



First Nations Forestry Council

**Presentation to the Thompson
Okanagan Interface Committee**

FNFC Board

- The seven members of the Board of Directors have been appointed by the First Nations Leadership Council:
 - Leonard Thomas
 - Chief David Walkem
 - Chief Bill Williams
 - Chief Mike Retasket
 - Dave Porter
 - Harley Chingee
 - Chief Eric Joseph



FNFC Vision

“A healthy forest that continues to sustain the cultural, spiritual, economic and social lives of BC’s First Nations and is managed through respectful government to government relationships.”



Our Mission:

- Support First Nations communities in managing mountain pine beetle epidemic through implementation of the BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan including addressing development and capacity issues at the community level
- Work with governments and others to ensure that First Nations needs, values, and principles are factored into forestry-related policy and program development, including monitoring, evaluating, influencing and providing policy advice and research



Our Mission: Cont'd

- Promote forestry-related opportunities for First Nations
- Provide effective communications to First Nations, governments and the general public with respect to forestry-related matters and the mountain pine beetle infestation
- Work with partner organizations, such as the First Nations Leadership Council and others, to increase efficiencies and benefits to First Nations communities
- Advocate on forestry matters on behalf of First Nations communities



FNFC Initiatives



BC First Nations Fuel Management

Representatives

- First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)
- First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS)
- Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR)
- First Nations MPB Initiative (FNMPBI)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)- Canadian Forest Service
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)



Forest Fuel Management Scope

- Community Awareness
 - Develop and deliver programs to improve understanding of the interface fire threat and the role of fuel management.
- Fuel Management training.
 - Build capacity in First Nations so that fuel management programs can move forward.
- Access to Funding.
 - Develop approaches to increase capacity for First Nations communities to access funding.
 - Mitigate the hazard of interface fires through effective fuel management programs.
- Fire Smart
 - Facilitate the adoption of Fire Smart standards by First Nations.



Forest Fuel Management Pilot Communities

Canim Lake

Cheslatta

Nee-Thai Buhn

Stellat'en

Skin Tye Nation

Ulkatcho

Wet'suwet'en



Report on Pilot Communities Challenges

- Some communities were very affluent in Fuel Management, while others require assistance in fuel management
- Multiple delivery agencies caused confusion on Who, where and how to contact to apply for funding
- Lack of human resources (capacity) internally and externally to take on the project
- Lack of certified trained people to conduct the operational work
- Resources for training



Report on Pilot Communities Opportunities

- First “ Safe Communities” reduced threat of wildfires
- Wood fibre for personal use in wood stoves for heating
- Individual or band owned Small Scale Salvage for marketable timber
- Training opportunities for capacity building
- Bands work jointly with Tribal Councils to further enhance work done in forest fuel management
- Bands can work with municipalities, regional districts on cost shared initiatives



Report on Pilot Communities Recommendations

- Raise awareness to communities about the threat of wildfires and opportunities to reduce the threat through the fuel management programs offered by the federal and provincial governments
- Raise awareness on fuel management supports and contacts
- Recommend oversight body to streamline process and provide regional guidance to First Nations communities
- Resources for a provincial oversight Fuel Management Coordinator, as well as regional coordinators to work with the provincial Fuel Management Coordinator



Report on Pilot Communities Recommendations cont'd

- Resources to assist First Nation communities conduct capacity training initiatives in order to meet their Fuel Management objectives
- Resources to assist First Nation communities to be able to meet their on-going Fuel Management needs
- Additional Forest Fuel Management resources to meet the need of all 103 First Nation communities and provide a sufficient buffer zone to protect the communities from the threat of wildfires
- Provide quarterly news updates to First Nations communities on activities performed, best practices





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Thank You