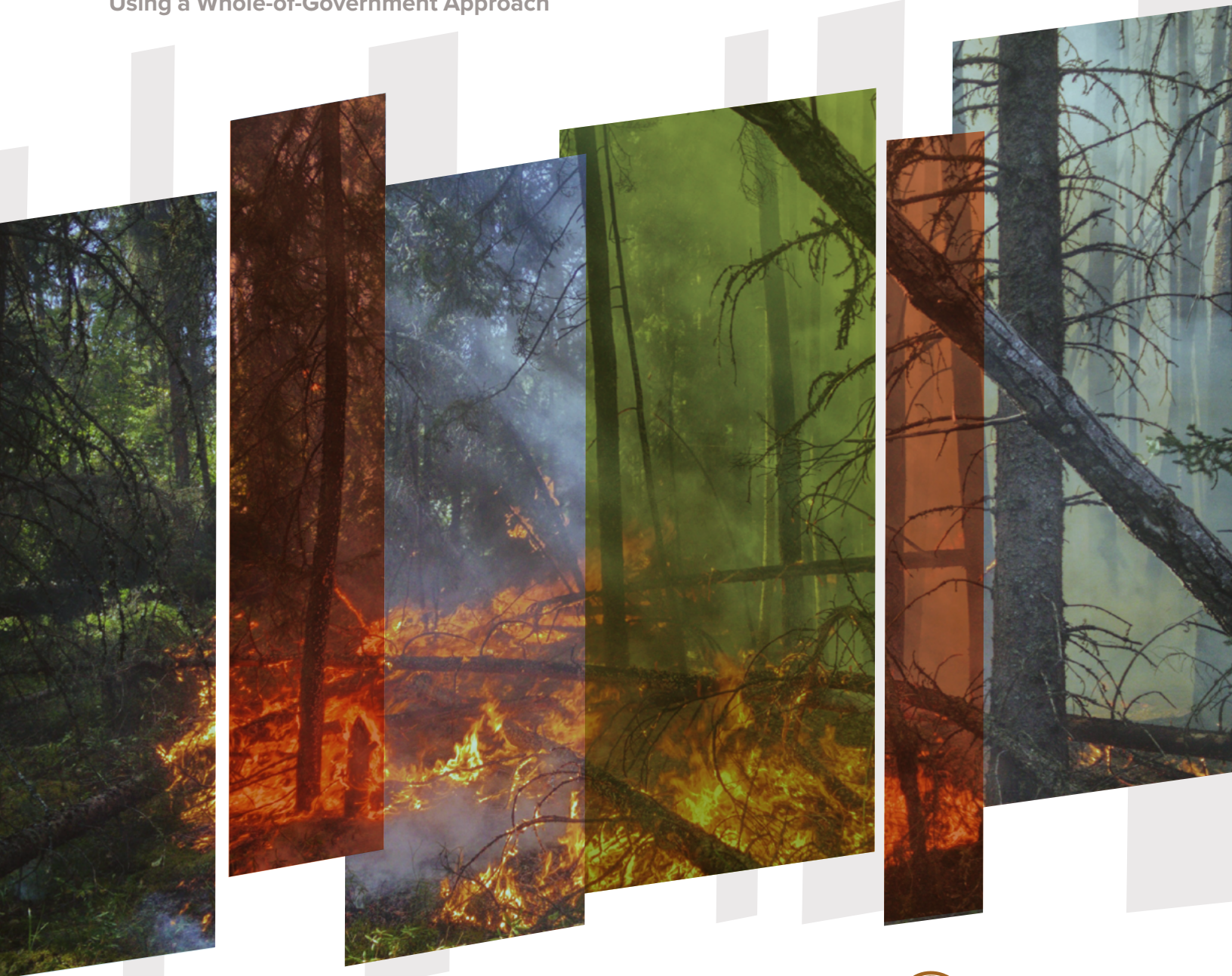


Canadian Council of Forest Ministers  
Wildland Fire Management Working Group

# Action Plan 2021–2026

A Roadmap for Implementing the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy  
Using a Whole-of-Government Approach



Canadian Council  
of Forest  
Ministers



Conseil canadien  
des ministres  
des forêts

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is transforming the future of wildland fire management in Canada. All sectors of society are called to action to collectively realize a vision where Canadians can safely and effectively live with wildland fire.

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# Executive Summary



The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), representing the federal, provincial and territorial governments responsible for forestry and/or wildland fire management, recognizes wildland fires as a critical issue for Canadians. The original Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy (2006) highlighted the emerging trends and conditions contributing to increased wildland fire threat and risk including climate change, community and resource expansion into wildland areas, and declining forest health. When the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy was renewed in 2016, these trends were found to be accelerating faster than anticipated. Canada now regularly experiences large, catastrophic wildland fire events, placing Canadian lives and livelihoods at risk.

The Wildland Fire Management Working Group (WFMWG), comprising senior level officials from the federal, provincial, and territorial wildland fire management agencies, collaborated on the development of this Action Plan to enhance Canada's resilience to wildland fire by continuing to implement the renewed Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy (2016) as a collective effort, seeking to mobilize all sectors of society.

## Purpose

This Action Plan details the steps to achieve a bold, new future for wildland fire management in Canada: by 2030, communities and infrastructure across Canada will be more resilient to the threat and impacts of wildland fire. This will be achieved by transforming the focus of wildland fire management from forestry centric to a whole-of-society perspective in which all orders of government, Indigenous peoples, all sectors and individuals can participate and coordinate efforts to effectively live with wildland fire through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

This document articulates a shared vision and collective commitment to wildland fire resiliency on behalf of the Wildland Fire Management Working Group, while allowing for each jurisdiction to tailor their individual contributions based on their distinctive needs.

## Using this Plan

Every Province and Territory has unique needs and differing priorities. As such, this Action Plan has been developed to provide the strategic direction for a comprehensive set of actions that can be enacted, in whole or in part, to collectively reduce wildfire risk and threat across the country. Each provincial, territorial and federal government will be responsible for implementing appropriate actions within their respective jurisdictions and will share information with other governments on these actions.

The key drivers leading to more frequent and severe wildfires are complex. Collective action is required by all orders of government, sectors and individuals to increase our resilience to wildland fires. No one agency or initiative will be successful if operating in isolation. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is calling to action all sectors of society to participate in this transformation. All orders of government, Indigenous peoples, all sectors and individuals are invited to explore the plan and collaborate on activities that may be scaled to address their circumstances.





## THE NEED

Climate change, continued community and resource expansion into forested and wildland areas and declining forest health are rapidly accelerating wildland fire threat and risk. These are complex drivers that require a united, multi-faceted solution—one that can only be achieved through a new way of working together. *The time to act is now.*



# An Action Plan to redefine the future of Canadian wildland fire management 2021–2026



## Living with wildland fire

Canada is experiencing more frequent and severe wildland fires, leading to profound social, economic and environmental impacts; however, wildland fires also play an important role in forest health and regeneration. As a country, we must be united in our approach to adapt to, and live with, wildland fire. The *Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy* (2016; the *Strategy*) outlines a vision to balance these factors by integrating wildland fire with emergency management efforts and contemporary forest management.

Canada's agencies and departments responsible for wildland fire management, represented by the Wildland Fire Management Working Group, have come together to articulate common goals and actions to realize this vision in a single, cohesive, pan-Canadian document that reinforces the value of efforts already underway by providing a platform to facilitate collaboration. **Together, Canada will be better prepared, safer, and more resilient to wildland fire.**

## A roadmap for implementing of the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy

This **Action Plan** provides strategic, concrete steps to build, by 2030, resilient communities and infrastructure that safely coexist with wildland fire through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and proactive management.

The six actions in this document outline the goals that Canada's wildland fire agencies have committed to advance, and encourages jurisdictions, organizations and individuals to strategically align their own actions and investments. **These actions form a key step in mobilizing the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy into action in jurisdictions across Canada.**

## Transforming wildland fire management using a whole-of-government approach

Wildland fires and their impacts do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. Managing them involves activities that transcend individual federal, provincial and territorial mandates, in an integrated and coordinated manner that includes all orders of government and all sectors. Consideration of complex drivers such as climate change, community growth and the reintroduction of cultural and traditional knowledge must be incorporated into all aspects of wildland fire management.

This **Action Plan** recognizes that no one agency or initiative implemented in isolation will be successful. The activities included are structured to integrate the efforts of all partners, essentially transforming wildland fire management from a forestry centric perspective to an integrated, collective approach of all parties involved. **By adopting a whole-of-government approach, it becomes possible to align our actions and collectively achieve wildland fire resiliency.**

### WILDLAND FIRE IS NATURAL AND NECESSARY

The health of much of Canada's vast wildland requires fire to regenerate ecosystems and sustain biodiversity. Prescribed fire is an effective land management tool for reducing wildland fire risk. Indigenous Peoples have traditionally used fire for cultural and ecological purposes and to shape the landscape. Embracing the cultural significance and value of wildland fire, and using wildland fire when appropriate, is a key component of wildland fire management in Canada.



### MOVING TOWARD A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

Public, private and non-governmental sectors play a role in—and are affected by—wildland fire management. Adopting a whole-of-government approach is a first step towards a whole-of-society approach to managing and living with wildland fire through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities. A whole-of-society approach recognizes and empowers Canadians to collaborate with governments and emergency management agencies on wildland fire management.

### ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS

**Resilience:** The capacity to absorb the impact of a disruption (in this case, wildland fire); reorganize, change, and learn from the disruption; and adapt to emergent shocks.<sup>1</sup>

**Transformational change:** Historically, wildland fire management agencies have managed wildland fire in silos and focused mainly on preparedness, suppression and response. This new, collaborative model integrates efforts across jurisdictional boundaries, engages with our partners, and involves the public during prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

**Shared Responsibility:** We all have a role to play in public safety. Reinforcing the collective responsibility of all sectors of society including governments, Indigenous peoples, communities and individuals is the cornerstone for a safe and resilient society.

<sup>1</sup> Definition adapted from Public Safety Canada. 2019. *Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030*. [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca).



# What does *success* look like?



The desired future state is one of resiliency—where all sectors of society are aware, engaged, prepared, actively participate in wildland fire risk reduction, and accept wildland fire where appropriate. Canada's wildland fire agencies adapt to changing conditions and effectively balance prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures. Most importantly, public safety is increased.

This Action Plan will create a more resilient future state through:

**Greater public safety and improved public health:** All sectors, communities and individuals are aware, prepared, and ready for wildland fires.

**Confidence and trust:** Information that responds to the diverse needs of all sectors, communities and individuals are communicated in a timely and relevant manner.

**Strengthened resilience:** Individuals, communities, Indigenous peoples, all sectors and economic systems are better prepared for, and can withstand, shocks from wildland fire events.

**Improved forest health and ecosystem sustainability:** Land management practices are coordinated and prescribed fire is accepted as a tool. Wildland fire considerations are integrated into policy and decision-making at all levels and in multiple disciplines.

**Risk-based decision-making:** Decisions are proactive and evidence-based; supported by a rigorous assessment of current and future risk; and respect and consider Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge and scientific methods.

**Unity of effort and coordinated approaches:**

Groups coordinate across prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery and are supported by interoperable systems, training and processes.

**Shared responsibility and accountability:** Risk is broadly understood, wildland fires are accepted, and all sectors, communities and individuals are prepared, fire resilient and adaptive.



# The Action Plan

## Critical themes

The following overarching themes are embedded throughout the initiatives and activities within the Action Plan. It is critical that they be integrated *early* and *often* during wildland fire management planning and implementation.

**Climate change:** Understanding and adapting approaches to consider the short- and long-term impacts of climate change. Achieving greater wildland fire resiliency is a central piece of a comprehensive approach to climate change adaptation within Canada.

**Reconciliation:** Rural and Indigenous communities as well as businesses are particularly vulnerable to losses and dislocation due to wildland fire. Indigenous Peoples have a long history and tradition of managing landscapes using fire. Many of the actions in this document explicitly identify steps to engage with Indigenous Peoples with the aim of promoting reconciliation and working together to increase the resilience of Indigenous communities.

**Communication:** Among jurisdictions, among organizations, and to the public—is critical to ensure common understanding and awareness of the risks and role of wildland fire on the land base.

## Context

Each action in this Plan comprises a *goal* with associated *initiatives* and *activities*.

Each goal is presented as the desired future state that will result from successful action.

The Appendix provides detail on each goal's proposed initiatives, initial and long-term activities, responsibility and examples for participation.





## ACTION 1

### ENHANCE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

#### Goal

Wildland fire awareness and considerations are integrated in all phases of decision-making, at all levels (public, private and non-governmental), with cultural safety.

#### Rationale

**Wildland fires and their impacts transcend jurisdictional borders, requiring coordinated preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery efforts from multiple agencies and orders of government at once.** Integrating wildland fire management with emergency management and climate adaptation activities will make communities and infrastructure more resilient to the threat and impacts of wildland fires.

## ACTION 2

### IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF WILDLAND FIRE RISKS IN ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY

#### Goal

Decisions are proactive and evidence-based, and they are supported by a rigorous assessment of current and future wildland fire risk using Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge and scientific methods. People understand and accept the role of wildland fire as a necessary tool on the land base, are prepared, and take action to reduce personal risk.

#### Rationale

**All sectors of society have opportunities to reduce their individual and shared fire risk.** To lay the foundation for behavioural change and entrench the concept of shared responsibility, there must be consistent and accessible information on wildland fire risks, risk reduction options, and return on investment. Systematic risk assessment, coupled with strong risk management processes and systems, will enable individuals, communities, Indigenous peoples, fire and land managers, industry and stakeholders to make better-informed decisions faster—which will increase public safety, reduce impacts and decrease suppression and recovery costs.





## ACTION 3

### PRIORITIZE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

#### Goal

Prevention and mitigation efforts are elevated to a top priority. Common, consistent systems are in place to enable the integration of prevention and mitigation efforts among jurisdictions and groups.

#### Rationale

Effective prevention and mitigation activities reduce the number and severity of wildland fires, protect property, and increase the public's awareness of wildland fire risk, thereby reducing both the negative impacts to ecosystems and human lives and the costs of preparedness, response and recovery. Elevating the importance of prevention and mitigation to be on par with preparedness and response—at all orders of government—will balance wildland fire management efforts, increase public safety and substantially improve outcomes. With the appropriate information, everyone can actively participate in prevention and mitigation activities.

## ACTION 4

### ENHANCE WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE CAPACITY AND COORDINATION AND FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CAPABILITIES

#### Goal

Wildland fire agencies' capacity for preparedness and response is constantly improving through coordinated investment in new tools and practices. Interoperable systems, protocols, and standards and training ensure that information is shared rapidly, and that resources can readily adapt to new situations. Getting timely and accurate information out to the public and partners will increase confidence and trust in the agencies and staff.

#### Rationale

As wildland fire conditions continue to change rapidly, traditional response and suppression tactics are becoming less effective while agencies are being taxed beyond their collective capabilities. This is despite the fact that wildland fire response (i.e., suppression) activities have received the bulk of investment over recent decades.

Enhancing wildland fire preparedness will improve capacity for response and includes increasing pan-Canadian, regional and local capabilities to effectively predict, identify and respond to new wildland fire starts, increasing interoperability and investing in training and exercises.



## ACTION 5

### STRENGTHEN RECOVERY EFFORTS TO INCREASE RESILIENCE AND MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF FUTURE WILDLAND FIRES

#### Goal

Forests and wildlands are managed to increase fire adaptability and recovery activities are planned and implemented with the objective of reducing future wildland fire risk, improving forest health, and increasing community resilience.

#### Rationale

Fire is a natural occurrence, and for many forests it is necessary to improve their health and resilience. Effective forest management, including the use of fire when warranted, is paramount. Recovery considerations are incorporated into planning for prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response activities. After a wildland fire event, recovery activities that promote regeneration and reduce risk of future fires are used. Inherent to supporting communities and forest ecosystems through recovery is the concept of “building back better,” which includes using FireSmart principles to build fire adapted communities and re-growing forests that will better withstand further events, especially in regard to climate change. This is achieved through a variety of mechanisms, including fire ecology research, financial and psycho-social supports, insurance, and continuous learning and improvement opportunities. Successful recovery management depends on the rapid start-up of efforts during the response phase of an emergency and may continue for years after.

## ACTION 6

### ADVANCE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND RESEARCH

#### Goal

Wildland fire management is informed by a deep body of knowledge including Indigenous and local knowledge, and it is consistently updated to reflect the state of science and investing in strategic research efforts that further improve resilience and practices in a changing environment.

#### Rationale

Our understanding of wildland fire is constantly evolving, and advancing research is critical to improving our understanding of wildland fire risk, impacts, management, public behaviour and future risk under climate change. Transforming wildland fire management will be achieved by advancing the next generation of science and innovation for developing the knowledge, tools, and specialized expertise required to meet current and future realities.

**Recent achievement:** The recent *Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science in Canada (2019–2029)* represents a pan-Canadian consensus view of the key research areas needing attention and outlines fifteen recommendations to guide new investments and align research efforts over the coming decade. These recommendations focus on increasing pan-Canadian science capacity, recognizing Indigenous knowledge, enhancing knowledge exchange, expanding partnerships, and improving science coordination and governance.



# Implementation

## What does implementation look like?

Implementation will be phased and, in some instances, concurrent. The **Appendix of this Action Plan identifies initial and long-term activities** to create fire-adapted communities and restore and maintain resilient landscapes, while responding safely and effectively to wildland fire.

The Wildland Fire Management Working Group has already begun to enact many of these activities, collectively and individually, on behalf of their respective jurisdictions. For example, the Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science in Canada was developed in 2019 and a Canadian Prevention and Mitigation Strategy is currently under development.

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers establishes the cohesive pan-Canadian direction for wildland fire management in Canada; however, the responsibility to implement the actions may include the cooperation of a broad and diverse set of federal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous communities, non-profit, and private organizations, often facing competing and overlapping mandates. Therefore, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers will provide leadership by influencing and engaging with other Federal, Provincial and Territorial tables and key partners to advance integration and coordination of these efforts. This Action Plan will inform investment opportunities and work planning of the groups that provide oversight and assistance to realize the vision:

*The Wildland Fire Management Working Group is comprised of senior officials from federal, provincial and territorial wildfire agencies, and is accountable for engaging across the jurisdictions to refine the strategic direction and improve coordination. An Implementation Committee under the Working Group is tasked with undertaking specific actions and to collaborate on items of mutual interest. The Wildland Fire Management Working Group will support the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) in this role by providing strategic direction and facilitating decision-making where required on behalf of CCFM.*





*CIFFC is a key partner whose mandate it is to operationalize pan-Canadian prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response activities in partnership with the Wildland Fire Management Working Group. The Action Plan reflects CIFFC's role in implementation, especially as it relates to Goals 3 and 4. CIFFC has various committees and working groups with representation from fire management agencies across Canada to plan, coordinate and deliver on shared deliverables related to wildland fire prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.*

*FireSmart Canada leads the development of resources and programs designed to empower the public and increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire across Canada. As part of CIFFC, FireSmart Canada is positioned to leverage partnerships with a comprehensive network of leading wildland fire science researchers to develop programs and resources that are based on peer-reviewed and defensible science.*

### **Implementation challenges and opportunities**

Previous efforts to implement the original *Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy* (2006) did not progress as quickly as expected or hoped. Actions and investments were somewhat ad hoc and not strategically coordinated, while a lack of standardized reporting has made it difficult to determine progress toward success and the desired future state.

Governments will share information and best practices to communicate each government's progress in implementing actions. **By embracing a whole-of-government approach we will collectively be better positioned to overcome these challenges, pursue new opportunities and achieve substantial progress toward achieving the desired future state.**



# APPENDIX: GOALS, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR EACH ACTION

The following tables provide initiatives and activities that are recommended, planned, or underway by the Wildland Fire Management Working Group and public, private and non-governmental sectors (and combinations thereof).

These initiatives and activities provide both a vision of the desired future state for groups to work toward in alignment with a harmonized pan-Canadian approach. Initiatives and Activities may be more or less suitable for different regions and groups, depending on the wildland fire and capacity realities they face and according to their priorities. These tables, therefore, provide groups with a suite of possible activities to choose from and build on to improve community resilience to wildland fire through strategic alignment and allocation of resources.

The following components should be considered and incorporated into each activity:

**Communication:** Timely and credible communication among jurisdictions, groups and the public.

**Innovation:** Seek opportunities to innovate and build on existing wildland fire management processes.

**Risk tolerance:** Jurisdictions, groups and the public consider risk tolerance when making decisions, which requires accurate, trusted and timely communication of risk.

**Prioritization and rationalization of investments:** Investments into research, equipment, capacity-building, and more will provide the greatest value when made in an integrated, collaborative approach that aligns with the activities and priorities listed in this document.

## ACTION 1: ENHANCE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

### Goal

Wildland fire awareness and considerations are integrated in all phases of decision-making, at all levels (public, private and non-governmental), with cultural safety.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Convene a whole-of-government dialogue	Convene a whole-of-government dialogue	Implement and maintain a Pan-Canadian approach via formal processes and structures	CCFM: lead WFMWG: responsible for support to CCFM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T): table integration (e.g., Emergency Management, Climate Change)</li> <li>Provinces/Territories (P/T): engage within jurisdictions to advance integration</li> </ul>
Engage Indigenous partners	Each order of government will engage with Indigenous partners on WFMWG Action Plan initiatives and activities	Enhance partnership opportunities to guide implementation of the WFMWG Action Plan	CCFM: lead WFMWG: lead responsibility and engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F/P/T: Partnership tables, Regional tables as appropriate</li> <li>F/P/T: alignment with jurisdictional reconciliation strategies and integration with emergency management</li> </ul>
Expand international partnerships	Identify new partnership opportunities to engage and share knowledge on wildland fire preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery actions	Increase multi-partner initiatives and knowledge sharing through sustained partnerships	Federal: lead CIFFC: lead P/T: support and engage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and P/T: develop international partnerships</li> <li>CIFFC: lead operating plans</li> </ul>
Build formal mechanisms to increase integration, collaboration and information planning	Develop an integration and outreach plan  Build a formal collaboration model and structure, and implement it	Explore potential to develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Hub, or similar, for enhanced planning and to enable information sharing	CIFFC: engage with P/Ts, partners F/P/T: lead and support in each jurisdiction through participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal (Natural Resources Canada and Public Safety Canada): review options to align with other disaster risk reduction initiatives</li> <li>CIFFC: build collaboration model as part of the Canadian prevention and mitigation strategy</li> <li>P/T: potential jurisdictional hubs, review options to align with other disaster risk reduction initiatives within their jurisdiction</li> <li>Partnership tables, regional and local forums</li> </ul>



Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Monitor and report on progress	Develop, in cooperation with partners, a monitoring and reporting structure, data requirements and process	Enhance reporting structure to include monitoring of effectiveness and efficacy of reaching the desired future state	WFMWG: lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F/P/T: align and participate as appropriate</li> </ul>

## ACTION 2: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF WILDLAND FIRE RISKS IN ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY

### Goal

Decisions are proactive and evidence-based, and they are supported by a rigorous assessment of current and future wildland fire risk using Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge and scientific methods. People understand and accept the role of wildland fire as a necessary tool on the land base, are prepared, and take action to reduce personal risk.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Develop a consistent risk approach (e.g., National Risk Profile)	Commitment and funding for evaluating systems, developing principles, and collecting and establishing minimum baseline data for risk assessments.	Establish tools and mechanisms to publish and access wildland fire hazards and risk assessment information for all audiences.	F/P/T: lead WFMWG: engage CIFFC: engage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pan-Canadian direction as part of National Risk Profile</li> <li>P/T: provide input to profile, establish relevant jurisdictional tools and mechanisms</li> </ul>
Access to accurate risk information data and tools	Establish a consistent approach with emergency management partners to identify risks and relevant risk-reduction methods including return investment value options.	Develop tools and mechanisms to facilitate access to wildland fire hazards and risk assessment information for all audiences.	WFMWG: support F/P/T: lead in respective jurisdictions; engage and support pan-Canadian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pan-Canadian direction as part of National Risk Profile</li> <li>Potential guidance for establishing local or regional risk assessments</li> <li>Liaising with emergency management partners for All Hazards Risk Assessments</li> <li>Shared responsibility for all parties to exchange and share hazard information</li> </ul>

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Improve understanding and communication of wildland fire risk, threat and impacts	Develop educational and awareness strategies to improve understanding of wildland fire risk, threat and impacts; the value of wildland fire as an ecological tool; and how to prepare physically and mentally to live with fire.	Develop pan-Canadian guidelines for communicating risk.  Comprehensive preparedness, communications and education programs.	WFMWG: support CIFFC: lead for FireSmart F/P/T: government education and awareness campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F/P/T: liaise with Public Safety regarding communication of risk</li> <li>CIFFC: inclusion in Canadian Prevention and Mitigation Strategy</li> <li>F/P/T: lead jurisdictional programs as appropriate, identify options to support</li> </ul>

### ACTION 3: PRIORITIZE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

#### Goal

Prevention and mitigation efforts are elevated to a top priority. Common, consistent systems are in place to enable the integration of prevention and mitigation efforts among jurisdictions and groups.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Implement public education and awareness campaigns	Develop a multifaceted campaign to educate and raise awareness of wildland fire prevention and mitigation	Create sustained programs for public education and collaboration with partners within each F/P/T	WFMWG: engage F/P/T: lead in respective jurisdictions; engage and support pan-Canadian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal: provide pan-Canadian statements of support, work to integrate federal messaging</li> <li>CIFFC: pan-Canadian guidance as part of the Canadian Prevention and Mitigation Strategy; lead for FireSmart</li> <li>F/P/T: provide programs or funding as appropriate</li> </ul>

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Support the establishment of pan-Canadian standards and guidelines for increasing wildland fire resiliency	Provide additional support to accelerate the completion of construction and development standards and guidelines that include methods for increasing wildland fire resiliency	Work with partners to identify options to develop incentives to compel the adoption of innovative land use planning, construction techniques, and responsible risk mitigation activities	WFMWG: engage CIFFC: lead (prevention and mitigation, FireSmart) F/P/T: lead in respective jurisdictions; engage and support pan-Canadian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal: engage with other federal departments</li> <li>CIFFC: FireSmart and liaison with partners professional associations (e.g., architects, planners, engineers)</li> <li>P/T: jurisdictional options for land use planning, engage with local authorities and First Nation communities</li> </ul>
Maximize investment opportunities by positioning wildland fire within all-hazard disaster risk reduction initiatives	Work with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts to identify current and new opportunities for investment in wildland fire management and risk reduction  Identify new partnerships to increase inclusion and investment in wildland fire risk reduction	Increase investments in wildfire risk reduction at all levels and the inclusion of wildland fire considerations in disaster risk reduction	CCFM: identify common priorities F/P/T: lead within jurisdictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F/P/T: priorities and investment options advanced through whole-of-government dialogue (linked to Action 1)</li> <li>Explore partnerships with private sector, non-government entities</li> </ul>
Build and sustain FireSmart Canada as a coast-to-coast-to-coast pan-Canadian program	Provide stability and reinvigorate existing FireSmart activities by assuming FireSmart into CIFFC	Create a dedicated pan-Canadian collaborative structure to set priorities for FireSmart Canada, to advise on the development of relevant programs, products funding mechanisms and opportunities for collaboration	CIFFC: lead F/P/T: engage, lead jurisdiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFMWG: provide strategic direction to CIFFC for incorporation into Canadian Prevention and Mitigation Strategy</li> <li>P/T: support FireSmart implementation, options for increasing FireSmart participation (including incentives as appropriate)</li> </ul>
Enhance the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) mandate by including prevention and mitigation	Confirm governance structure and operational components required to expand CIFFCs mandate to include prevention and mitigation  Develop a pan-Canadian prevention and mitigation strategy	Transition underway  Implement the Prevention and Mitigation Strategy	CIFFC: lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFMWG: provide strategic direction to CIFFC, oversight for governance</li> <li>CIFFC: develop pan-Canadian strategy and implement</li> <li>P/T: support CIFFC as appropriate</li> </ul>



Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Develop tools to guide fuel and land management, notably around high value and risk assets and critical infrastructure	Conduct risk assessments of high value assets and critical infrastructure	Conduct fuel and landscape management activities	WFMWG: support CIFFC: lead (prevention and mitigation, FireSmart) F/P/T: responsible in their jurisdiction; mobilize and support at the pan-Canadian level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal: support fuel treatments and prescribed fire through public statements</li> <li>WFMWG: provide strategic guidance CIFFC on topic</li> <li>P/T: implement as appropriate, liaise with academics for research and guidance for specific jurisdictional requirements</li> </ul>
Support the forest bioeconomy	Pursue opportunities to increase bioeconomy with fuel management activities	Support forest revitalization goals and objectives	CCFM: lead responsibility for Pan-Canadian guidance F/P/T: lead in respective jurisdictions, engage and support
Enhance contribution of forest management to addressing wildfire risk	Explore opportunities to enhance consideration of wildfire risk as an outcome in forest management practices	Review and adapt forest management policies, standards, or practices	F/P/T: lead in respective jurisdictions

## ACTION 4: ENHANCE WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE CAPACITY AND COORDINATION AND FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CAPABILITIES

### Goal

Wildland fire agencies' capacities for preparedness and response are constantly improving through coordinated investment in new tools and practices. Interoperable systems, protocols, and standards and training ensure that information is shared rapidly, and that resources can readily adapt to new situations. Getting timely and accurate information out to the public and partners will increase confidence and trust in the agencies and their staff.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Increase wildland firefighter capacity and training	Roll-out of aligned standards for Type II wildland firefighters across Canada	Increase pool of trained firefighters, including Indigenous wildland firefighters	CIFFC: lead F/P/T: lead responsibility in their jurisdiction; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F/P/T: engage and implement new training, work with CIFFC</li> </ul>

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Collaborate with partners to increase capabilities and capacity	Explore options for expanding interoperability with partners in preparedness and response, including training, equipment compatibility, processes and procedures (e.g., Agreements)	Expand partnerships to continuously improve and increase collaboration and capacity building	<p>CIFFC: lead</p> <p>F/P/T: lead responsibility in their jurisdiction; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engage and commit where possible to interoperable systems</li> <li>undertake joint training, exercises and single resource sharing for development purposes</li> </ul>
Modernize and standardize critical wildland fire management and aviation assets	Undertake an inventory and needs assessment for infrastructure and aviation assets and develop criteria for upgrading, replacing and adding adequate capacity	Develop a modernization process, considering a cost-shared approach	<p>CIFFC: mobilize and support</p> <p>F/P/T: lead responsibility in their jurisdictions; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p>
Improve decision-making tools including standardized, interoperable data and artificial intelligence	Implement the CIFFC IM/IT Strategy (2015) by providing the necessary tools and equipment, and by increasing efforts to develop standardized, interoperable data	Integrate new, more accurate and timelier data in decision-making, and develop new decision-making and predictive modelling (i.e., artificial intelligence) tools	<p>Federal: lead Canadian Wildland Fire Information Framework</p> <p>CIFFC: lead</p> <p>F/P/T: lead responsibility in their jurisdictions; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p>
Standardized and coordinated communications during wildland fire events	Provide guidance for communicating about wildland fires during events	Work toward harmonized communications and public warnings	<p>WFMWG: engage and support</p> <p>CIFFC: pan-Canadian lead</p> <p>F/P/T: lead responsibility in their jurisdictions; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p>
Accelerate development of situational forecast and resource demand models	Support the development of the next generation of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System	<p>Continue to prioritize, assess and implement the Canadian Wildland Fire Preparedness and Response Plan</p> <p>Long-term initiatives will include implementing the remaining recommendations of the Canadian Wildland Fire Preparedness and Response Plan based on multi-year action plans</p>	<p>Federal: lead tool and model development</p> <p>CIFFC: lead responsibility</p> <p>P/T: support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P/T: explore options to advance</li> </ul>
Enhance and strengthen the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) operational capabilities	Expand CIFFC's mandate to include wildland fire to support enhanced capabilities for pan-Canadian preparedness and response coordination	Implement, review, revise and adjust as necessary to strengthen mandate, structure, and governance to maintain operational capacity and effectiveness	<p>CIFFC: lead</p> <p>F/P/T: direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p>

## ACTION 5: STRENGTHEN RECOVERY EFFORTS TO INCREASE RESILIENCE AND MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF FUTURE WILDLAND FIRES

### Goal

Forests and wildlands are managed to increase fire adaptability and recovery activities are planned and implemented with the objective of reducing future wildland fire risk, improving forest health, and increasing community resilience.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Increase forest resiliency	<p>Identify new forest management practices to minimize impacts of future wildland fires</p> <p>Increase understanding of climate change and fire ecology on forest health and wildland fire conditions</p>	Apply climate change lens to land management planning	<p>F/P/T: lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal: work with partners to identify options and/or guidance for inclusion of wildfire considerations in policies, procedures</li> <li>P/T: work with jurisdictional partners, including Indigenous communities, industry, insurance</li> </ul>
Integrate prevention and mitigation activities into recovery efforts	<p>Establish terms of reference for identifying opportunities and engagement on recovery</p> <p>Establish rapid mitigation and recovery teams to deploy to wildland fires to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>document and assess recovery efforts</li> <li>quantify the efficacy of previous mitigation and prevention efforts</li> <li>identify/suggest strategies adapted to issues on site</li> </ul>	Conduct educational and discovery events working toward formalized collaboration agreements with partners to integrate recovery planning into prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response activities	<p>CIFFC: lead for FireSmart</p> <p>F/P/T: lead within jurisdictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIFFC: lead for pan-Canadian resource sharing, options for providing pan-Canadian rapid mitigation and recovery teams</li> <li>F/P/T: identify options within jurisdictions</li> </ul>
Share lessons learned from recent serious wildland fire events	<p>Conduct a jurisdictional review of shared lessons learned systems to inform a Canadian model for best practices to evaluate, quantify, implement and monitor systems (including after-action reviews) leading to recovery</p> <p>Identify emerging items of common interest to be addressed such as post-traumatic stress injuries for wildland fire and public safety personnel</p>	Create a centre of expertise for lessons learned to actively share experiences from wildland fire events in order to better inform policy, procedures and investment	<p>WFMWG: engage</p> <p>CIFFC: lead accountability</p> <p>F/P/T: responsible in their jurisdiction; direction, support and mobilization at the pan-Canadian level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create jurisdictional options and processes to share information</li> <li>develop relevant mental health and wellness programs as appropriate to jurisdiction</li> </ul>



## ACTION 6: ADVANCE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

### Goal

Wildland fire management is informed by a deep body of knowledge including Indigenous and local knowledge, and it is consistently updating to reflect the state of science and investing in strategic research efforts that further improve resilience and practices in a changing environment.

Initiative	Priority Activities		Responsibility
	Initial Activity	Long-term Activity	Examples for Participation
Increase science capacity	<p>Develop a pan-Canadian research agenda based on the six priority themes included within the Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science in Canada:</p> <p>Theme 1: Understanding Fire in a Changing World</p> <p>Theme 2: Recognizing Indigenous Knowledge</p> <p>Theme 3: Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure</p> <p>Theme 4: Managing Ecosystems</p> <p>Theme 5: Delivering Innovative Fire Management Solutions</p> <p>Theme 6: Reducing the Effects of Wildland Fire on Canadians</p>	Create and support a pan-Canadian network or hubs for wildland fire science and training	<p>F/P/T: mobilize and support at the pan-Canadian level, responsible in their respective jurisdiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal: work with agencies to advance Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science partnership for Science, Canada Wildfire and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada</li> <li>F/P/T: identify research priorities, collaborate with other jurisdictions, explore options for advancing research, work with academics to identify options</li> </ul>

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