



A Year of Supporting our Communities



First Nations' Emergency Services Society

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

Safe and Healthy
First Nation Communities

OUR MISSION

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

- Emergency planning, training, response, and recovery
- Fire training, education, and prevention
- 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.

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FNESS Board of Directors



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Nisga'a Nation



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Indian Band



Walter Paul
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Tla'amin
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Inuit of Labrador



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

K'amguyiuhl wilt Luu-aamhl goodiy ni wil huxw gaks ga'an. Gwin-liseekws damsgunalgax lukw'il aamhl FNESS hahlals gadoo'ogh gitxetkw. Hasagay dim ni dinakwshl t'ooyaks loosim'. Axyookskw niy' loon Haagwil huwilin!

It is a blessing to be able to address you again. Today I want to talk about the great work that FNESS has been able to accomplish this last year. I want to extend my thanks to you all, I trust you all to continue to work carefully and take your time.

My Name is Sgahatsaa'gan (translation: Busy Beaver), my given name is Anthony Moore from the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw. It has been my absolute honour to serve as your President of First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS). Over the past few years, I have tried to take the time to have a conversation with each person I could about FNESS, the overall direction, areas of concern, are we forgetting anything. I have brought many things to the Board of Directors for consideration and believe I have performed positively in realizing what goals we should be setting at each level of service within administration. When I joined the Board of Director's, I wanted to ensure that our focus was not just on the ones with the loudest voice, but always applying situational awareness. To me that means not getting tunnel vision on areas closest to our head offices, or those directly affected by a high impact emergency. Maintaining awareness of everyone within our circle of care. We are a provincial asset, and we must always keep that in the back of our minds, even when we are reaching our capacity. From my point of view we have done that. We have dedicated staff stationed throughout the province, we have physical assets strategically places for rapid deployments, and we continue to grow and develop how we implement new technologies throughout the province. We maintain a constant gaze on the next steps, the next strategic plan for 2 years, 5 years and beyond.

As an organization we have undergone many changes and overcome many challenges. Our outstanding leader of FNESS, Wayne Schnitzler, has officially retired and we wish him a great and well-deserved retirement. We celebrated his service to FNESS for three straight months before his final days and will be missed. I believe he planned this at such a time where we are looking to become a greater power within the field of emergency management and emergency response and gave us time to seek out his successor, one who can bring this organization to heights never thought of. With one more year on my term and as President, we have a lot of work to do, to prepare the fields for the upcoming rain. I look forward to being at the forefront of ushering in a new era for FNESS.

In conclusion, as the President of FNESS, we will continue to endeavor for excellence in all areas in our association. To be "The" key contributor in the realization of all First Nation Communities increasing emergency response capacity and capabilities across the province of BC. So, with that, **Hasagay dim ni dinakwshl t'ooyaks loosim, Tk'al-wil niy, Gwilks-ginamtkw – I want to extend my thanks to you all, I have served, I will be of service.**

**Sgahatsaa'gan,
Anthony Moore**
President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

After being involved with FNESS for over 35 years and leading the organization as Executive Director for the past 3 ½ years, I am moving to retirement. This will be my final submission to our annual report. This gives me an opportunity to thank the FNESS Board of Directors for their support to lead this organization.

With the support and dedication of our Management team and staff we have continued to support First Nation communities and help build capacity around the four pillars of Emergency Management.

The last fiscal year had many challenges, but our teams always met the challenge or looked for solutions to ensure we were able to support communities during the worst wildfire season in British Columbia. First Nations Leadership Council has continued to support FNESS as we work towards strategies and governance models to support FNESS as we continue to grow. We continued to build closer relationships with our provincial and federal partners by signing letters of understanding with the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) so we can continue to support each other and work on improving the way we operate and support each other during these large-scale emergencies. I was also invited to sit on the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies which was an amazing experience with a team of dedicated people with various levels of expertise that were tasked with supporting the province on initiatives that could be implemented in the short term to support BCWS and EMCR.

I am confident that FNESS will continue the great work to support First Nation communities as we are all experiencing the effect of climate change. We need to continue to build capacity to be prepared for these large-scale emergencies. It's been a privilege to lead FNESS and I will miss all of the people who have supported me in my career!



Wayne
Schnitzler
Executive Director

This year's annual report is dedicated to all the First Nation communities who worked hard this past year to increase their community's capacity to protect their communities before, during and after an emergency.

The following stories are only a handful of the opportunities FNESS had to serve and build relationships with First Nations across the province with a common vision of safe and healthy communities.



Empowering the Next Generation:

FNESS YOUTH FIRE PREVENTION BOOTCAMP RECAP

In the District of North Vancouver, from October 19-20, 2023, the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) hosted another exciting Youth Fire Prevention Bootcamp. The two-day program was an immersive experience, introducing students to the dynamic world of firefighting and instilling invaluable skills that extend beyond the realm of emergency response.

The District of North Vancouver's training centre played a pivotal role in hosting the event, with the support of both the North Vancouver City Fire Department and the West Vancouver Fire Department, who not only shared their knowledge but also ignited a passion for firefighting and fire prevention.

DAY
1

A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORLD OF FIREFIGHTING

The first day of the bootcamp was nothing short of thrilling. It wasn't long before students were climbing into their turn-out gear and diving headfirst into the action looking like real firefighters in training. Students spent the morning getting a hands-on feel for the tools and equipment firefighters use daily. While the West Vancouver Fire Department took one platoon of students to new heights on their tower ladder, another platoon learned how to run water from a fire hydrant using hose lines. The platoons also learned about Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) and even got to try them on. As they breathed air from their tank for their first time, not even the large masks they wore could hide the joy and excitement written across their faces.

The excitement continued in the afternoon as students took turns learning hose handling and rolling techniques, practicing first aid skills, and exploring the inner workings of a fire engine.



DAY
2

SKILL REFINEMENT AND TEAM BUILDING

The momentum continued into day 2, with students engaging in a confined space drill, honing hose handling and rolling skills, and learning how to use a fire extinguisher by putting out a live fire. The day's curriculum delved into forcible entry techniques, teamwork with extension ladders, effective radio communication, and even operating the jaws of life to open a car door.

For any questions, please reach out to our FNESS Fire Services team via email at fireservices@fness.bc.ca.

YOUTH VOICES ECHO WITH GRATITUDE

The students made the bootcamp an enriching experience for all with their dedication, enthusiasm, and gratitude. One of the students told us he was thankful he could take home practical skills that would help him, and his family, in their everyday lives. He said he found this program "exhilarating," and enjoyed his time learning outside even though he usually likes to be inside reading history books. Sharing his insights, he emphasized the importance of checking the expiration date on fire extinguishers. He also expressed a newfound confidence and comfort after learning more about fire safety because he hopes it can help alleviate his sister's fear of fire. Becoming a firefighter is his dream and in just two days, that dream feels one step closer.

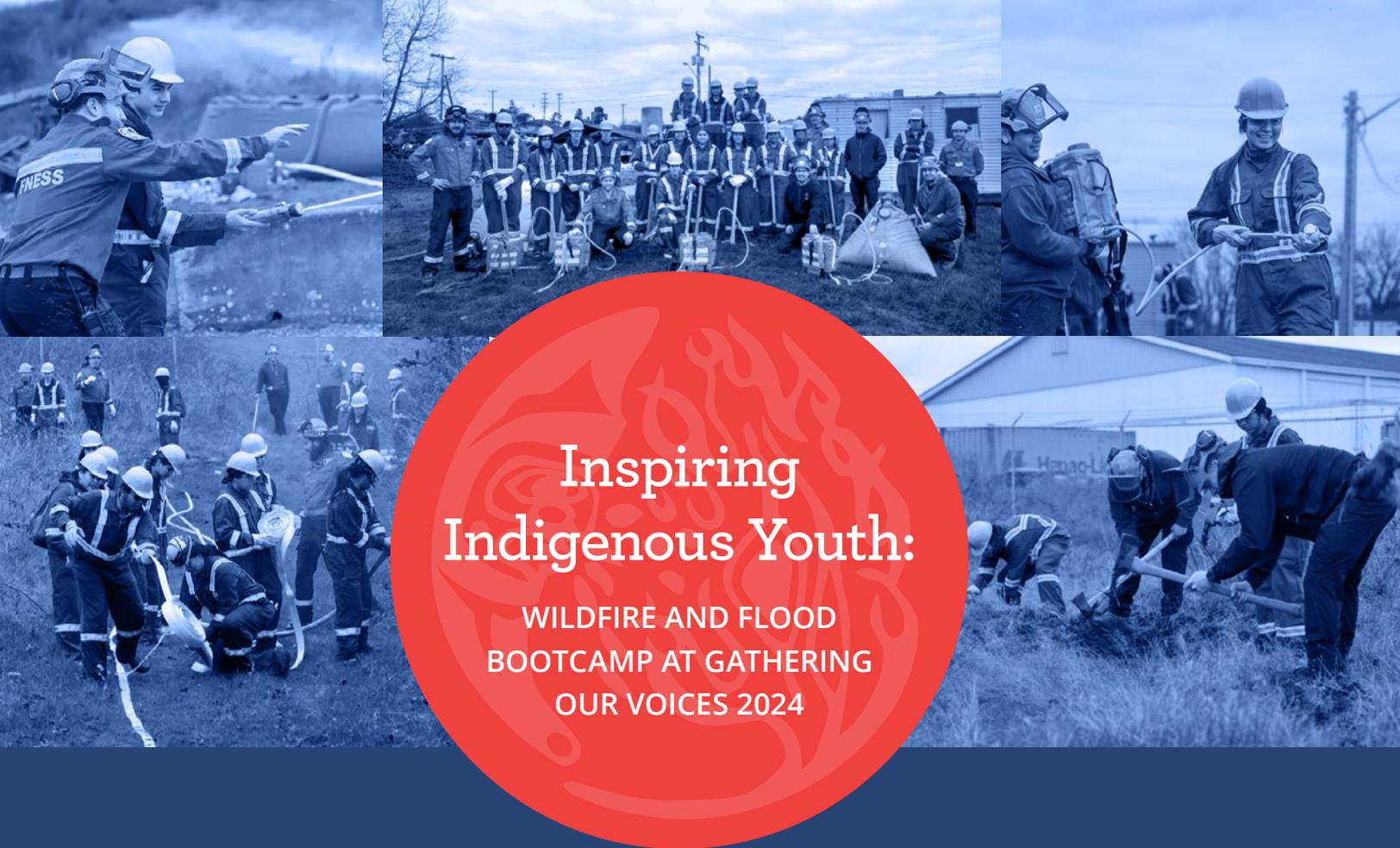
At the end of the second day, a courageous student walked to the front of the room to express her heartfelt gratitude to everyone. She started by stating her appreciation that, "It's great to see so many different youth here" and thanked her classmates for joining her. She then turned to the FNESS Fire Services team and said, "I just wanted to say thank you 'cause this is so important. It hasn't felt like two days. It really hasn't and I'm super upset that it's ending, but I hope to come back here very soon and I hope to see all you guys again very soon."

WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE

Expressing why these bootcamps matter, Mattias Ballantyne, a First Nations Firefighter with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and a Fire Services Officer with FNESS, said, "It's very important for the Indigenous youth to see that a career in fire services is a possibility. For a lot of these communities there's not full-time firefighting options so, this is a great segway into fire services."

To keep these young Indigenous students inspired and encouraged to become firefighters, Mattias has started an Indigenous Firefighter mentorship program with FNESS and partnered with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC), and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS). The program is only a few months old and aims to guide these youth toward fulfilling careers in fire services.

As FNESS continues to pave the way for the next generation of firefighters, the Youth Fire Prevention Bootcamp stands as a beacon of inspiration and empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of these aspiring young individuals.



Inspiring Indigenous Youth:

WILDFIRE AND FLOOD
BOOTCAMP AT GATHERING
OUR VOICES 2024

Gathering Our Voices (GOV) 2024 hosted in Victoria, BC, witnessed an exciting event as we hosted our first Wildfire and Flood Bootcamp for Indigenous youth. On the first day of the bootcamp, 20 enthusiastic students eagerly participated in a day filled with learning, empowerment, and hands-on experience alongside our very own seasoned experts from First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS).

FNESS has attended GOV many times to host our structural firefighter youth bootcamps, but this was the first year other teams from across the organization joined in to teach about other emergency services. This newly launched bootcamp was developed by FNESS' Wildfire Division and Response Team and showcased a comprehensive curriculum covering essential aspects of wildfire management, including:

- Initial attack and expanded attack strategies
- Structural protection training
- Decision support tool training
- Immersive tours of FNESS's cutting-edge fuel mitigation and flood response trailers

INITIAL ATTACK: PRE-EMPTIVE MEASURES FOR EFFICIENT FIRE SUPPRESSION

Central to the bootcamp was a wildfire response strategy known as Initial Attack – a proactive approach aimed at containing wildfires while they are still small. Students quickly learned that this approach not only demands fewer resources, but also enhances the safety of our firefighters, our communities, and our forests.

The fundamentals of initial attack methods starting from the most basic to the most aggressive were explained to the students and these were a few of the skills they learned:

- Containment by using various hand tools and mineral guard construction
- Hand tank pump accuracy and speed
- Initial attack pump usage
- Initial attack basic hose lay

Led by experienced instructors, the students brought all these skills together and worked as a team to contain a fictitious initial attack fire.

When these skills and abilities are used on a real wildfire, this strategy seeks to pre-emptively contain 92% of wildfires at their inception, preventing the need for escalation to expanded attack measures. Ultimately, protecting lives and communities and preserving the natural beauty of our lands.

Two of the instructors leading the initial attack training were Rob Bosse, FNESS Wildfire Division Supervisor and Wildfire Specialist, and Ryan Lewis, FNESS Wildfire Specialist. Before coming to FNESS, both Rob and Ryan worked for BC Wildfire Service as Initial Attack Crew Leaders for many years and we're grateful that they were able to share their wealth of experience with the students.

Reflecting on the experience, Rob Bosse, shared:

"With 14 years as an Initial Attack (IA) crew leader I intimately understand the importance of mentorship, empowerment, and succession. It was amazing to see all the excited faces getting off the bus that chose our session when they had so many events to choose from. The highlight for me when a young girl blurted out to her group mid-session 'I can't wait to get home and tell everyone what we did here they're going to be so jealous!' Here's to hoping that this spawns even more future wildland firefighters getting on the bus in 2025. I can't wait!"

Ryan Lewis also shared in Rob's excitement and appreciated the opportunity to influence young lives and leave a lasting impact. He said:

"It's truly heartening to see young participants express interest in pursuing a career in wildfire management. Their enthusiasm speaks volumes about the impact of our training programs in igniting passion and fostering a new generation of skilled firefighters."

EXPANDED ATTACK: TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Following a dynamic morning session, the bootcamp transitioned to an expanded attack fire situation, simulating larger-scale fire suppression efforts. In expanded attack, fires are known as "project fires" and the crews are larger and referred to as "Unit Crews." Learning about Unit Crews and how they're beneficial in fire suppression was a great lesson in teamwork. Under the guidance of expert mentors, students learned basic skills to show them what it's like to be on a fireline. Some of these skills and tactics included:

- Mineral guard construction
- How to choose a good water source
- Pump operation
- Fire suppression with econoflow hose
- Basics of structure protection



Leading the expanded attack training were two of FNESS' Wildfire Specialists: Terrence Pierre and Matt Nelson. Terrence and Matt have 19 years of combined experience working in expanded attack for BC Wildfire Service and their willingness to share their expertise and passion with the students was not taken for granted.

Terrence Pierre said witnessing moments of laughter, excitement, and leadership amongst the group was rewarding and that:

"Working in a larger group setting, it was great to see a few select youth having the confidence to step up and take on a leadership role among their peers encouraging others to learn, work hard, and be curious about what the job of being a Wildland Firefighter is about."



LOOKING AHEAD: INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF INDIGENOUS FIREFIGHTERS

As the sun set on an exhilarating day of learning and growth, the FNESS team reflected on the success of the bootcamp. Capturing the spirit of event, Ryan Lewis said:

"Hearing from these kids after the fact, expressing their eagerness to dive deeper into the world of firefighting, reinforces my belief in the power of education and mentorship. We are not just fighting fires; we're nurturing a community of dedicated individuals committed to safeguarding our lands and communities."

Plans are already underway to expand and enhance the Wildfire and Flood Bootcamp, nurturing a new generation of skilled and passionate firefighters and we invite you to join us for an even more exhilarating Wildfire Bootcamp at GOV 2025!

Expanding on Terrence's comments, Matt Nelson shared one of his favourite moments of the bootcamp:

"During the progressive hose lay race, the students had to push a hardhat across the ground with a one-and-a-half-inch hose while extending more to be able to reach the finish line. During the race, the energy was ecstatic, and everyone was trying to get their team to win. Then, a hose burst and drenched a student from head to toe. Everyone froze, even the instructors not knowing how the student would react. With a laugh the student shouted, 'Quick we got to fix it before we lose!' Just like that smiles and good feelings washed over everyone. In that moment, I saw the true spirit of the bootcamp."



FNESS extends our gratitude to all participants, mentors, and supporters who made the Wildfire and Flood Bootcamp a resounding success. As we look forward to the future, let us continue to inspire and empower the next generation of Indigenous firefighters, ensuring a safer and more resilient British Columbia for generations to come.

Collaborative structural defense planning with Stl'atl'imx communities



In November 2023, our team was graciously welcomed into six Northern Stl'atl'imx communities: Tsal'alh, Xwisten, Xaxl'ip, Ts'kw'aylaxw, T'it'q'et, and Sekw'el'was. Our objective? To collaborate with local experts and initiate the framework for a new community Structural Defense Plan (SDP).

The SDP acts as a repository, drawing insights from the community's Fire Safety Assessment (FSA) and tapping into the wealth of knowledge held by community experts. It aspires to be not just comprehensive but also user-friendly—a guiding light essential for safeguarding against wildfires. Once finalized, this plan will play a pivotal role as communities partner with First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) to swiftly deploy a Structure Protection Crew whenever the threat of a wildfire arises. Once deployed this crew will efficiently place sprinkler protection in and around the community's infrastructure.

A decision support tool was utilized in the creation of the plan to capture and showcase:

- Culturally significant areas in need of protection
- Strategic placements for relay tanks and bladders
- Ideal locations for portable pumps to support operations
- Feasible areas for reactivating previously established fire guards

During these visits, Neill Moroz, Carmichael Howes, and Emerson Adolph from our FNESS team collaborated closely with these communities to craft this comprehensive plan. They commended the six Northern Stl'atl'imx communities for their proactive stance in community defense. The Emergency Program Coordinators (EPC's) have worked hard to secure funding for programs that protect their community and bolster their fire departments capacity with respect to training and equipment.

Moreover, the FNESS team found immense encouragement witnessing homeowners in these communities actively participating in FireSmart™ Assessments. Implementing recommendations from these assessments significantly fortifies a home's defense against wildfires. Making a home fire smart involves simple yet impactful measures, such as:

- Relocating firewood and lumber 10 meters away from the house
- Maintaining grass and weed height below 10 centimeters
- Thoroughly clearing combustible material from beneath decks
- Establishing a 1.5-meter non-combustible zone around the house and deck perimeter

LOOKING AHEAD:

These initial visits mark the beginning of FNESS's endeavor to engage with all First Nation communities in BC for Structural Defense Planning. The proactive stance displayed by numerous communities is encouraging and inspiring.

If you're interested in Structural Defense Planning, please contact the FNESS Decision Support Team via email: decisionsupport@fness.bc.ca

First Nation
community members
learn first aid to
protect family and
community



In the fall of 2023, we were honoured to be invited by eight First Nation communities along the southern coast of British Columbia to provide essential lifesaving skills to their members. In a collaborative effort to enhance community safety, the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) Fire Services Team embarked on a journey to Musqueam, Sts'ailes, Ditidaht, Tseshaht, Malahat, Esquimalt, K'ómoks, and Tla'amin. The team delivered the FNESS Community First Aid Program and upon completion, gifted an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine and a first aid kit to each community to help create safer places for everyone.



TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The response during the training sessions has been nothing short of inspiring. Community members eagerly participated, turning each training session into a vibrant hub of learning. From staff, to student, to Elder the courses drew in a diverse crowd, showcasing the collective commitment to fostering a safer, more informed community.

Witnessing the transformation of each student from beginning to end is amazing. The initial concern of community members gradually gives way to confidence as they grasp the lifesaving skills that could make all the difference in critical moments. The noticeable sense of unity and shared purpose in these sessions reflects a community-first approach to safety and well-being.

REWARDING TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Leading this important training was Tim Mills and Reo Jerome, integral members of the FNESS Fire Services team. Alongside their teammate, Kathy Ferguson, they tirelessly guide these classes, imparting not just skills but a sense of empowerment.

When asked about their experiences, both Tim and Reo shared a common sentiment — the privilege of being welcomed into these communities. It's more than just teaching; it's about building connections, forging friendships, and making a tangible impact on the lives of community members. During the Tla'amin training, Reo and Tim experienced a heartwarming reunion with Councillor Erik Blaney, a fellow ally in the field during the 2021 wildfire season, adding an extra layer of significance to these training days.

GRATITUDE TO COMMUNITIES

As FNESS continues its journey, we carry not just knowledge but a profound sense of gratitude. Gratitude for each community welcoming us with open arms, for the chance to make a difference, and for the opportunity to empower individuals with the skills that can save lives within their own circles.

We also thank each community member for their dedication and willingness to participate in these training sessions. Thank you for supporting your community by learning skills to make it safer.

GRATITUDE FROM COMMUNITIES

Maarten van Wamel, Development & Training Coordinator, Malahat Nation:

“On behalf of the Malahat Nation, I would like to thank the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society, and especially Reo Jerome and Tim Mills, for the excellent Community First Aid Training that was delivered at the Nation... Tim and Reo’s respectful yet practical approach was well received by the participants, who felt invited and supported in their training. Tim and Reo’s engaging style with lots of examples and stories, showed a deep knowledge and extensive experience with emergency responses, combined with a deep understanding of supporting Indigenous learners in their learning journeys. Their creativity, flexibility, and willingness to come back to train even more community members and the Malahat Guardians...was even more proof of FNESS’ commitment to support the overall safety and wellbeing of Indigenous communities.”



Tla’amin Fire Department:

“Big thank you to Reo, Tim, Kathy, and FNESS for the continuous support of our fire department, community, and community members. Thanks to the FNESS Community First Aid Program, we now have eight more community members trained in life saving first aid knowledge and skills... We also want to acknowledge and thank those community members who participated, this program would not have been possible without you. Thank you to all those who take the time, dedication, and work to make the community a safer place for everyone.”

BRING LIFESAVING SKILLS TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Tim and Reo invite you to contact them directly if you’re interested in bringing the Community First Aid Program to your community and happy to answer your questions.

Tim Mills, Emergency Services Instructor:
tmills@fness.bc.ca | 604-790-6215

Reo Jerome, Emergency Services Instructor:
rjerome@fness.bc.ca | 778-241-7496

12 Ditidaht First Nation members join fire department to protect their community



The Ditidaht First Nation has a large territory in the southwest area of Vancouver Island. Nitinaht is the main community with approximately 150 homes, administration and maintenance buildings, and a few commercial businesses.

Recently, the Nation hired an Emergency Planning Coordinator, James Fothergill, who identified that this community needed some structural fire protection in order to keep their members, homes and businesses safe. James reached out to FNESS to see what type of support we could offer and specifically wanted help in the re-establishment of a fire department. FNESS was invited to attend a community meeting. At the meeting, Kathy Ferguson, Fire Services Officer with FNESS, expressed to the 30+ members of the community the need for volunteers to get the fire department functioning safely again. She provided an overview of the fire training needed, funding opportunities available, and gave a short Home Fire Safety PowerPoint and fire extinguisher demonstration.

During the last week in August 2023, Kathy and Reo Jerome, On-Call Fire Services Casuals, conducted a 4-day training session including pumper operator driving training, and some basic firefighting instruction. The community really stepped up to the plate and had 12 members come out and commit to joining the fire department and learning how to provide safe fire suppression operations in their community.

Topics covered:

- Home Fire Safety Awareness (e.g. fire extinguishers, fire behaviour, smoke/CO2 alarms)
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Driver/Pumper Operations
- Water Supply and Hydrant Operations
- Hose and Water Streams

The Nitinaht Fire Department is now conducting weekly training sessions and appointing a Fire Chief and Officers.

The 4-day session was a success. The community plans to have FNESS continue to provide additional firefighting training, a Community First Aid course, Public Education Fire Safety sessions, a Fire Safety Assessment, and Leadership and Governance sessions for Chief and Council. FNESS is also supporting the fire department in obtaining new personal protective gear and assisting in generating a list of necessary fire suppression equipment needed.

We would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of James Fothergill and each of the fire department members who are working hard to be prepared for emergencies in their community. The entire Ditidaht First Nation should be proud of these accomplishments!

Scan to learn more about Ditidaht structure protection training



Saik'uz First Nation wins third place at National Indigenous Firefighter Competition



For a week in September, Indigenous firefighter teams from across Canada gathered near Montreal to learn and compete on the Kahnawake Reserve located on the Mohawk Nation. Team BC, represented by Saik'uz First Nation firefighters, learned alongside other provincial teams at the national educational conference where they participated in extrication training as well as numerous educational workshops.



Chris Turner, a fire services officer with First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), was in Montreal to learn and cheer on Team BC. "It was an amazing week of learning, sportsmanship, and comradery with many lifelong memories made," Turner said.

Team BC competed in four events against six teams representing Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic. Most of the competition events tested physical strength, coordination, and teamwork, but one event examined each team's teaching ability and required them to deliver a public education presentation at the conference.

At the end of the week, the winners were announced and Team Manitoba, represented by Cross Lake, won first place. Team Alberta, represented by Beaver Lake, placed second. With a team comprised of brand-new firefighters in a fire department less than a year old, this win for Team Alberta might have been unexpected. However, with the leadership of their new fire chief, the Beaver Lake fire department is making huge strides in their community by developing fire safety activities, public education programs, and by attracting new firefighters to their department.

"Watching them the entire week was like seeing an underdog story come to life," said Turner, "They should be looked at as an inspiration to communities who are looking to build a fire department."

Team BC won third place and demonstrated elite skill, determination, and teamwork during the entire competition. They've made their families, community, and province proud. Firefighters from the Saik'uz First Nation won the opportunity to represent Team BC at the national competition after placing first at FNESS' 39th Annual BC Indigenous Firefighter Competition held in June on the Penticton Indian Band.



Scan to view footage from FNESS 2023 Indigenous Firefighter Competition





Good Fire:

USING FLAMES TO HEAL
NATURE, COMMUNITY,
AND CULTURE

After a record-breaking wildfire season in British Columbia, it may be shocking to know that not all fire is bad. In fact, Indigenous peoples from around the world have been using “Good Fire” for tens of thousands of years to prevent “Bad Fires” and to promote healthy populations of flora and fauna.

But what exactly is Good Fire? In late September, a group of knowledgeable and diverse people from around the world met in Merritt, BC to explain what Good Fire looks like and how to monitor its effectiveness.

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) organized this three-day gathering with the intent of creating a safe space where Indigenous and non-Indigenous burners and scientists could share and learn ways to define and measure what a good cultural fire looks like.

“We have people of the land here, Indigenous People, and they know,” said Dave Pascal, FNESS Cultural and Prescribed Fire Supervisor, “They have stories about how we can use old practices to make the earth healthy again. Because when you have healthy ecosystems, you’ll have healthy people.”

Indigenous people from Canada, the United States, and Australia all shared first-hand examples as to why Good Fire is critical to their culture, their people, and our planet. They also shared ancient teachings that help them know when it’s a good time to burn, how to burn, and how to measure the benefits of a burn. However, many of these teachings are sacred and won’t be shared here.



What can be shared are the barriers participants said they face when trying to practice cultural burning. Government regulations and policies make it, at times, nearly impossible for Indigenous people to use Good Fire to take care of their land and people. Finding community members who are trained to do cultural burns is also challenging because the training and work often relies on volunteers and it’s not possible for many people to dedicate time to learning and volunteering while taking care of their family. Sometimes, grant funding is available to help pay community members for their commitment, but grant writing is a skill and unavailable to many small Indigenous communities.

Education isn’t only needed in the community itself; the need also reaches out to neighbouring non-Indigenous communities. A concern was expressed at the gathering that many non-Indigenous people don’t understand why cultural fire is important. There are many benefits to Good Fire, but there are people who perceive all burning to be bad, damaging to the environment, and harmful to animals. However, over the past decade, Aboriginal fire-prevention programs (cultural burning) in Australia have cut destructive wildfires in half and reduced carbon emissions by over 40%.¹ Cultural fire practices and techniques also help keep the fire cooler, lower, and slower than wildfires and provide a safe path for animals to escape the flames. In 2021, Australia’s University of the Sunshine Coast and Quandamooka land custodians conducted a study on koalas during cultural burns that showed no increase in stress levels and an increase in koala population.²

Indigenous people know, and have known, for a long time that fire fights fire. It’s taken devastating destruction by wildfires for the world to start listening to us, but we still need to fight for our right to practice our traditions. Too much Indigenous knowledge and tradition has been lost in colonization and we need to keep fighting for our people and our land. “My hope for the future is that every nation that wants to burn, will be burning and measuring its effectiveness,” said Dave Pascal, “and also teaching the next generation.”

Scan to view the Good Fire: Using flames to heal nature, community, and culture video



¹ Fuller, T. (2020, Jan 16). Reducing Fire, and Cutting Carbon Emissions, the Aboriginal Way. Retrieved from The New York Times.

² UniSC. (2023, February 27). Cultural burns can help protect koalas: new research. Retrieved from University of the Sunshine Coast.

Protecting the community of Witset from the John Brown Creek Fire



The structural defense task force was assembled to help protect the community of Witset which was on evacuation alert because of the John Brown Creek Fire.



The structural defense task force was deployed after Chris Turner, FNESS Fire Service Officer, arrived in the community of Witset on August 27 to assess the situation after being placed on evacuation alert. When he arrived, Turner touched base with the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Incident Commander and the decision was made to put in a resource request through BCWS for a Structural Protection Unit (SPU) and crew to start setting up sprinkler systems on the entire west side of the village. Smithers, Witset, Houston, Burns Lake, and FNESS soon responded and supported the community by lending their crews, firefighting apparatus, and structural protection equipment.

Upon completion of the structural protection sprinkler set up, the task force prepared to implement defense tactics in the village by practicing different wildland and urban interface scenarios.

To help reduce stress in the community, the Witset Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) used Facebook to provide the community with regular in-depth updates including pictures, video and information bulletins. This was crucial in helping to reduce stress the community was feeling and eased the minds of many within the village.



Holding daily update meetings between FNESS, Witset EOC, and BCWS ensured that all operations were transparent and properly communicated to everyone involved with the incident.

Fortified and Fearless: New gear empowers and protects firefighters of the Lake Babine Nation



This fall, the Ft. Babine and Tachet fire departments celebrated as they replaced outdated equipment from the 1990s that had long surpassed its prime.

The Ft. Babine and Tachet fire departments are both a part of the Lake Babine Nation located in Northwest British Columbia. Tachet has ten fire department members and Ft. Babine has five that help protect the Lake Babine Nation.

First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) played a pivotal role in delivering the new gear to the Lake Babine Nation. Through funding provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), new turn out gear and self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) for the fire departments was secured, addressing a pressing need for updated resources.

In total, both departments received the following essential equipment to safeguard firefighters during training and when responding to fires:

- 20 SCBA bottles
- 16 sets of head-to-toe turn out gear
- 10 SCBA air packs
- Flashlights

This infusion of new gear was a breath of fresh air for both fire departments. FNESS Fire Services Officers not only facilitated the introduction of the new gear but also took the time to educate and guide the firefighters on its proper use and maintenance. Ongoing support remains readily available to both fire departments, ensuring they can navigate their new equipment with confidence.

In addition to this delivery, FNESS extended its support to Ft. Babine by providing a structural protection trailer during the recent wildfire season. This collaborative approach between the communities of the Lake Babine Nation and FNESS, embodies a commitment to safety and preparedness. Thank you, Ft. Babine and Tachet firefighters for your dedication as you work hard to serve and protect your communities.

Together, let's continue building resilient and well-equipped First Nation firefighting teams for a safer future.

If you want to learn more about FNESS structural firefighting training or wish to explore how your community can benefit, we invite you to reach out to our dedicated Fire Services team via email: fireservices@fness.bc.ca

Ktunaxa Nation communities train to combat wildfires



In the Ktunaxa Nation, Yaq'it ?a·knuq'it (Tobacco Plains) and ?Aq'am have been forging a path towards self-reliance in the face of wildfires. This year, they've been on a journey acquiring skills and knowledge to protect their communities and preserve their traditions. One of the ways the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) has been there to support them is through the Wildland Firefighter Training Program.



TOBACCO PLAINS RAISES NEW FIRE BRIGADE LEADERS

Under the guidance of Brett Uphill, Tobacco Plains Fire Department Chief and Manager of Fire and Emergency Services, 18 members of the local volunteer fire department gathered in October to strengthen their capabilities. The diverse group included some existing fire crew leaders, but a majority were crew leaders in the making.

The focus of this training was to learn the S-241 Fire Assessment Course, a comprehensive program designed to nurture new and emerging crew leaders. Through practical examples, participants learned to craft precise and accurate evaluations of fires, preparing initial fire reports (IFRs) based on real-life scenarios. FNESS integrated the Wildland Firefighter Training Program seamlessly into the fire department's regular training nights, fostering a customized approach that suits the community's needs.

This marked the third time FNESS delivered wildland firefighter training to Tobacco Plains, building on the success of previous sessions covering S-230 Fireline Supervision and Basic Chainsaw Operator. Armed with this training, the fire department responded effectively to wildfires in the summer of 2023, both on and off reserve.

The fire department has scheduled more training for the near future.



?AQ'AM FIRST NATION CERTIFIES AND CELEBRATES 10 NEW WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

Meanwhile, ?Aq'am First Nation celebrated the recent certification of 10 community firefighters, meeting the requirements of WorkSafe BC and BC Wildfire Service to fight wildfires. FNESS worked with them along way, delivering training modules spread throughout the year. For two of the modules, S-100 and S-185, FNESS taught the students while also mentoring the Wildland Fire Manager for ?Aq'am Community Enterprises, Ashley O'Neil, so she can be certified to teach the courses herself.

?Aq'am's journey extends beyond firefighting skills. Their cultural and prescribed fire practices protected their community, and their neighbours, against the St. Mary River Wildfire in 2023 and demonstrated the power of Indigenous knowledge to their non-Indigenous neighbours.

Looking ahead, ?Aq'am aspires to establish a Ktunaxa Nation Firefighting Crew by 2024, prepared to face the challenges of the upcoming wildfire season. This collective effort aims to safeguard all four First Nation communities that constitute the Ktunaxa Nation Territory, recognizing

the importance of their ancestral land as a fire-dependent ecosystem. By practicing their use of Good Fire, building their own community wildfire crew, and aspiring to achieve a territorial Ktunaxa Nation Wildfire crew, they are truly an inspiration.

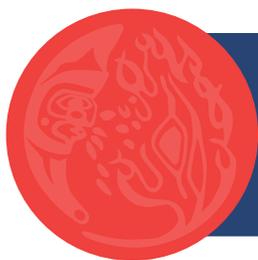
As these communities tread the path of self-reliance, their journey becomes a beacon of light, rooted in Indigenous resilience and a commitment to preserving their lands for generations to come.

HOW TO RECEIVE TRAINING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

If you're interested in training for your First Nation community, please email: wildfire@fness.bc.ca

Or reach out to Rob Bosse, Wildfire Division Supervisor at rbosse@fness.bc.ca and he will connect you with the wildfire specialist who will support your wildfire resiliency needs.

To learn more about FNESS Wildfire Division Programs, visit: www.fness.bc.ca/resource/wildfire-division



Exploring fire governance and wildfire preparedness in Yaq'it ?a·knuq'it (Tobacco Plains)

In December 2023, Yaq'it ?a·knuq'it (Tobacco Plains) welcomed Dan Heaton, First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) Regional Fire Services Officer, into their community to deliver Fire Governance information. The gathering's turnout was strong with Chief and Council members participating both online and in person, along with the First Nation's senior management and full-time Fire Chief.

Throughout the day, Dan presented the key components of fire governance and facilitated insightful conversations on the following topics:

- Vital Importance of Fire Prevention
- Three Tiers of Fire Prevention
- Planning around Fire Protection
- Risk Management and Liability
- Emergency Management
- Funding
- Good Governance Leadership Practices

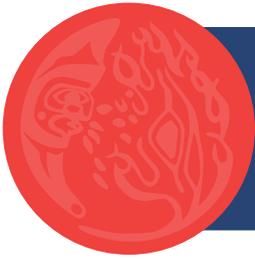
Rob Bosse, FNESS Wildfire Division Supervisor, also contributed to this important presentation by delivering an overview of the Wildland Firefighting Training program. When reflecting on the day, he remarked:

"I quickly learned often it is community fire departments adding to their structural fire expertise with wildfire training, as Wildland Urban Interface fires have become all too common."

This exchange of knowledge and insights help strengthen the community's resilience in the face of both structural and wildfire challenges. We thank the Yaq'it ?a·knuq'it First Nation for inviting us into their community and raise our hands to the work they are doing to keep their community safe and traditions alive.

If you want to learn more about Fire Governance please contact:
fireservices@fness.bc.ca

For questions about the Wildland Firefighting Training Program email:
wildfire@fness.bc.ca
or visit the FNESS Wildfire Division webpage:
www.fness.bc.ca/resource/wildfire-division



Ulkatcho First Nation firefighters refine their skills

In November, firefighters from the Ulkatcho First Nation Fire Department engaged in a day of skill refinement with Dan Heaton, First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) Regional Fire Services Officer. Dan was invited by the Ulkatcho First Nation to facilitate the training and once there, he led the crew through the following drills:

- Donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) bunker Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Catching a hydrant with a fire truck
- Deploying 50 feet of water supply line and deploying two pre-connect lines from the truck

By the day's end, the Ulkatcho First Nation Fire Department achieved impressive milestones, donning gear within three minutes, swiftly catching a hydrant, and deploying two lines – all within three minutes. As Dan Heaton emphasized:

"This is a good day by any standards."

For those interested in firefighter training for their First Nations fire department, please contact the FNESS Fire Services Team via email: fireservices@fness.bc.ca



Your commitment to enhancing preparedness and skills is a vital step toward fostering resilient and proficient firefighting teams.

Financial Statements

FIRST NATIONS' EMERGENCY SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

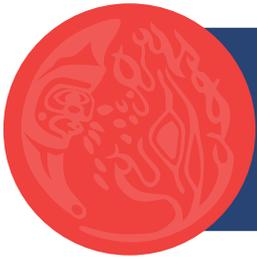
A Financial Overview for 2023/2024

REVENUE	Dollars	%	EXPENSES	Dollars	%
Communication	\$ 503,712	2%	Communication	\$ 535,028	2%
Decision Support	503,164	2%	Decision Support	503,164	2%
Fire Services	3,881,927	14%	Fire Services	3,920,272	15%
Mitigation	5,810,612	21%	Mitigation	5,693,000	22%
Governance and Corporate Service	3,183,099	12%	Governance and Corporate Service	3,246,385	13%
Preparedness and Training	398,492	1%	Preparedness and Training	382,758	1%
Response	2,414,773	9%	Response	2,164,288	8%
Strategic Partnership	3,968,549	14%	Strategic Partnership	3,968,549	15%
Board Activities and AGM	200,439	1%	Board Activities and AGM	200,439	1%
Emergency Management	2,688,800	10%	Emergency Management	2,610,312	10%
Task Reimbursement	2,209,097	8%	Recovery and ESS	4,143	0%
FNESS Own Programs	1,744,653	6%	Task Reimbursement	2,133,592	8%
	\$ 27,507,317	100.0%	FNESS Own Programs	536,496	2%
				\$ 25,898,426	100.0%
Excess of revenue over expenses from operations				\$ 1,608,891	

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 audited 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 2023-2024

- FS ▶ Fire Services
- M ▶ Mitigation
- P ▶ Preparedness
- R ▶ Response
- RESS ▶ Recovery & Emergency Support Services
- DS ▶ Decision Support
- SP ▶ Special Projects

- 1) Cultural & Prescribed Fire: ISC & Other
- 2) FireSmart
- 3) Fuels
- 4) Wildfire
- 5) Integrated Fire Management Planning

Band#	Band Name	FS	M	P	R	RESS	DS	SP
684	Adams Lake Indian Band	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
659	Ahousaht First Nation	✓		✓				✓
558	Aitchelitz First Nation			✓	✓			
604	?Akisq'nuk First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
602	?aq'am		1,2,3,4,5		✓	✓	✓	✓
685	Ashcroft Indian Band	✓	1,2,3,4,5		✓		✓	✓
640	Beecher Bay First Nation (Sc'ianew)			✓				
730	Binche Whut'en First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
547	Blueberry River First Nations	✓	2,3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
686	Bonaparte First Nation (St'uxwtéws)	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓			✓
700	Boothroyd Indian Band		1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	
701	Boston Bar First Nation		1,2,3,4	✓	✓			✓
713	Canim Lake Band (Tsq'escenemc)	✓	3	✓	✓			
583	Chawathil First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓			✓
584	Cheam First Nation	✓	3,4	✓	✓	✓		✓
620	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	✓	3,4		✓		✓	✓
693	Coldwater Indian Band		1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
694	Cook's Ferry Indian Band		2,3	✓	✓		✓	✓
642	Cowichan Tribes	✓	1,3	✓		✓		✓
502	Daylu Dena Council		1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	
504	Dease River First Nation		1,2,3,4,5		✓			
662	Ditidaht First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
548	Doig River First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
636	Dzawada'enuxw First Nation							✓
634	Ehattesaht First Nation	✓	3			✓		✓
709	?Esdilagh First Nation (Alexandria)	✓	2,3	✓	✓		✓	✓
711	Esk'etemc	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
644	Esquimalt Nation	✓	1,3		✓	✓		
543	Fort Nelson First Nation	✓	2,3	✓	✓		✓	
531	Gitanmaax Band	✓	2	✓	✓		✓	✓
537	Gitanyow	✓	1,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	
675	Gitga'at First Nation			✓	✓		✓	✓
535	Gitsegukla First Nation	✓		✓	✓		✓	
536	Gitwangak	✓	3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
672	Gitxaala Nation			✓	✓		✓	
534	Hagwilget Village (Tse-Kya)	✓	3					
676	Haisla Nation (Kitimaat Village Council)		2,3,4		✓		✓	



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- 1) Cultural & Prescribed Fire: ISC & Other
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Band #	Band Name	FS	M	P	R	RESS	DS	SP
645	Halalt First Nation		4		✓	✓	✓	✓
546	Halfway River First Nation		3,4	✓	✓			
538	Heiltsuk Nation	✓	3,4	✓			✓	
661	Hesquiaht First Nation							✓
703	High Bar First Nation	✓		✓			✓	
552	Homalco First Nation		2,3	✓	✓			✓
664	Hupacasath First Nation		2			✓		✓
663	Huu-ay-aht First Nations		1,3			✓		
683	Iskut First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4,5		✓		✓	✓
638	Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (Kyuqout/Checleseht)		3,4	✓				
704	Kanaka Bar Indian Band	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓	✓		✓
563	Katzie First Nation	✓		✓	✓			
532	Kispiox Band Council	✓	2,3,4	✓			✓	✓
540	Kitasoo Band Council	✓		✓	✓			✓
680	Kitselas Nation		2,3	✓	✓		✓	
681	Kitsumkalum Band	✓	3	✓	✓		✓	
553	Klahoose First Nation		4					
624	K'ómoks First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
610	Kwadacha Nation (Tsek'ene)							✓
564	Kwantlen First Nation			✓				
625	Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation			✓		✓		✓
560	Kwikwetlem First Nation	✓	4	✓				✓
607	Lake Babine Nation	✓	3	✓	✓		✓	✓
674	Lax Kw'alaams Band	✓	4				✓	✓
579	Leq'a:mel First Nation	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓	✓		✓
611	Lheidli T'enneh First Nation	✓	2,3	✓	✓			✓
721	Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation		3,4	✓	✓	✓		
715	Lhtako Dene Nation		2,3	✓	✓		✓	✓
557	Lílwat Nation		1,2,3,4	✓	✓			✓
695	Lower Nicola Indian Band	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
598	Lower Similkameen Indian Band		1,4,5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
705	Lytton First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
647	Malahat Nation	✓	2,3,4			✓	✓	✓
565	Matsqui First Nation	✓	3,4	✓	✓			✓
618	McLeod Lake Indian Band	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓	✓		✓
673	Metlakatla First Nation						✓	✓
630	Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation		2,3,4	✓				✓

Band#	Band Name	FS	M	P	R	RESS	DS	SP
550	Musqueam Indian Band	✓	2	✓	✓			✓
612	Nadleh Whut'en	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
614	Nak'azdli Whut'en		3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
649	Nanoose First Nation (Snaw-naw-as)			✓				✓
720	Nazko First Nation		2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
726	Nee Tahi Buhn	✓	4				✓	
690	Neskonlith Indian Band		2,3,4		✓		✓	✓
696	Nicommen Indian Band	✓	3		✓			✓
671	Nisga'a Village of Gingolx	✓	3	✓			✓	
679	Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw		3	✓			✓	
678	Nisga'a Village of Laxgalt'sap		3				✓	
677	Nisga'a Village of New Aiyansh (Gitlaxt'aamiks)		3	✓			✓	
699	Nooaitch Indian Band	✓	4		✓		✓	
556	N'Quatqua		1,2,3		✓			✓
639	Nuchatlaht			✓				✓
539	Nuxalk Nation (Bella Coola Band)		2,3,4		✓		✓	✓
616	Okanagan Indian Band	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
669	Old Massett Village Council	✓		✓	✓			✓
692	Oregon Jack Creek Band	✓						
596	Osoyoos Indian Band	✓	3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
658	Pacheedaht First Nation		2	✓				✓
652	Pauquachin First Nation	✓				✓	✓	
650	Penelakut Tribe	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
597	Penticton Indian Band	✓	1,2,3	✓	✓			✓
586	Peters First Nation	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
585	Popkum First Nation				✓			
544	Prophet River First Nation			✓				✓
651	Qualicum First Nation	✓			✓			
633	Quatsino First Nation		2,3	✓				✓
615	Saik'uz First Nation	✓	3	✓	✓		✓	✓
567	Samahquam							✓
542	Saulteau First Nations		1,2,3,4,5	✓				✓
581	Seabird Island Band		2,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
591	Sekw'el'was (Cayoose Creek Indian Band)	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
569	Semiahmoo First Nation			✓	✓			
698	Shackan Indian Band	✓	3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
551	shíshálh Nation (Sechelt)	✓	2	✓				
605	Shuswap Indian Band		1,2,3,4,5		✓			✓
570	Shxwhá:y Village		3	✓	✓	✓		✓
587	Shxw'ówhámél First Nation		4	✓	✓			✓
533	Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell Band)	✓	3,4		✓		✓	✓
691	Simpcw First Nation	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
706	Siska Indian Band	✓	3	✓	✓		✓	✓
562	Skatin Nations							✓



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Band#	Band Name	FS	M	P	R	RESS	DS	SP
582	Skawahlook First Nation		1,2,3	✓	✓			
687	Skeetchestn Indian Band	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
670	Skidegate Band Council	✓	3		✓		✓	✓
729	Skin Tye Nation	✓	3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
571	Skowkale First Nation			✓	✓			
707	Skuppah Indian Band	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓			✓
573	Skwah First Nation		2,3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
689	Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlcw (Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band)	✓	2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
648	Snuneymuxw First Nation		1,2,3,5	✓	✓	✓		✓
656	Songhees Nation	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
572	Soowahlie First Nation		2,3	✓	✓			✓
600	Splatsin		2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
708	Spuzzum First Nation		1,3	✓	✓			
568	Sq'ewlets First Nation (Scowlitz)			✓				✓
555	Squamish Nation	✓	1,2,3,4		✓		✓	✓
574	Squiala First Nation							✓
613	Stellat'en First Nation	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
559	Sts'ailes	✓	2,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
723	Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek and Dog Creek)	✓			✓		✓	✓
641	Stz'uminus First Nation	✓	2,3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
578	Sumas First Nation			✓	✓		✓	✓
682	Tahltan Band	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓			✓
608	Takla Nation	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
501	Taku River Tlingit First Nation		1,2,3		✓			
593	T'it'q'et		3	✓	✓		✓	✓
688	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
554	Tla'amin Nation	✓	3		✓	✓	✓	✓
660	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation	✓						✓
617	Tl'azt'en Nation	✓	2,3,4		✓		✓	✓
718	Tl'esqox First Nation (Toosey)	✓	3		✓		✓	✓
712	Tl'etinqox Government (Anaham)	✓	4				✓	✓
666	Toquaht Nation	✓		✓				✓
595	Tsal'alh		1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
653	Tsartlip First Nation	✓				✓	✓	
654	Tsawout First Nation				✓	✓	✓	
577	Tsawwassen First Nation		3		✓		✓	

Band#	Band Name	FS	M	P	R	RESS	DS	SP
609	Tsay Keh Dene		3,4	✓	✓			
665	Tseshah First Nation	✓	1,2,3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
655	Tseycum First Nation				✓	✓	✓	
710	Tsideldel First Nation (Alexis Creek/Redstone)	✓	3,4		✓	✓	✓	✓
619	Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake)	✓	4	✓	✓		✓	
594	Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation	✓	2,3		✓		✓	✓
549	Tsleil-Waututh Nation	✓	2,3		✓		✓	✓
657	T'Sou-ke First Nation	✓	2,3			✓	✓	✓
643	Ts'uu-baa-asatx First Nation (Lake Cowichan First Nation)		1,3	✓				
575	Tzeachten First Nation	✓		✓	✓			✓
667	Uchucklesaht Tribe		2,3,4			✓		✓
668	Ucluelet First Nation	✓		✓	✓			
722	Ulkatcho First Nation	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
697	Upper Nicola Band		2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
599	Upper Similkameen Indian Band		3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
623	We Wai Kai First Nation (Cape Mudge Indian Band)		2,3,4,5		✓			
622	We Wai Kum First Nation (Campbell River Indian Band)		2,3,5		✓		✓	
601	Westbank First Nation		1,3,4		✓	✓		
545	West Moberly First Nations	✓	3	✓			✓	
725	Wet'suwet'en First Nation	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	
719	Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc)	✓	2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
530	Witset First Nation	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
702	Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band	✓	2,3,4		✓			✓
541	Wuikinuxv Nation	✓			✓			
716	Xat'sūll First Nation (Soda Creek)	✓	2,3,4		✓			✓
592	Xaxli'p (Fountain Band)	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓	✓		✓	✓
561	Xa'xtsa (Douglas First Nation)		3,4					✓
714	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government (Nemiah)	✓	1,2,3,4	✓	✓		✓	✓
590	Xwísten (Bridge River Indian Band)	✓	1,2,3,5		✓		✓	
576	Yakweawioose				✓			
589	Yale First Nation		2,3	✓	✓			✓
606	Yaqaan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band)		4				✓	
603	Yaq'it ?a-knuq'it (Tobacco Plains Indian Band)	✓	1,2,3,4,5	✓			✓	✓
728	Yekooche First Nation		1,3,4,5	✓	✓			
717	Yunesit'in Government (Stone)	✓	1,3,4		✓		✓	✓



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

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