



# WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

# WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT

## PROGRAM

---

**April 12 - 16, 2025**

Penticton, BC



For more information visit [wildfiresummit.ca](https://wildfiresummit.ca)

The Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit acknowledges with gratitude that the event is taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

# Event Information



## Access the Event App (iOS and Android)

Scan the QR code below and download the Event App to view all event information from your device, such as the event agenda, speaker details, venue information, but also connect with other attendees, and more.



Android



iOS

**Event App Code:** WRTS2025

**Login Info:** Enter your email address and App PIN (included in the email sent to you prior to the event).

If you have any issues accessing the Event App, please contact us at [wrts@pacegroup.com](mailto:wrts@pacegroup.com).

## Wi-Fi Information

**Network:** PLRConferenceCentre

**PW:** lakeside

## Code of Conduct

The Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit is dedicated to providing a positive and harassment-free event experience for everyone. To that end, FireSmart BC has partnered with Spot as a resource to report incidents of misconduct that contravene the event's Code of Conduct policy. If you experience or witness any inappropriate behaviour, please report it to the event organizers or use the below QR code to access the Spot reporting tool.

Thank you for helping to make this a welcoming, friendly space for all.



# Welcome from the BC FireSmart Committee Chair

## Welcome!

Welcome to the 2025 Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in Penticton hosted on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. This year's theme is "Living with Fire: Building resilience by bringing fire back to the land, strengthening relationships, and investing in collective well-being".



With wildfire seasons starting sooner and finishing later each year, it is clear that fire and fire resiliency are now year-long challenges for communities across BC. As we approach what we know will be another challenging wildfire season, our ability to collaborate and share information will play a critical role in building wildfire resiliency and keeping our communities safe.

More than 700 firefighting professionals, FireSmart experts and Indigenous, municipal and community leaders will gather in Penticton to learn and share the latest research, technologies, and best practices, to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. I encourage you to make the most of the valuable opportunities the Summit will provide to celebrate existing partnerships and create new ones as we share our experience and knowledge throughout the week.

On behalf of our Summit organizers and attendees, thank you to our host Nation, Penticton Indian Band and Fire Chief Mike Larsson as our host Fire Department from Penticton. I also want to thank our many partners and sponsors for their support of this year's Summit, as well as the members of our Advisory, FireSmart BC and Training Committees for their tireless work.

On behalf of myself, the BC FireSmart Committee, and all of the staff who have worked to make this event happen, we hope your experience will be positive and meaningful. If at any time you need help with something, please connect with us, either at the registration desk or with any member of our team identifiable by their branded vests.

Thank you all for coming. Let's get to work!

**Hannah Swift**

Chair, BC FireSmart Committee

# Featured Speakers



## **Neal McLoughlin** | Superintendent, Predictive Services, BC Wildfire Service

Neal McLoughlin is the Superintendent of Predictive Services for the BC Wildfire Service. Neal is grateful to work with a top-notch team who delivers wildfire predictions, scientific analyses, software systems, and expertise to enhance operational decision making. Neal was first introduced to wildfire as an Alberta Junior Forest Ranger in 1999. Throughout his career Neal has also coordinated regional planning, co-authored scientific papers on wildfire hazard and risk, instructed national and international fire courses, and led the development of software used for fire behaviour prediction across Canada and abroad. Outside of work Neal is a musician, home handyman, and outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, biking, and skiing with his wife and three children.



## **Dr. Jennifer Grenz** | Assistant Professor and Indigenous Scholar, University of British Columbia

Dr. Jennifer Grenz is an Assistant Professor and Indigenous Scholar (Nlaka'pamux, mixed ancestry) at the University of British Columbia, with appointments in the Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Her research focuses on applying a food systems approach to restoration ecology and invasion biology, exploring the relationships between native and invasive plants and soil microbes. Through her Indigenous Ecology Lab, Dr. Grenz works in service to Indigenous communities, supporting land-healing initiatives, climate resiliency, and recovery from climate events like wildfires. Before academia, she served as the Executive Director of the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver and ran her own invasive plant management company, Greener This Side. Dr. Grenz is also the author of *Medicine Wheel for the Planet: A Journey Toward Personal and Ecological Healing*, based on her PhD dissertation, published by Knopf Canada and the University of Minnesota Press.

# Featured Speakers



## **Anale Burlew** | Chief Deputy Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE

Anale Burlew has served as Chief Deputy Director of CAL FIRE for over a year. In this role, she helps lead the department, overseeing the agency's extensive fire prevention, response, and recovery efforts across California. Chief Burlew is committed to advancing wildfire resilience, focusing on proactive forest health and resource management to mitigate wildfire risks and safeguard communities and natural resources.

Chief Burlew's fire service career began as a Firefighter I in 1998, and has progressed through the ranks. Prior to her current position, she served as Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection Operations, where she oversaw vital Operations Support, Intelligence, and Incident Management Teams, of which she has been an active leader throughout her career.



## **Lennard Joe** | CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council

Lennard Joe (Traditional name of Suxwsxwwels, meaning Grizzly Man) brings over 30 years of natural resources and business experience into his current roles. He is a Registered Professional Forester, a member of the Nlaka'pamux First Nation, co-owner of Grizzly Path Consulting, and CEO of the BC First Nations Forestry Council. Lennard is actively involved in developing new businesses and opportunities in the resource sector within his territory as well as throughout Canada and the world. Living in balance Lennard carries the corporate knowledge of his nation and continues to practice its protocols and traditions. His role as an Indigenous Professional Forester has opened doors in Indigenous Governance, Provincial and Federal government, Industry, Academia, and Forest Certification.

# Featured Speakers



**Dr. Sarah Henderson** | Scientific Director, Environmental Health Services, BC Centre for Disease Control, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

Dr. Sarah Henderson is the scientific director of Environmental Health Services at the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH). She is also a professor (partner) in the UBC School of Population and Public Health. Dr. Henderson oversees a broad program of applied research, surveillance, knowledge translation, and training to support evidence-based environmental public health policy and practice in BC and across Canada. She has studied wildfire smoke, health effects, and effective interventions for over 20 years.



# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



## Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit 2025

Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre | Penticton, BC

### Training Program

Friday, April 11		
Time	Session	Room
1500 - 1700	Early Registration	East Hallway

Saturday, April 12		
Time	Session	Room
0630 - 1700	Registration	East Hallway
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	East Ballroom
0800 - 0815	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><u>SnPink'tn Welcome</u>: <b>Chief Greg Gabriel</b>, Syilx Okanagan Nation</p> <p><b>Brian Hutchinson</b>, Superintendent, Fire Services, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p><b>Mike Larsson</b>, Fire Chief, City of Penticton</p>	East Ballroom
0815 - 0900	<p><b>Keynote 1 – Ahead of Wildland Fire</b></p> <p>The Predictive Services Unit (PSU) consists of a multidisciplinary team within the Wildfire Operations program consisting of fire behaviour specialists, meteorologists, and technology specialists. This presentation will explore innovative products, services, and technology solutions from the PSU to advance wildfire intelligence and support decision making for prevention, preparedness, and response activities.</p> <p><b>Neal McLoughlin</b>, Superintendent, Predictive Services, BC Wildfire Service</p>	East Ballroom
0900 - 0915	Transition	

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0915 - 1215	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – LEADERSHIP (Day 1 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Larry Watkinson</b> , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department <b>Scott Cronquist</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Robert Krause</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dwight Seymour</b> , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department	Salon A
	<b>Task Force/Strike Team Leader (TFL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Lou Wilde</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Patrick McConnell</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Jeff Gill</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon B
	<b>Staging Area Manager (STAM) – Structure Branch</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Stephanie Dunlop</b> , Fire Chief/EPC, Metchosin Fire Department <b>Brad Stickles</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Talia McKay</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon C
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Crew Leader (SPCL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>John McDonald</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Brad Burnett</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kelly Johnston</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Gord Parker</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Merlot
0915 - 1215	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – OPERATIONS (Day 1 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>S-231 Engine Boss (ENGB)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Brent Watson</b> , Deputy Chief, City of West Kelowna <b>Kris Anderson</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kirk Corby</b> , Captain/Acting Battalion Chief, Victoria Fire Department <b>Ryan Cail</b> , Deputy Fire Chief/Structure Protection Specialist, Kamloops Fire Rescue/ BC Wildfire Service	Offsite

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0915 - 1215	<b>Wildland Firefighter - 1 'Train the Trainer'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Tyler Hilland</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Dalgarno</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon D
	<b>Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Beau Michaud</b> , Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service <b>Braydon Kellett</b> , Initial Attack Crew Supervisor, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mitchell Taylor</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Karter Romeo</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Woronchak</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dominique Gaudet</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	East Ballroom
	<b>Large Water Supply Operations (Structure Protection)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Kevin Hardy</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Al Irwin</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Simon Lavelle</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Joss Advocaat</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Chardonnay
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #1</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Leon Rogers</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mike Brew</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #2</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Bill Wacey</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BX-Swan Lake Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service <b>Steve Link</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
0915 - 1215	<b>Training Course – FIRESMART (Day 1 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Wildfire Mitigation Specialist 'Train the Trainer'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Joel Hamilton</b> , Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC <b>Ryan Moreside</b> , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	Zinfandel

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1215 - 1315	Lunch	East Ballroom
1315 - 1630	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – LEADERSHIP (Day 1 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Larry Watkinson</b> , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department <b>Scott Cronquist</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Robert Krause</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dwight Seymour</b> , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department	Salon A
	<b>Task Force/Strike Team Leader (TFL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Lou Wilde</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Patrick McConnell</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Jeff Gill</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon B
	<b>Staging Area Manager (STAM) – Structure Branch</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Stephanie Dunlop</b> , Fire Chief/EPC, Metchosin Fire Department <b>Brad Stickles</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Talia McKay</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon C
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Crew Leader (SPCL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>John McDonald</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Brad Burnett</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kelly Johnston</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Gord Parker</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Merlot

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1315 - 1630	Concurrent Training Courses – OPERATIONS (Day 1 of 2)	Room
	<b>S-231 Engine Boss (ENGB)</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Brent Watson</b> , Deputy Chief, City of West Kelowna <b>Kris Anderson</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kirk Corby</b> , Captain/Acting Battalion Chief, Victoria Fire Department <b>Ryan Cail</b> , Deputy Fire Chief/Structure Protection Specialist, Kamloops Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service	Offsite
	<b>Wildland Fire Fighter - 1 'Train the Trainer'</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Tyler Hilland</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Dalgarno</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon D
	<b>Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground'</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Beau Michaud</b> , Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service <b>Braydon Kellett</b> , Initial Attack Crew Supervisor, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mitchell Taylor</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Karter Romeo</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Woronchak</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dominique Gaudet</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	East Ballroom
	<b>Large Water Supply Operations (Structure Protection)</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Kevin Hardy</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Al Irwin</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Simon Lavelle</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Joss Advocaat</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Chardonnay
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #1</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Leon Rogers</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mike Brew</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #2</b> <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Bill Wacey</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BX-Swan Lake Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service <b>Steve Link</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1315 - 1630	<b>Training Course – FIRESMART (Day 1 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Wildfire Mitigation Specialist ‘Train the Trainer’</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Joel Hamilton</b> , Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC <b>Ryan Moreside</b> , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	Zinfandel
1700 - 2030	<b>Training Social Gathering BBQ</b>  All training participants and instructors are invited to join this annual tradition. This is an opportunity for you to come relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great BBQ!	The Standard Space  (124 Estabrook Ave)

<b>Sunday, April 13</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Room</b>
0630 - 1700	<b>Registration</b>	East Hallway
0700 - 0800	<b>Breakfast</b>	East Ballroom
0800 - 0815	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Ryan Davis</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Rob Trousdell</b> , Deputy Fire Chief, City of Penticton	East Ballroom
0815 - 0900	<b>Panel 1 – Enhancing Wildfire Response: Incident Management, Structure Protection and Community Resilience</b>  <u>Moderator:</u> <b>Larry Watkinson</b> , Deputy Fire Chief - Operations, City of Kelowna Fire Department  <u>Panelists:</u> <b>Erin La Vale</b> , Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Northern Rockies Regional District <b>Michele Fisher</b> , Director of Community Infrastructure and Safety Services, Fort Nelson First Nation <b>Mark Healey</b> , Provincial Operations Response Officer, BC Wildfire Service <b>Hugh Murdoch</b> , Kamloops Zone Wildfire Officer, BC Wildfire Service  This panel will explore key lessons, challenges, and future strategies in wildfire response, with a focus on Incident Management Teams (IMTs), structure protection, community resilience, and Indigenous collaboration. The format will be an interactive discussion, with real-time audience engagement using Mentimeter to pivot the discussion based on attendee interests.	East Ballroom

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0900 - 0915	Transition	
0915 - 1215	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – LEADERSHIP (Day 2 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Larry Watkinson</b> , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department <b>Scott Cronquist</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Robert Krause</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dwight Seymour</b> , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department	Salon A
	<b>Task Force/Strike Team Leader (TFL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Lou Wilde</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Patrick McConnell</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Jeff Gill</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon B
	<b>Staging Area Manager (STAM) – Structure Branch</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Stephanie Dunlop</b> , Fire Chief/EPC, Metchosin Fire Department <b>Brad Stickles</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Talia McKay</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon C
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Crew Leader (SPCL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>John McDonald</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Brad Burnett</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kelly Johnston</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Gord Parker</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Merlot
0900 - 1215	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – OPERATIONS (Day 2 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>S-231 Engine Boss (ENGB)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Brent Watson</b> , Deputy Chief, City of West Kelowna <b>Kris Anderson</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kirk Corby</b> , Captain/Acting Battalion Chief, Victoria Fire Department <b>Ryan Cail</b> , Deputy Fire Chief/Structure Protection Specialist, Kamloops Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service	Offsite

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0900 - 1215	<b>Wildland Fire Fighter - 1 'Train the Trainer'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Tyler Hilland</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Dalgarno</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon D
	<b>Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Beau Michaud</b> , Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service <b>Braydon Kellett</b> , Initial Attack Crew Supervisor, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mitchell Taylor</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Karter Romeo</b> , Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kevin Woronchak</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dominique Gaudet</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	East Ballroom
	<b>Large Water Supply Operations (Structure Protection)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Kevin Hardy</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Al Irwin</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Simon Lavelle</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Joss Advocaat</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Chardonnay
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) - Class #1</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Leon Rogers</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Mike Brew</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) - Class #2</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Bill Wacey</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BX-Swan Lake Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service <b>Steve Link</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
0915 - 1215	<b>Concurrent Training Courses - FIRESMART (Day 2 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Wildfire Mitigation Specialist 'Train the Trainer'</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Joel Hamilton</b> , Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC <b>Ryan Moreside</b> , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	Zinfandel

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0915 - 1215	<b>Local FireSmart Representative – Assessments</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Sharon French</b> , FireSmart Coordinator, Lillooet Tribal Council <b>Ashley O-Neil</b> , ʔa·kin̓q̓uku Fire Service Manager, ʔaq̓am Flagging and Safety <b>Jeff Leahy</b> , Mitigation Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society <b>Marc Aymerich Casas</b> , Mitigation Liaison, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society	Offsite
1215 - 1315	Lunch	East Ballroom
1315 - 1630	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – LEADERSHIP (Day 2 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Larry Watkinson</b> , Deputy Chief, Kelowna Fire Department <b>Scott Cronquist</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Robert Krause</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dwight Seymour</b> , Fire Chief, Kelowna Fire Department	Salon A
	<b>Task Force/Strike Team Leader (TFL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Lou Wilde</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Patrick McConnell</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Jeff Gill</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon B
	<b>Staging Area Manager (STAM) – Structure Branch</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Stephanie Dunlop</b> , Fire Chief/EPC, Metchosin Fire Department <b>Brad Stickle</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Talia McKay</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Salon C
	<b>Wildland Structure Protection Crew Leader (SPCL)</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>John McDonald</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Brad Burnett</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Kelly Johnston</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service <b>Gord Parker</b> , Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service	Merlot

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1315 - 1630	Concurrent Training Courses – OPERATIONS (Day 2 of 2)	Room
	<p><b>S-231 Engine Boss (ENGB)</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Brent Watson</b>, Deputy Chief, City of West Kelowna  <b>Kris Anderson</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Kirk Corby</b>, Captain/Acting Battalion Chief, Victoria Fire Department  <b>Ryan Cail</b>, Deputy Fire Chief/Structure Protection Specialist, Kamloops Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service</p>	Offsite
	<p><b>Wildland Firefighter - 1 'Train the Trainer'</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Tyler Hilland</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Kevin Dalgarno</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Salon D
	<p><b>Wildfire Operations 'Boots on the Ground'</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Beau Michaud</b>, Wildfire Technician, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Braydon Kellett</b>, Initial Attack Crew Supervisor, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Mitchell Taylor</b>, Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Karter Romeo</b>, Initial Attack Crew Leader, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Kevin Woronchak</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Dominique Gaudet</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	East Ballroom
	<p><b>Large Water Supply Operations (Structure Protection)</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Kevin Hardy</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Al Irwin</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Simon Lavelle</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Joss Advocaat</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Chardonnay
	<p><b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #1</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Leon Rogers</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Mike Brew</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)
	<p><b>Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) – Class #2</b></p> <p><u>Instructors:</u>  <b>Bill Wacey</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BX-Swan Lake Fire Rescue/BC Wildfire Service  <b>Steve Link</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Penticton Fire Hall #2 - Training Building  (285 Dawson Ave)

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1315 - 1630	<b>Concurrent Training Courses – FIRESMART (Day 2 of 2)</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<b>Wildfire Mitigation Specialist ‘Train the Trainer’</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Joel Hamilton</b> , Wildfire Interface Specialist, FireSmart BC/Fire Chiefs Association of BC <b>Ryan Moreside</b> , Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, FireSmart BC	Zinfandel
	<b>Local FireSmart Representative – Assessments</b>  <u>Instructors:</u> <b>Sharon French</b> , FireSmart Coordinator, Lillooet Tribal Council <b>Ashley O-Neil</b> , ?a-kinq̓uku Fire Service Manager, ?aqa̓m Flagging and Safety <b>Jeff Leahy</b> , Mitigation Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society <b>Marc Aymerich Casas</b> , Mitigation Liaison, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society	Offsite

## Conference Program

Monday, April 14		
Time	Session	Room
0630 - 1700	Registration	East Hallway
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	East Ballroom
0800 - 0830	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>  <u>SnPink'tn Welcome:</u> <b>Councillor Tim Lezard</b> , Syilx Okanagan Nation  <b>Tony Pesklevits</b> , Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service <b>Hon. Ravi Parmar</b> , Minister of Forests and Deputy Government House Leader <b>Rob Schweitzer</b> , Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Wildfire Service	East Ballroom
0830 - 0900	<b>Panel 2 – Leadership when Living with Fire</b>  <u>Moderator:</u> <b>Tony Pesklevits</b> , Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service  <u>Panelists:</u> <b>Cliff Chapman</b> , Director, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service <b>Dr. Amy Cardinal Christianson</b> , Policy Advisor, Indigenous Leadership Initiative <b>Julius Bloomfield</b> , Mayor, City of Penticton <b>Councillor Tim Lezard</b> , Penticton Indian Band, Syilx Okanagan Nation  This panel of leaders from First Nations, local governments and provincial agencies will share their insights about what it takes to learn from fire and from one another, and to adapt to live with fire as a natural part of the land we live on.	East Ballroom

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



0900 - 0945	<p><b>Keynote 2 – Hope in the Ashes: Reclaiming Resilient Landscapes with Fire for All</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Jennifer Grenz</b>, Assistant Professor and Indigenous Scholar, University of British Columbia</p> <p>As wildfires intensify, we must learn from what the land is trying to tell us. Dr. Grenz will present that understanding historical ecology and revitalizing Indigenous stewardship is key to moving forward. She will present how the current era of land management has led us here, challenging climate as the sole cause. She shares insights from working with Interior Salish communities on wildfire recovery, highlighting the importance of asking the right questions, confronting the status quo, and valuing diverse knowledges to restore resilient landscapes for future generations.</p>	East Ballroom
0945 - 1015	<b>Morning Break</b>	
1015 - 1100	<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 1</b>	<b>Room</b>
	<p><b>Breakout 1.a – 2024 Jasper Wildfire</b></p> <p><b>Landon Shepherd</b>, Fire and Vegetation Specialist, Parks Canada  <b>Christine Nadon</b>, Director of Protective and Legislative Services, Municipality of Jasper</p> <p>Join Landon Shepherd and Christine Nadon for a firsthand account of the inter-agency efforts to protect Jasper before, during and after the 2024 wildfire, including how the long-standing relationship between Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper led to the successful implementation of Unified Command to manage the incident.</p>	East Ballroom
	<p><b>Breakout 1.b – Lil’wat Cultural Burning - Lighting the Drip-Torch</b></p> <p><b>Klay Tindall</b>, RPF - G.M. Forestry Operations, Lil’wat Forestry Ventures LP  <b>Jordon Gabriel</b>, Lil’wat Forestry Technician, Lil’wat Forestry Ventures LP</p> <p>Lil’wat Forestry Ventures has collaborated closely with the Lil’wat Nation to enhance landscape-level forestry objectives, focusing on the restoration of healthy, fire-resilient ecosystems. Interestingly, a fire-resilient ecosystem is one where fire occurs more frequently than it has over the past century, a natural process that we have suppressed. In this presentation, we will address the necessary training, partnerships, current challenges, and opportunities for increasing the implementation of controlled burns within the Nation’s traditional territories.</p>	Salon D

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



<p><b>1015 - 1100</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout 1.c – The Role of EMCR in Response and Recovery</b></p> <p><b>Stephen Piers</b>, Director, Provincial Recovery, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness  <b>Andrew Morrison</b>, Senior Regional Manager, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness</p> <p>From Response to Recovery: working alongside EMCR during a wildfire emergency response. The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is British Columbia’s lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery. Join Andrew Morrison and Stephen Piers as they explore and Q&amp;A a wildfire event through the lens of EMCR.</p>	<p>Salon A-B</p>
	<p><b>Breakout 1.d – Junior FireSmart Coordinator and Youth Engagement</b></p> <p><b>Darryl Adrian</b>, Emergency Management Coordinator, Lillooet Tribal Council  <b>Albert Naknakin</b>, Emergency Program Coordinator, Xaxli’p First Nation</p> <p>We are excited to introduce the Junior FireSmart Coordinator position, a role designed to empower youth in wildfire prevention and community resilience. Engaging young people in FireSmart activities is vital - as they bring fresh perspectives, energy, and long-term commitment to safeguarding our communities, ensuring a sustainable and fire-resilient future for generations to come.</p>	<p>Salon C</p>
<p><b>1100 - 1115</b></p>	<p><b>Transition</b></p>	
<p><b>1115 - 1200</b></p>	<p><b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 2</b></p>	<p><b>Room</b></p>
	<p><b>Breakout 2.a – Building a Successful Burn Program: Bringing Fire Back to the Landscape</b></p> <p><b>Colleen Ross</b>, Wildland Fire Ecologist, CR Professional  <b>Scott Driver</b>, Director of Fire and Emergency Services, City of Cranbrook</p> <p>Cultural and prescribed fire are essential tools for maintaining healthy ecosystems and strengthening community resilience to wildfire. However, many communities looking to use fire in their land management may find the process intimidating. Join Colleen and Scott as they break down the key steps in creating a burn program, covering where to burn, training and equipping your team, financing your program, partners and approvals as well as planning and execution. This session is designed to help you navigate the challenges and get started with bringing fire back to the land.</p>	<p>East Ballroom</p>

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



<p>1115 - 1200</p>	<p><b>Breakout 2.b – Fire Back: What Indigenous Fire Stewardship Can Tell Us about Caring for Our Land and its People</b></p> <p><b>Jessica Angel</b>, Fire Practitioner, Chinook Indian Nation, Ecostudies Institute</p> <p>After almost two centuries of fire suppression, the implementation of good fire as a tool for climate resilience and a return to indigenous land stewardship is necessary. Restoring good fires’ role in our ecosystems means restoration of culture, healthy landscapes and healthy communities.</p>	<p>Salon C</p>
	<p><b>Breakout 2.c – Stronger Together: Joint Emergency Management in Our Communities</b></p> <p><b>Erin La Vale</b>, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality  <b>Michele Fisher</b>, Director of Community Infrastructure and Safety Service, Fort Nelson First Nation</p> <p>Explore the successful partnership between Fort Nelson First Nation and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (Fort Nelson) during the 2024 Parker Lake Wildfire. Join their representatives as they share their experiences, highlighting the strengths of their joint Emergency Response Plan and offering valuable lessons for collaborative emergency management.</p>	<p>Salon D</p>
	<p><b>Breakout 2.d – Fuel Management in BC - The Past, Present and Future</b></p> <p><b>Pete Laing</b>, Superintendent of Fuel Management, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Morgan Boghean</b>, Wildfire Prevention Officer, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Understanding the past can build perspective and context that informs the approach/ attitude we take to fuel management today. Current state situational awareness helps us to understand what we can reasonably achieve with available resources and identify the barriers that hinder progress (maintenance, prioritisation, scalability and cost). Understanding how the objective of fuel management today and into the future is interconnected to responder/public safety, values at risk and ecosystems informs standards that will result in our initial fuel treatment investments being, and staying effective.</p>	<p>Salon A-B</p>

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1200 - 1300	Lunch	East Ballroom
1300 - 1400	<p><b>Panel 3 – Walking with Fire</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  <b>Dr. Amy Cardinal Christianson</b>, Policy Advisor, Indigenous Leadership Initiative</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u>  <b>Len Nielson</b>, Staff Chief - Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Cultural Liaison, CAL FIRE  <b>Tony Pesklevits</b>, Deputy Director, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Xwestikn</b>, Syilx Knowledge Keeper, Penticton Indian Band  <b>Quentin Nelson</b>, Associate Director of TRU Wildfire Training, Thompson Rivers University</p> <p>Fire is a natural and essential process in BC’s ecosystems. This panel brings together diverse perspectives on cultural, traditional, and prescribed fire in land stewardship, emphasizing collaboration, leadership, and fire resilience. Discussions will explore the challenges and opportunities of using fire as a practical tool and its role in sustainable fire management.</p>	East Ballroom
1400 - 1415	Transition	
1415 - 1500	<p><b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions 3</b></p> <p><b>Breakout 3.a – i?swxwap cikulmstm - Traditional Processes Solving Contemporary Challenges Through Collaboration and Relationship Building</b></p> <p>i?swxwap cikulmstm is a nsyilxcen term which means “we use the fire”.</p> <p><b>James Pepper</b>, Director of Natural Resources, Penticton Indian Band  <b>Cathy MacKenzie</b>, RPF - Mitigation Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p>The presentation describes Syilx Nation lands caretakership roles and responsibilities which include the use of fire and fuel mitigation activities. It highlights the strong relationship development that has occurred over the last 5 years with respect to meaningful engagement and collaboration between PIB and the BC Wildfire Services, UBCM and FNESS. It then details a case study which articulates the successful suppression of the Blue Mountain Fire K51866 (Aug 6, 2024). This suppression was successful due to the application of Syilx land caretakership principles coupled with collaborations and support provided by BC Wildfire, UBCM and FNESS.</p>	<p>Room</p> <p>Salon D</p>

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1415 - 1500	<p><b>Breakout 3.b – Crossing Boundaries: Connecting Research and Practice to Revitalize Fire on the Land</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Jen Baron</b>, Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre for Wildfire Coexistence, University of British Columbia  <b>Kiah Allen</b>, Research and Extension Lead, Cultural and Prescribed Fire, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>As prescribed fire use increases, connecting research to practice through boundary spanning—collaboration across sectors—becomes critical. Through case studies, this talk explores how researchers and practitioners can work together to improve fire management practices, addressing challenges and targeting ecological outcomes by bridging the gap between science and on-the-ground fire management.</p>	East Ballroom
	<p><b>Breakout 3.c – Removal of Fuels on City-Owned Lands</b></p> <p><b>Wes Brassard</b>, Wildfire Preparedness and Response Supervisor, Delta Wildfire Response  <b>Craig Moore</b>, Owner and President, Rider Ventures Ltd.</p> <p>When it comes to building wildfire resilience we require to be leaders in undertaking tasks that we ask our home owners and residents to do. During the 2024 year, Rider ventures was tasked with undertaking a city initiative in removing hazardous fuels on city owned lands and replacing it with a FireSmart landscaping which was under the guidance of the Vernon fire rescues FireSmart program. Join us in understanding the steps taken and the values learnt during this project.</p>	Salon A-B
	<p><b>Breakout 3.d – Fuel for Thought: How Do You Know if Your Treatment Worked?</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Lori Daniels</b>, Koerner Chair in Wildfire Coexistence, University of British Columbia</p> <p>Communities across BC are concerned about wildfires. Following FireSmart principles, proactive management reduces fuel hazards in the wildland urban interface to inhibit active crown fire and increase forest resiliency. Research on the efficacy and effectiveness of fuel treatments across the diverse forests of BC is underway to answer the question: How do you know if your treatment worked? Join the discussion of our findings!</p>	Salon C

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1500 - 1530	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
1530 - 1615	<p><b>Keynote 3 – Strengthening Wildfire Resilience: First Nations Leadership in Readiness, Mitigation, and Cultural Stewardship</b></p> <p><b>Lennard Joe</b>, CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council</p> <p>This presentation will explore the critical role of First Nations in wildfire preparedness and mitigation strategies. Focusing on the integration of cultural and prescribed burning practices, the session will highlight how traditional Indigenous knowledge is pivotal in enhancing wildfire resilience. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of First Nations-led efforts in protecting communities, landscapes, and ecosystems from the growing threat of wildfires, while preserving and revitalizing cultural practices that have safeguarded these lands for millennia.</p>	East Ballroom
1615 - 1645	<p><b>Lynn Orstad Awards</b></p> <p>In memory of Lynn Orstad, a female trailblazer in wildfire risk mitigation, FireSmart BC, FireSmart Alberta, and Co-operators are recognizing women in British Columbia or Alberta who have contributed to furthering wildfire resiliency in their community, agency or province. The Lynn Orstad Award – Women in Wildfire Resiliency is an annual award honouring women who have made significant contributions in wildfire resilience and advocacy efforts. Winners will be announced during this presentation.</p> <p>Brought to you by the Co-operators, FireSmart BC, and FireSmart Alberta.</p>	East Ballroom
1645 - 1700	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Malina Garner</b>, Education and Outreach Coordinator, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p>	East Ballroom
1800 - 2200	<p><b>Summit Social Event*</b></p> <p>Join us for a fun evening of socializing, games, music, delicious food and local libations. This is an event you are not going to want to miss!</p> <p><i>*Shuttles will be available between the Lakeside Resort and Penticton Trade and Convention Centre from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.</i></p>	Penticton Trade and Convention Centre (273 Power Street)

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



Tuesday, April 15		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1700	Registration	East Hallway
0730 - 0830	Breakfast and Smudging	East Ballroom
0830 - 0900	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Hannah Swift</b>, FireSmart Program Lead and Chair of the BC FireSmart Committee, FireSmart BC</p>	East Ballroom
0900 - 0945	<p><b>Keynote 4 – The State of Smoke: Established and New Evidence on Air Pollution from Landscape Fires</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Sarah Henderson</b>, Scientific Director, Environmental Health Services, BC Centre for Disease Control, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health</p> <p>Landscape fire smoke has always affected air quality in North America, but wildfires have gotten longer, larger, and more intense over the past 20 years. While exposure to air pollution from other sources has been in decline, exposure to smoke pollution has been increasing and now dominates lifetime exposure in some places. This talk will review the established literature and the rapidly emerging literature provide attendees with the current state of the health evidence on smoke from landscape fires.</p>	East Ballroom
0945 - 1000	Transition	
1000 - 1200	<p><b>Concurrent Workshops 1 and Breakouts 4</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 1.a – FireSmart Coordinators*</b></p> <p><i>*This session is for all participants who fill the role of ‘FireSmart Coordinator’ in their community</i></p> <p><u>Moderators:</u>  <b>Lucy Grainger</b>, Education Officer - Programs Advisor, FireSmart BC  <b>Dan Stevens</b>, Education and Outreach, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u>  <b>Whitney Cardenas</b>, Penticton Indian Band  <b>Rochelle Porter</b>, Skeetchestn Indian Band  <b>Sophie Randell</b>, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  <b>Sharon French</b>, Lillooet Tribal Council  <b>Tianna Dupuis</b>, City of Langford</p> <p>Join us for an engaging workshop focused on strengthening community relationships for wildfire resilience. Through real-life examples and small-group discussions, you’ll connect with other FireSmart Coordinators, learn to align initiatives with local values, and collaborate to better prepare for the upcoming season.</p>	<p><b>Room</b></p> <p>East Ballroom</p>

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



<p><b>1000 - 1200</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop 1.b – Bringing Fire Back to the Land</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  <b>Attila Nelson</b>, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u>  <b>Fons Raedschelders</b>, Superintendent, Cultural and Prescribed Fire, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Josh Macy</b>, Land and Resource Specialist, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Brody Armstrong</b>, Project Manager, Penticton Indian Band  <b>Xwestikn</b>, Syilx Knowledge Keeper, Penticton Indian Band</p> <p>Bringing Fire Back to the Land workshop explores the role of cultural and prescribed fire practices in ecosystem restoration and resilience. Participants will learn from experts how to apply and reintroduce fire as a stewardship tool, strengthen cultural practices, and promote sustainable land management.</p>	<p>Salon A-B</p>
<p><b>1000 - 1045</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout 4.a – The Future of FireSmart: Three Emerging Ideas</b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Reimer</b>, Manager, Emergency Programs, Capital Regional District</p> <p>Introducing three methods to build wildfire resilience that are not found in the UBCM Program Guide (yet). Learn how the latest social science and risk metrics can bring your FireSmart program to the next level. A session for agencies and communities interested in the next generation of approaches.</p>	<p>Salon C</p>
	<p><b>Breakout 4.b – Building Resiliency and Relationships through Collaborative Burning: Learnings from Kootenay ʔa·kinq̓uku TREX</b></p> <p><b>Justin Penney</b>, Land and Resource Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Sarah Dickson-Hoyle</b>, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of British Columbia</p> <p>In the fall of 2024, the BC Wildfire Service and ʔaq̓am, a Ktunaxa Nation community, co-hosted BC’s first prescribed fire training exchange (Trex) - Kootenay ʔa·kinq̓uku Trex - with support from the First Nations Emergency Services Society. We highlight the value of Trex in facilitating cooperative training, experiential learning, and relationship building amongst diverse fire practitioners, scientists and community members, and key lessons to inform ongoing collaboration in prescribed and cultural fire.</p>	<p>Salon D</p>
<p><b>1045 - 1115</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Break</b></p>	

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



	<p><b>1115 - 1200</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout 4.c – Breathing Easy: FNHA’s Role in Reducing Air Quality Impacts Through Health Emergency Management</b></p> <p><b>Casey Neathway</b>, Director, Regional Health Emergency Management, First Nation Health Authority  <b>Caitlin Buxton-Carr</b>, Manager, Health Emergency Management, Public Health Response, First Nation Health Authority</p> <p>Discover how the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) supports First Nations in mitigating the health impacts of wildfires. This session explores FNHA’s Community-driven health emergency management approach, with a focus on reducing air quality health risks through targeted actions to foster resilience and promote collective and holistic well-being.</p>	<p>Salon C</p>
		<p><b>Breakout 4.d – Catastrophic Wildfires and Insurance: A California Perspective</b></p> <p><b>Alexandra Syphard</b>, Senior Research Ecologist, Conservation Biology Institute</p> <p>Staggering wildfire losses in the last decade have upended business as usual in the California insurance industry. Why are these fires happening? How has the industry responded? And what may happen next? To address these questions, Alexandra will explore drivers and consequences of extreme fire events in California and the role of the insurance industry.</p>	<p>Salon D</p>
<p><b>1200 - 1315</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>	<p>East Ballroom</p>	

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1315 - 1500	Concurrent Workshops 2 and Breakouts 5	Room
	<p><b>Workshop 2.a – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  <b>Amanda Reynolds</b>, Mitigation Manager, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u>  <b>Lynsay Pacey</b>, Program Officer, Union of BC Municipalities - Discussing the administrative side of Fuel Management Funding  <b>Jonas Woodrow</b>, Program Officers, Union of BC Municipalities - Discussing the administrative side of Fuel Management Funding  <b>Vanessa Purves</b>, Senior Wildfire Officer, Prevention, BC Wildfire Service - Discussing the technical review side of Fuel Management  <b>Morgan Boghean</b>, Wildfire Prevention Officer, BC Wildfire Service – Providing an overview of the BCWS fuel treatment and wildfire interaction program  <b>Whitney Cardenas</b>, FireSmart Coordinator, Penticton Indian Band - Discussing the Cultural review of Fuel Management Funding</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u>  <b>Adriana Burton</b>, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Vanessa Purves</b>, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Cathy Mackenzie</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society  <b>Owen Price</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p>This workshop will walk communities through the administrative and technical aspects of applying for Fuel Management Funding under the FCFS program from UBCM and BCWS. Then we will hear from the Penticton Indian Band presenting on the success and challenges they had in accessing the funding and the projects they have planned or completed. Lastly BCWS will be giving a presentation on Fuel Management Efficacy and Wildfire Interactions. After the presentations workshop participants will have an opportunity to speak directly with UBCM, BCWS, FNESS.</p>	Salon A-B

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



<p><b>1315 - 1500</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop 2.b – Regional Districts*</b></p> <p><i>*This session is for all participants who work with and interact with Regional District FireSmart programs.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  <b>Jonathan Reimer</b>, Manager, Emergency Programs, Capital Regional District</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u>  <b>Kaitlin Minvielle</b>, Tseshaht First Nation  <b>Andrew Schellenberg</b>, Fraser Valley Regional District  <b>Carlene Pires</b>, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary  <b>Craig Wilson</b>, Peace River Regional District</p> <p><u>Facilitators:</u></p> <p>Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kailee Woodbeck</b>, BC Wildfire Service</li> <li>• <b>Grace Kyle</b>, BC Wildfire Service</li> <li>• <b>Jeff Leahy</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</li> </ul> <p>Community Resiliency Investment – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alyssa Christianson</b>, BC Wildfire Service</li> <li>• <b>Jonas Woodrow</b>, Union of BC Municipalities</li> <li>• <b>Harry Gillett</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</li> </ul> <p>FireSmart BC Resources, Guidance, and Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lucy Grainger</b>, FireSmart BC</li> <li>• <b>Ryan Moreside</b>, Fire Chiefs Association of BC</li> <li>• <b>Malina Garner</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</li> </ul> <p>This workshop will focus on the unique circumstances and considerations of regional district FireSmart programs. Spend some time with other regional district practitioners for an expert panel on FireSmart program challenges and solutions from a regional district perspective followed by a facilitated session that will explore the unique hurdles that regional districts face in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans</li> <li>• Community Resiliency Investment - FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program</li> <li>• FireSmart BC Resources, Guidance and Tools</li> </ul>	<p>East Ballroom</p>
---------------------------	---	----------------------

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



	1315 - 1400	<p><b>Breakout 5.a – Collaborative Approaches to Wildfire Land-Based Recovery</b></p> <p><b>Reg Nolander</b>, Manager, Wildfire Land-Based Recovery, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Sarah Gourlay</b>, Ecological Wildfire Recovery Coordinator, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>The Wildfire Land-Based Recovery Program, with BC Wildfire Service, is taking a collaborative approach to post-wildfire recovery. Effective recovery cannot happen in isolation—it requires the combined efforts of communities, governments, industry, and academia to restore the land through coordinated planning, research, and work on-the-ground.</p>	Salon D
		<p><b>Breakout 5.b – Fire-maintained Ecosystems: Looking Backward, Looking Forward</b></p> <p><b>Don V. Gayton</b>, Ecologist and Writer</p> <p>Our Settler society is finally coming to terms with the fact that the dry valleys of our Southern Interior coevolved with frequent Indigenous cultural burning. Ecologist and writer Don Gayton presents scientific evidence for this historical practice, and documents the negative impacts of 150 years of prohibiting cultural burns.</p>	Salon C
	1400 - 1415	<b>Transition</b>	
	1415 - 1500	<p><b>Breakout 5.c – Mental Wellness: A Conversation About Mental Health</b></p> <p><b>Steve Lemon</b>, Safety and Wellbeing Officer, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Steve Farina</b>, Executive Vice President, BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Association</p> <p>Explore the psychological toll of being a First Responder. Covering stress injuries, stigma, self-care, and resources, it highlights courage, connection, and proactive strategies to support mental health throughout a career in emergency services, ensuring resilience and well-being in high-stress environments.</p>	Salon D

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



	<p><b>1415 - 1500</b></p> <p><b>Breakout 5.d – Wildfire Community Impact Research - Research That Matters</b></p> <p><b>Greg Baxter</b>, Senior Researcher, FPInnovations</p> <p>This presentation will highlight the Wildfire Community Impact Research, exploring the latest findings from post-fire studies. It will also discuss the future direction of the program, outlining key innovations, strategies, and significant developments expected to shape how communities respond to and recover from wildfires.</p>	Salon C
<b>1500 - 1530</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
<b>1530 - 1630</b>	<p><b>Panel 4 – Braiding a Wildfire Resilient Future Together</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Jaci Gilbert</b>, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> <b>Alex Zahara</b>, REDfire Lab, Natural Resource Canada <b>Yolanda Clatworthy</b>, SFU Centre of Dialogue <b>Steve Lemon</b>, Safety and Wellbeing Officer, BC Wildfire Service <b>Terrie-Ann Davidson</b>, Manager, Boothroyd Indian Band</p> <p>Through highlighting the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from the panelists’ efforts in building collaborative and equitable spaces, we hope to start the important conversation of what it means to braid a wildfire-resilient future together.</p>	East Ballroom
<b>1630 - 1700</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Attila Nelson</b>, Cultural and Prescribed Fire Supervisor, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society</p> <p><b>SnPink’tn Closing Ceremony</b></p>	East Ballroom

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



Wednesday, April 16		
Time	Session	Room
0700 - 1200	Registration	East Hallway
0730 - 0830	Breakfast	East Ballroom
0830 - 0845	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Brian Hutchinson</b>, Superintendent Fire Services, Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p>	East Ballroom
0845 - 0930	<p><b>Keynote 5 – Wildfire Resilience in California</b></p> <p><b>Anale Burlew</b>, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE</p> <p>Join for a discussion with CAL FIRE on innovative prevention strategies and lessons learned from recent California fires. Explore how key legislation has shaped capacity, culture, and public support for beneficial fire, while CAL FIRE adapts, collaborates, and engages communities to build resilience.</p>	East Ballroom
0930 - 1000	<p><b>BC Wildland Firefighter Awards</b></p> <p>Award Artist/Designer: Clint George</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u>  <b>Amanda Reynolds</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society  <b>Jonas Joe</b>, BC Wildfire Service  <b>Terrence Pierre</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society  <b>Attila Nelson</b>, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society  <b>Alyssa Christianson</b>, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>In recognition of the critical role wildland firefighters play in keeping the province safe, FireSmart BC, the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society, and BC Wildfire Service have partnered to create the new BC Wildland Firefighter Awards. Individuals in wildfire response will be recognized during a special ceremony. Each recipient will receive a personalized award plus a \$1000 grant towards furthering wildfire resiliency efforts.</p>	East Ballroom

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



1000 - 1030	<b>Morning Break</b>	
1030 - 1200	<p><b>FCABC FireSmart Zone Meetings*</b>  <i>*Please see Zone Map on page 36</i></p> <p>Hosted by members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC, join like-minded individuals to discuss FireSmart programs within designated areas across BC (Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Central Interior, Kootenays, and North).</p> <p>Topics include FireSmart best practices, successes, lessons learned, and how to build community resilience by strengthening relations with local First Nations, government, and neighbouring fire services.</p> <p>These meetings are for <u>all</u> participants to share feedback on FireSmart and CRI programs. They offer an opportunity to meet other FireSmart practitioners, hear about what works, new information, program changes, and have questions answered that relate to your community. Most importantly, these meetings help build your FireSmart network and meet those who work alongside you in the growing practice of FireSmart.</p>	
	<p><b>Zone 1: Vancouver Island</b></p> <p><b>Bruce Green</b>, Fire Chief, Oyster River Fire Department</p>	Salon C
	<p><b>Zone 2: Lower Mainland</b></p> <p><b>Jeremy Calder</b>, Assistant Chief, West Vancouver Fire Rescue</p>	Salon D
	<p><b>Zone 3: Central Interior</b></p> <p><b>Dennis Craig</b>, Assistant Chief Mitigation and Prevention, Kelowna Fire Department</p>	East Ballroom
	<p><b>Zone 4: Kootenays</b></p> <p><b>Scott Driver</b>, Director of Fire and Emergency Services, City of Cranbrook</p>	Salon A
	<p><b>Zone 5: North</b></p> <p><b>Robert Krause</b>, Structure Protection Specialist, BC Wildfire Service</p>	Salon B
1200 - 1300	<b>Lunch</b>	

# Event Agenda | April 12 - 16



<p><b>1300 - 1400</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 5 – Community FireSmart Experiences in Wildfire Response and Collaborative Risk Reduction</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  <b>John Cathro</b>, RPF - Independent Consultant, Cathro Consulting Ltd., YCCBC Board Member</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u>  <b>James Pepper</b>, Director of Natural Resources, Penticton Indian Band  <b>Michael Eger</b>, Backcountry Manager, Wilden Group  <b>Kate Watt</b>, Board Member, Youth Climate Corps  <b>Beau Michaud</b>, Wildfire Technician, Penticton Zone, BC Wildfire Service</p> <p>Effective efforts to reduce wildfire risk can be grounded in collaboration beyond the typical partners. This panel will explore innovation led by community organizations, youth and good old-fashioned volunteers. Panelists share their successes and challenges and invite questions from attendees.</p>	<p>East Ballroom</p>
<p><b>1400 - 1415</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Cliff Chapman</b>, Director of Provincial Operations, BC Wildfire Service</p>	<p>East Ballroom</p>
<p><b>1415 - 1500</b></p>	<p><b>Post-Event Networking</b> (<i>Refreshments Served</i>)</p>	<p>East Ballroom</p>

# Summit Activities



## Training Social Gathering BBQ

April 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The Standard Space (124 Estabrook Ave)

All training participants and instructors are invited to join us for this annual tradition. Come relax and socialize with your fellow training participants while enjoying cold drinks and some great BBQ!

## Lynn Orstad Awards

April 14, 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm

East Ballroom, Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre

In memory of Lynn Orstad, a female trailblazer in wildfire risk mitigation, FireSmart BC, FireSmart Alberta, and Co-operators are recognizing women in British Columbia or Alberta who have contributed to furthering wildfire resiliency in their community, agency or province. The Lynn Orstad Award – Women in Wildfire Resiliency is an annual award honouring women who have made significant contributions in wildfire resilience and advocacy efforts. This year is the inaugural year and winners will be announced during this presentation.

Brought to you by the Co-operators, FireSmart BC, and FireSmart Alberta.

## Summit Social Event\*

April 14, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Penticton Trade and Convention Centre (273 Power Street)

Join us for a fun evening of socializing, games, music, delicious food and local libations. This event is open to all conference and training participants, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

\*Shuttles will be available between the Lakeside Resort and Penticton Trade and Convention Centre from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

# Summit Activities



## BC Wildland Firefighter Awards

April 16, 9:30 am – 10:00 am

East Ballroom, Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre

In recognition of the critical role wildland firefighters play in keeping the province safe, FireSmart BC, the First Nations' Emergency Services Society, and BC Wildfire Service have partnered to create the new BC Wildland Firefighter Awards. Individuals in wildfire response will be recognized during a special ceremony. Each recipient will receive a personalized award plus a \$1000 grant towards furthering wildfire resiliency efforts.

## Exhibitors

Make sure to check out our sponsor and exhibitor booths, located in the West Foyer of the Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre, from April 12 to April 16.

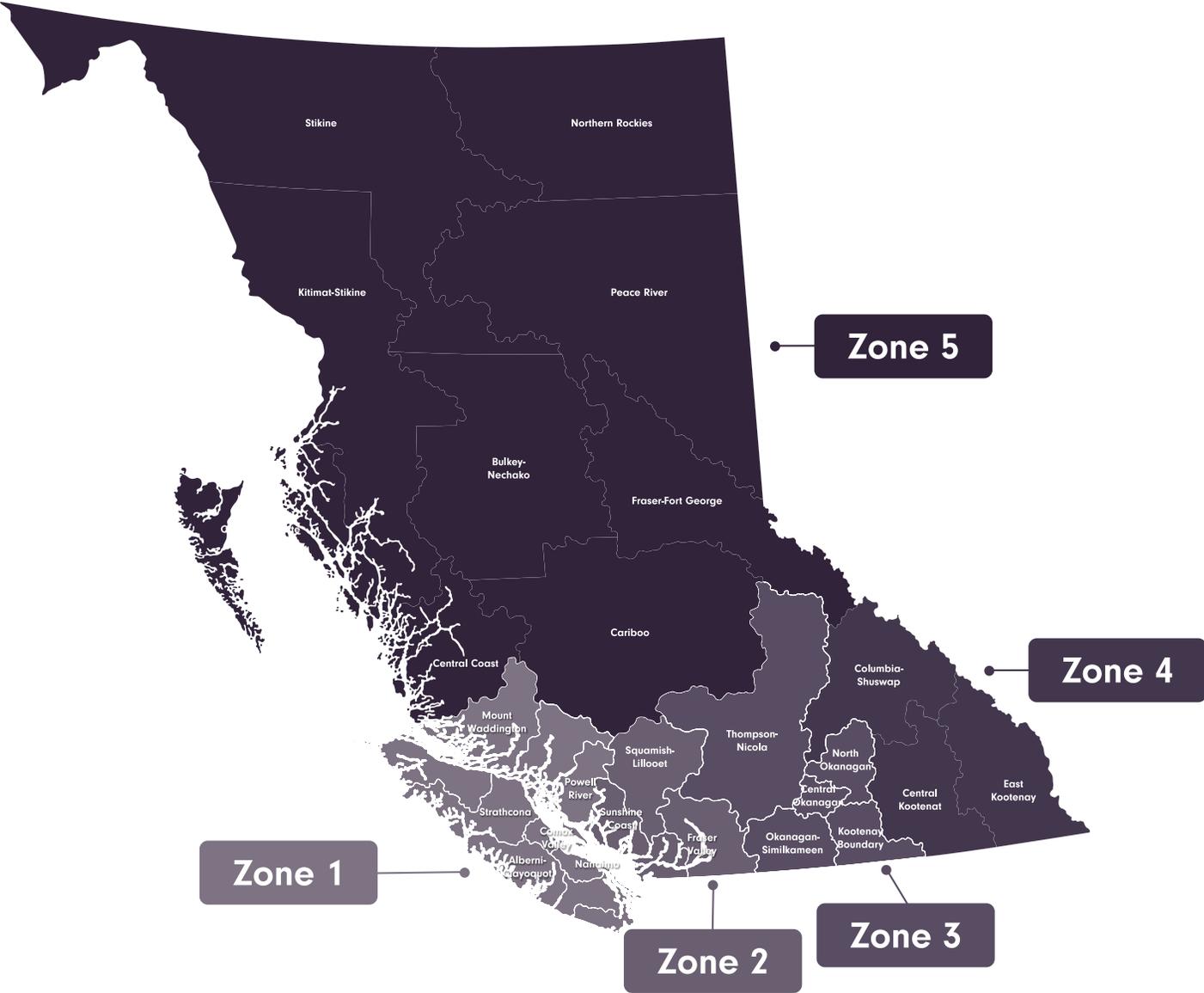
## WRTS Commemorative Coin

### A Symbol of Resiliency, Unity, and Collaboration

Since 2022, the commemorative coin has been a meaningful emblem at the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit, representing our shared dedication to wildfire resiliency and community collaboration. More than just a keepsake, the coin has become a collector's item, valued by those committed to strengthening wildfire preparedness. Inspired by the tradition of challenge coins—symbols of unity, achievement, and recognition—the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit coin represents membership in a growing network of wildfire professionals, commemorates our collective milestones, and honors the dedication of those working to protect our communities. Whether exchanged as a token of camaraderie or kept as a personal reminder of the work ahead, this coin carries deep meaning and lasting value. Each year, we work closely with the local First Nation to craft custom wording on the coin, ensuring it reflects the cultural ties and shared values of the region. This year, the Penticton Indian Band contributed the phrase *Snpinktn kəṭqəḥəncut i tm̓xʷulaʔxʷtət*, which translates to “Penticton – We Protect Our Land.” This powerful message underscores our collective responsibility to safeguard the land and natural resources that sustain us all. As we gather for this year's Summit, let this coin serve as a symbol of our ongoing commitment to resilience, collaboration, and protecting our communities for future generations.



# FCABC FireSmart Zone Map



# Shuttle Schedule



All shuttles are subject to space availability and on a first-come first-served basis.

## **ARRIVALS (from Penticton Airport to Lakeside Resort):**

\*Shuttle will be curbside as you exit the arrivals terminal.

### **Friday, April 11, 2025**

<b>Departure Times (at Penticton Airport)</b>
3:00 pm
5:00 pm

### **Sunday, April 13, 2025**

<b>Departure Times (at Penticton Airport)</b>
10:10 am
3:00 pm
5:00 pm

### **Monday, April 14, 2025**

<b>Departure Times (at Penticton Airport)</b>
10:10 am

# Shuttle Schedule



All shuttles are subject to space availability and on a first come, first served basis.

## **DEPARTURES (from Lakeside Resort to Penticton Airport):**

\*Shuttle will be at the hotel's main entrance (21 Lakeshore Dr W).

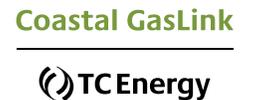
### **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

<b>Departure Times (at Lakeside Resort)</b>
8:20 am
1:10 pm
3:10 pm

### **Thursday, April 17, 2025**

<b>Departure Times (at Lakeside Resort)</b>
8:20 am

# Thank You to Our Sponsors





# WILDFIRE RESILIENCY AND TRAINING SUMMIT



For more information visit [wildfiresummit.ca](http://wildfiresummit.ca)