

Partnerships for Success

Government partnerships with positive outcomes for Indigenous people, businesses and communities

Community Wildfire Mitigation Program

Ministry of Environment

Since 2000, the Community Wildfire Mitigation Program has played a proactive role in reducing wildfire risk to communities in central and northern Saskatchewan. Working in partnership with the Prince Albert Grand Council, and with funding from Western Economic Development and Indigenous Services Canada, the program has treated fire-prone areas within and around many communities.

The program also provides seasonal employment and training opportunities for northern residents, of whom 87 per cent are Indigenous. Throughout its history, a total of 151 mitigation projects have been completed to protect 55 northern communities, which has resulted in the treatment of over 4,200 acres of land.

A few of these communities include:

- Grandmother's Bay
- Stanley Mission
- Southend
- Eagle Lake
- Canoe Narrows
- Sturgeon Landing

Projects are selected through the program's Community Wildfire Risk Assessment, which identifies potential treatment areas based on the risk of fire and helps determine the priority of each project. Ministry of Environment employees prescribe areas for treatment and locally hired contract crews remove natural fuel such as deadfall, underbrush and branches. These materials cause wildfires to grow and spread, with increasing potential to damage buildings and property. Forested areas are trimmed, and the cleanup provides a buffer that obstructs wildfires from entering communities.

The Community Wildfire Mitigation Program has been successful in protecting northern communities, fostering co-operation between municipalities and First Nations, and providing opportunities for Indigenous people. Since 2015, 552 northern residents have gained seasonal employment and training, and 1,270 acres of land has been treated. Through this collaboration with First Nation and other northern communities, mitigation projects have been completed in all wildfire-prone First Nations in Saskatchewan.

In 2018-19, the Ministry of Environment continued its partnership with First Nations, with \$1.2 million of funding for mitigation through Indigenous Services Canada. This process is now being used as a federal template for First Nations mitigation program funding throughout Canada, beginning in 2019.

For more information, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/firesmart.

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Outcomes

Community Wildfire Mitigation Program:

1. Helps protect buildings and property in northern Saskatchewan.
2. Fosters co-operation among First Nation and other northern communities.
3. Provides seasonal employment for northern residents.

Partnerships for Success

Community Wildfire Mitigation Program



151 Mitigation projects completed

55 Northern communities protected

4,200 Acres of land treated

PROTECTION



Homes

Industrial &
Commercial
Property



Public
Infrastructure

EMPLOYMENT



552
NORTHERN
RESIDENTS

— gained —

SEASONAL
EMPLOYMENT
and training
since 2015

CO-OPERATION

\$1.2 MILLION
OF FUNDING



from

INDIGENOUS
SERVICES CANADA

in 2018-19

Projects completed



in all



WILDFIRE-PRONE
FIRST NATIONS

in Saskatchewan

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population and Ministry of Environment
Image Source: www.flaticon.com