



Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) is a suite of funding programs managed through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Working Group – including the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by UBCM.

The initiative supports communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan & CWPP Update Program

The CWPP program assists local governments and First Nations in identifying the risks of wildfire to their community as well as opportunities to reduce those risks. The purpose of a CWPP is to identify the wildfire risks within and surrounding a community, to describe the potential consequences if a wildfire was to impact the community, and to examine possible ways to reduce the wildfire risk.

The CWPP program can contribute a maximum of 75% of the cost of eligible activities – to a maximum of \$22,500.00 - and the remainder (25%) is required to be funded through community contributions.

Fuel Management Prescription Program

The Fuel Management Prescription program assists local governments and First Nations to develop prescriptions for areas in the WUI that are at risk from wildfires and which were identified as priorities in the CWPP. A fuel management prescription is a document that identifies the objectives and strategies to lower the wildfire hazard in an identified area. Prescriptions ensure that proposed treatments include clearly defined objectives for fuel management that will result in a measurable reduction in the wildfire risk to a value while meeting all legislated and non-statutory requirements.

The Fuel Management Prescription program can contribute a maximum of 75% of the cost of eligible activities and the remainder (25%) is required to be funded through community contributions.

Fuel Management Demonstration Projects

The Fuel Management Demonstration project program assists local governments and First Nations to undertake small-scale treatments.

Fuel Management Demonstration Projects are small-scale projects, in the WUI, in areas that are at risk from wildfires, and which are designed to:

- Demonstrate fuel management treatments and increase public awareness of fuel management
- Test methodologies and equipment prior to implementing large-scale operational fuel treatment projects
- Explore the economic and operational viability of different fuel treatment methodologies

The Fuel Management Demonstration Project program can contribute a maximum of 75% of the cost of eligible activities – to a maximum of \$25,000 - and the remainder (25%) is required to be funded through community contributions.

Operational Fuel Treatment Program

The Operational Fuel Treatment program assists local governments and First Nations to undertake operational fuel treatments that are set out in a prescription in areas identified as priorities in the CWPP. The primary objective of the program is to maximize the number of hectares treated in areas that pose the greatest risk of wildfire to communities.

Operational fuel management is defined as the process of changing forest fuel to reduce aggressive fire behaviour. This may include treatments such as thinning, spacing and pruning trees, and removal of needles and woody debris from the forest floor. The intent is to reduce fuel load in the forest and reduce the potential for devastating wildfires.

The Operational Fuel Treatment program can contribute a maximum of 90% of the cost of eligible activities up to \$400,000 in funding per municipality or First Nation per calendar year, and up to \$600,000 in funding per regional district per calendar year. The remainder (10%) is required to be funded through community contributions

2017 SWPI FireSmart Planning Grant Program

The FireSmart Communities Program, provided by Partners in Protection, is designed to encourage self-organized groups of residents to take the lead in implementing solutions for wildfire safety on their own properties. First Nations and individual neighbourhoods or subdivisions within local governments that are in areas prone to wildfire can earn FireSmart Community Recognition status by meeting the criteria set by Partners in Protection.

The 2017 SWPI FireSmart Planning grant program provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to support residents to undertake FireSmart planning activities for private lands, as identified by Partners in Protection through the FireSmart Communities Program, and/or to develop or advance local planning efforts to mitigate risk from wildfire on private lands in the wildland urban interface. The program can also support residents or community groups within a local government or First Nation to take the required actions in order to achieve and/or maintain FireSmart Community Recognition status from Partners in Protection.

The 2017 SWPI FireSmart Planning grant program can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$10,000.