



First Nations' Emergency Services Society and British Columbia Wildfire Service Joint Indigenous Fire Knowledge & Prescribed Burning Regional Engagement Workshops

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society and British Columbia Wildfire Service are hosting 6-Regional Engagement Workshops through BC. The Locations will be determined using the results of the cultural burning survey conducted in December 2019. These workshops are based on recommendations within the Abbott/Chapman report [*Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia*](#) and the [*Government's action plan: Responding to wildfire and flood risks*](#). Each of these reports had high recommendations in reference to Indigenous knowledge, increase of prescribed fire, and supporting First Nations engagement within prescribed burning.

FNESS and BCWS are working together to further recommendations, actions and strategies regarding traditional burning practices and support First Nations' engagement and involvement with the use of prescribed fire.

To assist with this, FNESS recently conducted a gap analysis to identify current status, interest and objectives of First Nations communities through the release of a survey to all FN communities in BC, results will be summarized, and common themes prioritized. Based on this, we will utilize and share findings at regional engagement sessions, to hear from communities; and provide additional information regarding prescribed burning programs. We will also share current planning and prescribed burning processes in BC and further identify opportunities for collaboration.

Once the workshop locations are determined, all First Nations communities will be notified, and a registration form will be supplied.

Agenda

- 8:30 AM – Welcome, Introductions, Overview of the day
- 9:00 AM – Background and overview of project, FNESS – Jeff Eustache RFT, Manager Forest Fuel Management Department; Rory Colwell, RFT, Superintendent Fuels Management, BC Wildfire Service
- 9:30 AM – Indigenous knowledge survey summary - Jeff Eustache RFT
- 10:00 AM – Coffee break
- 10:15 AM - Provincial Prescribed burn program, current planning status process - Rory Colwell RFT, or Fire Centre Prevention Staff
 - Fire Center/Zone overview
 - FN rep to share existing agreements arrangements with BCWS
- 10:45 AM – Prescribed burning training, curriculum development and capacity building opportunities – FNESS - Peter Hisch, RFT Forest Fuel Management Specialist; and BCWS representative.



- 11:15 AM – Questions feedback
- 12:00 PM – Lunchbreak – provided sharing of Indigenous burning videos
- 1:00 PM – Indigenous knowledge guest speaker TBD
- 1:45 PM – Opportunities for collaboration between Indigenous communities, FNESS & BCWS and other branches of Government. Moving forward next steps on engagement and the inclusion of Indigenous involvement with Prescribed Burning - Jeff Eustache RFT, Manager Forest Fuel Management Department; Rory Colwell RFT Superintendent Fuels Management, BC Wildfire Service; and Yana Stratemeyer-Trinczek, A/Senior Program Manager, Prevention BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- 2:45 PM – Discussion, questions
 - Projects costs at various phases and possible funding mechanisms
- 3:30 PM – Closing remarks

For further information regarding these proposed workshops, please contact the following;

Peter Hisch, RFT

Forest Fuel Management Specialist
First Nations' Emergency Services Society
Kamloops Office: 250-377-7600 or 1-888-388-4431
Cell: 778-694-8976 | phisch@fness.bc.ca



Rory Colwell, RFT
Superintendent Fuels Management
BC Wildfire Service
Rory.Colwell@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778-799-2102
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555