



FireSmart Alberta

2022-2024 Strategic Plan

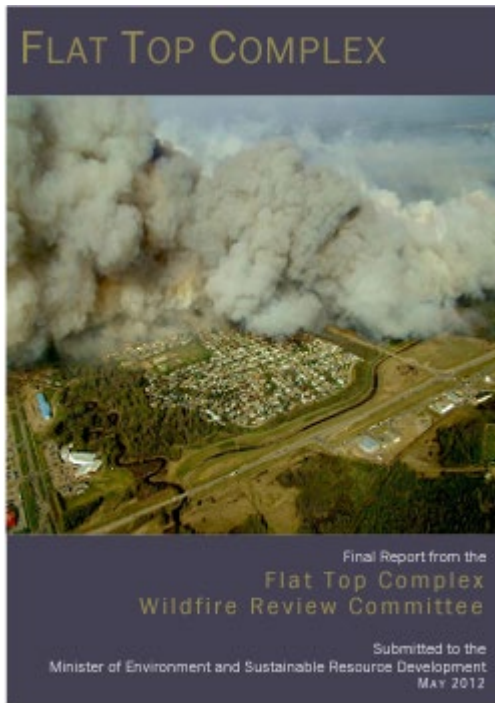
Alberta Municipalities – Public Risk Conference
April 28, 2022

Agenda

- FireSmart Alberta
- Board of Directors
- Strategic plan
- Get involved!
- Questions and discussion



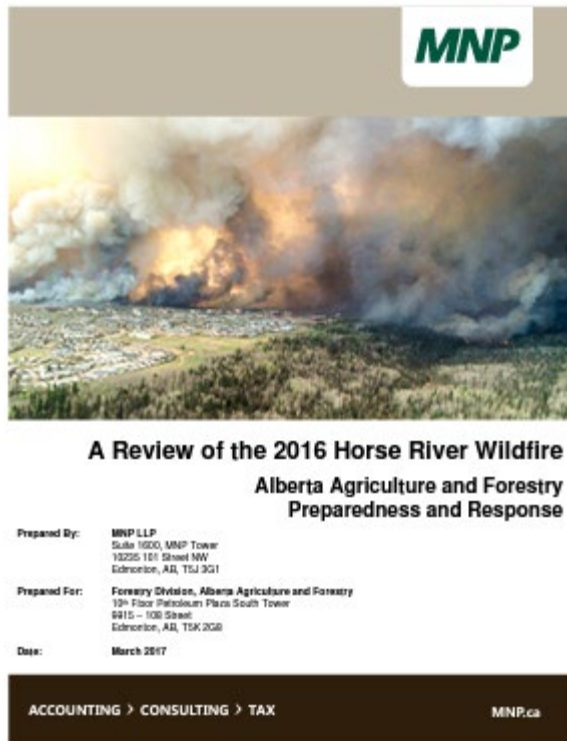
The Why - FireSmart Alberta



Recommendation 4 2011 Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review

Wildfire mitigation and preparedness should be a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and municipal governments, private landowners and industry. An external process involving other partners such as the AUMA, RMA, ISC, Municipal Affairs, etc should be established to identify and administer funding, including establishing priorities.

The Why - FireSmart Alberta



Recommendation 8 Review of the 2016 Horse River Wildfire

Emphasize a long-term vision for FireSmart within the province that includes community responsibility, multi-agency collaboration and an outcome-based approach to implementing FireSmart projects. Ensure all seven FireSmart disciplines are addressed.

The Why - FireSmart Alberta



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November 2020

Recommendation 1 Spring 2019 Wildfire Review

Immediately implement a government wide, disaster resilience and prevention focused task force to enhance the adoption of FireSmart activities and principles across government, at the community level and to incorporate wildfire prevention in community services.

Common theme...

No one agency, person, project, or action can reduce wildfire risk completely.



FireSmart history

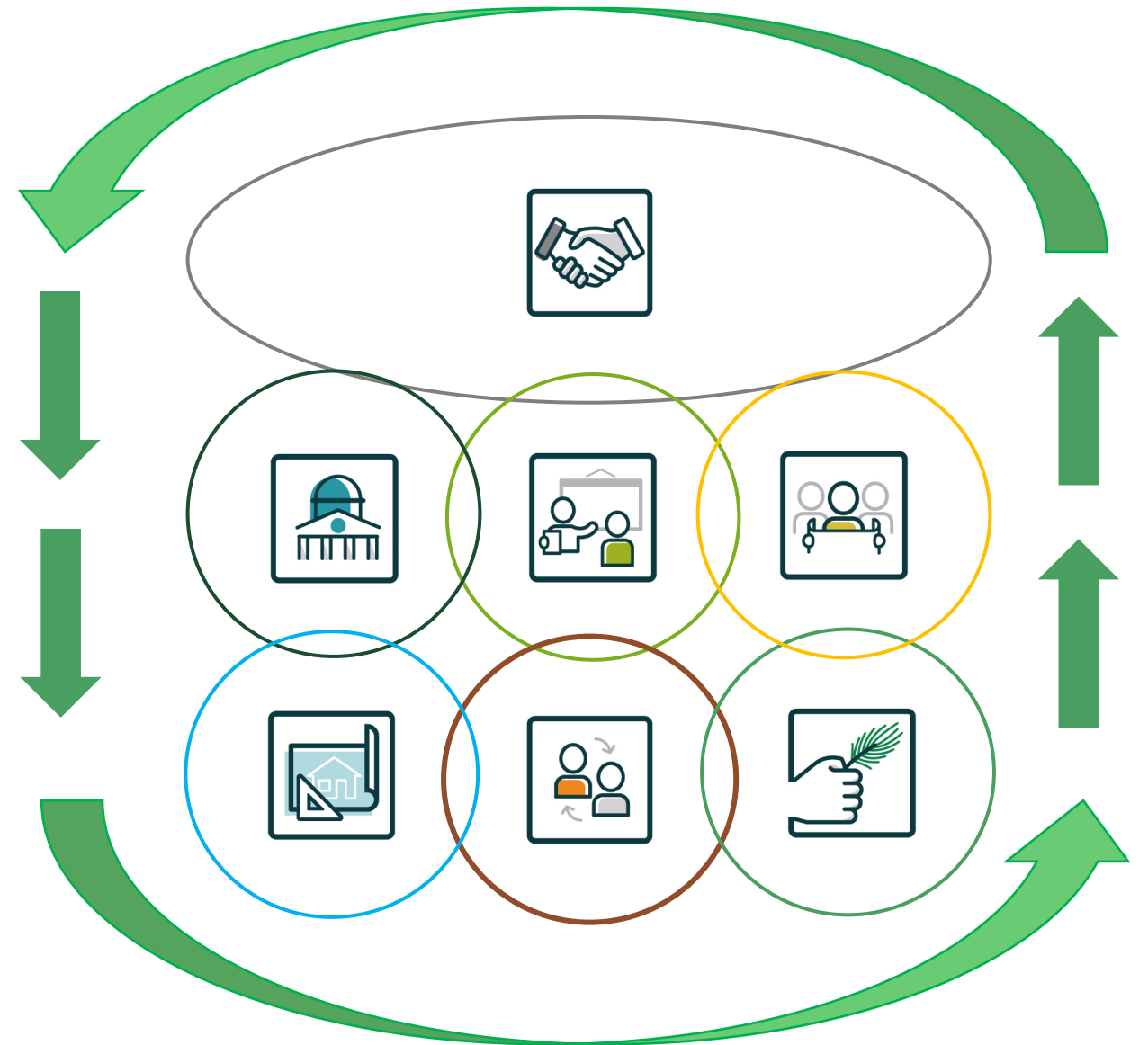


Education / Legislation / Education / Emergency Planning / Development / Vegetation Management / Interagency Cooperation

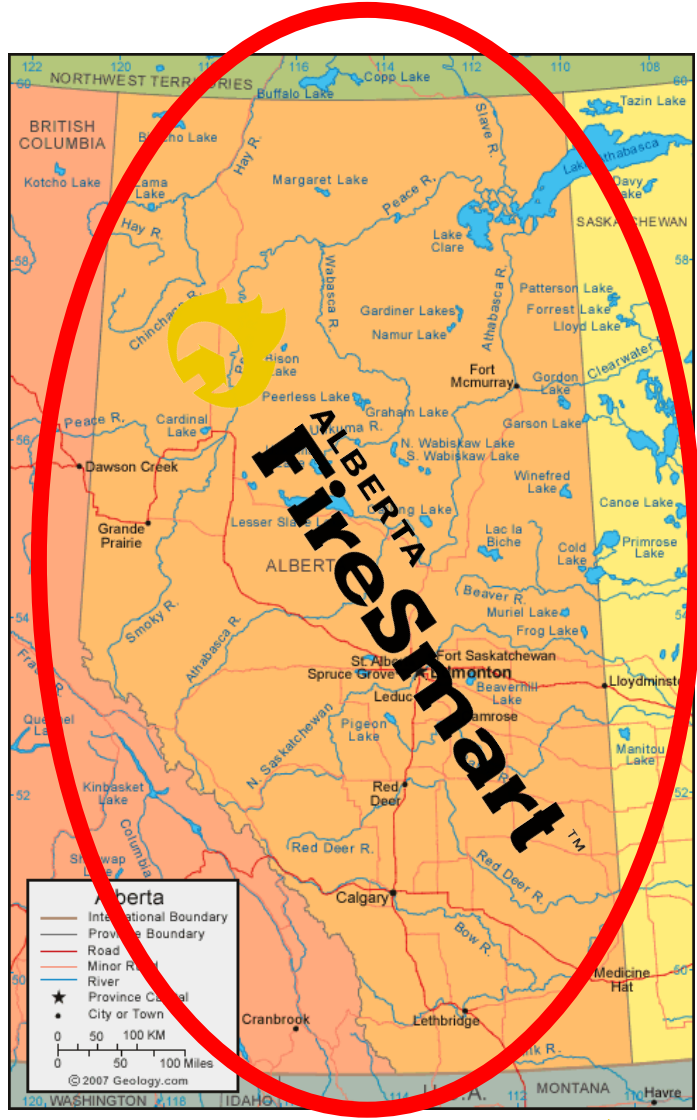
Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development provides leadership in the FireSmart arena, but does not have the delegated authority in all of the disciplines.

FireSmart system

- Think of FireSmart as a system
- Each of the seven FireSmart disciplines play a critical role in increasing community wildfire resilience
- Vegetation mgmt. is the dominant discipline used in Alberta
- We will make it easier to take a balanced approach



An ALL of Alberta approach to wildfire resilience





Strategic Plan

2022-2024



FireSmart™ and associated Marks are registered trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).



Simplify the process for communities





Strategic Plan

2022-2024



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The Breakdown

- Goals
- Objectives (accountable for growth)
- Key initiatives (building blocks to accomplish deliverables)



Priorities

- ALL of Alberta approach
- Determine our baseline
- Understand where the gaps exist
- Define the current process
- Simplify the FireSmart process
- Get everyone involved
- Measure, measure, measure
- Keep the conversation going



Our Vision

Alberta communities are empowered with the knowledge and tools they need to live resiliently with wildfire.

Wildfires are part of our history, and we know that they will continue to threaten Alberta communities. FireSmart Alberta will provide the tools and resources needed to help communities live resiliently with wildfire, leading to a stronger and more prosperous province.



■ VISION

Alberta communities are empowered with the knowledge and tools they need to live resiliently with wildfire.



Our Mission

We drive the balanced application of all seven FireSmart disciplines in Alberta.

The FireSmart program is implemented through seven disciplines to help communities address the threat of wildfire:



Education



Emergency Planning



Vegetation Management



Legislation



Interagency Cooperation



Cross-Training



Development

Applying FireSmart principles and best practices across all seven FireSmart disciplines is imperative to managing wildfire risk and impact.

FireSmart Alberta will develop a clear and concise road map towards broadening municipal and Indigenous community engagement to measurably increase the application of all FireSmart disciplines in the province.

■ MISSION

We drive the balanced application of all seven FireSmart disciplines in Alberta.



ALBERTA
FireSmartTM

Goal #1: Alberta's Source

FireSmart Alberta will be recognized as the source for FireSmart across all seven disciplines in Alberta.

Living in a FireSmart way requires collaboration — and coordination. FireSmart Alberta will be a prominent and active advocate for wildfire resilience, and the most effective source for our partners to learn how to implement FireSmart strategies within their communities.

■ Goal 1

FireSmart Alberta will be recognized as the source for FireSmart across all seven disciplines in Alberta.



■ Goal 1: Alberta's source

Issue

- FireSmart is complex
- Lack of capacity and budget
- Need for an all of Alberta approach
- Disconnect

Action

- Build the FireSmart Alberta brand
- Provincial FireSmart marketing, communications and advertising strategy
- Improve access to FireSmart info
- Marketing and communications plan template

Expected outcomes

- Improved understanding of FireSmart best practices
- FireSmart Alberta becomes the go-to source
- Albertan's understand their role



Goal #2: Education Leader

FireSmart Alberta will become the education leader, focused on developing results-based tools for all seven FireSmart disciplines.

Building a FireSmart province requires the buy-in of governments, communities, everyday Albertans, and our youth. We want FireSmart Alberta to provide the most comprehensive education portal for wildfire resilience in Canada, all to increase awareness and implementation of FireSmart initiatives, as well as prepare the next generation to live resiliently with wildfires.

■ Goal 2

FireSmart Alberta will become the education leader, focused on developing results-based tools for all seven FireSmart disciplines.



■ Goal 2: Education leader

Issue

- FireSmart is complex
- Lack of capacity & budget
- Lack of grassland resources
- All seven disciplines are not being applied in Alberta



Action

- Turnkey solutions and templates
- FireSmart school education program
- Annual FireSmart Alberta conference
- Seven discipline roadmaps
- Improved FireSmart education

Expected outcomes

- Albertans understand the importance of FireSmart and their responsibility
- Increased number of recognized neighbourhoods in Alberta
- Increased number of communities using home assessment tool
- Consistent approach used across Alberta



Goal #3: Traditional Knowledge

FireSmart Alberta will strive to learn, acknowledge, and embody traditional Indigenous knowledge.

Indigenous communities in Alberta's wildland-urban interface (WUI) have made significant strides combatting wildfire's effects by incorporating traditional practices and knowledge. These communities are often on the front lines of wildfires and feel the effects more critically than most. As a result of this experience, we have much to learn from Indigenous leaders, and we can do so by working in a more consistent and collaborative manner. Under FireSmart Alberta, we will forge a new, shared path to build our resilience by incorporating traditional knowledge and helping all Alberta communities develop innovative methods to reduce the risks of wildfire.

■ Goal 3

FireSmart Alberta will strive to learn, acknowledge, and embody traditional Indigenous knowledge.

■ Goal 3: Traditional knowledge

Issue

- Current FireSmart resources lack Indigenous knowledge and strictly align with western science
- Lack of knowledge and understanding on our part

Actions

- BEAHR training program with ECO Canada
- Provincial FireSmart Elder advisory committee
- Braid western science with Traditional Knowledge

Expected outcomes

- Indigenous-led FireSmart resources
- Training materials developed
- Acknowledgement of Indigenous community success
- Commitment to continuous learning



Goal #4: A FireSmart Society

FireSmart Alberta will increase the application of all seven FireSmart disciplines in Alberta and demonstrate continuous improvement.

The measure of our success will be in how many Albertans and their communities implement our programs in tangible ways. We will build awareness for the seven disciplines and work with all stakeholders to help make FireSmart easy, accessible, and effective in communities across Alberta.

Strategies

- Implementation of the seven disciplines across a range of sectors in Alberta.
- FireSmart discipline working groups.
- Better how-to instruction on each discipline.
- Ongoing training programs for municipal officials and Indigenous leaders.



■ Goal 4

FireSmart Alberta will increase the application of all seven FireSmart disciplines in Alberta and demonstrate continuous improvement.



■ Goal 4: A FireSmart society

Issue

- Communities don't understand how to apply each of the seven disciplines
- Each discipline is part of the FireSmart system and needs attention
- Capacity
- Funding challenges

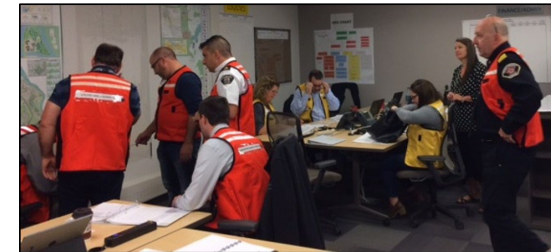


Action

- Provincial needs assessment
- Create How-To Guides for everything (simple)
- Data and analytics
- Improved access to training for everyone
- Open seat at the table
- Work with FRIAA to improve workflow

Expected outcomes

- 25% increase in the application of all seven FireSmart disciplines in Alberta



■ Goal 5

FireSmart Alberta will collaborate with provincial and local governments to effect FireSmart changes in Alberta that support the development of resilient communities.

Goal #5: Resilient Communities

FireSmart Alberta will collaborate with provincial and local governments to effect FireSmart changes in Alberta that support the development of resilient communities.

Development standards play a significant role in reducing a wildfire's potential impact on a community. A building is more likely to be destroyed in a wildfire when it is located in a high-density area where fire is able to easily transfer from building to building. The potential for damage intensifies when flammable building materials are used. FireSmart community planning requires community support and government policy as much as it requires individual action.

■ Goal 5: Resilient communities

Issue

- Lack of provincial guidance on FireSmart development and legislation
- Changes in the built environment are an increasingly critical aspect of living with wildfire
- Communities don't know where to start

Action

- NRC WUI Guide technical committee
- Build partnerships with development industry
- Increased educational opportunities for planners, developers, and officials around FireSmart development and legislation.

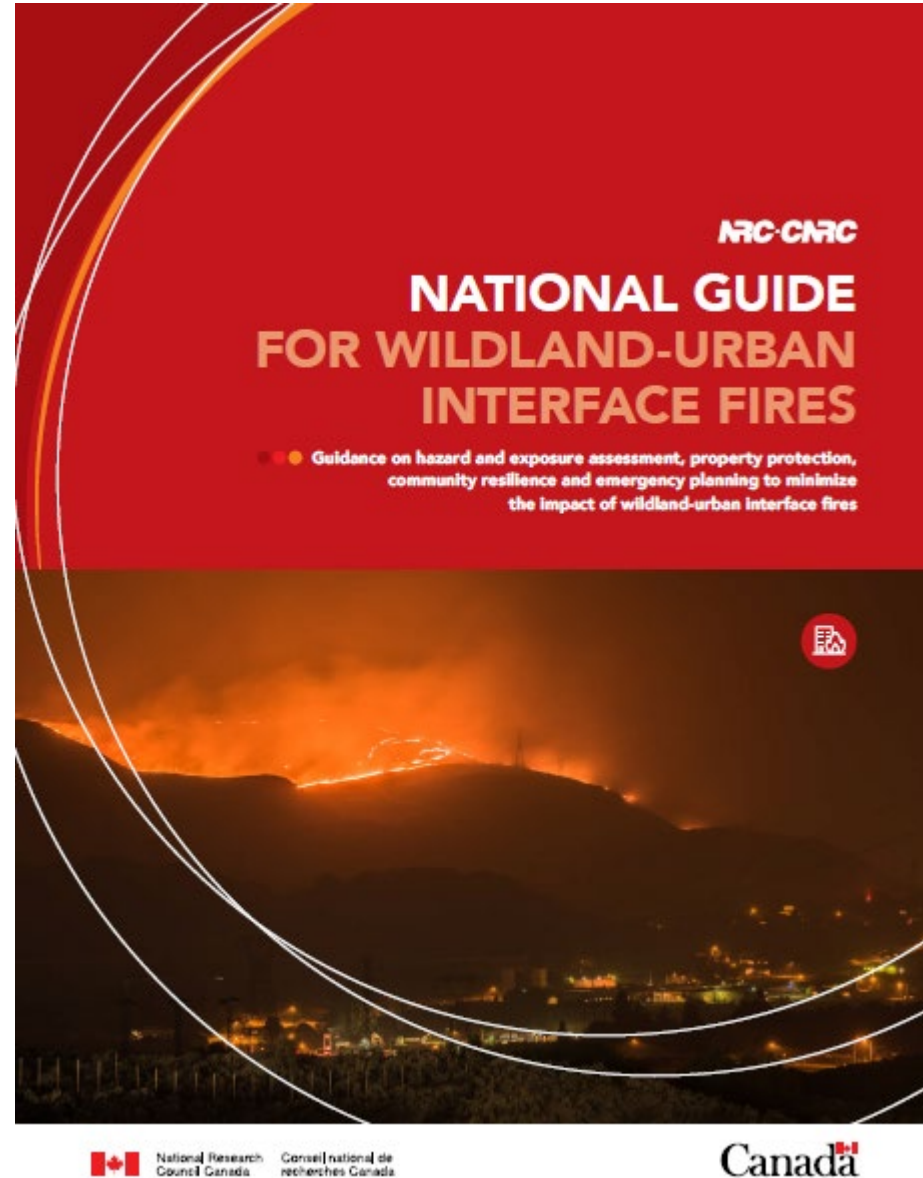


Expected outcomes

- FireSmart home improvement rebate established
- Clear and concise provincial FireSmart development guidelines released
- Formal training created for professional planners in Alberta

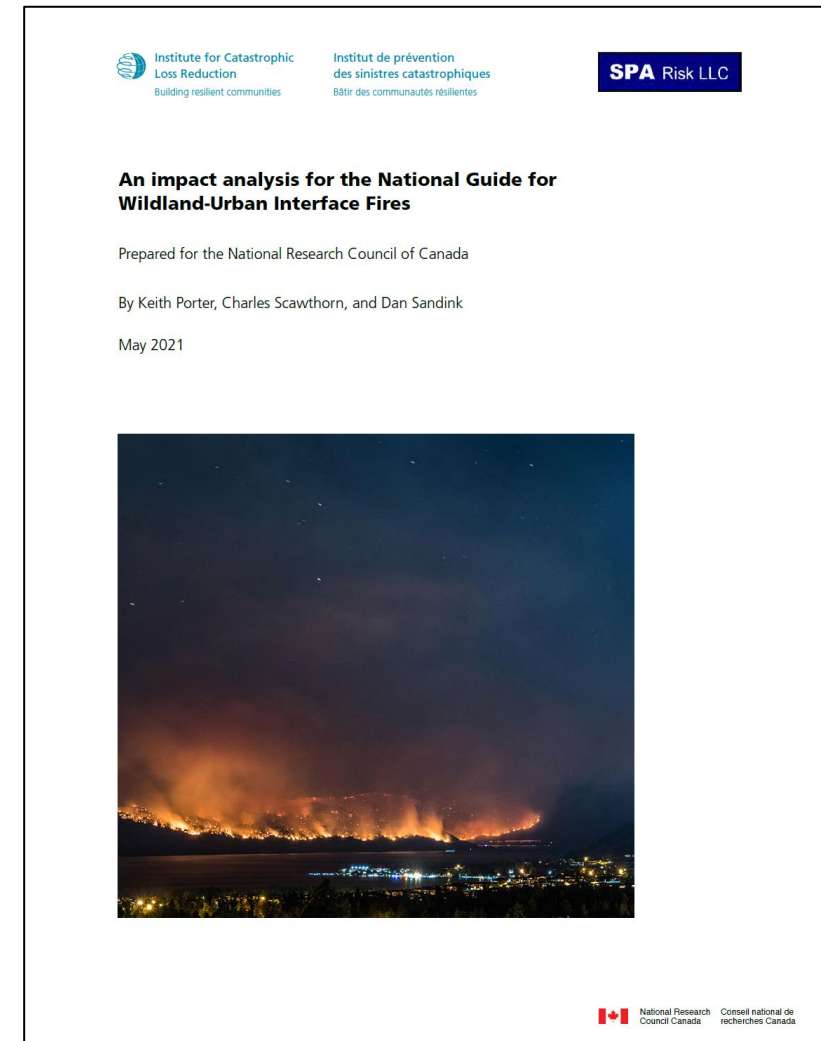


National Guide for Wildland-Urban Interface Fires



Impact Analysis - ICLR

- Climate change makes adaptation more urgent.
- More people are choosing to live in areas prone to wildfire.
- New houses built to satisfy the National WUI Guide recommendations save over 30:1.
- Retrofitting saves up to 14:1.
- Communities save up to 14:1





WILDFIRE-RESILIENCE BEST-PRACTICE CHECKLIST FOR HOME CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND LANDSCAPING



Next Steps

- Form a provincial WUI Guide technical committee to review and recommend the best approach
- Participate in the Wildfire Co-Planning Communities (CPCs): implementing hazard and exposure assessments for Alberta's at-risk communities research project with U of A
- Work with Alberta Professional Planners Institute to design provincial training program for professional planners



Goal #6: Self-Sufficiency

FireSmart Alberta will be financially self-sufficient through traditional funding and strategic partnerships.

Creating a FireSmart province is a long-term project. Working with partners, we aim to build a financially strong organization that can help spread the FireSmart message across Alberta for years to come.

■ Goal 6

FireSmart Alberta will be financially self-sufficient through traditional funding and strategic partnerships.



■ Goal 6: Self-sufficiency

Issue

- Reliance on grant funding
- Need is urgent
- Difficult to make a long-term plan

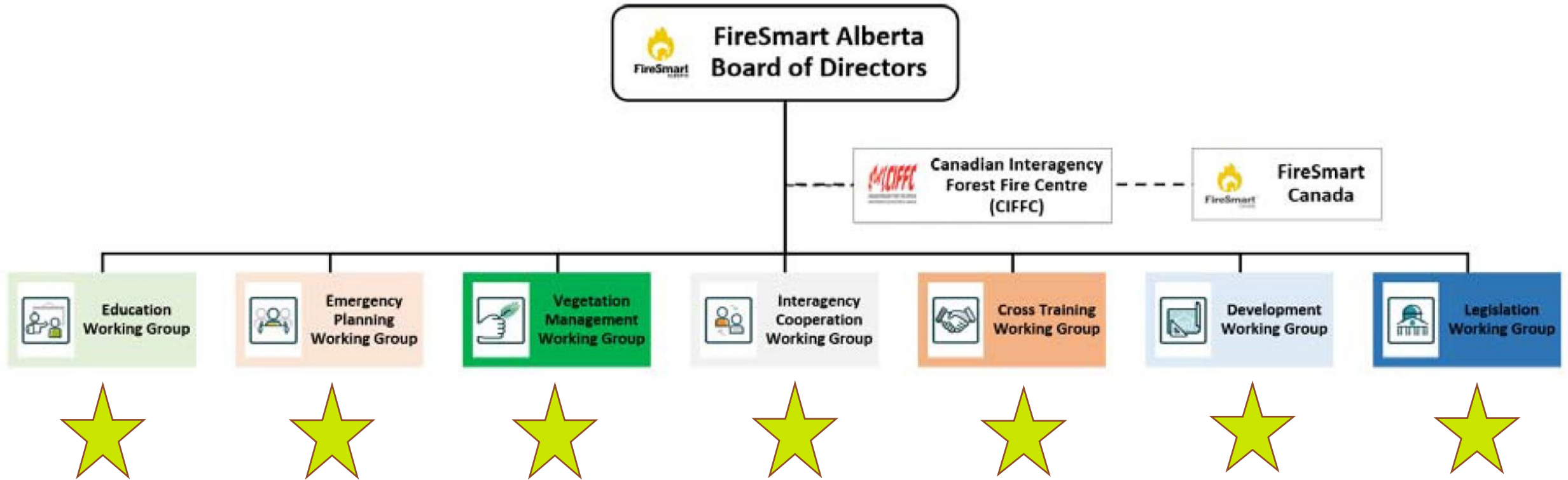
Action

- Strategic partnerships are critical
- Enter the corporate world
- Leverage strategic partners to grow message

Expected outcomes

- One strategic memo-of-understanding established each year
- Long-term funding established for FireSmart Alberta
- FireSmart Alberta team grows to meet growing demand

FireSmart Alberta – GET INVOLVED!



Strategic partnerships are critical to the success of the plan



HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Thank you!



- We all have a role to play in reducing the risk of wildfire damage. All of society approach.
- As we implement this plan, we will focus on developing turnkey solutions to make applying FireSmart principles across all seven disciplines easier and more achievable.
- By coming together with our partners, FireSmart Alberta believes we can build a stronger, more wildfire resilient province.

