



# the quarterly responder

Volume 2 Issue 3 | September 2022

## University of Windsor Humanitarian Project

### Windsor Lancers Men's Hockey Team Visit Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and the Nicola Valley

FNESS was humbled and honoured to coordinate a humanitarian project with the University of Windsor (U of W) Men's Hockey Team and Unifor National. Between August 27 and September 1, the group helped repair First Nation band members homes and property that were impacted by the 2021 wildfire and flood events, and recent mudslides in the Nicola Valley.

Accompanied by Dr. Beverly Jacobs - U of W Senior Advisor to the President on Indigenous Relations and Outreach, the group paid their respects at the Kamloops Indian Residential School monument and sacred site. The team took part in an opening ceremony at the Shulus powwow arbour; repaired a basement, built a shed and a fence in Merritt; re-built a corral at 14 Mile Ranch in Shackan that was destroyed by the flood; and shoveled mud from a slide that devastated the BarFX Ranch. The hockey team also offered a hockey academy to local First Nation youth and presented their community outreach programs, 'Lancers Skate Against Hate,' 'Lancers Shutout Domestic Violence,' and 'Lancers Against Bullying.'

"I can assure you that this trip has had a profound impact on everyone on the trip. From start to finish it's been an education." - Kevin Hamlin, U of W Men's Hockey Team Head Coach



Safer and healthier communities. Together.

# Executive Director's Update

Wayne Schnitzler



This past fire season was fortunately not as extreme as we all know things can get, but that does not mean that FNESS slowed down. All departments were busy engaging with communities across the province, responding to wildfires of note and proactively planning for emergency situations. There is an urgent need for all organizations to move into advanced planning versus response in these uncertain times and we strive to continually improve our services so we can support in any way necessary.

We have also been focusing our resources on increasing our technical ability to support communities in preparing and mitigating as we all face an uncertain future born of the climate crisis.

FNESS is committed to the work ahead of us and to decreasing the impacts of the extreme weather events and disasters we have been experiencing. Let's look forward and continue this important work together.

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## Manager Updates

### RECOVERY AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Bob Mills



The Recovery and Essential Support Services (ESS) department has had the privilege of assisting some of our First Nation (FN) communities whom experienced evacuations this last flood and fire season, to transition from Canadian Red Cross (CRC) ESS support to their own community led ESS program. Through the generosity of donors, we have delivered 72hr grab and go bags to communities who have either experienced evacuations or on evacuation alert in the recent past.

Our engagement with communities has brought us to the far north of our province, as well as some of our remote and isolated communities in the Caribou and Central Coast. Each were introduced to the programs and supports available to them from our department and all of FNESS.

FNESS Recovery and ESS is available to provide training to FN communities in the area of Recovery or ESS either in person or via Zoom.

For any questions or further information please call me direct at: 250-457-1694 or by email: [bmills@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bmills@fness.bc.ca)

Also, please consider joining FNESS' online training sessions every Thursday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom. Simply send your request by email to: [bedwards@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bedwards@fness.bc.ca)

Learn about emergency management from home or office.

Thank you for supporting us in the delivery of Emergency Management that is culturally appropriate and Indigenous focused.

## MITIGATION

Quentin Nelson, FIT



Weyt-k, Hello.

Since our April transition from the Forest Fuel Management Department to the Mitigation Department, we have been able to further define the 'divisions' within Mitigation to continue delivering expanded services to BC First Nation communities. This not only provides more opportunity for Nations to increase their community resiliency and reduce

their wildfire risk, but it also contributes to capacity building.

The current divisions are Forest Fuel Management, Cultural and Prescribed Fire, Wildfire Training and Development, and FireSmart™. We have recently hired the FNESS Provincial FireSmart Coordinator who is set to join our team at the end of September. As we continue to grow, so will our services, and ultimately the support we are able to provide to Nations.

With the cooler weather upon us, it is an opportune time to start making your home and community more fire resilient. Visit <https://firesmartbc.ca/> for FireSmart BC tips.

We look forward to serving and being involved with our BC First Nation communities and welcome you to contact us at [mitigation@fness.bc.ca](mailto:mitigation@fness.bc.ca).

The Mitigation team is comprised of the following:

Caleb Rempel, TFT Mitigation Liaison  
Cathy MacKenzie, RPF Mitigation Specialist  
Darrick Andrew, BNRS Mitigation Liaison  
Dave Pascal, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist  
Harry Spahan, RFT Cultural and Prescribed Fire Keeper (casual)  
Karen Alexandre, Administrative Coordinator  
Larry Price, RPF Mitigation Specialist  
Marc Aymerich-Casas, FIT Mitigation Liaison  
Neil Findlay, RPF Bighorn Adventures Ltd. (contractor)  
Owen Price, RFT Mitigation Specialist  
Rob Bosse, Wildfire Specialist  
Robert Mitchell, RPF Mitigation Specialist  
Vic Upshaw, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist

## 2022-2023 FNESS and Indigenous Services Canada

On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment, On-Reserve FireSmart™ and NEW On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire Programs

Applications for this program being accepted October 3, 2022.

The FNESS-Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment, On-Reserve FireSmart, and NEW On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire programs are three separate program streams that are managed by FNESS. Grant administration is provided by FNESS with provision of funding by ISC.

These related initiatives support First Nation communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and identify cultural burn areas, develop prescriptions and burn plans, and/or work with the BC Wildfire Service to develop these plans to conduct the burns. Reserve lands are eligible for funding.

For more information visit <https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/mitigation/indigenous-services-canada-isc> or scan the QR code.



## DECISION SUPPORT

Brenden Mercer



Decision Support is the analytics arm of FNESS. Using tools and technology, our department works to make life easier for the entire organization.

Decision Support works in assignments to support the four pillars of emergency management: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

Services provided internally include data design and planning; data visualization through maps, graphs and map layers; analytics; alerts; and reports. Additionally, Decision Support provides administrative services and training for FNESS' Lightship and ArcGIS platforms.

Scan the QR code to upload the FNESS Public Information Sharing mapping tool.

The Decision Support team is comprised of the following:

Tammy Dong - Administrative Coordinator  
Carmichael Howes - Recovery  
Guyu Lin - Environment and Climate Change  
Jenny Lin - Preparedness  
Nathan Wisla - Mitigation



## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Brenden Mercer (Interim Manager)

The Preparedness and Response Team have had a very busy third quarter working with First Nation communities in response to the wildfires of note in Penticton, Lytton, Hope and Hudson's Hope. We continue to deliver Emergency Operation Center kits to communities. If you have not received a kit yet, please reach out to Bernadine Edwards at [bedwards@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bedwards@fness.bc.ca). In preparation for winter storms and spring freshet, we are planning internally and working with communities to prepare for and respond to potential incidents. We continue to assist communities with updating Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessments and Critical Emergency Plans so that our Nations are better equipped for an emergency. Our team also coordinated an Indigenous Information Session via zoom to assist communities with applying for the Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation Funding stream under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

The Preparedness and Response team is comprised of:

Alison Lomon - Regional Preparedness and Response Specialist  
Austin Baldwin - on-call Casual  
Bernadine Edwards - Administrative Coordinator  
Casey Laroche - Regional Preparedness and Response Specialist  
Devyn Forsyth - on-call Casual  
Jamie Svendsen - Interim Manager (as of mid-September)  
Kaye Bright - Regional Preparedness and Response Specialist  
Mark Blue - on-call Casual  
Trey Hale - Regional Preparedness and Response Specialist  
Trudy Peterson - Regional Preparedness and Response Specialist

## TRAINING

Jim Macdonald



The training team formally began on April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. So much has happened since then with the hiring of two additional experienced training officers which has expanded our ability to deliver timely, effective, and applicable emergency management training. Since April we directly delivered training to over 30 First Nations.

In addition, we delivered in-community joint training, with the following partners:

- 6 regional districts
- 5 neighbouring local authorities
- Emergency Management BC
- Health Emergency Management BC
- First Nations Health Authority
- Indigenous Services Canada
- BC Wildfire Service
- BC Ambulance Service
- RCMP
- BC Conservation Officer Service
- BC Parks

Some of our training was delivered Just-In-Time. That is to say, that when an emergency incident occurred in a Nation that had not had a chance to previously train, our team brought applicable training to them while the incident was still developing.

Our trainers also deliver weekly scheduled on-line offerings (see schedule below). Most sessions have more than 30 participants. Some of those participants are experienced emergency program coordinators who often share their experiences from actual emergency incidents.

Looking ahead, we plan to deliver custom online courses to individual First Nations', facilitate tabletop and functional exercises, develop regional emergency program coordinator boot camps, deliver a 10 part Emergency Support Services course, and create an emergency preparedness public education program to help communities get "the word out."

**FNESS is pleased to announce that we are offering FREE on-line Emergency Management courses every Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**September 29 and October 6: Incident Command System**  
**October 13 and 20: Emergency Operation Centre Basics**  
**October 27 and November 3: Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Director**  
**November 10 and 17: Liaison Officer**  
**November 24 and December 1: Information Officer**  
**December 8 and 15: Safety/Risk Management Officer**  
**January 5 and 12: Planning**  
**January 19 and 26: Operations**  
**February 2 and 9: Logistics**  
**February 16 and 23: Finance**

**If you are interested in attending or require more information, please contact  
Bernadine Edwards at [bedwards@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bedwards@fness.bc.ca)**

## FIRE SERVICES

Nathan Combs



My name is Nathan Combs, I am from the Gitksan Nation in Northern BC, and recently have taken on the role as the Fire Services Manager. I am coming to FNESS with over twenty years of structural and wildland firefighting experience and have worked extensively with First Nation communities fire departments. I am passionate about fire safety and will bring this motivation into my new role here with FNESS.

One of the first priorities we as a department are undertaking is to update all our deliverables that we bring to communities. Our goal is to make the content and course material we offer more relatable and accessible to those we serve.

One of the objectives with this year's Fire Prevention Week was bringing on a First Nations artist to supply artwork for all of our content, this is an effort to celebrate and Indigenize the resources we bring to all of the Nations.

I am very honoured to be in this role as Fire Services Manager, we have a very passionate group of individuals that will continue to work hard to help keep communities safe with their experience and dedication. We all look forward to being a progressive and inclusive department.

Fire Services is comprised of the following:

Alisha Juma - Administrator Coordinator

Dan Heaton - Fire Services Officer

Brian Lauzon - Fire Services Officer

Emerson Adolph - Fire Services Officer

Chris Turner - Fire Services Officer



### Fire Prevention Week

October 9-15, 2022

*Artwork created by Michelle Stoney*

This year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) theme, Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape., puts the spotlight on getting out of the home quickly and safely should a fire occur.

The FNESS Fire Services Department has sent out physical packages that include resources and materials to all BC First Nations' band offices, fire departments, schools and daycare/preschools. They can be downloaded at <https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/fire-services/fire-prevention-week> to be used during FPW and beyond.

We are continuing to work in partnership with BCFTOA, OFC, BC Firefighters Burn Fund, FPOABC, and the FCABC for the provincial contest. The annual FPW contest is open to all students from K-12 who are attending an Indigenous, public or independent school in BC. FNESS has included instructions on how to enter the contest on our website and in the packages mailed out.

Throughout the year FNESS works with schools in First Nation communities to promote fire safety education. To request a Public Fire and Life Safety presentation in your community, or if you have any questions regarding FPW, please contact [ajuma@fness.bc.ca](mailto:ajuma@fness.bc.ca)



# COMMUNITY RESILIENCY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

## FireSmart™ Community Funding and Supports

Applications for this program will be accepted starting October 1, 2022 for the 2023 intake.

The FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.



A webinar will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022 to help returning and new applicants understand the changes to the program.

For more information visit <https://www.ubcm.ca/cri/firesmart-community-funding-supports> or scan the QR code.

### Community Visits

FNESS visiting and supporting communities across the province.



## Wildland Firefighter Training Available

Download application form at <https://www.fness.bc.ca/resources/news/fness-wildland-firefighter-training-available>

Any questions, please contact Quentin Nelson at [qnelson@fness.bc.ca](mailto:qnelson@fness.bc.ca)

Send completed applications to [ffminfo@fness.bc.ca](mailto:ffminfo@fness.bc.ca)

# Wildland Firefighter Training Available

## APPLY NOW

See Attached Application Form for Course List

For First Nation individuals interested in becoming a Wildland Firefighter or interested in advancing your training.



Date and Time: Arranged with Community  
Location: In Community  
FNESS Contact: Quentin Nelson at [qnelson@fness.bc.ca](mailto:qnelson@fness.bc.ca)



**First Nations'  
Emergency Services Society**  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Canada**

## 2023/24 In-Person Emergency Management JIBC Training Application - NOW OPEN

EMBC is accepting applications from Indigenous communities and local governments wanting to host in-person Emergency Management training that is delivered by the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) and funded by EMBC. This application process is to request courses that would be hosted between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Information about becoming a host community and how to apply can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/em-training-program/host-communities>.

If you are interested in applying to be a host community, please submit the online form by November 17, 2022. Once the deadline is passed, each regional office will assess the applications they receive and identify what Indigenous communities and local governments will host training based on multiple considerations. Host communities will be notified mid-February 2023, with dates and more details.

For additional information and questions, please contact Kevin Tulip, Emergency Management Training Specialist, EMBC at [kevin.tulip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kevin.tulip@gov.bc.ca).

# The Great British Columbia Shake Out

Province-wide Earthquake Drill on October 20, 2022 at 10:20 am

## Participate in the Great ShakeOut

1

Register  
Today



2

Spread  
The Word



3

Hold  
Your Drill



Join millions of people worldwide in the annual ShakeOut. This is an opportunity for you to practice earthquake safety: “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.”

You, your community, your school, or your organization is encouraged to review and update your emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure your space by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.

For more information and to register for the Great British Columbia Shake Out visit <https://www.shakeoutbc.ca/>

### If you feel an earthquake...

- 1 Drop, cover and hold on.** Drop to the floor and take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. Hold on to the table or desk and be prepared to move with it; cover your head with your other arm.
  - Do not stand in a doorway – that will not provide protection.
  - Do not run outside – you could be injured by falling debris.
  - If you are in bed, remain in bed and cover your head with your pillow and your body with the covers.

- 2 After the shaking stops,** evacuate if you are in a tsunami hazard zone. It is important to evacuate right away. Do not waste time!
  - Immediately gather those around you and bring only items that are essential: coat, hat, phone, medications, wallet, etc.
  - Walk; don't waste time trying to drive. It is likely that a strong earthquake will have made roads impassable.
  - Avoid downed power lines and stay away from buildings and bridges from which heavy objects may fall in aftershocks.

- 3 If you are on the beach** and feel an earthquake, move to high ground immediately – no matter how small the earthquake. Remain on high ground until emergency officials advise otherwise.

- 4 If you are already outside** the tsunami hazard zone, you do not need to evacuate. Remain where you are and keep roads clear for emergency officials.

- 5 Be prepared for aftershocks.**

The Great  
British Columbia  
**Shake  
Out**



**DROP!**

**COVER!**

**HOLD ON!**

**Protect yourself  
during  
earthquakes**

IBC  BAC



**GO TO HIGH GROUND!**

**The shaking  
is your tsunami  
warning**

[www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)

 @ShakeOutBC

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY CONFERENCE

*Facing Climate Change - A Hard Look at Disaster Reduction*

The Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference is a conference that brings together topics of importance to emergency management and the business communities.

November 7-10, 2022

Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, Vancouver

Information and Registration

<https://www.epbccconference.ca/>

Report wildfires, unattended campfires or violations of regulations by calling \*5555 on a cell or 1-800-663-5555 toll-free.



## FNESS EMERGENCY CONTACTS

|   |              |                         |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| Wayne Schnitzler - Executive Director                       | 250-318-8278 | wschnitzler@fness.bc.ca |
| Bob Mills - Recovery and Emergency Support Services Manager | 250-457-1694 | bmills@fness.bc.ca      |
| Brenden Mercer - Decision Support Manager                   | 250-320-8611 | bmercerc@fness.bc.ca    |
| Jamie Svendsen - Interim Preparedness and Response Manager  | 778-694-9211 | jsvendsen@fness.bc.ca   |
| Jim MacDonald - Training Manager                            | 778-694-1382 | jmacdonald@fness.bc.ca  |
| Nathan Combs - Fire Services Manager                        | 778-694-3900 | ncombs@fness.bc.ca      |
| Quentin Nelson - Mitigation Manager                         | 250-320-7682 | qnelson@fness.bc.ca     |

If leaving a message, please provide your name, phone number, email address, community name and emergency concern. Emergency Contacts listed here gives access to key FNESS individuals who can assist communities with emergency concerns or events.

Please contact the Kamloops or Vancouver office for dealing with daily operations or business concerns.

## FNESS After Hours Assistance Line

1-888-822-3388



For more information please contact:

### First Nations' Emergency Services Society



#### Kamloops Office

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) Traditional Territory  
A274 Halston Road, Kamloops, BC V2H 1P7  
Tel: 250.377.7600 | Fax: 250.377.7610  
BC Toll Free: 1.888.388.4431  
Email: info@fness.bc.ca

#### Vancouver Office

Squamish Nation Traditional Territory  
102-70 Orwell Street, North Vancouver, BC V7J 3R5  
Tel: 604.669.7305 | Fax: 604.669.9832  
BC Toll Free: 1.888.388.4431  
Email: info@fness.bc.ca

**Membership Makes a Difference!**

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