

# FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



312-345 Chief Alex Thomas Way  
Kamloops, BC V2H 1H1

Ph: 250-828-9757  
Fx: 250-828-9893



1200-100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, BC  
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903  
Fx: 604-926-9923  
Toll Free: 866-990-9939



500-342 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231  
Fx: 604-684-5726

## BC Wildfire Update: July 31, 2017

Updated as of 4:00 PM, Monday July 31st, 2017

**\*\*Please note: We apologize for any discrepancy in information. Information is sourced from various Provincial/Federal updates. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any revisions\*\***

### Updates:

- As of Monday July 31, 2017, there are approximately 149 wildfires burning across B.C. 7 new fires started yesterday (Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>). There has been some activity in the Southeast region. There are currently 27 fires of note.
- Weather is expected to remain hot and dry for the immediate future, and British Columbia is planning for a minimum 60-90-day response period.
- At least 20 First Nations communities are affected by the wildfires (14 evacuated, 3 under alert, 2 hosting evacuees and 1 undertaking wildland firefighting preparation activities).
- Properties south of Highway 24 have been put on alert, after an evacuation order was issued for the north end of Green Lake, In addition an expanded order was issued for the Kluskus, Blackwater and Clisbako area 100 kilometres north of Quesnel.
- Reminder: Those registered with Red Cross are eligible for a financial assistance payment of \$600, along with a secondary payment if you have already received assistance. Red Cross may have other services to assist you at this time, for more information please see *Additional Resources* or <http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/british-columbia-fires>
- The Federal Government also announced additional financial assistance of \$300 upon evacuees returning home. The assistance will be distributed through Red Cross.
- An AFN AGA draft resolution for support for BC First Nations was considered by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly on Thursday July 27, 2017.
- The Secwepemc Chiefs announced a call to action; the purpose is to support impacted First Nations by donating traditional foods and staple items such as meat, rice, potatoes, perishable and non-perishable foods to assist families in stocking up for the winter. Donations will be accepted at Splitsin Community Centre, where they will be canned and stored until the Shuswap Gathering on August 18, 19 & 20.
- The evacuation order for the Williams Lake Indian Band was reduced to an evacuation alert on Friday July 28<sup>th</sup>. Members returning to the community facing poor air quality, while remaining on alert. Planning for re-entry is currently underway for communities at and around Williams Lake. Communities can assist or obtain information by calling their regional PREOC center.
- Costs to the Province are estimated to be over \$178 million, Provincial fire-fighting crews 1400 contractors, and 500 out of province personnel. with 4100 firefighters fighting the fires.
- 47,412 people have registered with Red Cross to date. Approximately 19,172 people remain displaced.

- A Status Card service is available at Tk'emlups te Secwepmec Powwow grounds for those in need.
- The powwow grounds at Tk'emlups te Secwepmec (Kamloops) remain open for evacuees. The grounds provide showers, RV space and food. Tk'emlups te Secwepmec may have space for livestock, as well as resources such as water and hay. For information call Ron @ (250) 819-8012. Approximately 500-600 people are on site. First Aid and mental health support services are available.

### **Information on Wildfires of Note**

For detailed information regarding BC's wildfires of note:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp>

### **Evacuation Orders and Alerts:**

For the latest updates for evacuation orders and alerts, check

<http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>

### **Information for returning home from an Evacuation Order:**

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/returning-home>

## **BC FIRST NATIONS ADVISORIES**

### **Central Region (Cariboo Fire Center)**

#### **Ashcroft First Nation**

Ashcroft has an Emergency Operations Center that is active.

Donations for Ashcroft are being accepted at RBC, account #02320-003-1027258

Primary Contact: Chief Greg Blain (250) 457-7130.

#### **Bonaparte Indian Band**

Primary contact: Kukpi7 Ryan Day: (250) 457-3025.

#### **Cooks Ferry Indian Band**

Cook's Ferry is operating normally. Air quality is being monitored by on-site nurses.

Primary contact: Chief David Walkem (250) 315-8508 or (250) 458-2224

#### **Skeetchestn Indian Band**

The community remains on alert and is monitoring the fire patterns. The community has taken precautionary measures, including ESS training from the Central PREOC. A Band Council Resolution for Alert is in place, and the community remains prepared with an operational Emergency Operations Centre. The community is maintaining a fire watch program. FNESS is has been onsite to assist with EOC activities and evacuation planning.

Primary contact: Kukpi7Ron Ignace: [kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com](mailto:kukpi7.ignace@gmail.com)

#### **Simpcw First Nation**

Simpcw is not under an evacuation alert, or an evacuation order. The community is prepared with an Emergency Operations Centre ready if needed.

Primary contact: Shelley Lampreau (250) 571-4886 or by email [shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com](mailto:shelley.lampreau@simpcw.com).

**Whispering Pines**

Whispering Pines is on evacuation alert, and the community continue to monitor the situation. The community is prepared and necessary equipment is in place.  
Primary contact: Chief Steve Tresierra, (780) 910-7067.

**Northeast Region (Prince George Fire Center)****Alexis Creek First Nation (Tsideldel)**

Alexis Creek is not under an evacuation order, or alert. The community has organized crews to enact preventative measures for their community. Fire-fighters from Alexis Creek are assisting the T'letincox Government (Anaham). A Band Council Resolution is in place.  
Primary contact: Chief Evan Charleyboy: (250) 305-4459 OR Councillor Percy Guichon: (250) 267-2507

**Canim Lake Indian Band**

Canim Lake remains under an Evacuation Alert; the band is focused on advanced planning. Some members are beginning to return home, and re-entry planning is underway for those returning from Prince George, Kamloops and Chilliwack.  
Primary contact: Chief Mike Archie: (250) 397-2227 OR Command Center: (250) 397-2253

**?Esdilagh First Nation**

?Esdilagh remains on an evacuation order. Permits have been issued to bring food and equipment in for the 9 members remain in community with 30+ firefighters. PREOC informed INAC that they have received a BCR from the Nation declaring an Evacuation order. Some members have self-evacuated prior to the receipt of the BCR; and issues with ESS have now been resolved.  
Primary contact: Chief Roy Stump (250) 983-8348

**Esk'etemc First Nation**

The community is on evacuation order. MEA PREOC reports about 250 people notified of Evacuation Order, 103 remain in the community of which 60 are fire fighters. 142 people have evacuated to Prince George and Kamloops. Satellite phones are onsite.  
Primary contact: Kukpi7 Charlene Belleau, (250) 305-8784.

**Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation**

The community is on evacuation alert. The situation is being monitored, and the community is prepared in the event an evacuation order is issued.  
Primary contact: (250) 992-3290

**Soda Creek First Nation (Xat'sull)**

Soda Creek remains on an evacuation order. PREOC assistance has been requested. Re-entry planning is now underway at Soda Creek in coordination with the Ministry of Health.  
Primary contact: Chief Donna Dixon, (250) 267-7464.

**Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe/Dog Creek)**

Both communities are under an evacuation alert. A number of community members have evacuated to Kamloops due to health concerns. Satellite phones have been received.

125 people are in Dog Creek, and an additional 75 in Canoe Creek. 14 firefighters have stayed with the community, 11 presently in the field. With the closure of Highway 97 from Loon Lake to Highway 24, the members at Canoe Creek have a very long drive to reach services of any kind.

Primary contact: (250) 440-5645

### **Tl'etinqox Government**

TNG has set up an office at the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. Community remains under evacuation order. Many community members have remained to fight the fires. Elders and children have been relocated. Power has been restored. Mop up and monitoring activities are underway on nearby fires.

Financial contributions are welcome by Paypal: <http://www.tsilhqotin.ca>.

Primary contact: Tsilqhotin National Government, (250)-392-3918.

### **Toosey First Nation**

Community fire fighters and the BC Wildfire Service are currently working together, with possibly more support on the way – permits for access are being worked on.

Primary contact: Chief Laceese (250) 659-5655

### **Ulkatcho Indian Band**

As of July 24, Ulkatcho is not on an evacuation alert or evacuation order. 328 members are on reserve, including 27 firefighters.

Contact: (250)-742-3260 OR (250) 742-3288

### **Williams Lake Indian Band**

Williams Lake is currently on an evacuation alert, downgraded from an order on Friday July 28th. Members have slowly started to return to the reserve at Sugar Cane. The air quality advisory remains in effect, and those with underlying medical conditions, infants and elders are being advised to delay returning if they can. The band office has resumed operations on reserve. Housing is going door to door to provide the accurate number of members that have returned to their homes.

Primary contact: Chief Ann Louie, (250) 267-2688

### **Yunesit'in Government**

An evacuation order is in place. NEA PREOC reports 60 people remaining in the community of which 30 are firefighters. Remaining community members are currently evacuated in Prince George, Penticton, Kamloops. Mop up and monitoring activities on nearby fires is underway.

Primary contact: Chief Russ Myers (250) 302-2189 or [rmross@yunestin.ca](mailto:rmross@yunestin.ca).

### **HIGHWAY CLOSURES AND UPDATES:**

For the latest road closures and conditions, visit [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

- Highway 20 opened on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>. Motorists are advised to use caution with limited visibility due to smoke, and animals on the road. Many fences in the area have burned, and livestock is wandering freely. Watch for fire crews and equipment working. Many side roads off of Highway 20 are closed.
- Highway 97 Northbound - Closed at Loon Lake Road because of Forest Fire. Southbound remains open to support the egress of 83 Mile House, 70 Mile House and Clinton. Alternate route: Hwy 1, Hwy 5 and Hwy 24. Next update: 12 Noon, Tuesday, August 1.

- Likely Road closed in both directions (except emergency vehicles and first responders) from 150 Mile House to Junction with Horsefly Road (4.5 km) because of Forest Fire. Detour from Likely-Horsefly Junction to Beaver Lake Road and then to Hwy 97N. No estimated time of opening is available.

### **AIR QUALITY ADVISORIES**

For updates on air quality advisories, check

[https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index\\_e.html?prov=bc](https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc)

Air Quality Advisories remain in place for the following locations:

- 100 Mile House
- Cariboo
- Chilcotin
- North Thompson
- Shuswap
- South Thompson

Smoke is causing poor air quality and reducing visibility. Smoke is expected or occurring in these areas. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with the Interior and Northern Health Authorities, has issued a Smoky Skies Bulletin for North Thompson, South Thompson, Shuswap, 100 Mile, Cariboo (North and South), and Chilcotin due to wildfire smoke.

Smoke concentrations will vary widely as winds, fire behaviour and temperatures change. Avoid strenuous outdoor activities. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, contact your health care provider: difficulty in breathing, chest pain or discomfort, and sudden onset of cough or irritation of airways. Exposure is particularly a concern for infants, the elderly and those who have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, and lung or heart disease.

This bulletin will remain in effect until further notice.

Individuals may experience symptoms such as increased coughing, throat irritation, headaches or shortness of breath. Children, seniors, and those with cardiovascular or lung disease, such as asthma, are especially at risk. Stay inside if you have breathing difficulties. Find an indoor place that's cool and ventilated. Using an air conditioner that cools and filters air may help. If you open the windows you may let in more polluted air. If your home isn't air-conditioned, consider going to a public place (library, shopping mall, recreation centre) that is air-conditioned.

For more information on current air quality, see: [www.bcairquality.ca](http://www.bcairquality.ca).

## **Additional Resources**

Red Cross Emergency Funds: Anyone registered with the Red Cross will immediately receive \$600 via direct transfer to their bank account. To register, or if you have been evacuated, click on the following link [www.redcross.ca/gethelp](http://www.redcross.ca/gethelp) or call 1-800-863-6582. **Update:** those already registered are eligible for a second payment of 600\$

British Columbia Fires Appeal donation information: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

Red Cross Emergency Preparedness information and tips: [www.redcross.ca/beready](http://www.redcross.ca/beready)

BC Emergency Preparedness

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/emergencyprogramact/2016/01/11/discussion10/>

The Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center (PREOC) may be able to coordinated requests for resources for communities on Evacuation Alert. For information contact or email:

### **PREOC Northeast Region Contact:**

Call: (250) 612-4172

Email: [PREOC5.FN1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PREOC5.FN1@gov.bc.ca)

### **PREOC Central Region Contact:**

Call: (250) 371-5240

Email: [PREOC3.FN1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PREOC3.FN1@gov.bc.ca)

For affected workers, Service Canada is making every effort to provide direct assistance to workers and communities during this difficult

time: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada/wildfires-british-columbia.html>

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC DAILY REGIONAL TELECONFERENCES**

For specific support in regional areas please call or email:

**Central Region (Kamloops) (250) 371-5261**

**Northeast Region (Prince George) (250) 614-6322**

### **PREOC First Nation Coordination calls (Regionally based)**

- **Northeast region – daily calls at 2:00 pm**  
**Dial in 1-877-353-9184 participant ID 6160606#**
- **Central Region – daily calls at 3:00 pm**  
**Dial in 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID 5166580#**

If you require any further information or support, please contact UBCIC, FNS or BCAFN. Please send community updates to [curtis.bedwell@bcfn.ca](mailto:curtis.bedwell@bcfn.ca)