



## **INFORMED CONSENT**

### **First Nations Cultural Burning Revitalization Needs Assessment Survey**

#### **WELCOME!**

You are being invited to identify needs in revitalizing cultural burning practices in First Nations communities throughout British Columbia (BC). The information gathered from this needs assessment is for internal use by the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS). Specifically, your responses will help FNESS in making informed decisions as part of an on-going cultural burning revitalization program which includes taking into action the recommendations from the 2017 *BC Flood and Wildfire Review* by Chief Maureen Chapman and George Abbott.

As part of the Indigenous Knowledge Burning Support Project, FNESS is advancing this cultural burning revitalization needs assessment survey – determining First Nations communities interest in prescribed fire planning/cultural burning practices. From there, the survey will then inform an engagement plan (includes hosting a series of regional community engagement sessions) and develop a training and education plan with regard to cultural burning practices, organizational skills development and capacity building for First Nations communities across BC. Also, FNESS will be coordinating qualitative interviews on cultural burning practices with Elders and Fire Knowledge Holders from interested First Nations communities in BC.

FNESS recognizes that as part of climate change adaptation, there is growing interest being expressed by First Nations in revitalizing cultural burning as a tool to maintain or enhance cultural attributes while reducing risks associated with landscape and local-level hazards, and to regenerate ecosystems.

Furthermore, it is a goal of FNESS to support First Nations communities in BC to develop and implement customized community-based burn plans based on Indigenous cultural values and burning practices and non-Indigenous prescribed fire practices.

Please feel welcome to contact the FNESS Indigenous Knowledge Burning Project Team:

- Project Leader - Jeff Eustache, RFT - Manager, FNESS Forest Fuel Management. Telephone Number: 250.377.7600. Email at [Cultural-Burning@fness.bc.ca](mailto:Cultural-Burning@fness.bc.ca)
- Peter Hisch, RFT - FNESS Forest Fuel Management Specialist. Telephone Number: 250.377.7600. Email at [Cultural-Burning@fness.bc.ca](mailto:Cultural-Burning@fness.bc.ca)

**Your responses will help FNESS in understanding the state of First Nations cultural burning revitalization in BC.**

**Survey responses are due by Thursday April 30, 2020 (11:59 pm Pacific Time).**

This needs assessment survey will take approximately 20 - 25 minutes to complete. The project team is administering this survey by census to all BC First Nations communities.

- The data gathered from the survey will be summarized and formatted into a spreadsheet with responses for each individual question. It will also be summarized into tables, charts and graphs as a visual aid to read the survey results.
- Excluding any personal and confidential information, we will share the summarized results with your First Nations community that will identify key areas and prioritize needs that are outlined in the results that will help us implement strategies for cultural burning revitalization.
- If at any point, you elect to withdraw from the survey, you may do so without any consequences or any explanations. If you withdraw from the survey, your data will not be used in any part of the data analysis and interpretation.
- Your participation is completely voluntary.
- You can refuse to answer any of the questions put to you throughout the survey.
- No copies of raw data will be given to any third party organizations.

Data will be stored on a password-protected system.

**\*\*Important note: The prize draw for the survey is now closed. Also, the term “Nation or Nations” in the needs assessment survey refers to “a First Nations community or First Nations communities in BC.”\*\***

You can raise any concerns that you might have, by contacting Brent Langlois, FNESS Executive Director at [blanglois@fness.bc.ca](mailto:blanglois@fness.bc.ca)

We thank you in advance for participating in this survey!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Eustache and Peter Hisch  
FNESS Indigenous Knowledge Burning Support Project