

Newfoundland and Labrador Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Program is a community approach to wildfire resilience that helps identify and reduce wildfire risks.

The program supports local risk assessments, fuel management planning, and fuel mitigation activities. It also strengthens community-level emergency preparedness by providing guidance to property owners to help them protect their homes from wildfires.

Application closing date is November 6, 2026

Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by municipalities and Local Service Districts within Newfoundland and Labrador.

Indigenous Governments and Organizations and cabin owner associations may also apply (must be a legal entity), where they represent a defined community or area and are able to lead and administer the proposed project.

Applications may include participation from partner organizations; however, a primary applicant must be identified and will be responsible for receiving and administering funding.

Priority may be given to applications that demonstrate collaboration with multiple partners and stakeholders.

Applications

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for funding to develop a **Community Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan** and/or **Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Projects**. These plans and projects incorporate education, emergency planning, vegetation management, and other principles to implement wildfire prevention and mitigation projects at a community level. First-time applicants are encouraged to develop a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan before undertaking mitigation projects.

Communities with a completed plan will be given priority when applying for project funding for fuel mitigation or vegetation management initiatives.

Community Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan

A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan identifies and plans actions that reduce wildfire risks to community values, including life, property, and critical infrastructure. Plans are designed to support a whole-of-society approach to wildfire risk reduction, focusing on practical actions and recommendations informed by local knowledge, expert assessment, and active participation from residents, all levels of government, and the private sector.

When developing a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, consider:

- Forming a planning group consisting of partner organizations
- Developing a project charter
- Deciding on a risk assessment methodology
- Developing a communication and engagement plan or strategy
- Establishing a project timeline and review process
- Identifying who is doing the work, including third parties
- Determining how the plan will be finalized and endorsed
- Identifying a plan for community engagement to share project goals
- Seeking community input
- Validating the results or final plan

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans should include:

- Purpose of the plan
- Partners, stakeholders and other contributors
- Planning area description
- Risk or exposure assessment summary
- **Wildfire prevention and mitigation actions or recommendations** that incorporate each of the seven FireSmart disciplines:
 - Education
 - Emergency Planning
 - Vegetation Management
 - Legislation
 - Development

- Interagency Cooperation
- Cross-training

Examples of prevention and mitigation actions or recommendations:

- **Education:** Conduct an annual community meeting promoting FireSmart principles.
- **Emergency Planning:** Host annual tactical exercises to practice evacuations.
- **Vegetation Management:** Design wildland fuel reduction projects.
- **Legislation:** Adopt FireSmart requirements.
- **Development:** Assess community structures.
- **Interagency Cooperation:** Incorporate Search and Rescue.
- **Cross Training:** Provide Incident Management Team training.

Community-Based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Projects

A Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Project reduces and manages wildfire risk to community values such as life, property, and critical infrastructure.

Projects should focus on practical, community-level actions that reduce wildfire hazards, increase preparedness, and support the implementation of FireSmart principles.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Fuel management and vegetation treatment
- Public education and outreach initiatives
- Community planning and policy development

Projects should:

- Be based on identified wildfire risks or hazards within and/or adjacent to the community
- Align with applicable FireSmart principles and disciplines
- Be achievable within the proposed timeline and budget
- Demonstrate clear community benefit
- Identify roles, responsibilities, and project leads

Projects may include:

- Removal or reduction of hazardous vegetation in priority areas
- Development of fuel breaks or defensible space around assets
- Delivery of FireSmart education campaigns or events
- Training or exercises to support community preparedness
- Pilot or demonstration initiatives supporting wildfire risk reduction

Applications for mitigation projects must include:

- A clear description of the proposed activities
- Defined project goals and expected outcomes
- Results of any wildfire hazard or risk assessment, where available
- A map identifying the project area
- Description of land ownership (e.g., private, Crown, or community)

Guidelines for Completing the Community Wildfire Resiliency Application

Applicant Information:

Enter the details of the organization or entity applying for funding. Please provide:

- **Legal Entity Name**
- **Common or Community Name (Operating As)**, if different from the legal entity name
- **Community Address**
- **Vendor Code/Supplier Number**

Legal Entity Name and Operating As

If the legal name of your organization differs from the name commonly used by your community, enter the legal name in the **Legal Entity Name** field and the community's name in the **Operating As** field.

Example:

- Legal Entity Name: **Town Council of ABC**
- Operating As: **Town of ABC**

Community Address

Enter the mailing or civic address of the community applying for funding.

Vendor Code/Supplier Number

Provide your organization's Vendor Code or Supplier Number, if available.

Local Service Districts

If applying on behalf of a **Local Service District (LSD)**, please list all communities that will be included in the application.

Primary contact information:

Provide full name, position, email, and phone number.

Secondary contact information:

Provide details for an alternate contact.

Sub-applicants:

- Indicate Yes/No
- List participating organizations
- Include percentage of funding distribution

FireSmart Ambassador:

- Indicate whether your community has a Firesmart Ambassador.
- A FireSmart Ambassador is recommended to act as project lead.
- Provide name and email.
- Training is available online.

Project title:

Provide a clear and descriptive title.

Project Information:

- Confirm start date, milestones, and end date
- Identify project type:
 - Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
 - Community-based Mitigation Project

Funding request:

Contact FireSmart@gov.nl.ca for guidance on eligible amounts. See note at end of document for eligible or ineligible requests.

- Enter total project budget and requested grant amount

Other funding:

List any additional funding sources and amounts received or requested.

Project summary:

Provide a summary of proposed activities.

- Must describe prevention or mitigation activities
- Include project goals
- Include risk assessment results
- Attach a map
- Describe land ownership

Progress to date:

Provide a summary if previously funded and a copy of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan if previously funded, or to complete one under this program.

Certification:

Confirm:

- Information accuracy
- Jurisdictional approval
- Audit acknowledgement

Application submission:

Submit to: FireSmart@gov.nl.ca

Disclaimer:

A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan does not replace an emergency preparedness plan.

****A Note on Equipment and/or Supply Purchases****

Applicants may include the purchase of equipment and supplies as part of a Community-based Wildfire Prevention/Mitigation Project. All requested items must support wildfire prevention and mitigation activities.

Eligible equipment may include:

Vegetation and fuel management tools:

- Brush cutters and weed trimmers
- Chainsaws and pruning saws
- Pole saws and loppers
- Forestry hand tools (e.g., shovels, rakes, Pulaski, McLeod tools)
- Portable or community-use wood chippers
- Portable mulching attachments
- Backpack sprayers for vegetation treatment work (not for fire suppression)
- Drip torches and prescribed burn kits (where authorized)
- Fuel debris bags, tarps, and disposal supplies
- Safety equipment and tool-care kits

Mitigation and preparedness supplies:

- FireSmart public education kits and outreach materials
- Temporary fire danger rating signage
- Gutter cleaning tools
- Hand tools for fuel breaks
- Landscaping tools for defensible space
- Ember-resistant mesh (temporary demonstration use only)
- Portable water storage
- Portable sprinklers

Ineligible equipment includes:

- Permanent infrastructure or fixed installations
- Structural upgrades or construction materials
- Buildings or land
- Equipment intended for fire suppression

Capital equipment: Equipment valued over \$10,000 per unit may be considered if it:

- Supports prevention and mitigation activities
- Is mobile and not permanently installed
- Has long-term use

All equipment requests should be described and justified in the application.