
*Shaping the Future of Prescribed Fire practices in
British Columbia: Learning and planning with
First Nation Emergency Services BC*



Online Workshop Outline



Image retrieved from: <https://www.landscapesinmotion.ca/updates-1/2019/2/26/burning-territory-indigenous-fire-stewardship>

WORKSHOP GOALS:

Scope → To collectively share and better understand the practise of prescribed/cultural burning from divergent systems of knowledge: Indigenous and contemporary western/scientific.

- (1) To provide an in-depth understanding of the cultural significance and importance of traditional/ancestral indigenous burning that is inclusive of the history pre-contact and; to share the process of contemporary fire management, providing a clear picture of the “two-way” challenges to prescribed fire and burning practices from both a cultural and contemporary perspective.
- (2) To provide tools to address the identified challenges and support indigenous burning practices in a current context in BC.
- (3) To enable an interactive discussion among participants; to encourage new partnerships; and opportunities for collaborative approaches to support prescribed fire initiatives.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Indigenous Fire Keepers, BCWS, prescribed fire/ecosystem restoration leaders from across BC, local resource managers, project managers, interested community members, youth, elders, knowledge keepers, students.

LOGISTICS

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the original intent of the workshop has been adapted to accommodate the uncertainties. As a result, the initial workshop series will be hosted online, where presentations, feedback, dialogue and discussions can be recorded and transcribed (ensuring FPIC protocols are addressed). The initial workshop will have a southern interior focus and be adapted and built in order to create materials for future delivery, either online or face-to-face workshops at a later date. Workshop intent continues to extend to the diverse forest areas/regions of the province (North, South and Coast) various and followed up with in person workshops or meetings at a local fire zones to allow for further collaboration.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Session # & Title	Description	Schedule & Materials
Part #1- Traditional burning history & current applications. ~1 Hours	History and context of traditional/ancestral burning and prescribed fire in BC. Wildfire resilience and mitigation. Perspectives & philosophy. Current context, barriers & tools.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening remarks, introductions, session objectives (10 mins) 2. Opening speaker – Traditional burning practices (To be confirmed) - (15 mins) 3. Presentation and guided Q&A based on opening speaker – What were the historic applications of cultural burning? (15 mins) 4. Cultural burning speaker- (to be confirmed) (10 mins) 5. Presentation & Guided Q&A - What are the challenges to indigenous burning and prescribed fire? (10 mins) 6. Test your knowledge (questions)from Part 1? (5 minutes)
10 MINUTE BREAK		
Part #2- Fire Ecology & Ecosystem health ~1 hour	Fire Ecology, Ecosystem Health, community protection, food security and resources. Climate change (Addressing the New Normal, 21 st Century Disaster Management). Linking prescribed fire to forest and ecosystem health, habitat, valued resources, food sovereignty, medicinal, cultural and spiritual values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening remarks, introductions, session objectives (10 mins). 2. Opening speaker- Rheanna Marchand-Traditional/cultural fire ecology – ecosystem health – (10 mins). 3. Q&A with Rheanna (10 mins) 4. PPT Presentation- Fire ecology and cultural burning from a western science perspective. Current research / climate change– Don Gayton, P.Ag. (15 mins). Historical applications provincially. NDT4? 5. Q&A with Bob/Don (10 mins). 6. Guided Q&A- Is there something your community can explore with respect to the current state of ecosystem health (e.g. enhancement of food security or medicinal plants, habitat, resources, community protection)? (10 mins). 7. Test your knowledge – questions from part 2. Online quiz.
10 MINUTE BREAK		

<p>PART #3 – Planning & Collaboration.</p> <p>~1 Hour</p>	<p>Collaborative Planning and implementation. Current context of prescribed burning. Community support discussion. Provide a flow diagram of successful projects that have promoted collaboration and encourage building on these processes.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening remarks, introductions, session objectives (5 mins). 2. PPT- BCWS process- BCWS (Rory) (10 mins). 3. PPT- Collaborative Planning Process, FNESS (P. Hisch) (10 mins). 4. Q&A- questions/comments/feedback on process (10 mins). 5. Breakout sessions online- Developing a conceptual project plan (15 mins). Groups will be given a virtual diagram and encouraged to map out a project plan using a collaborative planning process. 6. Breakout group presentations/dialogue- groups present their filled in process diagrams and receive feedback from other groups on process gaps/additions (10 mins). 7. Closing remarks, next steps and follow up (10 mins).
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