

North Cariboo sub-Regional Wildfire Recovery Plan

Funded by: Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC), and Community Wildfire & Provincial Disaster Recovery Branches, Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)

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| Developed By: | North Cariboo Wildfire Recovery Team and Steering Committee |
| Date Submitted: | June 30, 2018 |
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| Geographic Scope for Recovery: | North Cariboo sub-Region of the Cariboo Chilcotin |
| Recovery Scope | Economic, Social, Environmental, Infrastructure |
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| CAO approval/ Sign-off: | Byron Johnson, City Manager |
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Background

The summer of 2017 saw unprecedented wildfires in British Columbia. Though the City of Quesnel was not evacuated or under evacuation alert, businesses and residents in Quesnel were impacted by the highway closure and many in the surrounding North Cariboo sub-region were evacuated and on alert. Emergency Management BC provided funding for the development of this North Cariboo sub-Regional Wildfire Recovery Plan to assess the impacts of the fires, and to develop and begin early and short-term implementation as well outline short, medium and long-term recovery actions.

Originally scheduled from October 2017 – March 2018, the impact assessment and early implementation phase was extended until June 2018 due to the need for continued support. Businesses and non-profits in the North Cariboo sub-Region were affected in various ways and some of the effects may not be realized until much into the future. During the time of the impact assessment phase and early implementation phase of this plan's development, some urban and rural businesses and non-profit organizations faced acute needs and many of these needs do not fit neatly within existing recovery supports.

Furthermore, over the course of the impact assessment there was a delayed realization from many organizations about the affects of the wildfires, and the wildfire recovery team saw an increase in people seeking support after Christmas and again after income tax season. The cyclical and uneven experience of businesses and non-profits, post-wildfire highlights the need for a long-term strategy from the Province to deal with recovery. In practice, full recovery is known to take years; some of the mitigation projects could easily stretch into the next decade.

To carry out the wildfire recovery impact assessment and workplan, the City of Quesnel hired a wildfire recovery team consisting of a wildfire recovery manager, an urban business and non-profit recovery coordinator, a rural business recovery coordinator and a wildfire recovery support assistant. Further, a recovery office was open from November-June in Spirit Centre from Monday-Thursday that provided a space for businesses, non-profits and individuals impacted by wildfires on a drop-in basis and advanced many referrals to the recovery coordinators and Business Ambassadors. Through face to face and telephone interviews as well as surveys, a total of 831 businesses, organisations, and non-profits were reached. The total number of businesses interviewed, assisted or referred was 831. Out of the 831, 708 were impacted within varying degrees from minor to complete disruption; 85% of those interviewed were impacted by wildfires (see related graphs in Appendix 3). The total number of businesses and non-profits assisted, advocated for and supported was 341, with the wildfire coordinators providing long-term support to some of the organisations (for a full breakdown of those assisted, see Appendix 1).

The team provided continual support to a number of the businesses and non-profits throughout the assessment period to find the correct resources, capture unmet needs and find funding. The team advocated and provided logistical support to get a Community Wellness Coordinator for Quesnel, Nazko and Kersley areas. The team now sits on the Wellness Committee to provide background and direction to the newly hired Community Wellness Coordinator. Further, the team worked with local conservation stewardship groups in the region to understand some of the ecological impacts and how they may be addressed and continue to share information on an ongoing basis.

What is Recovery?

Recovery is the restoration, re-development, and/or rehabilitation of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of economically impacted populations to a level that meets, or in some cases improves upon, the original condition. Recovery planning is a legislated component of community emergency preparedness planning under the Emergency Program Act (Section 6.2).

The North Cariboo Sub-Region Recovery Plan fits into the management of the interface through the 2017 Quesnel and Surrounding Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2017) which dove-tails with Quesnel's emergency preparedness planning. Addressing interface characteristics and response strategies will help the community of Quesnel and surrounding area better prepare for wildfire and floods. The Recovery Plan will go into effect at the appropriate time during Emergency Response, as there are some resources we now know are needed immediately.

Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC), Community Wildfire & Provincial Economic Recovery Branches, Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) have outlined four recovery components in the Recovery Work Plan and Recovery Needs: A Guide for Community Wildfire Recovery Planning Document. These components include:

- **Social:** To ensure the right resources are available to support the overall physical, mental and social well-being of economically impacted communities, municipalities, First Nations, families and individual British Columbians.
- **Economy:** To nurture an environment that supports the rehabilitation of and reinvestment in disrupted economies and businesses.
- **Environment:** To protect and re-establish the environment to a healthy state and mitigate long-term environmental effects and risks.
- **Infrastructure:** To enable the safe and orderly restoration of damaged infrastructure within impacted areas.

How to use this plan

This plan is laid out in 4 parts; **Section 1** outlines the collated list from the Impact Summary and Recovery Action Table and includes the identified needs, emergent resources and collaborations, as well as gaps that need to be filled and the specific requests for support from the Province. **Section 2** includes the lessons learned and measures that are recommended for future recovery response when the sub region needs to institute recovery-mode. The recommendations contained in this section are based on the 2017 the impact assessment but can be transferred to future disasters. **Section 3** contains the Impact Summary and Recovery Action Table, and **Section 4** contains appendices of interim and special recommendations made by the recovery team during the course of this work.

Section 1 – The Recovery Needs and Requests for Support for the North Cariboo Sub-Region

The following is a collated list that includes: the identified needs, emergent resources and collaborations, as well as gaps that need to be filled and the specific requests for support from the province. All of the information contained in this collated summary is also recorded in the summary table below and has been pulled together here for easy reference (not every item in the table is in the summary list, only the key recommendations).

1. Fuel Management

Immediate request: Expedite all mechanisms to treat high vulnerability areas quickly; all areas need to be treated within a condensed timeframe. Enable means to restore forest stand conditions through landscape level planning for ecosystem restoration of fire-maintained ecosystems. Mitigate wildfire risk inside and outside of the wildland urban interface by finding the intersections between public safety, forest health and human health (reduced PM 2.5 from prescribed burns).

Identified need: Province to expand fuel management beyond existing programs and place fuel management back under the mandate of MFLNRORD (not left to the municipalities to advance).

Emergent resources and collaborations: Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Range Branch, Fuel Management Specialists to advance ecosystem restoration and restore grassland and open forests. Dr Paul Hessburg and Bob Gray, advance the landscape model and the [7 core principles to restoring fire-prone landscapes](#). Think Tank participants, Quesnel Forest District, BC Timber Sales, Community Resilience Investment Program (CRIP).

Identified gap: Fuel management projects in the WUI are often small in size and benefit due to cost constraints. Projects are developed, sized, and carried out based on the local government's *ability to pay*, not on the best forest management treatment to reduce wildfire threats. This results in a patchwork of disjointed fuel treatments where the highest threat areas get treated but there is little continuity to be truly effective. Further, the legal liability and consequences in the event of a damaging wildfire, of alleged damage losses and/or personal injury claims can be substantial. This area of liability is not well developed. Finally, the CCLUP and Land Use Order make it almost impossible to carry out Fuel management treatments on designated areas (Old Growth Management Areas, Mule Deer Winter Range and Visual Quality Objectives are the main ones of concern).

Opportunities for support: Province support local governments by bringing fuel management back under FLNRORD's mandate and advance initiatives that can take into account large-scale habitat connectivity and disturbance flow issues. Also, the Province/Federal governments make funding available for private landowners to assess and manage fuels on private properties to mitigate risk within the WUI.

2. Incentives for Firesmarting

Immediate request: Support a major pilot in Quesnel to demonstrate FireSmart treatments on private lands. Fire Smart BC, Fire Smart Canada to work with Insurance Companies to provide further incentives and discounts for private individuals to fire smart their property.

Identified need: Need financial support so City of Quesnel can take the lead on Firesmarting City-owned land. Need to get private landowners to Firesmart properties to ensure that all the fuel mitigation work that is done on crown lands is supported by work completed on private land. Many private landowners that share the concern do not have the financial resources to complete this work.

Identified gap: The CRIP funding to be made available to communities and private land owners. Incentives that insurance companies can offer and promote to residence through long term costs savings that may not buy into current fire smarting. as it stands.

Opportunities for support: Provincial Government enable the City of Quesnel to lead by example in Firesmarting their properties. Private Insurance Companies, ICBC, Firesmart Canada, Firesmart BC, Canadian Insurance Corporation. Support a major pilot in Quesnel to demo Firesmarting on private lands. City of Quesnel, industry, and private land owners could work together on a project that Firesmart the community while also enhancing our trail network.

3. Transition Planning and Implementation

Immediate request: Support development of a communications protocol for the North Cariboo sub region between the City of Quesnel, CRD, First Nations, and major employers to address: 1) the uncertainty about the economy, and 2) the emergent opportunities in other economic areas (including agriculture, mining, and forestry innovation). Provision of funds to implement Quesnel's transition strategy that will address the impact on the North Cariboo's economy

Identified needs: Quesnel was a community in transition before the fires due to Mountain Pine Beetle; the wildfires have elevated the urgency of our transition needs. Businesses are facing uncertainty; there is a need to communicate the current state of the forest industry, opportunities for development, and implementation of strategies for the diversification of the local economy both across sectors, and within the forestry sector.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Local Industry, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, City of Quesnel, Cariboo Regional District, Northern Development Initiative Trust, University of Northern BC, College of New Caledonia and Innovation agencies.

Identified gaps: The identified gaps are: provincial communications around annual allowable cut determination; industry communications around current investments; and municipal capacity for transition planning and implementation with a communications and public outreach component.

Opportunities for support: City of Quesnel has received Rural Dividend funding to begin work on its Economic Transition Strategy but still requires further funds for implementation.

4. Forestry Research and Innovation

Immediate request: Resourced positions to maintain momentum by implementing the deliverables and the action plan resulting from the Forestry Think Tank and lands designated for a Community Forest.

Identified need: Quesnel remains one of BC's most forest dependent communities and the Quesnel Timber Supply Area (QTSA) has been hardest hit by both the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic and last season's wildfires, creating significant uncertainty about the economic future of our region. However, Quesnel is still home to one of the most integrated and diverse concentrations of wood products manufacturing facilities in the world, including many best in class milling and processing operations.

Emergent resources and collaborations: The action plan coming out of the Forestry Think Tank held in Quesnel on May 3rd and May 4th, 2018. Event organizers and participants included: University of Northern BC and College of New Caledonia, MoFLNRORD, FP Innovations policy-makers, First Nations, local technical representatives, researchers, funding agencies, and industry. Together, participants defined and described collaborative projects that could be undertaken in the Quesnel area and that would enable the provincial government to test new approaches to forest management and for industry to experiment with new manufacturing processes and opportunities for commercialization.

Identified gaps: New way needed to manage forests, including increasing prescribed burns, managing for multiple values, relationships and frameworks, concentrated effort to secure pilots for land management, and forest product use in manufacturing. Lands that can be managed and resources extracted through a Community Forest that will provide fuel reduction, trails, and lands for piloting new management priorities.

Opportunities for support: There is an opportunity for Ministry of FLNRORD (including Quesnel Forest District), Industry, UNBC, CNC, FP Innovations, Pacific BioEnergy, BC Community Forest Association, First Nations capitalise on emergent opportunities including but not limited to a pilot of landscape level planning in the Region.

5. Collaboration for Ecological Restoration

Immediate request: A protocol needs to be set up with all orders of government (local, provincial, federal, First Nation) and non-government interests to communicate and identify potential collaborations for Ecological Recovery.

Identified need: Establish a multi-party local working group to provide input into ecological recovery plans and enable

collaborations to incorporate all ecological values (ecosystem resilience including: wildlife, hydrology, social, tourism, visual, recreation and other non-timber values).

Emergent resources and collaborations: FLNRORD Land and Resource Section Heads, Ecosystem Restoration Team Leaders, and all other representatives. Conservation groups have ecological restoration expertise, prioritization experience and can help leverage funding towards restoring riparian values.

Identified gaps: Communications of the province's plans to the interested parties as well as the general public; a formalised mechanism to allow external input and leveraging of resources and expertise for full ecological restoration.

Opportunities for support: There is an opportunity for orders of government (federal, provincial, local, First Nation) to work with local conservation interests to advance landscape level planning, management and reliance building. Potential to work with new fire management stakeholder groups at landscape levels that have been identified through Forestry Think Tank proceedings and the new land use planning for the Region.

6. Emergency Preparedness

Immediate request: Create a full-time, permanent position for Emergency Social Services and Recovery. This person would be responsible for keeping up emergency plans, drills, ramping up recovery when needed, coordinating collaborations between school district, province, Northern Health other parties etc. This will allow the North Cariboo to initiate recovery mechanisms immediately to minimize the long-term effects of the disaster.

Identified needs: The North Cariboo does not have a dedicated staff person to ensure that all of the emergency procedures and protocols are kept up to date, that new staff are trained and practiced in procedure that partnerships and communications are developed and maintained, and coordination of recovery efforts in all pillars is supported.

Emergent Resources and Collaborations: Funding for full time and permanent position.

Identified gap: Without a resourced position, parts and pieces of this work are left to existing staff and is completed in a piecemeal way without the benefit of collaboration or consistency of practice.

Opportunities for support: MFLNRORD fund a full FTE for the sub-Region to assist CRD and municipality with consistent Emergency Social Services and Recovery. Federal government may be able to assist with funding.

7. Support for Rural, and Urban Business, Non-Profits and Festivals

Immediate request: Support for businesses and non-profits to enhance their delivery supports. Support the function of facilitating business, non-profit and festivals strategic growth and provide expertise to help grow the businesses, agencies, and festivals.

Identified need: Small businesses need support over the long term. Non-profits and festivals need to recover their lost revenues from the 2017 wildfires and build resiliency for the future. At times, non-profits and festivals are very good at delivering the service or product but do not have the volunteer resources or expertise to optimize. There is a gap in providing expertise and services at no cost for non-profits and festivals to help them stay competitive, grow and find future opportunities that will either bring more dollars into our community or provide increased services. Small business requires longer term support to recover.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Wildfire Recovery Coordinators and Community Futures Business Ambassadors are currently supporting businesses, non-profits and festivals in accessing income recovery, loans, and other growth and project funds through a variety of sources including Red Cross, Rural Dividend and Northern Development Initiative Trust Capital Investment. Wildfire Recovery Coordinators are in effect until June 30, 2018. Community Ambassadors are in effect until October 2018. Businesses may access NDIT's consultancy rebate program to analyze future business activities.

Identified gap: There has been an increase in businesses, non-profits and festivals looking for support since tax season and the start up the summer season. It is expected that some seasonal operators will not completely understand their full losses until a second summer season is completed.

Opportunities for support: Extended support in accessing income recovery and funding such as interest free loans, credit extensions, and deferral of business taxes, wage subsidies, and support for building resilience within the business or organization is needed. Reopening Red Cross financial support to business.

8. Support for Tourism Sector

Immediate requests: 1) Expedite City of Quesnel's upcoming Municipal and Regional Tax Application (MRDT) and provide support where needed in the process. 2) Expedite tenure applications for land-based tourism operators from our region. 3) Increase Quesnel's profile across Destination BC marketing platforms.

Identified need: The visitor economy ground to a halt the summer of 2017; tourism related businesses continue to struggle and need an immediate boost. Strategic long-term marketing assistance is needed to increase the profile of the North Cariboo sub-region (Rural Dividend Special Circumstances funding received for this purpose). Expedited tenure applications for tourism operators on the land base impacted by fires. Support in completing Quesnel's MRDIT application.

Emergent resources and collaborations: BIAs, Chamber of Commerce, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, tourism businesses, Barkerville Heritage Trust, NDIT, CRD, MRDT (Ministry of Finance), Destination BC, MFLNRORD (Crown Lands), MTAC.

Identified gap: Loss of revenue due to loss of visitors. There is a need to bring more visitors that will buy food, hotel rooms, and services. There is a gap in marketing to harness more year-round tourism, and particularly in the winter months when

business is slower. Funding was provided directly to CCCTA for marketing. This funding was used for a handful of businesses but not to market the region as a whole.

Opportunities for support: City of Quesnel has received marketing support from Rural Dividend (\$250,000 over two years), MRDT will be sustainable funding to support these efforts. Continued support for increased marketing funds, direct assistance to business, expedited tenure applications, event support; sending an influencer to the North Cariboo, as was done in the South and Central Cariboo, increased content on the Destination BC DAM for the North Cariboo and capital tourism asset development (parking access to Quesnel River for rafting, hiking, biking, kayakers and other river and trail sports). Long-term sustainable operating and projects funding for Barkerville Historic Town & Park and Cottonwood House administered through the Heritage Site Management Agreement (HSMA) between the Province and the Barkerville Heritage Trust.

9. Support for trappers, guide outfitters, miners and small land-based operations

Immediate request: Referred to Cariboo Regional District to work with regional associations to support solutions. This needs to be addressed at a Provincial level as there is nothing in place at local or regional levels. This is identified in CRD Recovery Plan in general terms but not specifically identified as industries with specific needs.

Identified need: Several North Cariboo trappers and Guide Outfitters lost their entire trap lines and hunting areas. Wildlife Inventories are needed to assess Wildfire impact, compensations beyond the Red Cross are required. New areas or new income generation is required.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests Lands and Rural Development, Guide Outfitters Associations, community based organizations, conservation groups will need to work together to conduct habitat and wildlife surveys, develop other streams of income or compensation, work with ecological restoration to ensure that all values are addressed.

Identified gap: Some trappers and guides have lost their livelihoods. Wildlife inventory assessment and mitigations need to be developed. Areas need to be restored for small mammals. Employment is needed near the land base where trap lines were.

Opportunities for support: Province work to employ trappers and outfitters, who have lost their livelihoods, to conduct inventories, assessments and recommendations under the guidance of the Provincial government. Work with universities to conduct field work.

10. Review Delivery Mechanism for Recovery Support

Immediate requests: 1) Address the disconnect or 'catch-22' around the "build back better" philosophy and Red Cross's mandate of returning to normal, but not better. 2) Extend the final phase of the Red Cross to the December 31 2020 or later if needed. Many businesses and non-profits are only now realizing the impacts (as of March as they complete their taxes and

start the summer season. 3) Require Red Cross to provide quantitative region-specific and sector-specific data and clarify what happens to remaining funds after the close of the funding envelope.

Identified need: Due to the fact that humanitarian relief is the primary function of the Red Cross in responding to disasters, there is the public perception that people should not be taking funds from those who are “more in need” than themselves. The North Cariboo Wildfire Recovery team had to explain to many potential proponents that the Red Cross was the custodian of Provincial funds; communications need to be positioned differently - “this is tax-payer money that has been given to a charity to manage; all those affected by the wildfires should apply”.

There is an identified need for more consistent access to funding; some applications are processed within 2 weeks and others 6 weeks or more. Some applicants are getting full requested amounts while others are granted only partial funding; obvious funding algorithm problems exist as a group that put in over 10,000 hours of volunteer work, retrieving and caring for evacuated animals and spent over \$27,000 dollars, received a \$4,500 reimbursement.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Each community would need to determine the best funding delivery model on their own; options could include: The Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Quesnel Community Foundation, Community Futures, Northern Development Initiative Trust .

Identified gaps: Communication gaps exist including: the availability of funding, where to access, how to apply, and who should apply. Further, utilising out of town contractors to deliver application support led to challenges that could have been avoided. The contractor site-visits were poorly marketed and without the active efforts of the Wildfire Recovery Team and Business Ambassadors, there would have been limited uptake for these one-on-one support sessions.

Section 2 Lessons learned – Steps for Sub-Regional “Recovery Mode”

The purpose of this section is to outline the lessons learned and measures that are recommended for future recovery response when the sub region recovery-mode is triggered. The recommendations contained in this section are based on the 2017 impact assessment and recovery process but can be transferred to future disasters.

1. **Enable immediate hiring of recovery manager, coordinators and office support:** Province needs to provide funds to enable the immediate establishment of a Recovery Coordinator, Community Wellness Coordinator, Business Ambassadors, and Resiliency Centre in response to large scale events. To enable this, when the City receives a task number for ESS, the Recovery Manager and Wellness Coordinator functions can come into effect quickly to address social issue and safety concerns etc. Enabling a recovery office (such as the one located in Spirit Centre in 2017-2018) is also an important component to providing needed support.

2. **Establish Reference Group/Steering Committee:** A reference group was established early during the fires of 2017. This group included the BIAs, Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures, and local government. This group met regularly to ensure resources were being used effectively to assist business and non-profits prior to any additional support/capacity from the Province. This group continued to meet through the process to stay informed about recovery activities, and limit duplication of efforts. Additional members to add: United Way Wellness Coordinator, Community Wildfire Recovery Acting Manager, local First Nations' recovery managers.
3. **Assess and address community needs:** Every disaster will be different. Once a recovery team is in place, work should immediately begin on a needs assessment and a prioritization of activities to address those needs. A triage system worked well for business and non-profits during the 2017 wildfires, with Recovery Coordinators, and later Business Ambassadors, working with business and non-profits to access available funding programs. The recovery team should be mindful of "survey fatigue" and should work collaboratively with community agencies where possible. Focus groups may be another way to enable sharing, with individual follow up as needed.
4. **Assist businesses and non-profits to prepare for disaster:** As part of the recovery process, the City of Quesnel and the Chamber of Commerce hosted [The 10 Steps to Prepare your Business for Evacuation](#); a tool kit from the British Columbia Economic Development Association which is a useful framework to assist businesses and non-profits to prepare for evacuation and re-entry. The Recovery Coordinators and the Chamber of Commerce is implementing an emergency protocol and putting together a communications package, and business lists to be used post disaster to support local business as they return or re-open. The full time permanent position listed in Recommendation 2 (page 4) would be responsible for continuing to work with the Chamber and keep these lists and protocols current.
5. **Enable homeowners to prepare for disaster, evacuation and re-entry:** Through Cariboo Regional District and City of Quesnel websites, applicable community events, as well as through social media, recovery managers and local governments can distribute the following information:
 - [FireSmart & Wildfire Prevention Programs](#) - FireSmart is a national initiative to help property owners and communities understand the ways in which wildfire might threaten structures and property located in, and close to, forested and wildland areas, and the steps individuals and communities can take to reduce the susceptibility of buildings and property. Click [here](#) for information on Wildfire prevention programs and [FireSmart](#). A copy of the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual is available on the side bar.
 - [PreparedBC](#) - British Columbia's one-stop shop for disaster readiness information. Depending on the emergency, you and your family could be on your own for several days while first responders manage the aftermath. Sounds daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Our goal is to make emergency readiness easy. [PreparedBC](#) has everything you need to start getting prepared today. Information includes identifying hazards, preparing your family, home and business and provides various disaster planning guides and resources. Go to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc> for links and plans.

- [North Cariboo Emergency & Protective Services](#) - Emergency and Protective Services provide a range of services and plans including the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This plan is presented to assist residents, provincial and regional government, and land users to address and coordinate management activities in the wildland urban interface. See the CRD [Emergency and Protective Services](#) page to access regional and sub regional plans.
6. **Institute formal mechanisms for donations:** City of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District to establish a legitimate mechanism, or protocol, for local control of monetary and material donations.
 7. **Encourage community strengthening:** In the winter of 2018, through the wildfire recovery effort, the “Great Ball of Fire” Snow-Pitch Tournament was hosted in Quesnel. Contingent on funding, this may be the kick-off for a new winter festival that may develop into something that attracts people to Quesnel and the surrounding area to enjoy all the great activities and venues during the winter months.
 8. **Create communications tools: 2017-2018 examples of funding and program options:** the Red Cross Financial Assistance; Red Cross Community Partnerships Grant; Canadian Small Business Finance Program; Employment Assistance Work Sharing Program; Community Futures Wildfire Response and Recovery Loan Program; Business Ambassadors Program for Wildfire Recovery; Rural Dividend Grant for Wildfire Recovery Initiatives – Special Circumstances; Small Business BC – BC Wildfire Resources for Small Business; AGRI Recovery Program; Farm Business Recovery Advisory Services Program; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Advanced Payments Program; BC Wildfire Service: Claims for the 2017 fire season; 2017 British Columbia AgriStability Enhancement Program; BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Wildfire Initiatives; Mental Health Support Programs: Tax Relief Programs; Samaritan’s Purse; Mennonite Fund **2017-2018 examples of psychosocial supports:** Canadian Red Cross Support to Self Recovery; Samaritan’s Purse; Workplace family assistance programs; BC211 online resources and data base; Psychosocial First Aid, Trauma Informed Training; ASSIST Suicide Prevention training; Mental Health hot lines; Canadian Mental Health; Friendship Centres; Women’s Centres; Northern Health; Bounce Back and Living Life to the Full
 9. **Invigorate shop local program:** The City of Quesnel manages a Love Quesnel shop local program. During and following the 2017 wildfires, the messaging through this provided the general message reminding residents to support their local businesses.

Section 3 Wildfire Recovery Assessment and Impact Summary Table

Recovery is approached through a series of short, medium and long-term actions. Short term is defined up to the first five months, medium term is 6 to 12 months post event, and long term is one year later and beyond. The purpose of this section is to articulate any early-identified short to medium-term recovery needs as well as identify the long-term plans that have emerged in the sub-region, and actions that may be adopted to meet these needs. This section outlines any major issues,

actions or steps to be taken to address them, individual roles and expected outcomes. The information in this section was obtained through conversations with other sub-regional recovery managers, Chief Administrative Officers, Economic Development Officers, and elected officials and with businesses and non-profits.

Impact Summary and Recovery Action Table

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organisation Responsible | Status |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| All Pillars | Provide profile of available support, space and support to anyone impacted by Wildfire/Flooding | Need to hire Recovery Coordinators and Set up Resiliency Centre | Funds for Coordinators, Funds for Office Expenses | Office Set up October 2017 | EMBC, City, CRD, FLNRORD | Ongoing |
| Economic Support for Businesses | 1) some businesses and non-profits facing acute needs that are not being met in the short and midterm and do not fit neatly within existing recovery supports 2) business need a way to recover from their lost revenues and prepare for future disruptions (Increase non-profit from limit from \$10,000 to \$20,000, Increase amount of Red Cross total from \$20,000 maximum to an increased limit) | Short term: Continue to "triage" business to resources available and determine what other supports would be useful Mid-long term: Community Futures business ambassadors | - NDIT (only incorporated business) - Com Futures PASS (for succession planning) -Community Futures Wildfire Recovery Business Support Red Cross | October 2017-June 2018 June 2018 and beyond | Wildfire Recovery Team Community Futures | Complete June 30, 2018 To be completed October 2018 |
| Economic Support for Businesses | Businesses are facing uncertainty there is an identified need to communicate current and future status of forest industry in Quesnel and the transition to new economy | Short- Mid and Long term: To have provincial government and industry implement communications around current and future forestry status and to have Municipal and Regional | provincial/municipal communications mechanism Economic Development Strategic Planning Toolkit Rural Dividend | October 2017-June 2018 June 2018 and | Economic Transition Plan project City, industry, Province, CRD | Transition Plan to be completed July 2018. Municipal Communications planned for fall 2018.Ongoing and consistent need – coordinated efforts needed for the long-term |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organization Responsible | Status |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | Governments communicate around transition to new economy | | beyond | | |
| Economic Support for Non-Profits | Non-profit organizations need financial and expertise support to continue services, as well as, expand and develop. Sponsorships more difficult to get as businesses are struggling. | Short term: Continue to “triage” non-profits to resources available and determine what other supports would be useful Mid-long term: Business Ambassadors | Red Cross Rural Dividend Community Futures Business Ambassadors NDIT | October 2017-June 2018 June 2018 and beyond | Wildfire Recovery Team City, industry, Province, CRD | Complete June 30, 2018 |
| Economic Support for Festivals | Festivals that may not have the resources to continue because of the loss of event and potential sponsorship | Festival Funding to ensure that our large festivals and events are financially prepared to deliver their programs over the next two years | Rural Dividend Community Futures Business Ambassadors Red Cross, NDIT | February to May 2018. Needs to have funds for festivals to start their planning. | Wildfire Recovery Team Community Futures Business Ambassadors | Complete June 30, 2018 Completed October 2018 |
| Economic Support for Tourism | The visitor economy ground to a halt this summer. Tourism related businesses are struggling and need an immediate boost. Hunting/fishing lodges and other businesses that rely on tourism were heavily impacted by the loss of tourism last summer due to road and forest closures and evacuations. Expedited tenure applications are needed for | Short term: Winter carnival expanded to include Snow Ball tournament, attracting out of town teams. Opportunity to expand in future | CRD, Cariboo Strong, BIAs, Barkerville, winter sport organizations FLNRORD – Crown Lands | October 2017-June 2018 Immediate | Event Coordinator FLNRORD | Event complete, opportunity to expand in 2019 Ongoing |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organization Responsible | Status |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | upcoming season. | | | | | |
| Economic Support for Marketing | Strengthened and strategic 2018 -2020 marketing campaign to harness more tourists: businesses need people to sleep, eat, shop and recreate to generate new income. | Immediate: Rural Dividend application; Increase Love Quesnel “shop local” posts Increase #SkiNorthBC campaign Short term: MRDT application Medium/long term: Marketing strategy refresh; undertake implementation | -Rural Dividend -NDIT Council Initiatives Minsitry of Finance BIAs, Chamber, DBC, NDIT | Complete Complete Complete Currently in discussions with hotels 2018-2020 (RFP and job posting currently out) | EDO EDO EDO EDO EDO | Ongoing |
| Economic Support for Training | Training - businesses have lost staff that they have invested training and wages into Workers transitioning from forest sector may need to upgrade their schooling Industry has identified the need for machinery operators who work in the forest industry have forest technician training to maximize fibre retention and ecosystem health | Community Futures training program for business Industry specific training is needed with funding for wages during training Community Learning Centre Center for Forest Management Excellence in Quesnel Training forest | Community Futures-Wildfire Impact Training for business and non-profit. Work BC – Canada Job Grant | October 2017-June 2018 June 2018 and beyond | Municipal, Regional, Provincial, and, Federal governments Industry UNBC/CNC campus | This is being advanced outside of the recovery effort |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organisation Responsible | Status |
|---|--|---|---|----------|---|---|
| | | machinery harvesters with forest tech skills | | | | |
| Economic Support for Placer Miners Note - Land base needs and activities were referred to CRD Recovery Manager to identify areas where needs match across the region. This made it into the CRD Plan in general terms. This still needs to be addressed through our plan as it is a Provincial Matter. | North Cariboo miners lost entire mining season due to fires. They were unable to work due to road closures, forest closures and lack of permits. Miners could not work in on claims due to industry forest closures. Miners were unable to get permits during the fires as FLNRORD staff were working on fires. Non-resident miners and investors were unable to find out the status of Forest Service roads during the fire season. | Identify start-up funds for 2018. Ensure FLNRORD staff are available during mining season to issue permits Have Forest Service road conditions include on Drive BC website. | Staffing levels- part of the problem this summer was that everybody was seconded to play some role in the wildfire and normal business operations were on hold, but even in a "normal" year, wait times are long because there are too few staff issuing permits. | Ongoing | Wildfire Recovery Team Community Futures CRD Province has the largest role to play | Community Futures have been contacted for loan referrals and there is Red Cross Phase 2, but some miners do not qualify, as they live outside of the region Wildfire Recovery team was told CRD was advancing to Province for miners |
| Economic Support for Trappers (this item was referred to the CRD) | Several North Cariboo trappers lost their entire trap line area, traps and cabins. These businesses will suffer long-term impacts. | Burned over trap line areas need habitat surveys to ascertain how the wildlife populations have been affected by the fires. Assist trappers in locating a new trapline area or partner them with existing trappers who are not fully utilizing | Could Province employ those trappers who have lost their traplines to fire to conduct these surveys under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment? Universities can be encouraged to begin research in the area | Ongoing | Wildfire Recovery Team CRD Community Futures | Wildfire Recovery team was told CRD was advancing to Province for trappers |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organisation Responsible | Status |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | their trapline. Provide assistance for lost infrastructure (cabins, traps, corrals, etc) as per the Argi-Recovery program. | and ask local trappers to conduct baseline research. | | Province | |
| Economic Support for Ranchers | Most of the area ranches were impacted by fire as they were either evacuated or had to bring their livestock back onto their hay fields for most of the summer. Cabins and fencing were lost as well as potential long-term damage to range lands. Ranchers were not allowed to fight the fires that directly threatened their property and were treated as "liabilities" and not as "assets". These people have a vested interest in the area, an intimate knowledge of the area and heavy equipment and can be a valuable asset to WMB. | Mid and long term: A system be put in place whereby these landowners are trained and called upon to assist fire suppression activities in their area. This system should also include miners and woodlot operators. | The ranching industry has been assisted through the Agri-recovery and Farm Stability programs as well as Red Cross funding. FLNRORD needs to ensure that damaged rangeland is rehabilitated. | Ongoing and consistent basis | BCWS, FLNRORD | In progress Pending |
| Economic Support for Agriculture | The wildfires of 2017 highlighted Quesnel's need for a multi-use agriculture building that is flexible enough to provide appropriately configured and efficient animal and livestock housing during emergency events and will double our capacity to deliver agriculture events, programs, learning | Forum for agriculture groups to identify needs Rural Dividend application (via CRD) for Alex Fraser Park Working with agriculture on Food Innovation Hub/Agriculture | ADAC, Alex Fraser Park Society Rural Dividend Ministry of Agriculture, ADAC, FARMED. | Immediate Immediate/short term Medium – long term | EDO/Recovery Coordinator CRD EDO | Complete Pending Awaiting funding contract |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organisation Responsible | Status |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | opportunities and support activities for Quesnel's food innovation hub. | Centre Business Case (need arising from forum and previous initiatives) | | | | |
| Economic Support for Guide Outfitters <i>(this item was referred to CRD)</i> | North Cariboo Guide Outfitters have lost most of their 2017 income as a result of road closures, forest closures and hunting closures in fire damaged areas. This sector will also suffer long-term impacts as a result of the fires. Need surveys to determine how wildfires have affected wildlife populations. | Employ guides to conduct wildlife surveys under guidance of MOE provide assistance for lost infrastructure (cabins, corrals, etc) as per Agri-Recovery program | Several North Cariboo Guide Outfitters lost their entire hunting areas. Wildlife Inventories are needed to assess Wildfire impact. | Ongoing | Province, MOE Wildfire Recovery Team CRD Community Futures | Wildfire Recovery team was told CRD was advancing to Province for guide outfitters |
| Economic Support Forest Sector | 10 Timber Sale Licences were wholly or partially burned leaving several TSL in jeopardy of losing their investments. | Remission orders be issued to licensees who have had timber losses on TSL's that they had begun logging prior to the fires. | BCTS should accept the surrender of all impacted TSL's where logging had not been started. | Waiting for Province issue reimbursements | Wildfire Recovery Team Province | Pending |
| Economic Support for Woodlots | A small number of woodlots were impacted by the forest closures and by the fact the staff who issue cutting permit documents were re-assigned to fire suppression duties. | FLNRORD grant affected licensees an extension of their cut-control period and should ensure that adequate staff are available to issue permits during fire season. | 5 year cut-control was affected due to staffing and permitting-lag | Waiting for Province issue reimbursements | Wildfire Recovery Team Province | Pending |
| Economic Support for Lodges | Lodges in the area drastically affected by wildfire need alternate income. | The possibility of setting up research locations for fire ecology and | Urban Recovery Coordinator/Red Cross/ Other | October 2017-June 2018 | Wildfire Recovery Team | The Team has been working with Community Futures on some |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organization Responsible | Status |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | recovery. There is the potential to connect these businesses to academic and provincial level research. | assistance Phase 2, but this tops at 18,500 and some of the businesses interviewed have experienced much higher losses | If needed, refer to business ambassadors for June 30- October 31 | Province | loan referrals and there is Red Cross |
| All Pillars | Community Outreach/Communication | Racking Card Social Media Newspaper Office Spirit Centre | Funding for printing and design ~1000 Observer ads for 2 months | Completed | City, Province | |
| Social Support for Community Celebration/Acknowledgement | Community Celebration/Acknowledgement | Snowball added to Winter Carnival Community Wellness Event planned for Quesnel and for Nazko | Cariboo Strong Funding through Red Cross and Coordination through Event Coordination | February 2018 September | Event coordinator | Budget TBD |
| Social Support for Landscape Level Planning | Behaviour Change | -Era of Mega Fires Dr Paul Hessburg -Fieldtrip -Educational event to motivate behaviour change and shift worldview | - developing fire adapted communities - link to natural resource and landscape that utilize adaptive management | March 2018 June 2018 | Wildfire Recovery Team United Way (through Red Cross) | EOM completed in March 2018 Field Tour June 26, 2018 |
| Environment Support for Research | -Forestry Research to expedite the transformation of Quesnel's manufacturing sector to match the changes occurring on the forest land | -Forestry Think Tank, explore the challenges confronting our forest sector and the | FII, FP Innovations, UNBC, CNC The City of Quesnel will be working with the local FLNRORD | May 3. 4 2018 Proceeding out on June 21, 2018 | Wildfire Recovery Team | Pending financial support for implementation |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organization Responsible | Status |
|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | base. | opportunities available -Application to Rural Dividend to fund a coordinator position to facilitate action plan | staff, licencees, First Nations, and other various interested parties to move into the action planning stage. | | Province City/CRD | |
| Environment Support for Fuel Reduction | Fuel reduction and fuel management | -community fuel reduction programs -interface fuel reduction -expansion of program to enable rural CRD funding -funds for private property assessment and treatment -incentives for FireSmart | Community forest CRIP Community Resilience Investment Program | Ongoing | All organisations, all Ministries Canada Fire Smart, BC FireSmart | Ongoing |
| Environment Support for Riparian | Address ecological impacts of fire and flood areas | Prioritizing ecological impacts such as riparian areas, identifying mitigation strategies and resources; Collaborating with all parties to find leveraging and complementary strategies. | Local Conservation Groups, Pacific Salmon Foundation Forest Enhancement Fund | June 2018-ongoing for 5 years | Baker Creek Enhancement Society | Grant approved in June 2018 |
| Infrastructure Support for Communications Infrastructure | Strengthened regional communications infrastructure and protection of existing communications structures | CWPP identifies critical infrastructure | TBD | June 2018 and beyond | TBD – City/CRD or FLNRORD | Pending |
| Infrastructure Support for Rehabilitation of | Identified need: Prioritize prescriptions and inventorying of habitat; riparian planting for | Immediate request: Ensure measures are taken to ensure | Emergent resources and collaborations: Baker Creek | June 2018 and beyond | BCWS, FLNRORD | Pending |

| Recovery Scope | Needs | Activities | Resources and Financial Considerations | Timeline | Person/Organization Responsible | Status |
|---|----------------------|--|---|----------|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>fireguards, skid trails, and other disturbance due to fire</i> | ecological concerns. | rehabilitation is done in a way that minimizes erosion, sedimentation in riparian areas, spawning area, and habitat areas. | Enhancement Society, Other conservation organizations | | | |

Conclusion

Mid and long-term recovery needs and actions are still being uncovered and realised at the time of writing this recovery plan. Long-term recovery is gradual and will take place over time as communities, businesses and non-profits re-establish and develop systems for preparing for and recovering from disasters; sometimes in tandem. The North Cariboo recovery process has highlighted the need for community-led recovery with a lens on long-term implementation. The recovery stage is also a time to maximize change, explore and seize emergent opportunities. Current provincial economic impact analysis, geohazard assessments, and an independent report on flood and wildfire emergency response will shape the direction of emerging recovery programs but need to match the level of disruption.

Tinkering with the status quo will not manifest the changes needed to keep our communities and ecosystems safe and resilient. Communities are recovering from simultaneous events (floods and fires) while at the same time preparing for upcoming, possibly simultaneous, events. The onus is on the Provincial government to be the leaders in creating a comprehensive vision and the serious political strategies needed to achieve an unprecedented response to the unprecedented wildfire events of 2017.

SECTION 4 – APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Total Outreach by Sector

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Contacts | Forestry | Mining | Guiding Trapping | Agriculture | Retail/Service | Tourism | Industrial | Non- profit | Un known | Wells | Total |
|----------|----------|--------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|-------|

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interview Guide sent out to/Face to Face or Interviewed by phone. Included in these numbers are those that we advocated for. | 53 | 261 | 22 | 91 | 75 | 17 | 7 | 37 | | | 657 |
| Drop Ins to Office | 25 | 14 | | 5 | 32 | | | 34 | | 6 | 116 |
| Referred to Red Cross or Business Ambassadors | | | | | | | | | 58 | | 58 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand Total | 78 | 275 | 22 | 96 | 107 | 17 | 7 | 71 | 58 | 6 | 831 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advocacy, Assistance and Support | 63 | 39 | 6 | 16 | 90 | 14 | 1 | 48 | 58 | 6 | 341 |
| Impacted | 63 | 275 | 22 | 96 | 92 | 17 | 5 | 68 | 58 | 6 | 708 |

Note: The primary activity once interviews were completed and the team referred people to Community Future Ambassadors, was having multiple contact with the same businesses/non-profits to navigate the evolving and emerging resources, following up on funding applications, ensuring that their unmet needs were identified and brought forward to the appropriate agency for response. **There is still a lot that can be done for follow up and resolution of unmet needs.***

The Wildfire Recovery Team collected information in the first 3 months after the end of the last evacuation order was lifted and the estimates on income lost and number of concerns as businesses have had a chance to complete their tax information and go through a full season post wildfire.

- Concerns over future fire and flood events 98%
- Concerns over the wellbeing of the future economy 100%
- Lost revenue and lost clients, uncertainty about future revenue 85%

- Concerns over damage to the environment for financial and other reasons (recreation, wildlife etc) 89% Land Based Businesses
- Inquiries for financial support for Fire Smarting personal property 4%
- Loss of Trained staff 6.5%
- Interest in Training 8%
- Barriers/delayed processes (tenures, road access, permits) to getting back to work on the land base 75% of Land Based Businesses
- Concern over who they call in the future for help to navigate resources or if they have questions
- Delivery Mechanism – came from Recovery Coordinators across the region as well as clients

Appendix 2 – Wildfire Recovery Team Activities

Wildfire Recovery Team Activities:

| | Activities |
|--|--|
| | Set up phone line, highly visible office, set office hours |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Design Question Guide and Protocol |
| | Set up Reference Committee to guide Recovery Plan development: Invitees Included |
| | Set up Steering Committee to guide Recovery Team: Invitees Included: |
| | Design and Print up Racking Cards with Resource Information to hand out to Business/Non-Profit |
| | Contact/Meet with Business/Non-Profits to determine greatest needs/issues and how best for them to be addressed. |
| | Spent time at Sylvia's Café to meet up with locals |
| | Attended Kersley Farmers Institute meeting |
| | Participated in Work BC session to find out what training and business resources they have available. |
| | Follow up on Questions asked by Interviewees and getting back to them. Usually about resources, or protocol, or contact names. |
| | Refer Business or Non-Profit to resources available |
| | Phone meeting with Woodlot Association RE: Protocol for reimbursing costs for harvesting that was either not completed or even started. |
| | Attended CRD Community Meetings in Quesnel, Nazko, West Fraser and Kersley |
| | Meet with Red Cross to understand their funding guidelines and protocol for local business and non-profits for Phase 1 and Phase 2. |
| | Promoted the 3 or 4 Red Cross Quesnel/Wells and Nazko Visits and made direct contact with businesses/non-profits to get them to participate. |
| | Worked with District Manager and Fish Pot Lake to work out options for logging around their property. |
| | Conducted a proposal writing working session with Non-Profits/Festival Groups to access Post Wildfire Strategic Planning funds. 8 Groups attended - 4 groups applied and received funds. |
| | Liaise with other partners in Wildfire Assessment and Recovery to share information throughout the Region (United Way, Red Cross, BC Economic Development Association, Chamber of Commerce, Samaritan's Purse,) |
| | Participate in Bi-Weekly Regional Wildfire Recovery Coordinator Meetings |
| | Contacted UBC Okanagan, UBC, and UNBC to get interest from Universities to 1. Study Fire area and the restoration 2. Hire local Guides, Outfitters, Trappers, Miners to collect Data and 3. Use local lodges at their staging areas |
| | Initiated meeting with Cariboo Mining and Community Futures to see what resources CF can offer Mining Community through flexible loans. |
| | Meeting with MLA to provide updates |

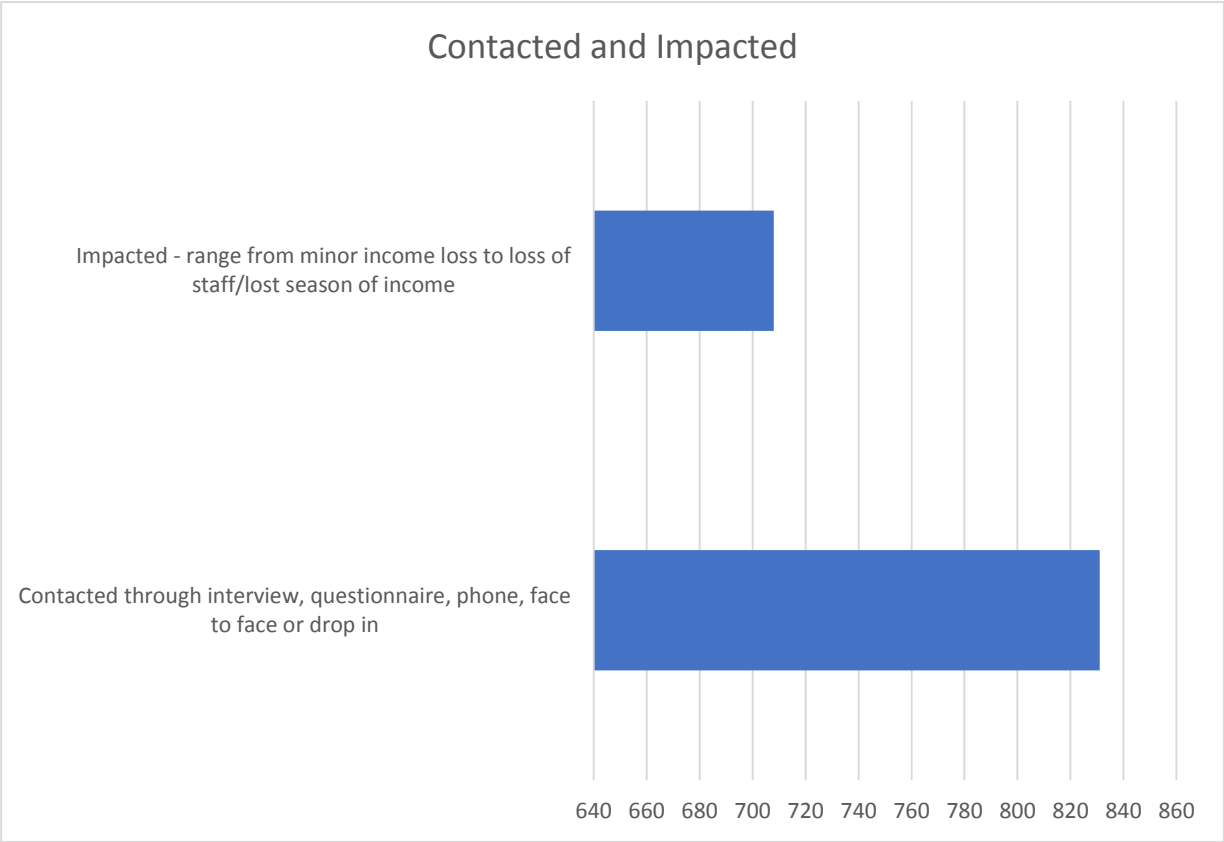
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|--|---|
| | Attended Quesnel Cattlemens Feeders and Breeders Mtg |
| | Provide support Pet Safe Coalition of Canada through their Strategic Planning |
| | Advocated for a Community Wellness Coordinator placement for Quesnel, Nazko, Alexandria |
| | Worked with United Way to provide local input, local logistics and participate in hiring process for Wellness Coordinator. |
| | Continue to advocate for increased hours for Wellness Coordinator |
| | Provided updates to City Council, Joint Planning and EMBC. |
| | Provided newspaper updates on Wildfire Recovery Efforts and findings. |
| | Worked with Chamber of Commerce and BC Economic Development Association on “10 Steps to Evacuate your Business” presentation in February. |
| | Attended Psychological First Aid Course. |
| | Worked with Community Futures Business Ambassadors to provide updates on patterns that have emerged and to hand over clients that need further follow up. |
| | Nazko Community Visits to meet with community members. |
| | Developed tracking form to minimize duplications in contacting business and non-profit |
| | Planned a Snow Ball Tournament to provide a celebratory activity that would bring in dollars for our local business. All prizes were purchased from impacted businesses. |
| | Planned and Coordinated Era of Megafires show with Dr. Paul Hessburg in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. |
| | Attended meeting in Wells with all of the Regional Recovery Coordinators to determine our top regional priorities. |
| | Worked with Agriculture Development Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Working Group to understand their impacts and what would be needed to support the Agriculture Sector. |
| | Priorities of Agriculture Sector determined potential for a Regional Food Innovation Hub. Worked with Economic Development to secure funding for an in depth business plan. |
| | Worked with Alex Fraser Park, Pet Safe Coalition, Agriculture Development Advisory Committee, Economic Development, and Cariboo Regional District to put in a proposal for replacement of Fur and Feather Building for use in emergencies and for Agricultural Development. |
| | Working with Petsafe Coalition to integrate pets into Emergency Services Protocol. |
| | Working with Pet Safe Coalition to find funding to help them train volunteers and for the resources they need to respond to emergencies. |

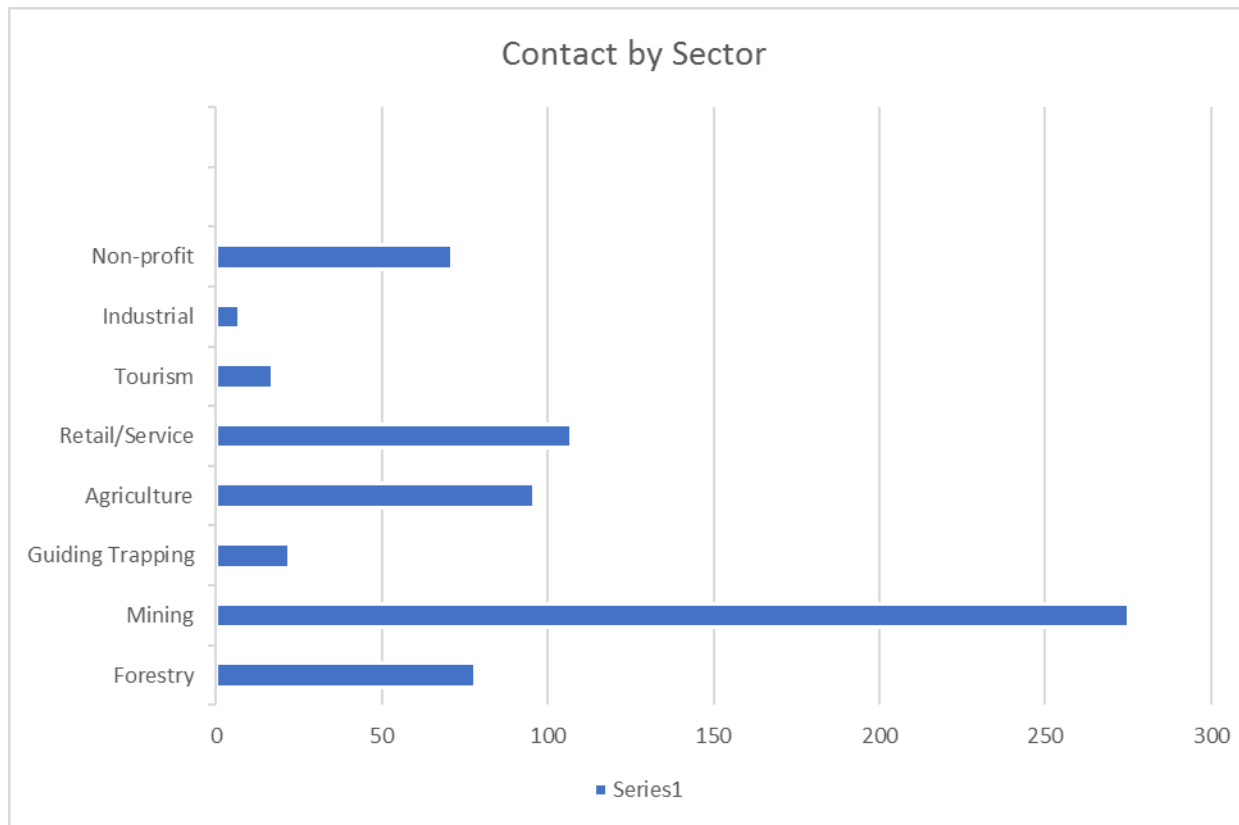
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|--|--|
| | Coordinated with City of Quesnel, CRD, Lhtako Dene, Nazko First Nations, FLNRORD, UNBC, CNC, West Fraser, C&C, Tolko, FP Innovations, Pacific Bioenergy, and others to host a technical 2 day Think Tank on how Quesnel can be a pilot on maximizing use of burnt timber, alternate product development and future fire management on the landscape. |
| | Planning a celebration event for Quesnel and for Nazko to increase commercial activity and to support community wellness. |

Appendix 3 – Graphs

The total number of rural and urban businesses and non-profits contacted through interview, questionnaire, face to face or drop in to Spirit Centre was 831.

The total number of those impacted (ranges from minor income loss to loss of staff and loss of income) was 708.





NOTE: The following is a collated list from the North Cariboo economic impact assessment as of November 27, 2017. The list includes: the identified needs, emergent resources and collaborations, as well as gaps that need to be filled and the specific requests for support from the Province. All of the information contained in this collated summary is also recorded in the Recovery Work Plan and Economic Impact Summary table below and has been pulled together here for easy reference (not every item in the table is in the summary list, only the key recommendations).

1. Business recovery

Immediate request: Funding made available for interest free loans for businesses impacted by wildfire.

Identified need: Businesses need to recover their lost revenues from the 2017 wildfires and build resiliency for the future.

Emergent resources and collaborations: The second phase of Red Cross, as well as the Community Futures Business Ambassador, are emergent resources.

Identified gap: Access to interest free loans, credit extensions, deferral of business taxes, and wage subsidies (retroactive for businesses that continued to pay staff even when they were not working) are gaps that need to be filled.

Opportunities for support: To work with the relevant agencies (financial institutions, Community Futures, NDI, Work BC, Service Canada) to ensure mechanisms are in place to support interest free financing, wage subsidies, tax subsidies, reduction or tax deferral to wildfire impacted businesses.

2. Training

Immediate request: Expedite funding for business training proposal from Community Futures across the region.

Identified need: Businesses need access to self-directed industry specific training and training dollars to provide wages during training.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Community Futures, Work BC, and Red Cross are proposing training programs.

Identified gap: Training funding that is self-directed and industry specific. Dollars to pay wages during training. Businesses lost specialised staff which they had invested training and wages into. Now, the businesses cannot afford to have new staff take training.

Opportunities for support: Connect employers to an existing provincial program or enable a program that can offer the flexibility in training needs and access to wages during training. Retroactive support for businesses who kept employees working despite drop in customers/sales during the fire.

3. Supports for non-profits

Immediate request: *Additional funds available to non-profits directly and indirectly impacted over next two years as losses are realised.*

Identified need: Non-profit organizations need financial and planning support to continue services, as well as, expand and develop.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Rural Development Fund grant (10,000) for strategic planning. Community Futures – Business Ambassadors will provide support to access funding for the organizations but may not have the resources to facilitate the groups strategic planning and project development.

Identified gap: Non-profits can access funds but are not always able to get the right expertise to carry-out strategic plans for capital works and projects. Non-profits struggling to find sponsorship funds as businesses are less able to donate.

Opportunities for support: To provide short-term funding for a contractor to work with Rural Development Fund, municipality, CRD, Community Futures and non-profits to develop strategic plans for capital works and planning projects that develop organizational strength and resiliency, allow coordinated applications to Rural Dividend from multiple non-profits in the community to the Project Planning Stream, with support from our recovery team. This will allow 5-10 non-profit organizations to hire one consultant together, providing one larger contract to attract a more qualified consultant, and potentially sharing travel costs, an extended or rolling deadline for the Rural Dividend project development stream.

4. Support for Festivals

Immediate request: *Access to funding specifically for large festivals and events to ensure they are financially prepared to deliver their programs over the next 2 years*

Identified need: Festivals may not have the resources to continue due to loss of 2017 events, and potential loss of sponsorship for 2018.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Red Cross first and second phase is a resource but additional assistance for festivals is needed.

Identified gap: The monies lost from large festivals and events will not be completely covered by the Red Cross First and Second phases.

Other opportunities for support: Funding to replace sponsorship, additional funding to recover costs from 2017 (above and beyond Red Cross), and sponsorship for upcoming year. These festivals and events provide many small businesses with primary revenue for the year. Coordinated applications to Rural Dividend; extended or rolling deadline for Rural Dividend planning stream to all festivals to apply for strategic planning to get back on track.

5. Support for tourism sector

Immediate request: *\$150,000 to coordinate a new winter event in Quesnel, leveraging the existing Winter Carnival, adding a “snow ball” tournament, increasing marketing for the event outside of the community, hosting mini events the week following the carnival, leading up to Family Day weekend, and marketing a Family Day weekend in Quesnel targeting Lower Mainland and Okanagan markets. (Measureable: Visitor Centre stats, reporting from hotels comparing Family Day 2016, 2017, 2018).*

Identified need: The visitor economy ground to a halt this summer. Tourism related businesses are struggling and need an immediate boost.

Emergent resources and collaborations: BIAs, Chamber of Commerce

Opportunities for support: Increased marketing funds, direct assistance to business, expedited tenure applications, event support, approval of Destination BC applications for Co-Op Marketing for Explore Quesnel.

5. Marketing support for sub-region

Immediate request: *Short term funding for a Marketing Coordinator to work with other stakeholders (CRD, College of New Caledonia, Cariboo Chilcotin, and Tourism Association), develop and implement a strategic marketing plan, incremental to current community marketing initiatives. \$250,000 is needed for a qualified individual, development of tactics and advertising costs.*

Identified need: Strategic marketing assistance is needed to increase the profile of the North Cariboo sub-region. Funds for a marketing expert to assist with showcasing community and visitor attraction including funding for implementation for video and television marketing. A winter festival or large winter-showcase (highlighting all sub-regional winter opportunities) would link to the marketing initiative.

Emergent resources and collaborations: CRD, College of New Caledonia, Cariboo Chilcotin Tourism Association, Chamber of Commerce, BIA's, MRDT, and Destination BC.

Identified gap: There is a gap in marketing to harness more year-round tourism, and particularly in the winter months when business is slower.

Opportunities for support: Additional marketing support for visitor and resident attraction beyond Destination BC Co-Op funding, immediate approval of current DBC application for 50% of request (waiving requirement of private buy-in due to current capacity of communities and business cash flow concerns), expedite City of Quesnel's upcoming MRDT application.

6. Support for trappers, guide outfitters, miners and other small land-based operations

Immediate request: *Referred to Cariboo Regional District to work with regional associations to support solutions.*

Identified need: Several North Cariboo trappers and Guide Outfitters lost their entire trap lines and hunting areas. Wildlife Inventories are needed to assess Wildfire impact.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests Lands and Rural Development, Guide Outfitters Associations, Community based organizations, Conservation groups will need to work together to conduct habitat and wildlife surveys.

Identified gap: Some trappers and guides have lost their livelihoods. Wildlife Inventory, Assessment and Mitigations need to be developed.

Opportunities for support: Province work to employ trappers and outfitters, who have lost their livelihoods, to conduct inventories, assessments and recommendations under the guidance of the Provincial Government.

7. Transition planning

Immediate request: *Immediate approval of City of Quesnel's Rural Dividend applications, which support transition.*

Identified need: Quesnel was a community in transition before the fires due to Mountain Pine Beetle; the wildfires have elevated the urgency of our transition needs. Businesses are facing uncertainty; there is a need to communicate the current state of the forest industry, opportunities for development, and strategies for the diversification of the local economy both across sectors, and within the forestry sector.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Local Industry, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, City of Quesnel, Cariboo Regional District, NDI

Identified gaps: The identified gaps are: provincial communications around annual allowable cut determination; industry communications around current investments; and municipal capacity for transition planning with a communications and public outreach component.

Opportunities for support: Incremental funding support for transition planning for the community writ large, and within the forest sector.

8. Increased Recovery Support

Immediate request: Continued recovery support past March 31, 2018.

Identified need: Support and implementation for recovery efforts in the North Cariboo sub Region will go past March 31, 2018.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Other sub-regional recovery initiatives, Provincial recovery initiatives, various funders

Identified gaps: The breadth and scope of the recovery assessment and needs exceeds the current timeline.

Opportunities for support: Incremental funding support from the Province for recovery management and coordination.

Appendix 5 – Interim Report to Province January 2018

Interim Report January North Cariboo sub-Regional Wildfire Recovery Plan

January 26, 2018

This is an interim report for the North Cariboo sub-Regional wildfire recovery impact assessment and recovery plan. Due to the urgent nature of the following items, they are being submitted prior to the March 31 deadline.

1. Economic

a) Timber Sale Licences (TSL)

Identified need: Ten TSLs, covering 4527 ha with a total volume of 495,516 m³ were impacted by fires in the North Cariboo during the 2017 fire season. Timber harvesting was in process on six of the sales when the fire went through; four sales had no harvesting activity on them prior to the fire damage. For TSLs with no harvesting activity, the licensee has the option of either surrendering the TSL or requesting an amendment to the sale area to remove badly damaged timber from the sale and to have the value of the timber re-appraised. This can be a lengthy process that ties up the licensee's deposit money, preventing bidding on other TSL auctions.

For TSLs that had been partially logged prior to the fire damage, the licensee has the following options:

- a) request a stumpage value re-determination,
- b) request standing fire damaged timber be removed from TSL area or
- c) request a Remission Order

Under options a and b, the licensee is still required to pay the bonus bid offered when the sale was awarded plus stumpage for the remaining timber at the reduced rate. This could be very costly to the licensee as bonus bids are often very large sums of money,

Immediate requests: a) BC Timber Sales branch expedite the return of deposit money for sales being surrendered b) Recalculate the stumpage rate based on current value of timber (post fire), or c) advocate for Remission Orders where the financial loss is considered to be a great hardship and that relieving them of their TSL obligations in the best interest of the public.

b) Woodlots

Identified need: The main impacts of the fires on the North Cariboo Woodlots were road and forest closures and the inability to get Cutting Permit approvals. Forest and road closures prevented some licensees from laying out new cut blocks which resulted in their inability to apply for the cutting permits necessary to meet their 5 year cut control. Further, key FLNRORD personnel were re-assigned to fire suppression duties during July-September which left no one in the office who could issue cutting permits to the Woodlot licensees.

The Woodlot operators' inability to get cutting permit approval, resulted in a significant loss of cut control volume which resulted in financial loss to them as well as a significant loss for the local logging and hauling contractors, forestry consultants, tree planting contractors, and silviculture contractors who would have gained employment from the harvesting of this lost volume. The local sawmills also lost access to the volume (timber).

Immediate request: The Ministry either extend the current cut control period for 12 more months or add the lost volume to the next (2018-2022) period. This would be a no cost method of mitigation for the impact of the fires. The Ministry can ensure that, in future, key positions are backfilled if staff are re-assigned to fire suppression duties so that cutting permits etc. are still issued during the fire season. In addition, it would also be helpful if the Ministry could receive additional funding to provide staffing assistance to help clean up the backlog of permit applications that resulted from key personnel being assigned to fire duties.

c) Community Learning Centre:

Identified need: Workers transitioning from forest sector may need to upgrade their schooling. Quesnel serves a population of just over 23,000, of the 10,650 working people in Quesnel, 4,000 (38%) have literacy skills *below* the level required by their occupations. 53.3% of adults in Quesnel have no post-secondary education, 38.7% of adults between 25 – 54 years old have lower than a Grade 4 Reading/Writing level. There isn't any educational support centre in Quesnel for adults who are working alone to pursue educational goals.

Immediate request: \$80,000 to support for an accessible and convenient location for community members to upgrade their literacy and numeracy skills; to increase their employability opportunities or to sustain their employment by upgrading and improving relevant skills.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Quesnel's grant writer, Red Cross Community Fund, training funds, others to be identified.

2. Environmental

a) Fuel management/ community fuel reduction programing/interface fuel reduction programing

Identified need: A concerted plan is needed for fuel management to mitigate future fire risk, alter wildfire behaviour on the forested land adjacent to communities and outside the WUI. There needs to be a serious discussion with the land managers about the priority of forest fuel management and wildfire threat reduction activities in relation to other forest values and managing for other attributes on the land base.

Immediate request: Province to share their plans for fuel management beyond the wildland urban interface.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Interface Community Forest, FESBC, SWPI, Quesnel and Surrounding Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

b) Rehabilitation of fireguards, skid trails, and other disturbance due to fire

Identified need: Prioritize prescriptions and inventorying of habitat; riparian planting for ecological concerns.

Immediate request: Ensure measures are taken to ensure rehabilitation is done in a way that minimizes erosion, sedimentation in riparian areas, spawning area, and habitat areas.

Emergent resources and collaborations: Baker Creek Enhancement Society

c) Wildlife and Ecological Surveys

Identified need: There is a need for research into wildlife populations and ecological studies in the form of Government or academic initiated research.

Immediate request: Support from Provincial and Federal Governments to advance wildlife inventories, habitat and wildlife research.

Emergent resources and collaborations: We are in the preliminary working with academia and other organizations.

3. Social

a) Assess opportunity for early retirement, transition out of workforce

Identified need: A program for pension bridging for early retirement that will create opportunities for younger workforce.

Immediate request: Province re-create the early-retirement and pension-bridging program similar to the 2008 three-phased approach which included: money for early retirement, project funding, and certified training.

4. Infrastructure

a) Communications Infrastructure

Identified need: The wildfire that occurred on Green Mountain was only a few miles from the Dragon Mountain communications towers that are used by: the North Cariboo Fire Departments, ABC Communication Services, CN Rail, BCAS Emergency Services, EMCON Road Services, North Cariboo Hwy Rescue, RCMP, plus a multitude of logging contractors and other communication providers.

Communications Towers on Dragon Mountain need to be protected to mitigate risk of wildfire interrupting communications. These towers are a lifeline to the North Cariboo and in the event these towers were to be disabled due to wildfire in the area, the entire North Cariboo communications would be interrupted. The recent North Plateau wildfire damaged communication towers in the Fishpot Lake area, near Nazko, when these towers were not adequately protected.

Emergent resources and collaborations: These recommendations are included in the recently completed Quesnel and Surrounding Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will need to have approval for fuel management prescription phase in advance of the February 23, 2018 UBCM application deadline.

Appendix 6 – Report to the Province, April 2018

Feedback to the Province about Red Cross funding delivery in the North Cariboo sub-Region

The following is feedback and a list of recommendations from the North Cariboo Wildfire Recovery team and Steering Committee about the Province's utilisation of the Red Cross as the third-party delivery agency for Provincial emergency funds.

1. **Managing public perception** - Due to the fact that humanitarian relief is the primary function of the Red Cross in responding to disasters, there is the public perception that people should not be taking funds from those who are "more in need" than themselves. The North Cariboo Wildfire Recovery team had to explain to many potential proponents that the Red Cross was the custodian of Provincial funds. **Recommendation:** The communications need to be positioned differently with messaging "this is tax-payer money that has been given to a charity to manage; all those affected by the wildfires should apply".
2. **Ensuring consistent program roll-out and ongoing delivery** - There is communication gaps about the Red Cross program including: the availability of funding, where to access funds, how to apply, and who should apply. In the North Cariboo, utilising out of town contractors to deliver application support led to challenges that could have been avoided. The contractor site-visits were poorly marketed and without the active efforts of the Wildfire Recovery Team and Business Ambassadors, there would have been limited uptake for these one-on-one support sessions.

The representatives from Marsh Consulting were inconsistent, some were extremely helpful and proactively assisted businesses to position their applications effectively, while others did little more than turn on the computer. Further, the consultants were reluctant to travel outside of Quesnel to Wells, Barkerville, and Nazko, even though these areas were highly affected. The sub-region would have been better served if local contractors had been hired because it would have allowed for a consistent presence (rather than a few days each month) and more travel in the sub-region to meet client's needs. **Recommendation:** Increase the effectiveness of the advertising and public outreach. In future events, hire local contractors and ensure delivery is done in an effective and consistent manner that includes travel to all sub-regional communities.

3. **Inconsistent Access, timing and funding amounts** - There is an identified need for more consistent access to funding; it's not clear why some applications are being processed within 2 weeks while other businesses and non-profits in great need are waiting 6 weeks or more. Some applicants are getting full requested amounts while others are granted only partial funding, there is an extreme inconsistency based on the local knowledge of the Recovery Team in allocation of funding. It seems that the funding formulas that are used to determine the amounts granted need to be reworked to ensure equitable access.

One case study from the sub-region that exemplifies the inconsistencies in both accessing and amounts of funding comes from the Pet Safe Coalition of Canada. This organisation provided invaluable support by hosting animal evacuees from the entire Region during the wildfires. To recuperate funds, Pet Safe applied for both phase 1 and 2 of Red Cross support and received the initial \$1,500 followed by \$3,500 for a total of \$5000. This 100% volunteer-based organization spent \$27,000 on food, vet bills, supplies, and equipment during the 2017 wildfires and they were mobilised from July 7 to November 3, 2017 with no government support.

The Pet Safe Coalition of Canada are also in the process of preparing for future emergencies and as such, applied to the Red Cross Community Partners Program to advance a training proposal. The proposed training will increase the organisational capacity to be able to respond effectively during emergencies and help avoid volunteer burnout by increasing the number of available volunteers.

The training proposal was discussed with Red Cross staff on January 11, 2018 and it was suggested by staff that an application to the Community Partnership Program be submitted. The application was submitted in late January, with notations and phone calls to state that the training event was scheduled for March 24th and 25th, so the adjudication of the proposal needed to be prompt to give the Pet Safe Coalition time to coordinate the event. A follow up email was sent on March 14th to check on the status of the application, Red Cross staff said they would check where it was in the system and there was no further communication since.

The Pet Safe Coalition had to go ahead with the training but had to do so at a reduced level to save on costs. They went ahead without support because it is paramount to get more volunteers trained and ready (the first forest fire of 2018 fire season ignited in Lillooet in April 2018) because the volunteers from last year are still burnt out and in great need of increased assistance to prepare for the upcoming fire season. **Recommendation:** Increase the amount of funding to the Pet Safe Coalition of Canada to at least the maximum amount which can be accessed by non-profits or consider special circumstances and award over the maximum amount based on the integral role this organisation plays in emergency response at the Regional level and the extra measures they are taking in emergency preparedness.

4. **Accountability** - It is difficult to obtain information about how many donations were made in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region specifically, and how that funding is being directed back to the Region. Further, it is difficult to obtain information on how many individuals, businesses and non-profits have received funding and how much funding in total has went to the Region as a whole (and the sub-regions). There is also a question over what happens to the remaining funds. **Recommendation:** The Red Cross reach-out and provide quantitative region-specific data and clarify what happens to remaining funds after the close of the funding envelope.
5. **Deadline** – The deadline for Phase 2 needs to be moved to the fall of 2018. Many businesses and non-profits are only now realizing the impacts in March as they complete their taxes. **Recommendation:** Ensure the deadline for the final phase of the Red Cross is in the fall of 2018.

Appendix 7 – Recommendations from March 2018 Meeting in Wells

Based on the impact assessment to date, the following are the top issues for North Cariboo to bring to Wells:

1) Incremental Funding - The Recovery team will continue to advocate for *incremental* funding from the province to advance recovery and preparedness; it remains to be seen at this time if there are any additional supports for communities effected by wildfire beyond what was available prior to wildfires.

2) Transition - Quesnel was a community in transition before the fires due to Mountain Pine Beetle; the wildfires have elevated the urgency of our transition needs. Businesses are facing uncertainty; there is a need to communicate the current state of the forest industry, opportunities for development, and strategies for the diversification. (forest research, manufacturing, training, academic research chair, Quesnel as a research hub)

3) Fuel Management - restore forest stand conditions, mitigate wildfire risk outside of the wildland urban interface (WUI), ecosystem restoration of fire maintained ecosystems, finding the intersections between public safety, forest health and human health (reduced PM 2.5 from prescribed burns). Advocate Province continues to expand fuel management beyond existing programs and puts fuel management back under the mandate of MFLNRORD (not left to the municipalities to advance).

4) Educating Businesses/Non-profits/homeowners prepare for fire - plans for preparing for evacuation, preparing for reentry. FireSmart principles need to be communicated at every community event and in other outreach (mail-outs, website, etc). The potential for insurance breaks for FireSmart homeowners will be an incentive. Advocate that Province makes funding available for private landowners to assess and manage fuels on their properties.