



***First Nations'  
Emergency Services Society***

O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

**2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT**





Safe and Healthy  
First Nations Communities



FNESS serves First Nations in  
developing and sustaining safer and  
healthier communities through:

- Fire training, education, and prevention
- Emergency planning, training, response, and recovery
- Forest fuel and wildfire management
- Leadership and collaborative relationships



## COURAGE

Strength and curiosity while  
determining the most beneficial  
actions with communities.

## HONESTY

Open and transparent  
environments in all actions.

## INTEGRITY

Consistent and accountable  
for all actions, assessing and  
adapting as needed.

## PASSION

Acknowledging enthusiasm  
and initiative; rewarding  
success regularly.

## RESPECT

Inclusiveness and teamwork  
that allows fairness,  
balance and harmony in  
all activities; appreciative  
of all cultural diversities.

## TRUSTWORTHINESS

Providing credible  
and state-of-the-art  
recognized services

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# FNESS Board of Directors

HUNT, Sonny (Stephen) | *President*

MORIN, Barbara | *Vice President*

KELLY, Michael | *Secretary-Treasurer*

MOORE, Anthony | *Board of Director*

MCKENZIE, Heather | *Board of Director*

TOM, Victor | *Board of Director*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*We are very sorry to report that in 2018 we lost Edwin Mountain, Sr., another of our founding members.*

*With great respect, we continue to honor his wisdom, along with that of another founding member who*

*passed last year, Norman Brooks. The Board will continue to move forward with the knowledge shared*

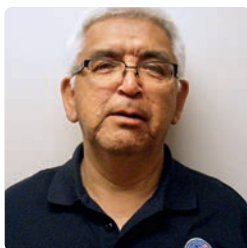
*with us by both Edwin and Norman over the years. With the new year well underway, we will continue to*

*'better our business' for communities. We recognize staff for their positive efforts, and for bringing their*

*own knowledge and wisdom to their jobs. We are also grateful for all the agencies that we communicate*

*with. We will continue to provide guidance at strategic and political levels tailored to FNESS.*

*Walas Giaxisica,*



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SONNY HUNT** | FNESS Board President

1 Ed Mountain, Karen Alexandre, Brent Langlois, Tsartlip FN Mr. Adam Olsen, MLA, Anthony Moore, Michael Kelly, Barbara Morin, Sonny Hunt

2 Barbara Morin

3 Heather McKenzie

4 Anthony Moore

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### REGIONAL ACCESS

FNESS recognizes and respects the principled focus of FNESS Membership, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the Board and Staff for their unwavering commitment to safety. This commitment is continuously tested during the ongoing disasters resulting from climate change and experienced even more in 2018. Our support will remain resolute for all the communities affected by disasters, with our attention heightened for wildfire concerns.

In the year ahead, we'll continue to provide community support while also increasing regional work by expanding outreach for informational, training and support sessions.

This enhanced regional approach will continue to equip community Leadership and Fire Protection personnel with essential knowledge to establish sustainable and structural fire protection programs within communities.

Ensuring safety and effectively mentoring future generations will also remain our consistent focus. Training will expand to enhance the capacity and skills of Firefighters through a combination of theory and practical exercises.

Let us continue to work collaboratively to foster and encourage stronger relationships between community leaders and Fire Protection personnel, and to always build social skills and friendships while engaging Indigenous youth from across British Columbia. Developing a Practical Guide to (Structural) Fire Protection will continue to be a focal point for our Fire Services.

Increased benefits for communities will be provided this year through a tripartite Memo of Understanding (MOU) that includes the FNLC, BC and Canada. Partnerships with Indigenous communities are critical and cannot be understated. Although the scope of the Emergency Management actions required is daunting, our focus continues to be on ensuring that we take into account community projections and guidance, build upon our successes thus far, and to provide support where required. The planning for a related Indigenous Knowledge Gathering that involves FNESS and communities has recently begun, with the program set to launch in the coming months.

Much work continues to be requiring wildfire resilience. The Forest Fuel Management function will expand traditional burning approaches and to increase the engagement of Indigenous crews in their response and recovery activities resulting from wildfires. Enhancing Indigenous knowledge and practices for all parties are a cornerstone of FFM activities, with a priority placed on gaining input, from community engagements. Storytellers, along with, graphic and video artists, are already engaged to share projects as widely as possible, following consent from communities. Attention has been attracted from agencies across Canada.

In closing, FNESS has great respect for the communities that we serve, and we are working 'with and for you'.





Fire Prevention: Be a Firefighter workshops were a part of Gathering Our Voices hosted by the Port Alberni Fire Department

1

Lytton Fire Prevention Boot Camp

2

Working on the Fire Safety Poster

3

# Fire Services Department

The Fire Services Department delivers fire prevention programs in communities for leadership, members, residents, fire departments and staff.

Over the past year, ISC and FNESS held Structural Fire Safety Protection Engagement Sessions in locations throughout BC. The primary goal of these sessions was to reach out to community representatives and meet face to face to discuss the current tiered approach to Fire Protection for BC. These discussions also included an overview and review of the current Fire Safety Assessment (FSA) model to determine their effectiveness.

FNESS looks forward to incorporating identified effective approaches to meet our mandate of assisting First Nations to develop and sustain safer and healthier First Nations communities with ongoing support for both current and newly developed programs.

A 'tiered' approach is used to deliver support and programs to communities as outlined in the A Practical Guide to Firefighting (ISC).

TIER	PROGRAM	# OF PROGRAMS DELIVERED
<b>TIER 1 – FIRE Prevention and Education Programming</b>	Fire Protection Leadership and Governance	19
	Home Fire Life Safety Education/ Home Inspection	20
	Community Fire Prevention Programs	13
	School Fire Education/Poster Contest	19
	Youth Engagement Initiative	4
<b>TIER 2 – Capacity Development and Training</b>	Provincial National Firefighter Competition	1
	National Firefighters Competition	1
	Firefighter Training	4
	Rural Team Leader Training	2
	Fire Department Readiness Assessment	2
<b>TIER 3– Capital Investments</b>	ISC Capital Project only	1



GOV – Port Alberni





## Fire Prevention and Education Programming



### FIRE PROTECTION LEADERSHIP GOVERNANCE WORKSHOPS

The purpose of these workshops is to enhance capacity and awareness of Band Council Governance with regards to community fire protection. Discussion topics include a Fire Safety Assessment report of the community, long-term financial responsibilities for operations and maintenance of fire departments, trucks and equipment, levels of fire protection, the importance of fire prevention and supporting a designated community champion who heads the community fire prevention program by means of a Fire Prevention BCR/By-Law.

### HOME FIRE LIFE SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Communities organize the Home Fire and Life Safety Workshops for their members and residents. Practical fire safety topics are covered including common causes of home fires, ways to reduce the risk of a fire, essential safety equipment needed by every home, and how to escape a home fire.



*Lytton Boot Camp – Fire Extinguisher Training*

### HOME INSPECTION WORKSHOPS

These workshops are designed for leadership and staff tasked with responsibilities for housing and community safety. The workshops focus on the practicalities of establishing and operating a sustainable community home fire safety inspection program. Home fire safety checklists are also reviewed.

Workshops mentor community fire safety champions and fire department personnel to work on their community fire safety priorities.



*GOV – Port Alberni*

### COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

Tier 1 and 2 workshops lead to the development of a Community Fire Prevention Plan. This on-going plan outlines a community's current fire safety programs, identifies community hazards, and makes a plan for addressing these hazards. FNESS continues to work with communities to prepare their Community Fire Prevention Plans.

CONTINUED

## TIER 1 CONTINUED



### PROVINCIAL/NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK POSTER CONTEST

The FNESS Poster Contest used the NFPA 2018 Fire Prevention Week Theme of “Look, Listen, Learn: Be Aware. Fire can happen anywhere.” BC First Nation operated schools were contacted and were sent a School Kit filled with fire safety information for students. The FNESS annual poster contest reinforces the fire safety messages. Posters were sent to FNESS and the winning poster was forwarded to the national contest sponsored by the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada.

A second contest was also promoted. Schools were invited to have their students enter the Fire Prevention Week iPad Contest. This contest is a joint project with the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC and FNESS. A student attending N’Kwala School in Upper Nicola was the winner of an iPad.



(top left)  
Category 1 winner  
Kyra Guichon – Little  
Chiefs Primary School

(top right)  
Category 2 winner  
Eva Stephens –  
Neqweyqwelsten

(left)  
Category 3 winner  
Cassidy Calahsen –  
Neqweyqwelsten



Fire Safety Education at Chief Matthew School in Old Massett

### SCHOOL FIRE EDUCATION

Fire safety is a crucial life skill for all of our children and youth. Students attending preschools, elementary and high schools in 18 communities participated in age-appropriate fire safety education activities. Students now know more about identifying working smoke alarms, planning and practicing home escapes, and following safe cooking practices.

Safety messages are shared with school staff, parents and families. Schools are encouraged to include fire safety education in their classroom activities and to work with their communities on joint fire prevention activities.





## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

This initiative encourages youth to participate in community fire prevention and to become involved in the fire service.

FNESS worked with First Nations, schools and fire departments to deliver three Fire Prevention Boot Camps for high school students and young adults.

The Boot Camps help youth learn about the reality of house fires and wildfires and how to prevent fires in their homes and communities. Firefighter skills are introduced as a way for the youth to gain an understanding of the work and training required to join the fire service. Fire safety presentations are a central part of the Boot Camps. Small groups are assigned fire safety topics. The groups plan, practice and then present their safety information to a school or community audience.

FNESS once again participated in the annual Gathering Our Voices Indigenous Youth Leadership Training held in Port Alberni, BC. More than 700 youth and chaperones participated in the March 2019 training. FNESS worked with the Port Alberni Fire Department to deliver two workshops. FNESS also staffed a booth at the two-day career fair. Information about FNESS services, fire safety and opportunities in the fire service was shared with delegates.

## Fire Prevention Boot Camp

**Location: Kitasoo | Nov 2018**

Thank you to our partners:

- Kitasoo First Nation
- Kitasoo Fire Department
- Kitasoo Community School

*(With special thanks to Klemtu Processing- Marine Harvest Canada for washing our firefighter gear)*

## Fire Prevention Boot Camp

**Location: Metchosin | Feb 2019**

Thank you to our partners:

- Beecher Bay First Nation
- Metchosin Fire Department
- School District 62 – Sooke
- Capital Regional District
- CFB Esquimalt-Fire Rescue

## Fire Prevention Boot Camp

**Location: Lytton | March 2019**

Thank you to our partners:

- Lytton First Nation
- The Village of Lytton
- Lytton Fire Department
- School District 74 – Gold Trail
- Kumsheen Secondary School

## Fire Prevention: Be a Firefighter / Gathering Our Voices

**Location: Port Alberni | March 2019**

Thank you to our partners:

- GOV-BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
- Port Alberni Fire Department



## Capacity Development and Training



### FNESS SAFETY EXPO, PROVINCIAL/NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER COMPETITION AND TRAINING

In June 2018, the FNESS Safety Expo was held in conjunction with the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC's Education Summit and BC Fire Expo in Victoria and Esquimalt, BC.

Firefighters, Chief Officers, members of protective services and community members were able to participate in training and networking opportunities.

#### 2018 COMPETITION RESULTS



**Penelakut Island Team 2**

*Penelakut, the BC First Place team, travelled to Dauphin Manitoba in August 2018 to compete in the Nationals.*



**Tl'azten**



**Saik'uz**



#### Most-Sportsman-Like Team

Awarded to a blended team of firefighters from Tla'amin, Kitasoo, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, and Sta'alas.

### FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

In 2019 Tla'amin Fire Department completed the exterior program. The firefighters completed six weeks of training totaling 218 hours of instruction and practical skills assessment which finished with a live-fire training in Sechelt, BC.

The Expo Firefighter Training included two days of hands-on workshops in Victoria and in Esquimalt, on the Songhees Traditional Territory. A total of 68 firefighters participated in training in these areas: live-fire exterior awareness operations, Water Supply SPS, Gas Awareness and FireSmart.

### RURAL TEAM LEAD TRAINING 1065

Seabird Island hosted the first session of the 1065 course for FNESS and the JIBC. The communities of Okanagan, Skatin and Seabird Island were involved. The program included ICS 100/200 with two days of strategies and tactics. Eleven students completed the program.

Penelakut Island hosted the second session of the 1065 course. Eleven students completed the program.

In total, four communities with twenty-two students received two IFSAC/Pro Board accredited certificates and fundamental skills to lead a fire team on-scene in emergency operations.





## SMOKE/CO ALARMS AND KITCHEN FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

These two programs are going strong. Communities can apply for combination Smoke/CO Alarms with a 10-year battery and B-C fire extinguishers. There is no charge for this essential safety equipment and orders are shipped at no cost to communities.

ISC and FNESS work in partnership to provide this program to BC First Nation communities. To learn more about the program and to download the application form go to <http://fness.bc.ca/smoke-alarm-campaign>.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER: FIRE EXTINGUISHER RECALL

FNESS is continuing to inform all BC First Nations Communities of the recall sent from Kidde Canada in 2017 advising of the recall of fire extinguishers models E5, M5C and BC5GD.

FNESS has a program to replace the recalled fire extinguishers at no charge to communities. For more information about the replacement program please contact [fireservices@fness.bc.ca](mailto:fireservices@fness.bc.ca).

Thank you to all of the communities that have installed the equipment. Communities can also apply for additional smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers, working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in addition to ongoing fire safety education are essential to the safety of our families, homes and communities.

#### SMOKE ALARMS

COMMUNITIES	# OF HOMES	# OF SMOKE ALARMS
13	1575	1828

#### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

COMMUNITIES	# OF HOMES	# OF EXTINGUISHERS
31	2716	2820

## FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FROM YOUTH

Youth participating in one of this year's Fire Prevention Boot Camps were asked this question "What safety messages do you want to tell your family and friends?" on the program feedback/evaluation form. The following is a sample of their answers.

- That you and your family have to be safe
- How to prevent electrical fires and escape plans during an emergency
- Check their smoke alarms
- Get that smoke alarm installed and working properly
- Have a fire exit plan. Have a carbon monoxide detector installed
- Be aware of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors
- All fire safety
- We need to be more safe with fires and our plug-ins
- Have a plan, be prepared and prevent what you can!



## Capital Investments

Tier 3 focuses on capital investments to improve fire departments. Once Tier 1 and 2 requirements are met, ISC capital projects can be considered.



1



3



2

Stellat'en Nation receiving FireSmart Recognition. Congratulations and keep up the good work. L-R: Darrick Andrew FNESS, Chief Archie Patrick, Peter Luggi, and Adam Patrick.

1

?Aq'am Operational Treatment (ISC). Tim Larade Nupqu Project Manager (left) and John Brace ?Aq'am Forester (right)

2

Local FireSmart Representative Workshop Kamloops

3

# Forest Fuel Management Department (FFM)

*FireSmart BC urges communities to prepare for wildfire season.*



*Committee launches website and encourages communities to earn FireSmart Canada designation as a FireSmart Recognized Community.*



The Forest Fuel Management (FFM) Department works with First Nations communities, along with, provincial and federal governments, and other agencies, to assist with wildfire prevention activities. Many BC First Nations are impacted by the threat and risk of loss to community structures and assets because of wildfires. FFM supports access to funding to communities through planning, education and implementation of wildfire threat reduction activities.

## STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (SWPI)

*Applications are no longer being accepted for this program.*

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative is a suite of funding programs administered by Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and managed through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Working Group, UBCM, First Nations' Emergency Services Society, the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, represented by the BC Wildfire Service. Since 2004, the initiative has supported communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative has transitioned to the Community Resiliency Investment Program. Current and pending SWPI projects will be completed over the next two-and-half to three years and then the program will close.



## 2018 – 2019 SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (SWPI)

1st Quarter (April 1 to June 30, 2018)		2nd Quarter (July 1 to Sept. 30, 2018)		3rd Quarter (Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2018)		4th Quarter (Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 2019)		TOTAL \$ New Applications	TOTAL \$ Completed SWPI
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)									
New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed	New Applications	CWPP Completed		
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,959.00	\$18,633.00	\$0.00	\$18,633.00	\$4,959.00
FOREST FUEL PRESCRIPTIONS									
New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed	New Applications	Prescriptions Completed		
6.0	6.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	7.0	13.0
\$55,143.75	\$32,642.50	\$0.00	\$7,428.00	\$0.00	\$7,125.00	\$13,661.25	\$31,661.25	\$68,805.00	\$78,856.75
OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENTS									
New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed	New Applications	Treatments Completed		
11.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	13.0	10.0
\$1,734,327.88	\$33,457.33	\$0.00	\$124,840.06	\$239,238.90	\$82,708.49	\$150,936.75	\$186,967.86	\$2,124,503.53	\$427,973.74
								TOTAL FUNDS APPROVED	TOTAL FUNDS DISPERSED
								\$2,211,941.53	\$511,789.49
Total Projects:								21.0	24.0
HECTARES (HA) TREATED									
155.1		68.8		67.0		223.4		Total Ha Treated: 514.3	

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCY INVESTMENT (CRI) PROGRAM

CRI is a new provincial program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC through community funding, supports and priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land.

The Community Resiliency Investment Program includes two funding categories:

1. FireSmart Community Funding and Supports provides dedicated funding for First Nations and local authorities to participate in wildfire prevention activities, including those on public land and private land.
2. High Value Assets and Critical Infrastructure Protection funds fuel treatments on Crown land and focuses on critical infrastructure that may affect life, property and economic recovery if impacted by wildfire.

All local authorities are encouraged to apply for eligible grants up to \$25,000 or up to \$100,000, depending on the level of wildfire risk.



Shackan Indian Band Info-graphic – Integrating Indigenous Cultural Values into Wildfire Management and Climate Change Adaptation Planning.

The Union of BC Municipalities, First Nations' Emergency Services Society and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC are working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, represented by the BC Wildfire Service, to administer the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports portion of the program for local government and First Nation applicants. Application intake was released on December 7, 2018, to all communities in BC. At least 57 First Nation communities applied to the program. All applications are finalizing the last stages of review and approvals should be completed by the end of April 2019.

## NATIONAL FIRESMART CANADA COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Communication and planning is underway to assist First Nations and local governments to engage in the FireSmart Community Recognition Program. The objective for this fiscal year is to progress both the First Nations and local governments into the recognition program. The BC Wildfire Service recently created and hired a Communications/Engagement Specialist – Prevention to assist with wildfire prevention activities in BC. This position will also assume responsibility for the FireSmart Community Recognition Program. The BC Territorial Representative/Liaison position was previously held by a FNESS representative and is now shared between FNESS and the BCWS. The inclusion of this position in BC FireSmart has added much-needed support for program activities.

We have received approval for an expanded FireSmart project through Indigenous Services Canada this year and are seeking to increase the FireSmart Community Recognition First Nations engagement.

In 2018-2019, First Nations communities successfully completed seven New FireSmart Recognitions and five Renewals.

See the FireSmart Canada website for the full recognition list for BC:

[www.firesmartbc.ca/recognized-firesmart-communities](http://www.firesmartbc.ca/recognized-firesmart-communities)

## 2018-19 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM | *Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) On Reserve Fuel Treatment Project*

The FNESS Forest Fuel Management Department accessed funding to support On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment projects and can contribute a maximum of 90% of the cost of eligible activities up to \$57,690.00 in funding per First Nation. The remainder (10%) is required to be funded through community contributions. Fifteen (15) First Nations communities were eligible to receive up to \$5,769.00 per hectare all inclusive, with a minimum 10 hectares per project. All 15 communities completed their projects and a total of \$1,123,936.60 was approved for community grants with 215.2 hectares treated.



FNESS Frank Joe, RFT conducting site visit on-reserve (ISC) Simpcw at TU1.  
Left to right: Jay Curtis (Supervisor), Leon Eustache, Brandon Ross

## FNESS FIRST NATION ADAPT PROGRAM SUBMISSION | *Revitalizing Traditional Burning*

FNESS was successful in accessing multiyear funding through Indigenous Service Canada to complete the following project: Revitalizing traditional burning: Integrated Indigenous cultural values into wildfire management and climate change adaptation planning. Fort Nelson First Nation – Year 1, withdrew and was replaced by the Xwisten (Bridge River Band) (FY2017/2018). In Year 2, funding was received for the Shackan Indian Band (FY2018/2019) and, the Yunesit'in First Nation (FY2018/2019).

Our proposed project is unique because it utilizes qualitative research methods to assess vulnerabilities posed by climate change impacts, and identifies and incorporates the indigenous cultural values and traditional burning knowledge of each participating First Nations community into the development of individual community-based burn plan frameworks. At the beginning of the project, dialogue sessions are conducted with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other community champions. The local and culturally-specific knowledge unique to each participating First Nations community in relation to wildfires and drought, contributes to the improvement of community resiliency to climate impacts.

We have completed the Xwisten (Bridge River Band), Shackan Band burn plans, and the Yunesit'in First Nation draft burn plan.



## XWISTEN & SHACKAN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL BURNING PRACTICES PROJECT

### BACKGROUND

Cultural burning is a marriage between Indigenous cultural knowledge and science.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have used cultural burns to protect communities, manage the land, enhance food production, promote the growth of medicinal plants, reduce pest infestations and support and transfer cultural and spiritual fire knowledge to future generations.

Cultural burns are usually low and slow, burning only the undergrowth in an area. Slow fires give animals a chance to escape, burns off anything that is not naturally growing and minimizes disturbances to the top few inches of top soil.

The storytelling project supports the knowledge transfer of Indigenous cultural burning practices to the Xwisten First Nation, Shackan Indian Band, St'at'imc Nation territory and others.

### OBJECTIVES

The following three objectives relate to the Xwisten & Shackan cultural burning practices project:

1. Sharing educational and cultural burning practices within the community and with others.
2. Highlighting the use of fire as a tool to enhance the community's resilience in wildfire prevention and risk reduction.
3. Integrating Indigenous cultural values into wildfire management and climate change adaptation planning.

This project will showcase the Xwisten & Shackan cultural burning practices in central British Columbia and communicate key messages to the community and other audiences.

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) will support the Xwisten & Shackan First Nation and others as determined by the Xwisten & Shackan First Nation and FNESS.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Wildland Fire Management Working Group is providing the financial assistance for this project.

## FOREST ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY (FES) OF BC

FES of BC approved a project submission by FNESS to develop and implement a Regional Prioritization and Engagement model for First Nations that will guide the development and submission of FN FES Project proposals.

Pilot projects are being developed in the following three areas: Northeast (Fort Nelson), Southeast (FN covered by the Rocky Mountain Fire Management Plan) and Coast (N'Quatqua). The pilot project is expected to be completed by March 2019.

Two measurable outputs for the pilot projects will define project success:

1. Development of a simple process that can be clearly articulated to project proponents and for identifying priority areas, developing and submitting FES projects to the FES Board.
2. FES Board approval of FN FES project submissions.



*FNESS Board of Director Anthony Moore and Forest Fuel Manager Jeff Eustache, RFT attended the First Nations Adapt Gathering in Ottawa.*

## 2018-2019 FIRST NATIONS WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & BC WILDFIRE SERVICE (BCWS) INTERAGENCY SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE

Overall, the proposed FNESS-led wildland firefighter training and skills development initiative was intended to contribute to capacity building of wildland firefighting personnel in BC. The training, skills development, and required interagency wildfire suppression contract arrangement process to have First Nations crews recognized and acknowledged were identified, discussed with provincial and federal government agencies, and presented to First Nations communities in advance of the 2018 wildfire season. Training is completed in four regions, Prince George – Stelat'en, North West – Hazelton, Kamloops – Lytton and Bonaparte.



McLeod Lake firefighters with FNESS staff. 1

# Emergency Management Department (CISM)

## 2018 FIRE AND FLOOD RESPONSE

Along with supporting First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) mission to serve First Nations Communities to develop and sustain safer and healthier communities, the Emergency Management Department staff interacted with First Nations community members to provide advisory services, acted as liaisons and advocates between various agencies during emergency events, and provided information services and training during the 2018 Fire and Flood Season throughout the Province of BC.



Command Centre



## 2018 PARTNERSHIP TABLES

FNESS, in partnership with Emergency Management BC (EMBC), hosted the 2018 Roundtable Partnership Tables, a safe and respectful space for First Nations communities to share their unique success stories and challenges faced during the historic 2017-2018 fire and flood seasons.

The purpose of the partnership table sessions is to share knowledge, address concerns, empower First Nations Communities and improve service delivery through a collaborative approach to Emergency Management.

In 2018, partnership tables were facilitated in the following communities:

- Fort St. John
- Parksville
- Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
- ?AQ'AM
- Xat'sull – Soda Creek First Nations
- Kitselas



*Takla Nation band office (EOC) in Prince George*

In 2019 First Nation's participation at the Partnership Tables increased. And as a result, relationships were built between the Regional Emergency Operations personnel and the agencies that they interact with during emergency events. Information sharing between First Nations emergency personnel from different Nations, provided the support that each community needed to enhance their emergency management program. The opportunity to interact with various agencies helped to streamline processes affecting First Nations communities with respect to response and recovery claims submissions.



FNESS provided the following services and supports to over fifty Indigenous communities that were, directly affected by fires, floods, and/or landslides:

- Support to First Nations in the form of Liaison/ Advisory services to Provincial Emergency Coordination Centres.
- Support of the local Provincial and Regional Emergency Operation Centres in Kamloops, Prince George, and the Lower Mainland where EM staff worked closely with MIR/MAR to assist in the development of re-entry and recovery plans for communities affected by floods, landslides, and/or wildfires.
- Front line support provided to local Emergency Operations Centres within affected areas.
- Assistance to communities with their recovery paths through training, information resources and advisory services.
- Provision of professional, culturally sensitive, Critical Incident Stress Management services to leadership, members and front-line workers in 25 communities.

FNESS will continue to enhance its intimate knowledge of Indigenous communities in BC and will focus on the learnings and identified gaps discovered during its involvement with the 2018 BC Flood and Wildfire response and subsequent research activities. This transferred knowledge will be utilized to assist our First Nation communities to achieve success in the field of emergency management/response and recovery as they travel their individual pathways towards self-reliance.

FNESS Emergency Management Department would like to thank EMBC, ISC and FNHA for their support. And to all the First Nations communities that have engaged with FNESS Emergency Management services, we look forward to continuing our work with you.

# Financial Statements

FIRST NATIONS' EMERGENCY SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

## A FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR 2018/2019

### *Sources and Uses of Funds*

FUNDING BY SOURCE	Dollars (\$ 000)	%
ISC* – BC Region	3,058,977	71.0%
BC Forestry** (UBCM***)	633,302	14.7%
Emergency Management BC	275,591	6.4%
BC Forestry** (CRIP****)	114,270	2.7%
First Nations Health Authority	121,260	2.8%
FNESS Own Source/Miscellaneous	80,605	1.9%
Donations	20,000	0.5%
Memberships	1,974	0.0%
	<b>4,305,979</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

FUNDING BY USE/PROGRAMS	Dollars (\$ 000)	%
Fire Services	1,127,972	27.0%
Emergency Management	1,762,013	42.2%
Forest Fuel Management	885,075	21.2%
Administration/Board/AGM	396,653	9.5%
FNESS Own Source Revenues	633	0.0%
	<b>4,172,346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Indigenous Services Canada

\*\* BC Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development

\*\*\* Union of BC Municipalities

\*\*\*\* Community Resiliency Investment Program

*Not shown above are Provincial SWPI (Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative) funds that were committed to First Nations communities for approved application for 2018/2019 totaling \$2,124,503.53. In addition, funds approved for projects completed for 2018/2019 totaled \$427,973.74. FNESS plays a significant role in assisting First Nations to receive this funding.*

FNESS currently receives funding primarily from government sources and uses these funds according to the terms and conditions of their Agreements.

**NOTICE TO READER:** This financial presentation is unaudited and has been prepared by management for the sole purpose of this annual report. The information excludes capital amortization and deferred revenue adjustments, loss (gain) on sale of assets but includes purchases that are capital in nature.



# Communities Engaged by FNESS 2018–2019

## Forest Fuel Management

**SWPI:** Strategic Wildfire  
Prevention Initiative

**ISC:** Indigenous Services Canada,  
British Columbia Region

**CRI:** Community  
Resiliency Investment

**FNAP:** First Nation Adapt Program

Band #	Band Name	FIRE	FIRESMART	WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING	SWPI	ISC	CRI	FNAP	EM
604	Akisqnuq First Nation			✓	✓				
709	ʔEsdilagh First Nation	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
684	Adams Lake	✓							
659	Ahousaht	✓							✓
558	Aitchelitz								
710	Alexis Creek First Nation   Tʔideldel	✓	✓						✓
602	ʔAQʔAM	✓	✓		✓				
685	Ashcroft Indian Band	✓	✓	✓					
640	Beecher Bay	✓							
547	Blueberry River First Nations								
686	Bonaparte Indian Band	✓	✓	✓					✓
700	Boothroyd Band		✓	✓	✓	✓			
701	Boston Bar First Nation	✓		✓	✓				
713	Canim Lake Band	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
583	Chawathil First Nation	✓	✓						
584	Cheam	✓							
620	Cheslatta Carrier Nation		✓	✓			✓		
693	Coldwater Indian Band	✓	✓						
694	Cook's Ferry Indian Band	✓	✓	✓					
642	Cowichan Tribes		✓				✓		
635	Da'naxda'xw First Nation								
502	Daylu Dena Council		✓		✓		✓		
504	Dease River First Nation						✓		
662	Ditidaht	✓							✓
548	Doig River	✓							✓
451	Duncan's First Nation								
636	Dzawada'enuxw (formerly Tsawataineuk)	✓							
634	Ehattesaht								
711	Esk'etemc	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
644	Esquimalt	✓							
543	Fort Nelson First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
531	Gitanmaax Band	✓		✓			✓		
537	Gitanyow Band	✓		✓			✓		
675	Gitga'a't (Hartley Bay)	✓							
677	Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government (Nisga'a Village of New Aiyansh)	✓		✓			✓		
535	Gitsegukla	✓	✓	✓					

Band #	Band Name	FIRE	FIRESMART	WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING	SWPI	ISC	CRI	FNAP	EM
536	Gitwagak Band		✓	✓					
679	Gitwinksihlkw	✓	✓				✓		
672	Gitxaala Nation						✓		
724	Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw	✓							
627	Gwawaenuk Tribe								
534	Hagwilget Village Council		✓	✓			✓		
676	Haisla Nation								
645	Halalt First Nation		✓				✓		
546	Halfway River First Nation						✓		
538	Heiltsuk	✓							✓
661	Hesquiaht	✓							
703	High Bar First Nations	✓		✓					
552	Homalco First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
664	Hupačasath First Nation				✓				
663	Huu-ay-aht First Nations				✓				
683	Iskut Band Council	✓					✓		✓
624	K'ómoks First Nation	✓							
638	Ka:'yu:'k't'h/Che:k:ties7et'h' First Nations								
704	Kanaka Bar Indian Band aka T'eqt'aqtn'mux	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
563	Katzie								✓
532	Kispiox Band Council			✓					
540	Kitasoo	✓							
680	Kitselas First Nation	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
681	Kitsumkalum First Nation	✓		✓					
553	Klahoose First Nation								
610	Kwadacha Nation (Tsek'ene)	✓	✓				✓		
626	Kwakiutl	✓							
564	Kwantlen First Nation								
580	Kwaw-kwaw-Aplit								
628	Kwiakah								
625	Kwikwatsut'inuxw Haxwa'mis	✓							
560	Kwikwetlem First Nation								
607	Lake Babine Nation	✓	✓	✓			✓		
643	Lake Cowichan First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
674	Lax-kw'alaams	✓							
579	Leq' a: mel First Nation								
611	Lheidli T'enneh First Nation	✓	✓	✓			✓		
721	Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation	✓	✓						
715	Lhtako Dené Nation		✓						
557	Lil'wat Nation	✓	✓						
689	Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band	✓	✓			✓	✓		
606	Lower Kootney Band				✓				
695	Lower Nicola Indian Band		✓		✓				✓
598	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	✓	✓			✓			✓



Band #	Band Name	FIRE	FIRESMART	WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING	SWPI	ISC	CRI	FNAP	EM
646	Lyackson								
705	Lytton First Nation	✓	✓	✓	✓				
647	Malahat								
629	Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em								
565	Matsqui								
618	McLeod Lake Indian Band	✓		✓	✓				
673	Metlakatla	✓							
530	Morisetown		✓	✓			✓		
630	Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation	✓			✓				
550	Musqueam	✓							
556	N'Quatqua	✓	✓						
612	Nadleh Whut'en First Nation	✓	✓	✓					
614	Nak'azdli Whut'en			✓			✓		
631	'NAMGIS First Nation	✓	✓				✓		✓
649	Nanoose First Nation		✓				✓		
720	Nazko First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
726	Nee-Tahi-Buhn Band			✓	✓				
690	Neskonlith Indian Band	✓	✓			✓	✓		
566	New Westminster								
696	Nicomen Indian Band	✓	✓	✓	✓				
671	Nisga'a Village of Gingolx	✓					✓		
679	Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw	✓					✓		
678	Nisga'a Village of Laxgalt'sap	✓					✓		
699	Nooaitch Indian Band	✓	✓	✓					✓
639	Nuchatlaht								
539	Nuxalk Nation	✓					✓		
616	Okanagan Indian Band	✓	✓						
669	Old Massett Village Council	✓					✓		
692	Oregon Jack Creek Indian Band			✓					
596	Osoyoos	✓							✓
541	Oweekeno/Wuikinuxv Nation	✓							
658	Pacheedaht	✓							
652	Pauquachin								
650	Penelakut	✓							✓
597	Penticton Indian Band	✓	✓		✓				
586	Peters								
585	Popkum								
544	Prophet River First Nation	✓							
651	Qualicum First Nation								
633	Quatsino								
193	Red Rock Indian Band								
615	Saik'uz First Nation	✓	✓	✓			✓		
567	Samahquam	✓							
542	Saulteau First Nations								

Band #	Band Name	FIRE	FIRESMART	WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING	SWPI	ISC	CRI	FNAP	EM
568	Scowlitz								
581	Seabird Island Band	✓			✓				
551	Sechelt								✓
569	Semiahmoo	✓							
591	Sekw'elw'as   Cayoose Creek Indian Band		✓	✓	✓	✓			
698	Shackan Indian Band	✓	✓	✓				✓	
605	Shuswap Indian Band	✓	✓		✓				
587	Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation	✓							
570	Shxwhā:y Village								
533	Sik-e-Dakh (Glen Vowell)			✓			✓		
691	Simpcw First Nation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
706	Siska Indian-Band	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
562	Skatin Nation	✓							
582	Skawahlook First Nation								
687	Skeetchestn Indian Band	✓	✓	✓					
670	Skidegate	✓							
729	Skin Tyee Nation	✓	✓	✓			✓		
571	Skowkale								
707	Skuppah Indian Band			✓	✓		✓		
573	Skwah								
648	Snuneymuxw First Nation								
656	Songhees	✓							
572	Soowahlie								
600	Splatsin	✓	✓						
708	Spuzzum First Nation	✓		✓	✓		✓		
555	Squamish								
574	Squiala First Nation								
613	Stellat'en First Nation		✓	✓			✓		
559	Sts'ailes	✓	✓	✓					
723	Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation	✓	✓						
641	Stz'uminus First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
578	Sumas First Nation	✓							
682	Tahltan Band	✓					✓		✓
608	Takla Nation	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
501	Taku River Tlinget	✓							
593	T'it'q'et	✓	✓	✓					
688	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc	✓					✓		
554	Tla'amin Nation	✓	✓						
660	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations								
632	Tlatlasikwala								
617	Tl'azt'en Nation	✓		✓					
712	Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office	✓							
637	Tlowitsis Nation								
603	Tobacco Plains Indian Band				✓				



Band #	Band Name	FIRE	FIRESMART	WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING	SWPI	ISC	CRI	FNAP	EM
718	Tl'esqox of the Tsilhqot'in (Toosey)	✓	✓						
666	Toquaht	✓							
595	Tsal'alh			✓	✓				
653	Tsartlip	✓							
654	Tsawout	✓							
577	Tsawwassen First Nation	✓							
609	Tsay Keh Dene								
665	Tseshaht	✓							
655	Tseycum								
619	Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation   Burns Lake Band	✓	✓	✓					
594	Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation		✓	✓	✓				
549	Tsleil-Waututh Nation	✓	✓						
657	T'Sou-ke First Nation								
575	Tzeachten	✓							
667	Uchucklesaht								
668	Ucluelet								
722	Ulkatcho First Nation	✓					✓		✓
588	Union Bar			✓					
697	Upper Nicola Band	✓	✓						✓
599	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	✓	✓						✓
545	West Moberly First Nations	✓							
601	Westbank First Nation		✓		✓				
725	Wet'suwet'en Nation	✓	✓	✓			✓		
623	We Wai Kai Nation		✓				✓		
622	We Wai Kum (Campbell River)								
702	Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band		✓	✓	✓		✓		
719	Williams Lake Indian Band	✓	✓						
561	Xa'xtsa (Douglas)	✓							
716	Xat'süll First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band)	✓	✓						✓
592	Xaxli'p	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
714	Xeni Gwet'in First Nation	✓	✓				✓		
590	Xwisten (Bridge River Indian Band)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
576	Yekweakwioose								
589	Yale First Nation			✓					
728	Yekooche First Nation	✓		✓					
717	Yunesit'in Government (Stone)	✓	✓				✓	✓	
TC	Stl'atl'imx Nation								
TC	Nuu-chah-nulth								

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, July 6, 2019 | 1:00pm  
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS)  
Traditional Territory

## CORPORATE DIRECTORY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sonny (Stephen) Hunt**  
*President*  
Heiltsuk First Nation

**Barbara Morin**  
*Vice President*  
Stswecem'c Xgat'tem  
First Nation

**Micheal Kelly**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Leq'a:mel First Nation

**Anthony Moore**  
*Director*  
Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw

**Heather McKenzie**  
*Director*  
Williams Lake Indian Band

**Victor Tom**  
*Director*  
Lake Babine Nation

### CORPORATE OFFICE

First Nations' Emergency  
Services Society of British  
Columbia (FNESS)

**North Vancouver Office**  
*Traditional Territories of  
the Squamish Nation*

102-70 Orwell Street  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7J 3R5 Canada  
T 604.669.7305  
F 604.669.9832  
1.888.822.3388  
info@fness.bc.ca

**Kamloops Office**  
*Traditional Territories of  
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS)*

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V2H 1P7 Canada  
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