



FOR RELEASE
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FireSmart projects help protect and prepare Yukon communities

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon will provide \$850,000 to fund FireSmart projects across the territory in 2015/16, subject to legislative approval.

"FireSmart projects help safeguard communities and educate Yukoners about reducing the risk of wildfires," Minister of Community Services Currie Dixon said. "This program puts local contractors to work reducing the buildup of the brush and deadfall that helps wildfires spread in community greenbelts."

Applications for 2015/16 funding are due by April 15. Following a technical review, successful proponents will be notified in August and are required to complete their projects by March 31, 2016.

In 2014/15 the FireSmart program funded 30 projects across the territory, including a \$35,000 project by the Porter Creek Community Association.

"The Porter Creek Community Association was pleased to continue FireSmart treatments in nearby forested areas to safeguard our community and our homes," Porter Creek Community Association president Jeffrey Marynowski said. "Through the FireSmart program we have received funding for several years already to reduce fire risk in our greenspaces. This work is contributing to the safety of our community and showing residents what they can do to protect their own properties."

The success of FireSmart programs depends on cooperation and collaboration between the Yukon government, local governments, communities and homeowners.

"Homeowners also have a role to play in safeguarding their properties from wildfires," Dixon added. "They can reduce their risk substantially by properly installing and permitting backyard fire pits, cleaning up dead grass and forest debris, stacking firewood away from homes, and cleaning out rain gutters."

More than \$13 million has been invested in 395 FireSmart projects across Yukon over the last 16 years. FireSmart funding is available to First Nations and municipal governments, registered non-profit organizations, community associations and school councils.

Learn more:

Visit FireSmart or contact the FireSmart coordinator at 867-667-3013

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See backgrounder and appendix with 2014/2015 funding recipients.

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Background

- Most Yukoners live in the fire-prone boreal forest and some areas have accumulated elevated levels of deadfall and forest debris over the years.
- The Government of Yukon works to reduce wildfire risk near communities by supporting community-led FireSmart programs on public lands and encouraging private property owners to minimize the amount of forest debris on their land.
- The Government of Yukon encourages rural property owners and residents living along greenbelts to use the following proven FireSmart practices to reduce the risk of fire spreading to homes:
 - Stack firewood and other combustibles away from houses and buildings.
 - Remove lower branches and space trees while maintaining as much of the natural surroundings as possible.
 - Remove deadfall, tall grasses and shrubs around houses and buildings.
 - Keep areas under decks and stairs free of leaves, needles, debris and combustible materials.
 - Encourage the growth of fire-resistant vegetation and trees.
 - Install fire-resistant roofing and siding when carrying out home renovations or repairs.
- On larger rural properties, creating openings in forested areas can encourage new growth and maintain fire-resistant species in mixed stands of trees.

2014/2015 FireSmart funding recipient list

In 2014/15, 27 organizations were funded to deliver 30 FireSmart projects totalling \$850,000.

Organization	Community	Funding
First Nations		
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Carcross	20,000
Champagne/Aishihik First Nation	Haines Junction	30,000
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun	Mayo	23,500
Kluane First Nation	Burwash Landing	30,000

Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Whitehorse & Area	35,000
Little Salmon Carmacks FN	Carmacks	20,000
Ross River Dena Council	Ross River	20,000
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	Whitehorse & Area	35,000
Teslin Tlingit Council	Teslin	20,000
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Dawson	25,000
Municipalities		
Town of Faro	Faro	17,000
Town of Watson Lake	Watson Lake	30,000
Village of Carmacks	Carmacks	20,000
Village of Haines Junction (2 projects)	Haines Junction	55,000
Village of Mayo	Mayo	30,000
Village of Teslin	Teslin	40,000
Community Organizations:		
Copper Ridge Neighbourhood Association	Whitehorse & Area	25,000
Crestview Community Association	Whitehorse & Area	30,000
Granger Community Association (2 projects)	Whitehorse & Area	42,500
Lorne Mountain Community Association (2 projects)	Whitehorse & Area	67,000
Marsh Lake Emergency Services Society	Marsh Lake	40,000
McLean Lake Residents' Association	Whitehorse & Area	30,000

Mendenhall Recycling Society	Mendenhall	30,000
Porter Creek Community Association	Whitehorse & Area	35,000
Riverdale Community Association	Whitehorse & Area	25,000
South McClintock Community Association	Marsh Lake	30,000
Tagish Volunteer Fire Department Society	Tagish	45,000
Total		\$850,000

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