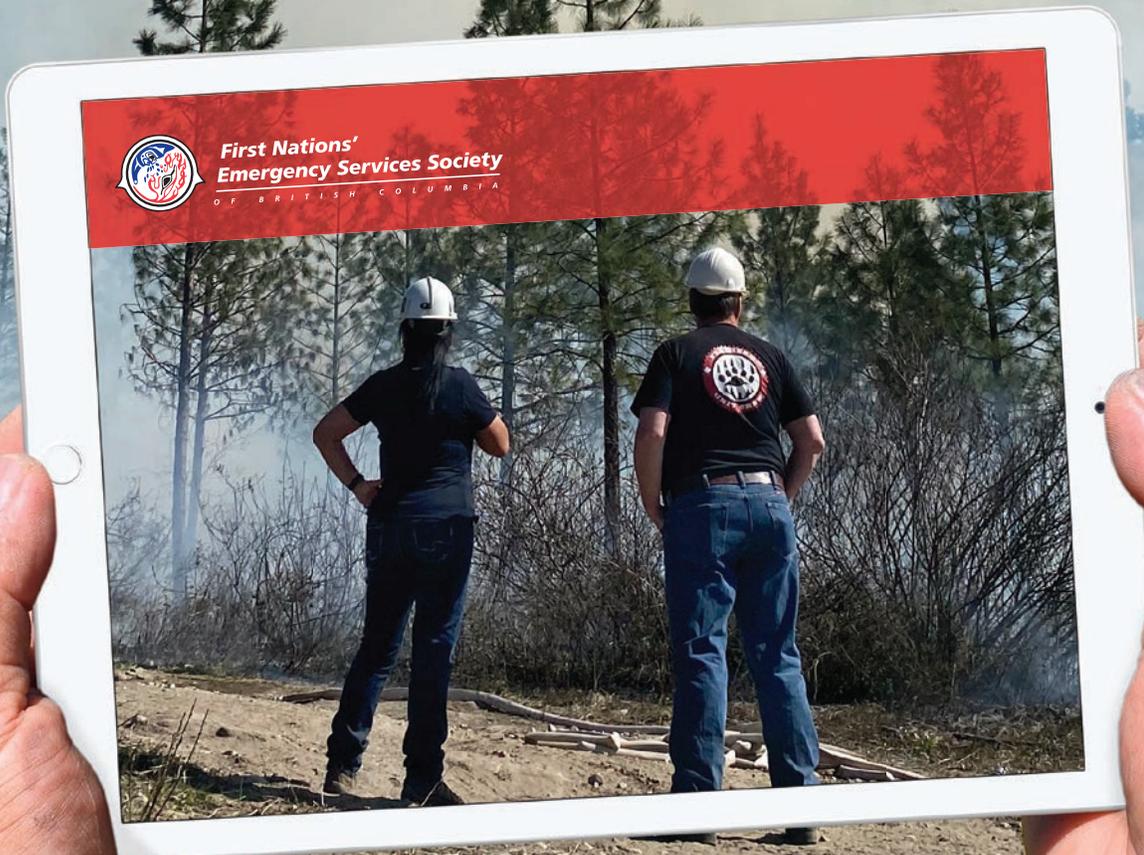


A year of staying connected

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





NEW
virtual
communication.
SAME
down-to-earth
principles.



OUR VISION

Safe and Healthy First Nation Communities



OUR MISSION

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.



OUR VALUES

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FNESS Board of Directors	2
Emergency Services Department	4
Forest Fuel Management Department	12
Financial Statements	19
Communities Engaged by FNESS 2020–2021 ..	20

FNESS Board of Directors

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

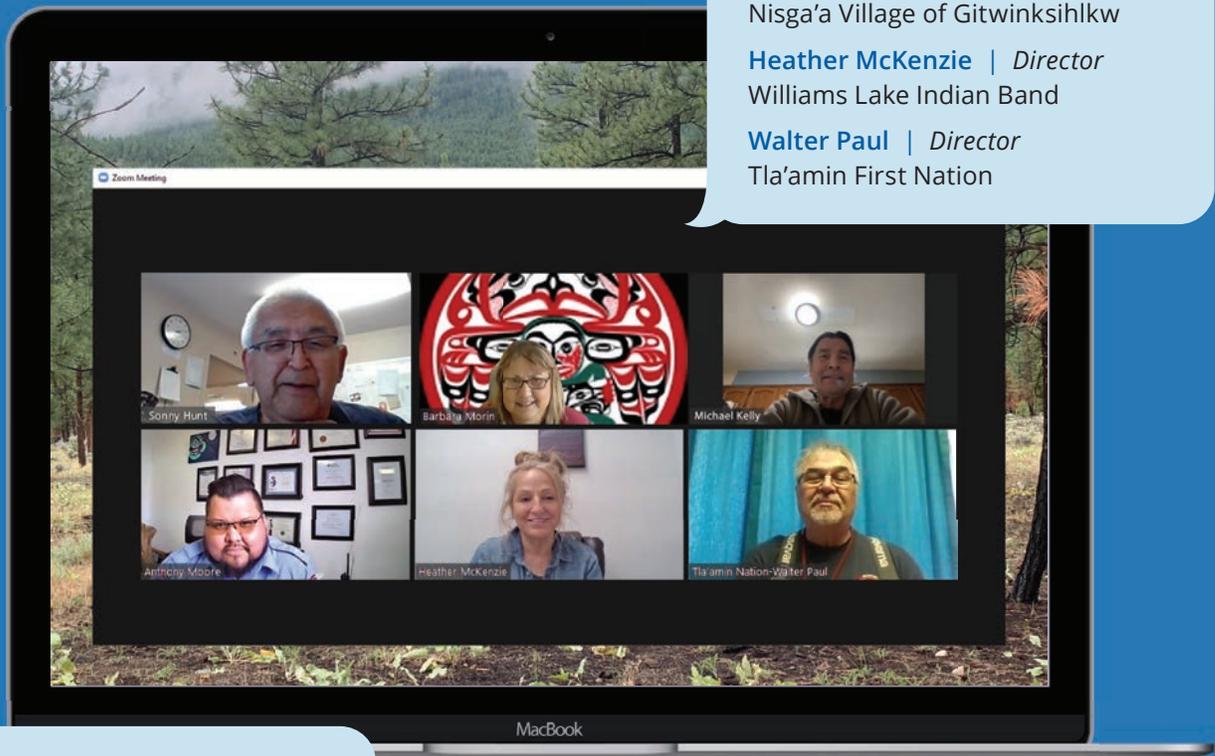
Barbara Morin | *Vice President*
Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation

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

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

Heather McKenzie | *Director*
Williams Lake Indian Band

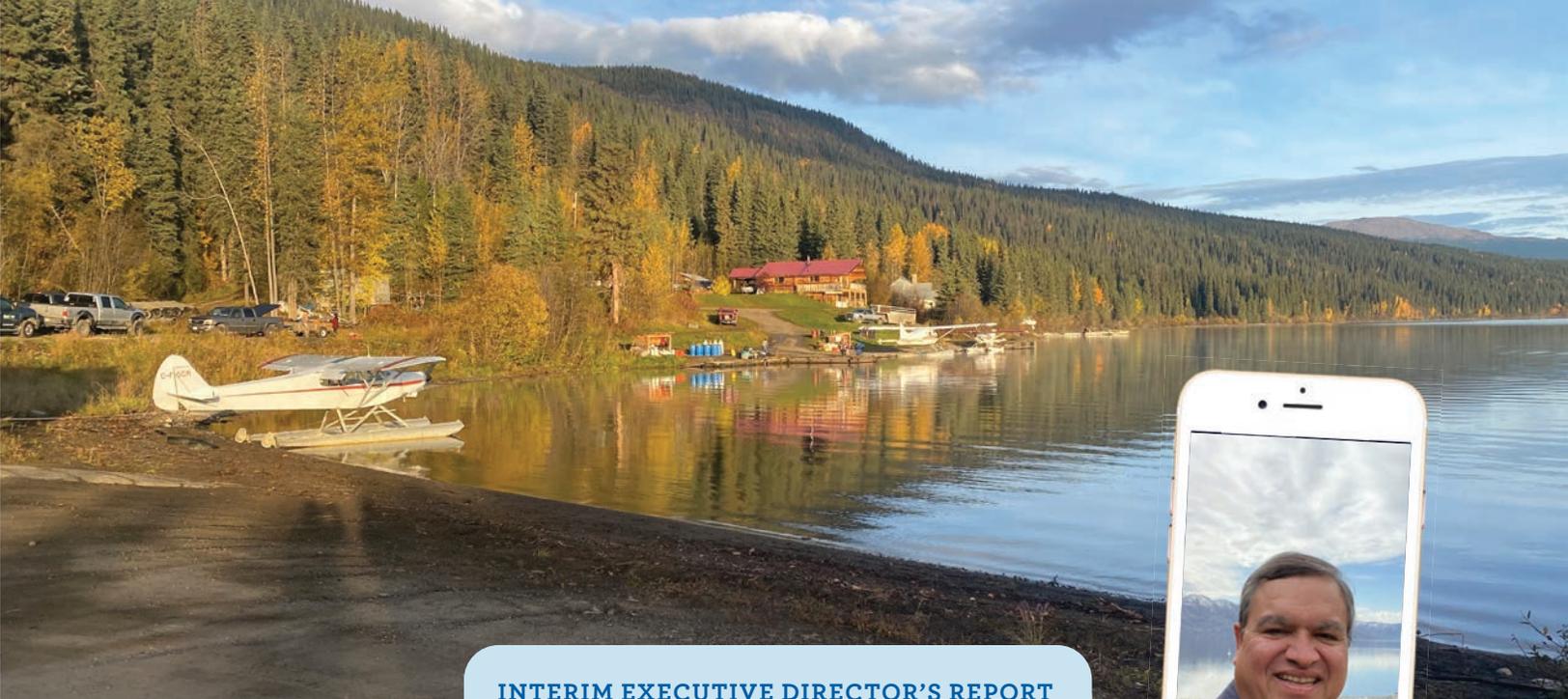
Walter Paul | *Director*
Tla'amin First Nation



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Staying connected! Throughout 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic tested our computer savvy and challenged us to look at innovative ways to stay connected and oversee FNESS operations.

Thankfully advancements in technology allowed us to adapt quickly to the constraints of the pandemic, allowing us to effectively work from home, where possible. FNESS programs and services will continue to be delivered following COVID-19 safety protocols. Please contact the FNESS office to find out more about offerings in your community. Our priority has and will continue to be the health and safety of staff and the communities FNESS serves. More than ever, the Board offers our deepest respect and gratitude to all the frontline workers who have worked tirelessly to provide essential services to British Columbians. We must continue to be respectful and kind to one another. We are getting through this together.



INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

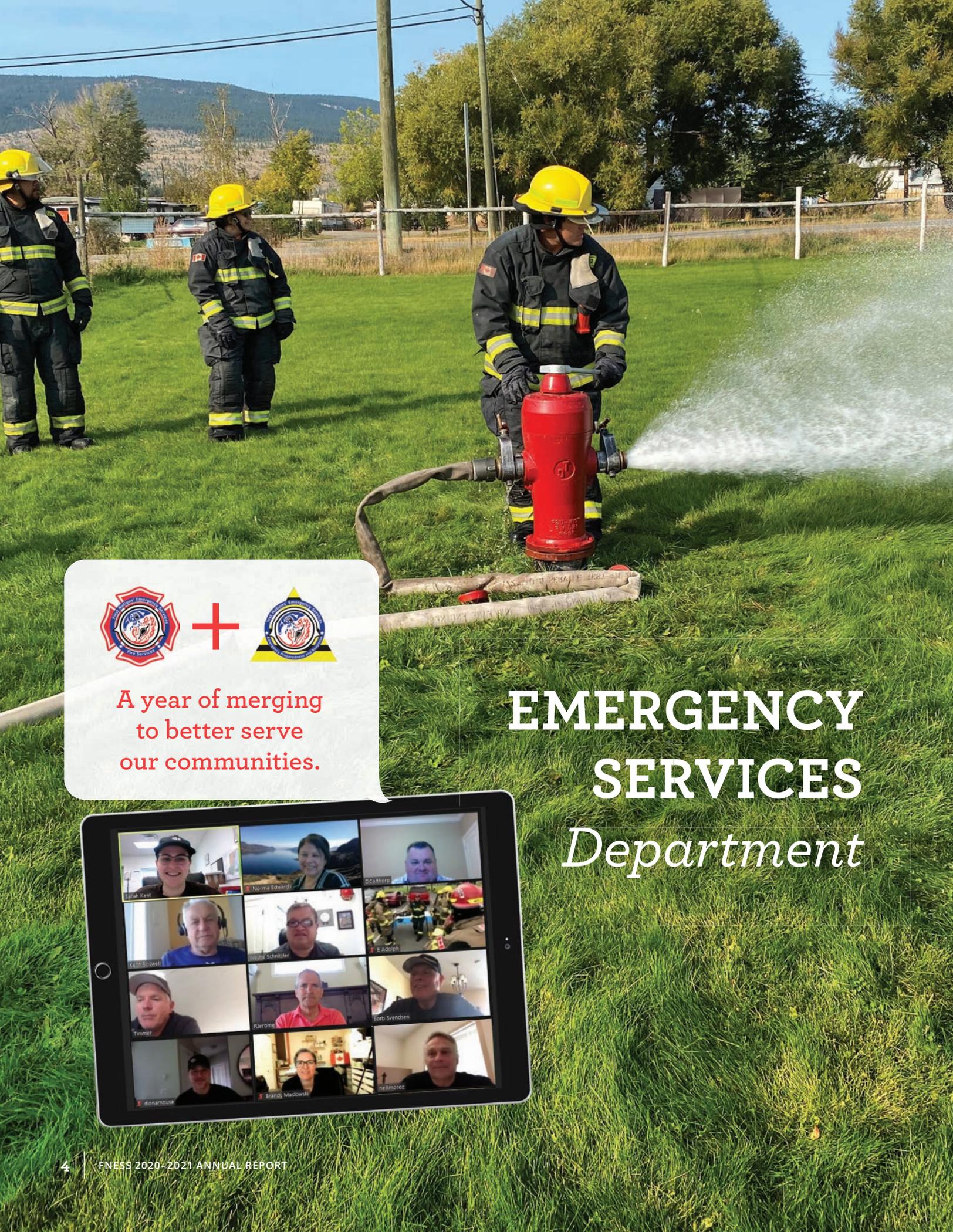


2020 has been a challenging year for our staff and First Nation communities. COVID-19 has re-enforced our focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of our people is first and foremost.

In 2021, with continued support from the First Nation Leadership Council, FNESS will be the organization that communities reach out to for support and knowledge as we navigate through this pandemic together. We are focusing on new ways of delivering essential programs and services to communities, continuing to build capacity to better respond to emergencies that have no timelines or schedules. Our team is committed to following our vision, mission and values and will continue to work with our provincial and federal partners to support our programs in the Emergency Services and Forest Fuel Management departments.

I am looking forward to the next few months and moving onward out of the provincial health order restrictions and guidelines. I am excited to get back to meeting in person, collaborating and planning a future that benefits everyone.

I appreciate the dedication that our Board of Directors and staff have given to the organization during these difficult times. Our team will continue to focus on making FNESS a leading organization for the health and safety of First Nation communities.



A year of merging
to better serve
our communities.

EMERGENCY SERVICES *Department*



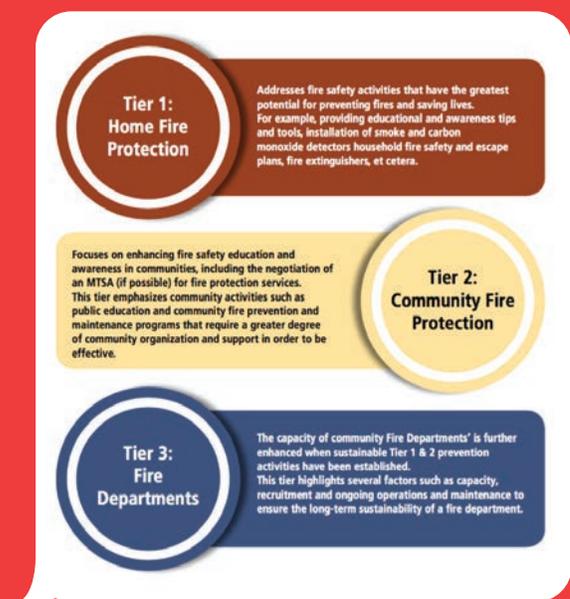
The 2020-2021 fiscal year created some unique challenges and new opportunities as we adjusted to operations during a pandemic. In Q1 and Q2 of the fiscal year, the department was predominantly focused on COVID-19 response and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC)/FNESS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) coordination. As we progressed into Q3 and Q4, we were able to resume some forms of training and programming and the Fire Services and Emergency Management departments merged to become the Emergency Services (ES) department.

The ES department aims to provide both fire service and emergency management support, training and services for communities.

Establishing the new department allowed for development of new ES programs.

The ES department is proud to provide fire prevention programs and firefighter training to First Nation communities throughout British Columbia (BC). We offer training for various parts of the community including youth engagement, fire departments, Chief and Councils, community members, band staff and school programs. All programs and training have been slightly altered this year to align with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. In response to COVID-19, we have developed online training options, increased fire department outreach and support, developed personal protective equipment/safety plans for in-person training, and facilitated community support through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Emergency Management BC (EMBC).

In partnership with ISC and EMBC, the ES department provides community-based emergency management guidance, support and assistance to BC First Nation communities. We use the 3-tiered approach to deliver fire services support and effective programming.



The 3-tiered framework is outlined in A Practical Guide to Fire Protection (ISC). The ES department looks forward to using this framework in addition to the newly adopted DRIPA (Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act) to meet the FNESS mandate of assisting BC First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities. For additional information about any of the programs or training listed below, please visit our website or email the ES department at fireservices@fness.bc.ca.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK POSTER CONTEST

FNESS is proud to announce the winners of our Fire Prevention Week (FPW) 2020 Poster Contest. FNESS worked in partnership with the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the Fire Prevention Officers' Association of BC and the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. FNESS greatly appreciates the effort made by the schools, their teachers and their students to participate in this annual fire safety learning event. This year's FPW theme was "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" Schools used this theme to encourage their students to learn practical fire safety information. This year we had 82 entries from eight First Nation schools. Posters created by students were entered into three contests:

- 1. FPW Contest for all BC schools:** Judging was held in November 2020. All entries from BC First Nation schools were sent to FNESS. Schools with winning entries have been directly contacted by the BC Burn Fund.
- 2. FNESS FPW Poster Contest:** FNESS selected the winning posters from BC First Nation schools in December 2020. Prize packages have been mailed directly to the schools of the winning students.
- 3. Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) National Fire Safety Poster Campaign:** FNESS sent the winning entries from BC First Nation schools to the AFAC for the national contest. Winners have not yet been announced.

FNESS FPW POSTER CONTEST WINNERS:

K – Grade 3

- 1st place: Mya W., Kispiox
- 2nd place: Leah P., Lower Nicola Indian Band
- 3rd place: Carl A., Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw

Grade 4 – 6

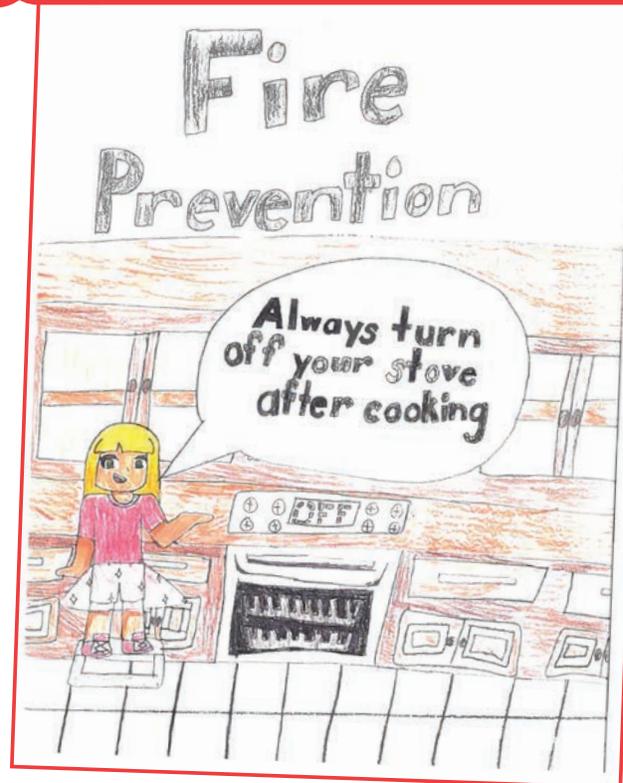
- 1st place: Erica N., Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw
- 2nd place: Cole C., Takla Nation
- 3rd place: Liam M., Okanagan Indian Band

Grade 7 – 12

- 1st place: Athena W., Takla Nation
- 2nd place: Dariusz H., Keremeos
- 3rd place: Marlee W., Keremeos

THANK YOU TO THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Kispiox Community School	OKIB Cultural
Lower Nicola Band School	Immersion School
Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School	Similkameen Elementary Secondary School
Nus Wadeezulh Community School	Wagalus School
	Gitsegulka Elementary



Grade 4 to 6, first place winner: Erica from Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw.

COMMUNITY FIRST AID

The Community First Aid program was developed by the Emergency Services department in early 2021, and training coordination has begun for roll-out this summer. The intent of this program is to train community members in basic first aid, CPR Level C and the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). This course is equivalent to the WorkSafe BC Level 1 course and certification is valid for three years. This program is not exclusive to fire departments or emergency management personnel. Any community member (aged 17+) can participate. The program is a two-day hands-on training course with scenarios, facilitated by FNESS instructors. Content addressing the opioid/fentanyl epidemic will be included in the program. After successful completion, communities will receive a Level 2 first aid kit and an in-service AED.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

The purpose of the Leadership and Governance workshop is to educate and increase capacity of the Chief, Band Council and other leadership regarding community fire prevention. In addition to the education component, this workshop provides an opportunity for FNESS to meet with leadership officials and discuss questions they have concerning fire prevention and capacity building within their community. This year, due to COVID-19 travel and gathering restrictions, no deliveries of the workshop were completed. In response, FNESS has developed a virtual workshop to be presented in 2021. The workshop focuses on the following topics:

- community adoption of fire and building codes
- engagement with neighbouring communities (municipal service agreement options for community fire protection)
- occupational health and safety processes
- incident reporting and investigations
- review of various funding opportunities
- advisory services for community specific questions and inquiries



SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Every year FNESS delivers the in-school Fire Safety Education program. This year, FNESS was invited to community schools at the Lower Nicola Indian Band, Xaxli'p and Skatin Nation, where we were able to provide socially distanced and age-appropriate fire safety education to the students. Fire safety topics included preventing burns, lighters and matches, cooking safety, smoke alarms, reality of a house fire, home escape planning and fire service career information. FNESS aims to deliver engaging presentations to the students, giving them the opportunity to practice fire safety skills, ask questions and tell their own personal fire safety stories.

FNESS promotes fire safety education by:

- delivering fire safety presentations
- providing resource material for classroom learning
- providing Fire Prevention Week school kits
- encouraging participation in the Fire Prevention Week poster/video contest
- working with fire departments to promote fire safety

FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

Developed in 2020, Fire Safety Assessments (FSA) for First Nation communities are conducted by FNESS on behalf of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). In early 2021, we began conducting assessments with Tobacco Plains First Nation and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. The purpose of an FSA is to assess the overall level of fire safety of a community and to provide options to enhance the level of fire protection. FNESS works with key community members to gather information to support direction regarding overall fire protection. Key areas of the assessments include findings within the following categories:

- general description of the community
- goal for community fire and life safety assessment
- how to build an effective and sustainable fire protection plan
- general description of the fire protection systems in the community
- general description of the notification or dispatch system in the community
- water supply
- preventative fire safety planning
- fire suppression

FIRE OFFICER SAFETY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

This year, FNESS provided Team Leader training to 24 firefighters in three communities – Metlakatla First Nation, Adams Lake First Nation and Heiltsuk Nation. This two-day course teaches fire officers how to safely monitor subordinates while focusing on safety. It is also a safety regulation of WorkSafe BC for fire departments. The course focuses on topics such as leadership, strategies and tactics, risk management, documentation, operational guidelines, accountability and incident action plans.



Firefighters from Lower Nicola Indian Band participate in the Exterior Operations Firefighter Training in October 2020.

EXTERIOR OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The Exterior Operations Firefighter Training program was provided to approximately 30 firefighters from three different communities this year. Congratulations and thank you to Little Shuswap Lake Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation for participating. We appreciate the efforts made by these communities to work safely and effectively with FNESS. FNESS was able to provide safe training opportunities by developing COVID-19 safety plans, adhering to social distancing during training, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and developing an online training option for the classroom portion of the training.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SERVICES:

- Basic Firefighter
- Pumps and Pumping
- Driver Training
- Preventative Maintenance
- Live Fire
- Live Fire Exterior Props
- Exterior Train the Trainer

The program provides firefighters with the basic knowledge and practical skills to safely attack a structure fire and extinguish the fire while protecting exposure. The course is based on the British Columbia (BC) Structure Firefighter Competency and Training Playbook and is designed with safety as the number one priority. The course, through FNESS, is recognized through the BC Fire Training Officers Association and the Fire Commissioner of BC.

2020 FNESS INDIGENOUS FIREFIGHTER COMPETITION

FNESS was disappointed to cancel our 2020 FNESS Indigenous Firefighter Competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our event was to be in partnership with the BC Fire Training Officers' Association (BCFTOA) 2020 Conference, but unfortunately it was also cancelled. The National Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) Firefighter Competition moved to a virtual format in 2020 and FNESS supported BC fire departments with their submissions and registration. These large events were cancelled in alignment with provincial and federal policies restricting large gatherings of people, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you to our hosts Katzie First Nation and Kwikwetlem First Nation, whose traditional territory would have hosted our event. Additionally, we would like to thank the City of Pitt Meadows, Pitt Meadows Fire and Rescue and our event sponsors.

SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER INITIATIVE

The Smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm and Fire Extinguisher Initiative has been operating for over eight years! FNESS is proud to provide essential fire safety equipment at no cost to First Nation communities. FNESS works in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide smoke/CO alarms (10-year battery) and B-C fire extinguishers for homes on BC reserves. Fire safety equipment such as smoke alarms and fire extinguishers reduce the risks of house fires and house fire-related deaths. Thank you to all the communities who have worked with the Emergency Services (ES) department this year to ensure their homes have working fire safety equipment:

- Squamish Nation
- Ashcroft Indian Band
- Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw
- Spuzzum First Nation
- K'ómoks First Nation
- Squiala First Nation
- Takla Nation

FIRE EXTINGUISHER RECALL REMINDER:

FNESS is continuing to inform communities of the Kidde fire extinguisher recall issued in 2017. We are actively attempting to replace all recalled units (models: E5, M5C and BC5GD). Recalled units are replaced at no charge to the community. For more information about the replacement program, or to see if your community has outstanding recalls to replace please contact the ES department at fireservices@fness.bc.ca.



EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS, ADVISORY AND OUTREACH

The Emergency Services (ES) department aims to communicate regularly with all communities within the province through various communications, resources and outreach. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outreach and communication moved to a virtual format. We continued to communicate with communities and other organizations through programs like Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

The ES department communicates with First Nations on successes and issues relating to emergency services through a variety of outlets including:

- Updates, resources and safety tips are posted on social media (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter) and the FNESS website.
- Distribution of the annual report, annual calendar and quarterly newsletter.
- A comprehensive fire department email list.
- ES has been working with Indigenous Fire Safety Council in a supporting role to develop the following programs in British Columbia (BC):
 - Housing Fire Safety Assessments
 - Wood Burning Stove Safety
- ES staff are members of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM's) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Evaluation Committee in both 2020 and 2021. Participation in the committee includes application scoring, application review, community support and decision recommendations.
- Development of training and promotional videos for FNESS. The Exterior Operations Firefighter Training program, Fire and Life Safety School program, and the Leadership and Governance Workshops are all programs that have been updated to include a video training element.
- Community Personal Protective Equipment and Sanitation Request Coordination in Q1 and Q2 during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



*(Left) Exterior Operations Firefighter Training with Adams Lake Fire Department in March 2020.
 (Right) Learning about firework safety with the Xaxli'p Fire Department.*

FIRST NATIONS FIRE DEPARTMENT NETWORKING AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The First Nations Fire Department Networking and Mentorship program was created to support fire officers and fire chiefs with the administration and operation of their department. This program covers a range of fire department topics including human resources, fire services standards, equipment management, managing fire department budget, report development, understanding funding of fire services, training program scheduling, tracking of training, operational guidelines and after-action incident reporting. FNESS connects with communities through the FNESS Fire and Life Safety Public Education program, bi-annual surveys and support at fire department practice nights.

The purpose of the FNESS Fire and Life Safety Public Education program is to educate communities about regional and seasonal fire and life safety risks. Each month, FNESS distributes a Fire and Life Safety Public Education message approved by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and FNESS. The messaging is distributed by email to our First Nation Fire Department email list. We encourage fire departments to share this information with their communities and use the fact sheets to promote safer communities.

- **August:** Grilling, Outdoor Burning and Wildfires
- **September:** Candles, Matches/Lighters and Back to School
- **October:** Halloween, Fireworks and Fire Prevention Week 2020
- **November:** Home Fire Escape and Monthly Smoke Alarm Testing
- **December:** Candles, Holiday Lights, Christmas Trees and 9-1-1
- **January:** Indoor Heating and Smoking
- **February:** Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide
- **March:** Fire Extinguishers and Fire Fighting

Bi-annual surveys are used to determine which services and programs are most needed for the First Nation fire departments and communities. The survey is distributed to communities via an online service called WUFOO.

FNESS instructors and casual staff have been participating in local fire department practice nights supporting training events for the crews. This year, FNESS was welcomed into fire departments at Seabird Island Band, Spuzzum First Nation, Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation and Xaxli'p First Nation.

FIRST NATIONS LAPTOP AND SATELLITE PHONE PROJECT

In partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), FNESS provided each of the 203 BC First Nation communities with a laptop and satellite phone to support emergency management (EM) in their community. The laptops are intended to store important EM information for the community including hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis (HRVA), emergency planning, tracking evacuation routes, accessing maps, community lists and other important community information. This project aims to support EM modernization in BC. FNESS will work alongside the community emergency program coordinator(s) and leadership to provide support, confirm emergency plans and identify training needs.

TRIPARTITE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Tripartite Emergency Management Services Memorandum of Understanding (the 'Tripartite MOU') leads the way to enhanced partnerships and emergency capacity that will benefit First Nations and all British Columbians. As a result of the Tripartite MOU, the Tripartite Emergency Management Working Group was developed and tasked with identifying options to close the gaps in jurisdictional and practical matters associated with how the four pillars of emergency management operate and can better serve BC First Nations. FNESS is funded to support and develop recommendations and options through the working group, and to discuss emerging concerns, considerations, policy and process issues to advance meaningful recognition and enhanced capacity of First Nations.

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

FNESS is an active member of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) which "brings together 13 Indigenous and six senior federal representatives to provide advice to regulators, as well as to monitor the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) Project and the existing pipeline. The 13 Indigenous members represent the various 129 Indigenous communities and regions along the route. Members have shared goals of both the safety and protection of environmental and Indigenous interests regarding lands and waters." Learn more at <https://iamc-tmx.com/>.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CALLS AND STANDING CALLS

In 2020, the Emergency Services department represented FNESS in the following emergency management and standing calls. These standing calls were introduced early in the COVID-19 pandemic and were used to maintain clear communication between First Nations leadership, communities and organizations.

Standing Calls

- bi-weekly First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) calls
- weekly spring freshet/wildfire calls

COVID-19 Calls

- weekly First Nation COVID-19 calls
- weekly COVID-19 Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre calls

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES BUILDING PROJECT

FNESS is working in partnership with Public Safety Canada, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to collect data on emergency management risks, capabilities, gaps and best practices in First Nation communities throughout Canada. FNESS will be contacting all 203 BC First Nation communities on behalf of EMBC. Project development began in 2020 and FNESS is aiming to begin surveying communities in 2021.

PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES

During March, April and May of 2020, FNESS Emergency Services (ES) staff were actively supporting the BC Southwest Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) and maintaining the virtual FNESS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). FNESS has brought on more ES casual staff to support requests that come from PREOC directors or the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC). FNESS provides support to communities in emergency management activities. Additionally, FNESS provided support to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) PREOC through weekly dissemination of emergency management concerns from the PREOC/PECC reports for First Nation communities and the UBCIC Policy Director weekly update.



A year of
collaboration and
partnership.

FOREST FUEL MANAGEMENT *Department*



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

STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The former Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) was a suite of funding programs managed through the Provincial Fuel Management Working Group. SWPI supported BC communities to mitigate risk(s) from wildland fire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) to improve community safety, through the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), forest fuel prescription development, demonstration projects and implementation of operational fuel treatment projects. This program supported fuel treatment and related activities on Crown lands which are adjacent to reserve lands. FNESS supported BC First Nation communities in accessing this program. FNESS assisted approximately 132 BC First Nation communities to navigate through

FNESS SWPI Summary	Approved Funding	# Completed	Amount Disbursed	Time Frame
Community Wildfire Protection Program (#)	\$ 1,458,139.41	181	\$ 1,296,132.99	2007-2017
Prescription (#)	\$ 962,291.90	114	\$ 788,581.37	2009-2018
Operational Treatments Completed	\$ 15,497,309.94	93	\$ 13,969,213.62	2009-2018
FireSmart Awareness Campaign	\$ 471,508.00	29	\$ 232,875.41	2015-2018
SWPI Total	\$ 18,389,249.25	417	\$ 16,286,803.39	2020
Operational Treatment Hectares Completed (#)		3,094 HA's		

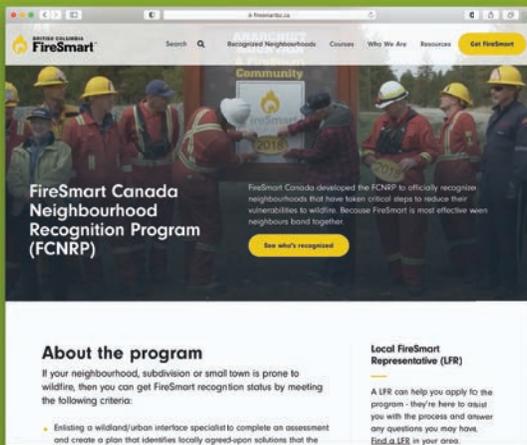
all stages of the program except for demonstration projects. SWPI facilitated job creation and skills development opportunities with several private and First Nations band-owned crews employed to deliver forest fuel management services/activities that were being carried out adjacent to all the reserve lands in various geographic areas in BC.



FIRESMART NEIGHBOURHOOD RECOGNITION PROGRAM

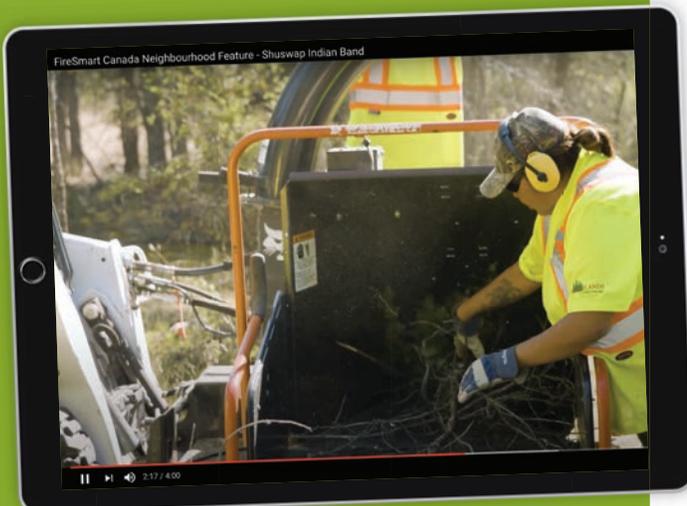
“ The program is important because it creates a foundation of knowledge and gives the community skills, and empowers the community to be proactive in the face of wildfire rather than just reactive. ”

– Quentin Nelson, FIT, FNESS FFM Liaison



RECOGNIZED BC FIRESMART NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Shuswap Indian Band, a Recognized FireSmart Neighbourhood, was featured in a FireSmart BC video highlighting their significant work in protecting their community from wildfire.



Video: <https://youtu.be/J2PQjnd2CRM>

2020–21 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) On Reserve Fuel Treatment Project

From 2015 to present, FNESS has advanced the FNESS On-Reserve Fuel Treatment Initiative. FNESS, its strategic partners and participating BC First Nation communities collectively work in mitigating wildland fire risks in the WUI as a means of improving community protection and safety via the implementation of community-based operational fuel treatment projects. In 2019–2020, 21 First Nation communities in BC completed on-reserve operational forest fuel treatments. In total, BC First Nation communities received \$1,250,105.10 from FNESS to advance their respective forest fuel reduction treatments. This represented 219.61 hectares that were treated.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

FNESS is supporting the implementation of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program in BC First Nation communities to aid in wildfire risk reduction. Specifically, FNESS is providing direct assistance with First Nations engagement, coordination, and access by First Nation communities in BC to CRI Program funding to meet applicable FireSmart Disciplines (education, fuel management, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency cooperation, emergency planning and cross-training). FNESS is drawing upon staff expertise in the FFM Department and their participation in the CRI Program and the BC FireSmart Committee to provide said engagement and coordination to First Nation communities in BC. Overall, wildfire risk reduction engagement assists in building community resilience to wildfires by facilitating activities that will strengthen capacity and support the sustainability of First Nation communities in BC to withstand, adapt to, and recover from wildfires.

FNESS FIRST NATION ADAPT PROGRAM SUBMISSION – *Revitalizing Traditional Burning*

From 2017 – 2019, FNESS worked with the Shackan Indian Band, Xwisten (Bridge River) First Nation, and Yunesit'in National Government exploring climate change issues (e.g. wildfires and drought) in their respective First Nation communities. Entitled, *Revitalizing Traditional Burning: Integrated Indigenous Cultural Values into Wildfire Management and Climate Change Adaptation Planning* (aka *Revitalizing Traditional Burning*), multi-year funding for this project was provided by Indigenous Services Canada/ Crown - Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – First Nation Adapt Program. This project was unique as it utilized Indigenous-informed qualitative research methods to assess climate change vulnerabilities and identify Indigenous cultural values and traditional burning knowledge from each participating community. Capacity building was another important dimension to this climate change adaptation project which included harmonizing climate change risks (wildfires and droughts) into wildfire mitigation which led to the co-development of community-based burn plans based on Indigenous cultural values and corresponding burning practices and non-Indigenous prescribed fire practices.

The *Revitalizing Traditional Burning* project informed policy makers, wildland fire management specialists, crew leaders, land planners and program managers in developing wildland fire mitigation strategies that can maintain or enhance cultural attributes of First Nation communities. This is particularly timely, relevant, and culturally congruent with recommendations from notable reports and declarations that include, but are not limited to, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action; 2017 BC Flood and Wildfire Review by George Abbott and Chief Maureen Chapman; Survey conducted by Lori D. Daniels, Shannon M. Hagerman, and Sarah L. Ravensbergen entitled, *Wildfire Prevention and Fuels Management in the Wildland-Urban Interface: BC Community Perceptions*, released May 2018; and the BC Wildfire Service Strategic Prevention Review led by consultant MNP LLP in August 2018.



Shackan post-burn.

From 2019 to present, FNESS is currently leading another First Nation Adapt Project entitled, *Culturally Relevant Climate Change Adaptation: Braiding Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Approaches to Wildfire Risk Reduction in British Columbia* which focuses on advancing a multi-year project whereby wildland fires and drought (as climate change concerns) are being explored with select First Nation communities in BC in the form of (i) co-developing a regional cultural burn plan based on the braiding of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing; and (ii) co-developing a culturally relevant climate change adaptation evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of cultural burn planning. Utilizing Indigenous research methodologies and related practices, the project team is working alongside select First Nation communities in BC on the above mentioned to support Indigenous-informed guidelines in wildfire risk reduction; thereby, ensuring that cultural burns are meeting both socio-cultural and risk reduction objectives in relation to extreme weather conditions such as wildfire and drought impacts on regional landscapes and First Nation communities in BC.



FNESS LEADERSHIP IN DATA MANAGEMENT

FNESS is currently leading projects in data management which support collecting, sharing, integrating, and displaying information to monitor and report on FNESS initiatives: Structure ID Project and Lightship.

First Nations Data Assembly Project (aka Structure ID Project)

FNESS is developing a project framework to identify and address gaps which currently exist in Government of BC databases with regards to Wildland Interface Risk Class Mapping. Entitled the “First Nations Data Assembly Project” (aka Structure ID Project), this initiative is intended to support fire and emergency management planning - creating a data management process to collect residential and critical infrastructure data in BC First Nation communities (note: access to said information requires the endorsement of the First Nations Leadership Council). Data are then used to update and increase the accuracy of Wildfire Threat Risk provincial classification associated with BC First Nation communities. This project is a collaborative effort of FNESS and BCWS in consultation with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and GeoBC, including local, provincial, and federal government representatives.

Lightship

Lightship is an online decision support tool that aids organizations to view, collect and share information in the field and in the office. Projects, tasks and automated protocols inform staff on the status of projects and digital data allows for reporting on available information housed on the Lightship platform. To date, the following (province-wide) information is loaded into or can be accessed by Lightship: Community Wildfire Protection Plan - CWPP (e.g. threat plots, infrastructure, associated maps, fuel types, and areas of high risk, proposed treatment unit and spatial data); Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis - PSTA (e.g. threat hazard, fire intensity, fuel type, WUI Risk Class, fire density, lightning, spotting impact); access to land and resources warehouse - includes real-time updates of active and past wildfire boundaries, roads, Vegetation Resource Inventory, Bio Geoclimatic Zones, Subzones and Variants, slope elevation, aspect, Google Earth Imagery, Orthophotos, Land Parcel Fabric/cadaster, water features, Parks and Protected Areas; access to Indigenous Services Canada Open Data (Federal) warehouse - for accessing, addresses, property lines, land parcels; First Nations residential and critical infrastructure existing in CWPPs; Indigenous Services Canada/ ISC - SWPI - CRI treatment boundaries; FireSmart Community Recognition Program - e.g. FireSmart Homeowner and Neighbourhood assessments and reports; ungulate winter range; Old Growth management areas; parks, recreation areas, ecological reserves; evacuation orders and alerts; burn severity maps; and BC Biomass Facilities (mapped BC cogeneration facilities).



CULTURAL BURNING AND INDIGENOUS FIRE STEWARDSHIP

In FY2019/2020, FNESS led the Indigenous Knowledge Burning Support Project which included a Cultural Burning Revitalization Needs Assessment Survey (aka Cultural Burning Survey) – determining First Nation communities needs and interests in prescribed fire planning/cultural burning practices in BC. From there, the survey informed an engagement plan (includes hosting a series of online First Nations community engagement sessions) and aided in developing a training and education plan with regard to cultural burning practices, organizational skills development and capacity building for First Nation communities across BC. The Cultural Burning Survey findings support First Nation 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. Overall, the Cultural Burning Survey findings aid FNESS in understanding the state of First Nations cultural burning revitalization in BC. As part of this project, select First Nation communities in BC engaged in prescribed fire and cultural burning skills development and associated interagency (wildland fire) suppression and response training.

Indigenous Services On-Reserve Map



2020–2021 FIRST NATIONS WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND BC WILDFIRE SERVICE (BCWS) INTERAGENCY SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE

FNESS is currently advancing the FNESS-led wildland firefighter training and skills development initiative. Said initiative is intended to contribute to capacity building of wildland firefighting and forest fuel management personnel in BC. The training, skills development, and required interagency wildfire suppression contract arrangement process to have First Nations crews recognized and acknowledged will be identified, discussed with provincial and federal government agencies, and presented to First Nation communities in advance of the 2021 wildfire season. During the Q1 – Q3 reporting period, FNESS wildland firefighter training and related engagement/support consisted of the following:

Wildland Fire Crew training:

Stellat'en First Nation wildland firefighter training delivered in Fraser Lake, BC (October 14 – 17, 2020)

10 participants completed training and received certifications in S100 Basic Fire Suppression and Basic Power Saw Safety.

Stz'uminus First Nation wildland firefighter training in Ladysmith, BC (November 2 – 12, 2020)

10 participants completed training and received certification in S100 Basic Fire Suppression. Four of the participants completed training and received additional certificates in Basic Power Saw Safety, S185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance, ICS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, S230 Single Resource Leader, S235 Ignition Operations, S211 The Fire Environment for Fire Fighters & Dispatchers, S213 Use of Heavy Equipment, S290 Principals of Fire Behaviour, S212 Fireline Communications, and Danger Tree Assessment for Low-Risk Silviculture Activities – Qualified Crew Person.



Basic Power Saw Safety Training – Stz'uminus First Nation Wildland Firefighter Training (November 2020).

A FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR 2020/2021

REVENUE	Dollars	%
Indigenous Services Canada	\$ 5,183,778	80.16%
BC Ministry of FLNRORD*	1,248,585	19.31%
Emergency Management BC	29,759	0.46%
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	3,005	0.05%
Donation	235	0.00%
Membership	1,220	0.02%
	\$ 6,466,581	100.0%

EXPENSES	Dollars	%
Fire Services	\$ 768,072	16.15%
Emergency Management	2,339,489	49.20%
Forest Fuel Management	1,161,076	24.42%
Administration and Governance	486,160	10.22%
	\$ 4,754,797	100.0%

Excess of revenue over expenses from operations \$ 1,711,784

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

NOTICE TO READER

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

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.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMMUNITIES ENGAGED BY FNESS 2020-2021

EMERGENCY
SERVICES

FOREST FUEL
MANAGEMENT

Band #	Band Name	ES	FFM
684	Adams Lake Indian Band	✓	✓
659	Ahousaht First Nation	✓	
709	Alexandria Indian Band (?Esdilagh First Nation)		✓
685	Ashcroft Indian Band	✓	✓
730	Binche Whut'en		✓
686	Bonaparte Indian Band		✓
713	Canim Lake Indian Band (Tsq'escenemc)		✓
583	Chawathil First Nation (Hope)	✓	✓
620	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	✓	
693	Coldwater Indian Band		✓
642	Cowichan Tribes		✓
502	Daylu Dena		✓
504	Dease River First Nation		✓
662	Ditidaht First Nation		✓
561	Douglas First Nation (Xa'xtsa)		✓
711	Esk'etemc	✓	✓
	Gitxsan Nation	✓	
677	Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government (New Aiyansh)		✓
679	Gitwinksihlkw Village Government		✓
533	Glen Vowell Indian Band (Sik-e-Dakh)		✓
538	Heiltsuk Nation (Bella Bella Indian Band)	✓	✓
703	High Bar First Nation	✓	
552	Homalco (Xwemalhkwu) Indian Band		✓
683	Iskut First Nation		✓
638	Ka:'yu:'k't'h/Che:k:ties7et'h' First Nation (Kyoquot)		✓

Band #	Band Name	ES	FFM
704	Kanaka Bar Indian Band		✓
532	Kispiox Band	✓	✓
680	Kitselas Nation	✓	✓
553	Klahoose First Nation	✓	✓
624	K'ómoks First Nation	✓	
610	Kwadacha Nation (Fort Ware)	✓	✓
626	Kwakiutl Band Council	✓	✓
607	Lake Babine Nation		✓
643	Lake Cowichan First Nation		✓
715	Lhtako Dene Nation (Red Buff Indian Band)		✓
502	Liard First Nation		✓
557	Lil'wat Nation (Mount Currie Indian Band)	✓	
	Lillooet Tribal Council	✓	
689	Little Shuswap Lake Band	✓	✓
695	Lower Nicola Indian Band	✓	✓
598	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	✓	✓
705	Lytton First Nation		✓
647	Malahat Indian Band		✓
618	McLeod Lake Indian Band		✓
673	Metlakatla First Nation	✓	
	Moricetown Band Administration		✓
612	Nadleh Whut'en Band (Fraser Lake)		✓
614	Nak'azdli Whut'en	✓	✓
631	'Namgis First Nation	✓	
	Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council	✓	
720	Nazko First Nation		✓
690	Neskonlith Indian Band		✓
	Nisga'a Lisims Government	✓	
556	N'Quatqua Band (Anderson Lake)		✓
639	Nuchatlaht First Nation		✓
616	Okanagan Indian Band	✓	
652	Pauquachin First Nation	✓	
651	Qualicum First Nation		✓
567	Samahquam First Nation		✓

Band #	Band Name	ES	FFM
581	Seabird Island Band	✓	
569	Semiahmoo First Nation	✓	
587	Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation	✓	
691	Simpcw First Nation	✓	
562	Skatin Nation	✓	
687	Skeetchestn Indian Band	✓	
707	Skuppah Indian Band		✓
708	Spuzzum First Nation	✓	
555	Squamish Nation	✓	✓
574	Squiala First Nation	✓	
641	Stz'uminus First Nation (Chemainus)		✓
682	Tahltan Band Council		✓
608	Takla Nation	✓	✓
501	Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Atlin First Nation)		✓
688	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops Indian Band)		✓
554	Tla'amin Nation	✓	
660	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations	✓	
603	Tobacco Plains Indian Band	✓	
577	Tsawwassen First Nation		✓
609	Tsay Keh Dene		✓
665	Tseshah First Nation	✓	
594	Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation	✓	
575	Tzeachten First Nation		✓
667	Uchucklesaht Tribe		✓
722	Ulkatcho First Nation	✓	
599	Upper Similkameen Indian Band		✓
623	We Wai Kai First Nation (Cape Mudge Indian Band)		✓
725	Wet'suwet'en First Nation (Broman Lake)		✓
702	Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band		✓
592	Xaxli'p	✓	
728	Yekooche First Nation		✓
717	Yunesit'in Government (Stone)		✓



**First Nations'
Emergency Services Society**

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

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: 1.888.822.3388
Email: info@fness.bc.ca

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: ffminfo@fness.bc.ca

Stay Connected!



 [@fness.bc](https://www.facebook.com/fness.bc)

 [@fnessinfo1](https://twitter.com/fnessinfo1)

www.fness.bc.ca

