



# the quarterly responder

Volume 2 Issue 4 | December 2022

## National Winter Home Fire Safety Campaign

### Our Journey Through Winter Fire Safety

FNESS is proud to have partnered with Indigenous Services Canada to deliver a National Winter Home Fire Safety Campaign to First Nation communities across Canada. The intent of the campaign is to create community-based awareness of home fire hazards encountered during the winter months and learn how to mitigate hazards to keep your families safe.

Components of the campaign include one comprehensive 11"x17" poster (see below), five individual postcards for each winter home fire hazard: Cooking Safety, Home Heating Safety, Candle Safety, Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and Check on Your Elders and Neighbours. Safety sheets have been developed to accompany the poster and provide more in-depth safety tips. Videos have been produced to complement the poster and provide another visual learning aid.

All the materials are available for a FREE download at <https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/fire-services/winter-fire-safety-national-campaign> in both English and French languages. Follow us on our social media channels and share our winter fire safety posts so that these life-saving messages reach as many people as possible.



## Executive Director's Update

Wayne Schnitzler



With the holiday season upon us, it is important for us to remember the valuable things in our lives: our family, our friends, and the health and safety of our communities.

During the winter months, there is an increased risk of fire hazards in our homes. I encourage you to download and review the life saving messaging in "Our Journey through Winter Fire Safety" national campaign to help you keep your families safe this season.

This last quarter has been very busy. FNESS continues to work with our partners to grow and refine our programs and services to support our communities better. If you have any questions, concerns or require assistance, please feel free to reach out to us. FNESS staff are here to support you and your community.

## Manager Updates

### RECOVERY AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Bob Mills



The Recovery and Emergency Support Services (ESS) Department assists our First Nation (FN) communities in the development of their own ESS Team of volunteers through training, either in person or via Zoom. We also help communities with evacuees to transition from other supports outside of their community, to their own community based program.

We continue to provide 72hr emergency kits to communities who are in need. We prioritize the limited donation funds for these kits to communities that are remote, at higher risk of an emergency event or evacuation.

Our engagement with communities is slowing in anticipation of the holiday season and we will resume connecting with communities in the new year. Thank you to everyone who has invited us into your communities and we look forward to seeing you again.

Learn about emergency management (EM) from home or office. Consider joining FNESS' online training sessions every Thursday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom. Send your request by email to [bedwards@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bedwards@fness.bc.ca). Our team provides Recovery and ESS training to FN communities in person or via Zoom. For any questions or further information please call me direct at 250-457-1694 or by email [bmills@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bmills@fness.bc.ca).

Thank you for supporting us in the delivery of EM that is culturally appropriate and Indigenous focused. Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous (in it's many forms) New Year!

The Recovery and ESS Department is comprised of the following:

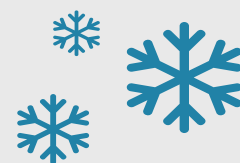
Alex Hubert - Reg'l Recovery & ESS Specialist  
Dianne Kehler - Reg'l Recovery & ESS Specialist  
Stephanie Ford - Reg'l Recovery & ESS Specialist

Melissa Swakum - Reg'l Recovery & ESS Specialist  
Sonya BigEagle - Administrative Coordinator



## MITIGATION

Quentin Nelson, FIT



Weyt-k, Hello

Since September we have officially welcomed another two Wildfire Specialists, one of whom is playing a central role in mentorship. We have also welcomed the first-ever FNESS Provincial FireSmart Coordinator to the Mitigation Department. The expansion of the divisions within this department has allowed for increased engagement opportunities with Nations to understand their community resiliency and wildfire risk reduction needs. In October, the 2023 Community Resiliency Investment program and our Operational Fuel Treatment, FireSmart and Cultural and Prescribed Fire programs went live as an open intake and are currently accepting applications. This month, we have released an exciting new pilot program that FNESS developed with the support of Indigenous Services

Canada called the Wildland Fire Equipment Purchasing program. As we continue to grow, so will our services, and ultimately the support we are able to provide to Nations.

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

The Mitigation Department is comprised of the following:

Amanda Reynolds, BA, BED - Prov. FireSmart Coord.  
Caleb Rempel, RFT - Mitigation Liaison  
Cathy MacKenzie, RPF - Mitigation Specialist  
Darrick Andrew, BNRS - Mitigation Liaison  
Dave Pascal - Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist  
Jeff Mortimer, RFT - Wildfire Specialist  
Karen Alexandre - Administrative Coordinator  
Larry Price, RPF - Mitigation Specialist

Marc Aymerich-Casas, FIT - Mitigation Liaison  
Neil Findlay, RPF - Bighorn Adventures Ltd. (casual)  
Nick Wingfield - Wildfire Specialist  
Owen Price, RFT - Mitigation Specialist  
Rob Bosse - Wildfire Specialist  
Robert Mitchell, RPF - Mitigation Specialist  
Vic Upshaw - Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist

## CURRENT PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABLE

### 1. 2022-2023 FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Programs (ISC-Federal)

Application materials are ready to be viewed, with applications for this program being accepted starting October 3, 2022. <https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/mitigation/indigenous-services-canada-isc>

### 2. 2023 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Program (UBCM-Provincial)

The Minister of Forests provided more details (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022FOR0036-000886>) on continued funding for the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program earlier this month. Program materials are now available, and the 2023 intake opened October 1, 2022.

The FireSmart Community Funding & Supports (<https://www.ubcm.ca/cri/firesmart-community-funding-supports>) provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

### 3. \*NEW\* 2022-2023 Wildland Fire Equipment Purchasing Program (FNESS-ISC)

Step 1 – Expressions of Interest will be received starting December 9, 2022 until March 31, 2023 on a first come, first serve basis until funding is exhausted. <https://www.fness.bc.ca/resources/news/exciting-new-pilot>

## Wildland Firefighter Training Available

For more information visit:

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

# Wildland Firefighter Training Available APPLY NOW

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



Date and Time: Arranged with Community  
Location: In Community  
FNESS Contact: Karen Alexandre at [kalexandre@fness.bc.ca](mailto:kalexandre@fness.bc.ca)



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

**Canada**



## Lynn Orstad Award: Women in Wildfire Resiliency

The Lynn Orstad Award – Women in Wildfire Resiliency is an annual award honouring women who have made significant contributions in wildfire resiliency and advocacy efforts. Nominations are now open until February 27, 2023. The award will be presented in person at the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit.

For more information visit: <https://firesmartbc.ca/lynnorstadaward/>

## SAVE THE DATE: Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit

On May 10-14, 2023, the FireSmart BC Conference and the WUI Symposium are merging into the must-attend event of the year: the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit. Don't miss out on this incredible five-day event with expert panels, leading-edge research, and chances to connect with people across the industry.

For more information visit: <https://firesmartbc.ca/wildfire-resiliency-and-training-summit-2023/>

## DECISION SUPPORT

Brenden Mercer



Decision Support is the analytics arm of FNESS. Using tools and technology, our department works to make life easier for the entire organization. We work in assignments to support the four pillars of emergency management: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

Our new NUTANIX servers are now up and running. We are continually working on improving accessibility and information tools to support our communities.

Decision Support has been working with the Provincial Ecosystem Restoration Team on FNESS' Integrated Fire Management project in the East Kootenay region. We also began working on a new mapping project identifying critical infrastructure points in communities in support of following up with Fire Safety Assessments.

Our team has been collaborating with First Nations and local climate change leaders to compile and integrate climate data and develop tools to support local climate change initiatives.

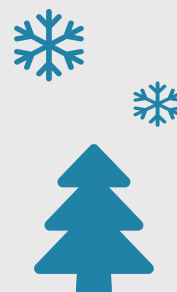
On November 9, we presented at the BGC Engineering Inc. (BGC) Annual General Meeting, we spoke about our work with BGC over the past year. FNESS presented with BGC at the Indigenous Mapping Workshop in Edmonton on November 23.

We are nearing completion of a variable buffer width project, that alters structure buffers based on terrain to better reflect fire behavior so fuel treatments can be planned better.

The Decision Support Department is comprised of the following:

Tammy Dong - Administrative Coordinator  
Carmichael Howes - Recovery  
Guyu Lin - Environment and Climate Change

Jenny Lin - Preparedness  
Nathan Wisla - Mitigation



## OPEN HOUSE

### Funders Meet and Greet

On November 18, Decision Support hosted a Funders Open House. We provided an update to our funders and have started a working group. In attendance were the following:

- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Richmond Crisis Relief
- Islamic Relief Canada
- Fortis BC
- Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning
- The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- FNESS Decision Support Team Reps

We can't thank our funders enough for their support!





## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Jamie Svendsen (Interim Manager)



The Preparedness and Response Team (P&R) have been busy this third quarter working with First Nation communities across BC.

We continue to deliver emergency operation center kits to communities. Please reach out to Bernadine Edwards at [bedwards@fness.bc.ca](mailto:bedwards@fness.bc.ca) if you haven't received one.

In preparation for winter storms and spring freshet, we are planning internally and working with communities to prepare for and respond to potential incidents. P&R continues to build its response capacity with the addition of four new TIGER DAM trailers, which are available for deployment upon request and approval.

We continue to assist communities with updating Hazard Risk Vulnerability (HRV) assessments and Critical Emergency Plans so that our nations are better equipped for an emergency. Our P&R team also coordinated the Indigenous Information Session via zoom and have been assisting communities with their application for the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - Climate Adaptation Funding Stream under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

The Preparedness and Response Department is comprised of:

Alison Lomon - Regional P&R Specialist  
Casey Laroche - Regional P&R Specialist  
Kaye Bright - Regional P&R Specialist  
Trey Hale - Regional P&R Specialist  
Trudy Peterson - Regional P&R Specialist  
Tiffany Traverse - Regional P&R Specialist

Austin Baldwin - On-call Casual  
Bernadine Edwards - Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Lauzon - Maintenance and Equipment  
Devyn Forsyth - On-call Casual  
Mark Blue - On-call Casual

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### Indigenous Services Canada: Emergency Management Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness Program

**Call for Applications: 2022-2023**

**NO DEADLINE TO APPLY**



The Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) provides funding to First Nations communities so they can build resiliency, prepare for natural hazards and respond using the 4 pillars of emergency management:

- mitigation
- preparedness
- response
- recovery

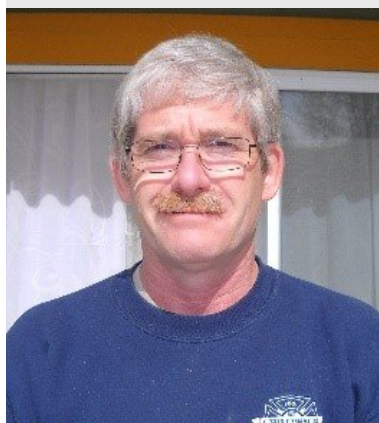
The goal of the Indigenous Services Canada Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness funding stream is to assist First Nation communities on reserve to increase their preparedness and mitigation capacity.

For more information and to apply visit:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1643393966351/1643393982606#chp3>

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Jim MacDonald



The FNESS training team has continued to expand our ability to deliver timely, effective, and applicable emergency management (EM) training. Over the last quarter we have directly delivered in-community training to an additional 40 first nations.

During some of those training events we have been able to continue to include joint training with the following partners:

- Regional Districts
- neighbouring Local Authorities
- Emergency Management BC
- Health Emergency Management BC
- First Nations Health Authority
- BC Wildfire Service

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

Our trainers continue to deliver weekly, scheduled, on-line EM and Emergency Support Service (ESS) courses (see course schedule below). Most sessions have had more than 30 participants. Some of those participants are experienced emergency program coordinators who often share their experiences from actual emergency incidents.

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

The Training Department is comprised of:

Bernadine Edwards - Administrative Coordinator  
Jackie Kloosterboer - Casual Training Officer

Wendi Omeasoo - Training Officer

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## **FNESS continues to offer FREE on-line Emergency Management and Emergency Support Services Training Sessions**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Emergency Management Training, Thursdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- January 5 and 12: Planning
- January 19 and 26: Operations
- February 2 and 9: Logistics
- February 16 and 23: Finance

Emergency Support Services (ESS) Training, Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00 pm

- December 15 and January 5: ESS Resources
- January 12 and 19: ESS Documentation
- January 26 and February 2: ERA or Not
- February 9 and 16: Evacuations
- February 23 and March 2: Worker Care
- March 9 and March 16: Personal and Family Preparedness
- March 23 and 30: ESS Recovery

If you are interested in attending or require more information, please contact the FNESS Training Team at [training@fness.bc.ca](mailto:training@fness.bc.ca)



## FIRE SERVICES

Nathan Combs



Simgigyat Sigidim haa nak' Ganhl K'u ba wil xsit xw  
Chiefs, Matriarchs, and their children

Ando'ohl lax ha hl wa'y,  
My name is Ando'ohl La

Lax Gibuu 'nii'y  
I belong to the Wolf Clan

Wilps 'Wii K'aax wil sa witxwi'y  
I come from House of Wii Kaax

Go'ohl Lax yiphl Gitxsan wil jok'oy  
I live on Gitxsan Lands

The Fire Services Department has been actively engaging with communities through the province to help build capacity within their Fire Departments. Our team has been delivering core programs such as: Community First Aid, Firebox Training, Governance, Fire Department Mentorship, Public Education Presentations, and have hosted two Youth Bootcamps.

The firefighter youth bootcamps were held in North Vancouver and Terrace, with over 45 youth in attendance. The bootcamp helps showcase the importance of volunteerism in community safety and involvement and share with youth the strong possibility of being a full-time professional Firefighter and open the door to volunteering in their own communities.

As First Nations (FN) fire departments are seeing a decline in volunteerism at the firehalls, FNESS is offering assistance with recruitment and mentoring of fire departments to ensure that our FN firehalls continue to have people there to answer the call. In the New Year, the Fire Services Department looks forward to continuing working with Nations to help maintain and improve fire safety. If your community is interested in any Fire Services training and programs, please visit [www.fness.bc.ca](http://www.fness.bc.ca) or contact [fireservices@fness.bc.ca](mailto:fireservices@fness.bc.ca)

The Fire Services Department is comprised of the following:

Alisha Juma - Administrator Coordinator

Chris Turner - Fire Services Officer

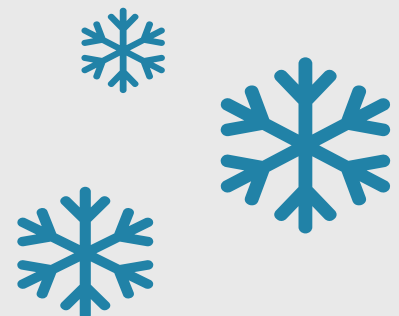
Dan Heaton - Fire Services Officer

Emerson Adolph - Fire Services Officer

I acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of my people.

I pay my respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

I give thanks to the ancestors who guide and protect this land.





## FNESS Youth Firefighter Bootcamps

In collaboration with FNESS' Fire Services Department, North Vancouver Fire Rescue, District of North Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, West Vancouver Fire Rescue, and the North Vancouver/West Vancouver School Districts, FNESS provided a 3-day bootcamp for 22 Youth from October 20-22 on the North Shore. The bootcamp covered items such as first aid training (CPR, Choking, and AED use), fire extinguisher training, search and rescue drills, hose relays, donning and doffing turn out gear, firefighter communication skills, Fire Service career opportunities, and more!

On November 2-3rd, FNESS in partnership with Kitsumkalum First Nation, Thornhill Fire Rescue, and the Terrace Fire Department put on a First Nations youth firefighter bootcamp in Terrace, BC. Students went through smoke alarm and fire prevention education, fire extinguisher training, auto excavation, hose relays, firefighter communication skills, Fire Service career opportunities in both volunteer and career capacities and did a ride along in the Thornhill firetruck!

Thank you to all of our partners who helped make the youth bootcamps possible, as well as a big thank you to our youth and future firefighters!



North Vancouver Bootcamp - fire extinguisher training



North Vancouver Bootcamp - hose handling



Terrace Bootcamp - car fire and auto excavation



North Vancouver Bootcamp



## Fire Prevention Week Wrap Up

Fire Prevention Week was held from October 9-15 this year. FNESS' Fire Services Department sent out Fire Prevention Week School Resource Packages to 155 First Nation (FN) schools, preschools, and daycares, 71 Fire Departments, and 204 packages to all band offices in BC. All of the materials are available on the FNESS website for printing and distribution for continued use.

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/fire-services/fire-prevention-week>

Throughout the year FNESS works with schools in FN communities to promote fire safety education. These photos are of Chris Turner, Fire Services Officer, delivering a presentation in Gitanmaax.



## FNESS EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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

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

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

**FNESS After Hours Assistance Line**  
**1-888-822-3388**

# Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

FNESS' Board of Directors,  
Management and Staff  
wish you the warmest  
holiday greetings  
and best wishes for  
happiness in the  
New Year!



## FNESS Holiday Office Hours

FNESS offices will be closed for the holidays from  
December 23 to January 2. We will re-open on January 3, 2023.

For emergencies please contact Training Manager Jim MacDonald at  
jmacdonald@fness.bc.ca or call 778-694-1382.



For more information please contact:

### First Nations' Emergency Services Society

#### Kamloops Office

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) Traditional Territory  
A274 Halston Road, Kamloops, BC V2H 1P7  
Tel: 250.377.7600 | Fax: 250.377.7610

#### Vancouver Office

Squamish Nation Traditional Territory  
102-70 Orwell Street, North Vancouver, BC V7J 3R5  
Tel: 604.669.7305 | Fax: 604.669.9832

BC Toll Free: 1.888.388.4431  
Email: info@fness.bc.ca

**Membership Makes a Difference!**  
<https://www.fness.bc.ca/>



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