



FORESTRY

INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the Forestry Program is to locate and identify Forestry and Resource sector opportunities for member First Nations.

Program staff include:

Program Director – Cliff Buettner

Administrative Assistant – Brenda Roberts

Casual Summer Student – Dalynn McKenzie

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

The Program Manager provides staff direction, financial administration and acts as a liaison with all communities for delivery of the Saskatchewan First Nation Wildfire Protection Services Agreement and other community projects identified in this report.

Identified areas of responsibility are, but not limited to, the following:

Raise the profile of the Forestry Program and provide mentorship to First Nation youth in pursuing forestry related careers through education, training and skill development.

Locate opportunities within Forestry for member First Nations by:

Provide technical assistance to member First Nations upon request. This includes compilation of funding proposals and fiscal reports.

Facilitate the transfer of Forestry Policy - attendance at Provincial Forestry Advisory Committee meetings, participation in Land Use Planning and discussions on the Forest Fire Values Protection, Forest Disease and Insect Policy.

SK FIRST NATIONS WILDFIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT

The PAGC Forestry Program provides administrative and technical assistance for the Saskatchewan First Nations

Wildfire Protection Services Agreement. This was the first year of a 3 - year agreement, negotiated with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Indigenous Services Canada employing 35 – 5 person crews within PAGC totaling 175 personnel. It was deliberately negotiated for a 3 - year term because of the uncertainty of the development of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA). The most important aspect of this agreement is in respect to the training requirements that are essential to further develop individuals within the current agreement terms.

Through a Long - term service agreement with Wildfire Management Branch, PAGC Forestry was contracted to deliver CIFFC Crew Member training courses for Type 2 Sustained Action personnel.

Training is delivered through Independent Service Contracts by instructors that are recognized by Wildfire Management Branch

FIRESMART - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EMAP)

Through this renewed funding agreement and the ability of our organization's response to wildfires, Indigenous Services Canada committed funding to continue community "Firesmart" Fuel Management Projects, through a partnership proposal with Saskatchewan Environment – Wildfire Management Branch (SPSA).

When community fuel mgmt plans are endorsed by the community leadership, the fuel hazard reduction work was coordinated and carried out in 11 First Nation communities.

The funding is specifically directed for on – reserve fuel hazard reduction projects. This provided employment for 109 individuals for an average of 12 weeks to provide some protection to communities through the physical removal of fuel immediately adjacent to the respective community. Approximately 65 hectares were treated adjacent to the participating communities.

In addition to the long - term funding agreements with Wildfire Management Branch (SPSA), PAGC Forestry through EMAP funding deliver 16 training courses for First Nation Structural Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Fire Personnel in coordination with Saskatchewan Emergency

Protective Services and certified 203 individuals in Wildland Fire Suppression Training Programs. Not included in this summary are 26 programs that were directed specifically to Chainsaw Certification or recertification for 123 individuals who participated in Community Fuel Hazard Reduction projects in their respective communities.

This funding also provided for the delivery of a Local Firesmart Representative Workshop in Regina targeting Southern Saskatchewan First Nations to participate in the Firesmart Canada Community Recognition Program.

DISASTER MITIGATION ADAPTATION FUND

Similar to the Emergency Management Assistance Program, the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund is funding administered through the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency for Fuel Hazard Reduction projects identified in Northern Saskatchewan Communities and or Recreational Subdivisions. It is administered through a public tender process in which PAGC was awarded 5 individual contracts to complete fuel hazard reduction work in 2 villages and 3 recreational subdivisions. Through these contracts 121 individuals were employed from 5 first nations and 2 metis villages after January 1 to complete before March 31, 2020

PA MODEL FOREST/FOREST COMMUNITIES

The Prince Albert Grand Council along with other organizations including individual First Nations form a partnership called the Prince Albert Model Forest. The Vision Statement of the Model Forest is “We envision the Prince Albert Model Forest as a landscape demonstrating the spirit of Sustainable Forest Management through the power of working together”: Ma Maw Wechehetowin - working together/ helping each other.

The Forestry Program Manager is the current Vice – President of the Prince Albert Model Forest. The PAMF is a non – profit partnership, of forest users who are committed to enhancing forest sustainability through research, education and the equitable sharing of forest resources through current PAMF Projects. Funding through the AFSAR program has support from PAGC for the Prince Albert Model Forest’s participation in the Saskatchewan Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy.

SK FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management Program was previously administered through Housing and Technical Services who were instrumental in creating and developing these services. Annual reporting will still be included with Housing and Technical Services this year.

Their current staff as well as Search and Rescue, Communications and Forestry staff were relocated and are situated in Cottage 11. Because of the similarities in service delivery of both programs, on January 8, 2020, Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte, in discussion with leadership and Directors/Associate Directors announced the merging of Forestry, Emergency Services and Search and Rescue into one department. This diversity of responsibility will be coordinated between Cliff Buettner and Michelle Vandevord for delivery of services and implementation of financial and associated responsibilities on April 1, 2020.



ISAAC CUSTER CREW