

December 2020

CITY OF
Quesnel

Forestry Initiatives Program

Updating you on the reinvention of Quesnel's forest sector

Highlights from 2020

The Forestry Initiatives Program was busy this year – take a look at our newsletter to find out what was accomplished in 2020, and what is coming in 2021!

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

This year over 80 hectares of fuel management treatments have successfully been completed in high-risk zones, including Ten Mile Provincial Lake Park, South Hills Rangeland, Sugar Loaf, and Hangman Springs Recreation Site.

An additional 76 hectares of treatments are planned for 2021 to further reduce the wildfire risk to our community.



Controlled burning generates less smoke than out-of-control wildfires

FIRESMART

Thanks to all who participated in the Fall Survey! When asked what you would like to see in 2021 to help improve fire safety in Quesnel and the surrounding area, the most popular option selected was: an incentive to assist with the cost of tree removal (for conifer trees within 10 metres of your home). Watch for announcements in the spring for this program!

To date, 70 homes and buildings in Quesnel and area have been assessed for fire hazard, and 26 rebates have been fulfilled.

DID YOU KNOW?

Those that received Home Assessments were asked to fill out a survey, and 100% of respondents were satisfied with their assessment and would recommend it to a friend!

To be contacted about a FREE Home Assessment in 2021 please email firesmart@quesnel.ca.

FOREST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FEP)

The Forestry Initiatives team secured provincial FEP funding to employ local contractors effected by mill closures, offering immediate short-term employment while building capacity in other areas of forestry such as fuel management and trail building.

Two projects are in process:

1. Building a multi-use trail system on the airport fuel management site (opening to the public in the spring of 2021 – stay tuned!)
2. Brushing and thinning trails within the municipality to reduce wildfire risk, carried out by Nazko and Lhtako First Nations

Watch for upcoming news and announcements to learn more.

2020 Events

QUESNEL FARMERS' MARKET

While some events had to be cancelled, we were able to attend four Quesnel Farmers' Markets to hand out FireSmart information and sign residents up for Home Assessments.

UBC VISIT

The City of Quesnel, CNC and UNBC hosted a group of master's students, researchers and faculty members from UBC Forestry in October to engage with local industry and to learn how the community is adapting to challenges in the sector. [View the article.](#)



Forestry Initiatives Manager Erin Robinson presents to students in the Forestry Innovation Center

EVENTS COMING IN 2021

We are partnering with the Canadian Mental Health Association to offer free information sessions and courses. You can learn strategies for coping with anxiety, build resilience for overcoming challenges, and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Stay tuned for further updates, and to be notified of upcoming sessions directly, please email Lacy Scuffi the Forestry Initiatives Coordinator at lscuffi@quesnel.ca.

2020 Research

FPINNOVATIONS WILDFIRE OPERATIONS

At the fuel management site off the Quesnel-Hixon Road, we applied an innovative selective harvesting technique with the objectives of maintaining biodiversity and reducing fuel-load buildup and consequent wildfire threat. FPinnovations evaluated the cost-effectiveness of the operation, view the phase one report [here](#).

BIOMASS UTILIZATION SCOPING STUDY

Lhtako Dene Nation, in partnership with Nazko First Nation and in collaboration with the City of Quesnel and Clean Energy Consulting, are leading a new Biomass Utilization Scoping Study, more [here](#).

RESEARCH COMING IN 2021

A number of exciting proposals have been put together to offer training opportunities, enhance forest practices, and attract more research to our area.

Watch for announcements in 2021!