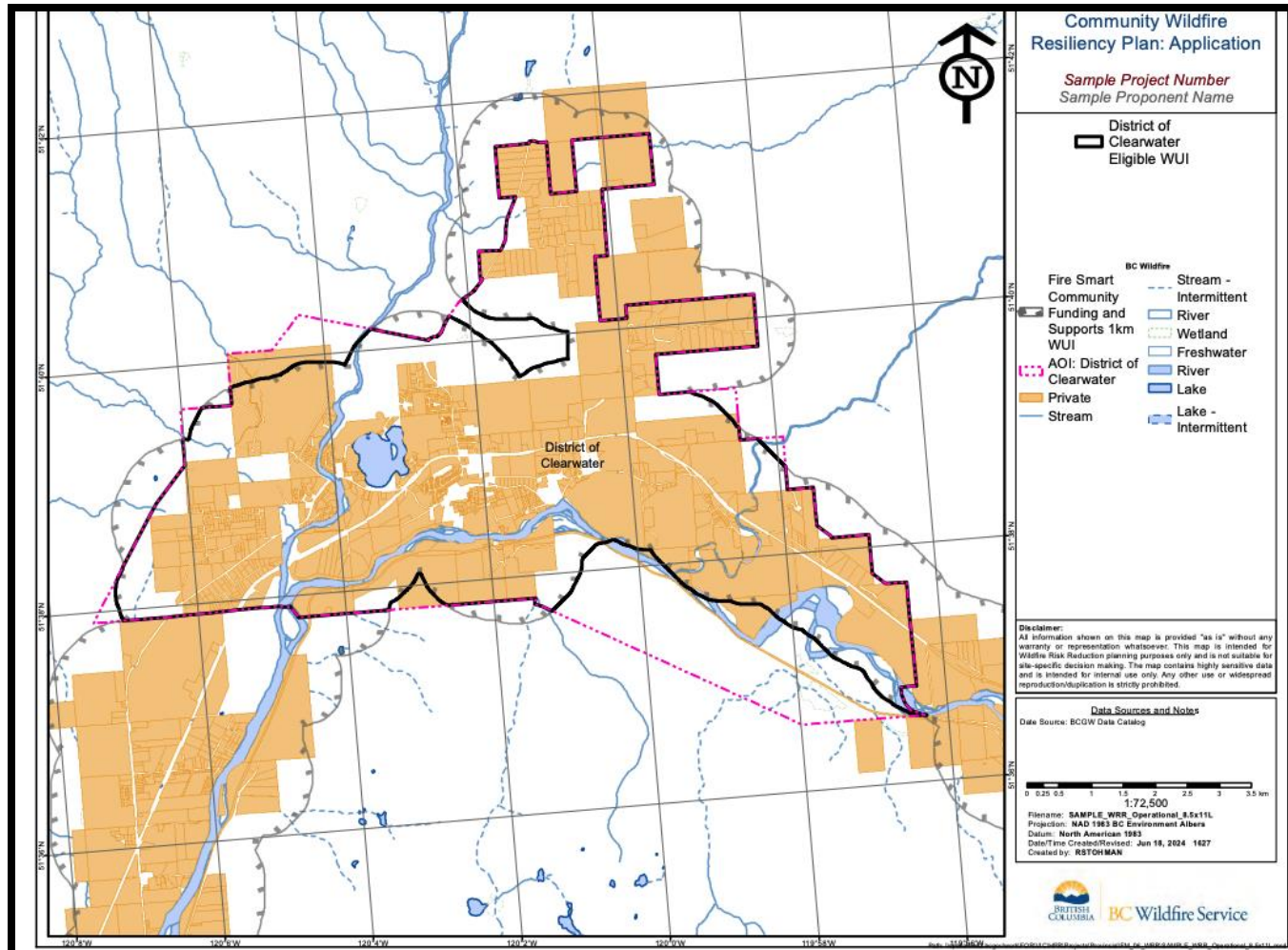


# CWRPs

- CWRPs are local and/or regional plans that are intended to increase communities' capacity and understanding of wildfire threat and risk by identifying achievable and accountable FireSmart action items that support wildfire risk reduction.
- AOI – The area within the municipal boundary, regional district boundary or boundary of First Nations land
- 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 – SAMPLE MAP



- Program and Application Guide now includes a dedicated CWRP appendix outlining funding requirements for CWRPs and sample AOI and Eligible WUI map.



# FUEL MANAGEMENT

- Eligible fuel management activities within First Nations land recently acquired from a Provincial land transfer may apply to exceed the base funding maximum for only the fuel management on the recently acquired land.
- Eligible fuel management activities within First Nations land or publicly owned land may apply to exceed the base funding to a maximum of \$100,000.
- Clarified Funding Requirements for Fuel Management Appendix in Program and Application Guide.
- Eligible debris disposal methods now include onsite dispersal of masticated woody debris below 2,000 kilowatts per metre.



**FIRESMART PILOT PROGRAM  
FOR REGIONAL DISTRICT  
COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY  
WILDFIRE RESPONSE (CCWR)  
ORGANIZATIONS**

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# FIRESMART PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL DISTRICT COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESPONSE (CCWR) ORGANIZATIONS

The FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response (CCWR) Organizations provides funding to regional districts in BC to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response by undertaking training and purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for local community members in areas that do not fall within a structural fire protection jurisdiction area.

***NEW  
FUNDING  
PROGRAM  
ALERT!***





# FIRESMART PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL DISTRICT COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESPONSE (CCWR) ORGANIZATIONS

- Cooperative Community Wildfire Response (CCWR) organization is an incorporated business entity, such as a non-profit society or fire brigade, that is able to receive funding, has an accountable leadership structure, and that operates outside of structural fire protection jurisdiction
- Eligible applicants are limited to Regional Districts who can apply for up to \$10,000 per Electoral Area.
- Eligible activities include basic training and PPE for CCWR so they can assist with relevant work (e.g., mop up, patrol, gear demobilization) at the direction of BCWS.
- Program does not fund activities related to initial attack.
- Program opened on October 1 and applications are being accepted until May 30, 2025.



# ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND (CEPF)

- CEPF is a suite of funding streams administered by UBCM intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.
- Stream of note: Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training, Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning.
- Please visit [ubcm.ca/cepf](https://ubcm.ca/cepf) or email [cepf@ubcm.ca](mailto:cepf@ubcm.ca)



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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

