
Village of Sayward REPORT TO COUNCIL

**Regular Council Meeting
September 15, 2020**

**Author: Shaun Koopman – Protective Services Coordinator
Paul Hibbert – Deputy Fire Chief**

Subject: Grant Opportunity – Community Resiliency Investment

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Village of Sayward approve an application to the 2021 Community Resiliency Investment grant program; and

THAT the Village of Sayward commit to overall grant management if the application is successful.

PURPOSE

To consider an application to the Community Resiliency Investment grant program from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to further the Village of Gold's efforts to reduce wildfire risk by:

- Obtaining fuel management prescription for 6 hectares of Village owned forest adjacent to the water treatment plan;
- Offering FireSmart Rebates to 30 households in the Village;
- Hire a consultant to review how the Village of Sayward's Official Community Plan and land use policies could incorporate wildfire risk reduction principles;
- Provide a free curbside wood debris for the residents of the Village of Sayward; and
- Provide wildfire fighter training to the members of the Sayward Fire Department.

DISCUSSION

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant is a provincial program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC. The general goal of FireSmart is to encourage communities and citizens to adopt and conduct FireSmart practices to mitigate the negative impacts of wildfire to assets on public and private property. The grant program can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities provided the application has a Council resolution indicating The maximum base funding for fuel management is \$50,000, however additional funding may be applied for fuel management activities on Crown Land. All local governments (municipalities and regional districts) and First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) in BC are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants may submit one application per intake. The deadline for the current intake is October 9, 2020.

Protective Services through the Strathcona Regional District has offered to provide supervision and coordination of the project.

Fuel Management Prescription

A fuel management prescription is a document that describes the recommended fuel management activities in an identified area that will reduce fire behaviour. It is expected that the post treatment stand conditions will result in reduced fire behaviour such as a decrease in fire intensity and the potential for sustained ignition. Fuel management prescriptions must ensure a cost effective and measurable reduction in expected fire behaviour with the consideration and management of other values on the landscape. A sound fuel management prescription follows three guiding principles: (1) it prescribes specific and measurable targets for fire behaviour reduction; (2) it contains site specific considerations; and (3) it aligns with other legal, resource management and non-statutory objectives including First Nation consultation requirements.

Curbside Wood Debris Chipping

The Village of Sayward would offer a free community chipper service to remove natural wood debris from properties who have placed this debris at the end of their driveway. As per the conditions of this grant all chips will be disposed of at a professional waste facility.

Household FireSmart Rebate Program

To qualify for a rebate, residents must first have a Fire Smart Home Assessment undertaken by a certified Local FireSmart Representative. Next, residents will need to take action on the recommendations made during the home assessment. A list of eligible items is presented in Table 1 below. The homeowner will submit their receipts (or copies of) along with the Work Plan / Estimate to the contractor hired to oversee this project. The certified Local FireSmart Representative will then inspect and approve the completed

work at the property. The homeowner will be reimbursed 50% of material and labour costs, to a maximum rebate of \$500 per property.

The Village of Sayward would hire a consultant to manage this project. The consultant would:

- Coordinate the receipt of residential rebate application.
- Coordinate a representative who has completed the Local FireSmart Representative training to conduct the pre and post site residential inspections.
- Coordinate site inspection dates with residents.
- Review homeowner receipts and FireSmart Workplan.
- Recommend reimbursement amounts to Village of Sayward staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Item	Cost
Offering a \$500 FireSmart Rebate to 30 households in the Village of Sayward (including \$10,000 contractor administration fees).	\$25,000
Hire a consultant to review how the Village of Sayward's Official Community Plan and land use policies could incorporate wildfire risk reduction principles.	\$10,000
Obtain a fuel management prescription for 6.0ha of Village owned forest adjacent to the water treatment plan at \$600 per hectare.	\$3,600
Provide a free curbside wood debris for the residents of the Village of Sayward.	\$3,500
Provide S-185 Fire entrapment avoidance and safety training to 10 members of the Sayward Fire Department.	\$1,500
Provide Incident Command System Level 100 training to 6 members of the Sayward Fire Department.	\$500
Total	\$44,100

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Providing support for a CEPF grant indicates that the Village of Sayward is prepared to accept responsibility for this project and to provide overall grant management.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Koopman (M.A.)
Protective Services Coordinator
Strathcona Regional District

Paul Hibbert
Deputy Fire Chief
Village of Sayward

Table 1: Eligible Activities for Household FireSmart Rebate Program

Home or Structure	
Roof Material Gutters Vents and Openings	Install UL/ASTM fire-rated roofing (metal, clay, asphalt shingles) Install non-combustible gutters and/or gutter covers Remove roof surface tree needles, debris or overhanging branches Install closed eaves and/or non-combustible fire-rated vents or vents with 3 mm screening
Building Exterior or Siding	Install ignition resistant (fibre cement board or log) or non-combustible (stucco, metal, brick/stone) exterior siding material Repair gaps, cracks or holes where embers could lodge or penetrate Provide 15 cm non-combustible vertical ground-to-siding clearance
Windows and Doors	Install tempered glass in all doors and windows Replace single pane window glass with multi pane / thermal window glass Repair gaps in doors / garage doors where embers could accumulate or penetrate
Balcony, Deck or Porch	Install non-combustible or fire-rated, solid (no gaps or cracks) deck surface and support construction Close up open deck structures or remove all combustibles below deck
Yard / Non-Combustible Zone (0 to 1.5 metres from Home)	
1.5 metres from furthest extent of home	Replace combustible surfaces with non-combustible surfaces Remove combustible debris, materials, fences or plants
Yard / Zone 1 (1.5 to 10 metres from Home)	
Adjacent Combustibles	Move woodpiles, building materials and all other combustibles into Zone 2 or enclose in an outbuilding that meets FireSmart guidelines
Outbuildings not meeting FireSmart guidelines	Relocate outbuildings not meeting FireSmart guidelines more than 10 metres from home or upgrade outbuildings to meet FireSmart guidelines
Trees	Replace (with deciduous) or remove coniferous (evergreen) species
Surface vegetation and combustible materials	Cut and maintain grass to less than 10 cm or shorter Replace flammable - continuous or tall growing plants with low flammability, low growing, discontinuous plants Remove branches, logs and needles, leaves and debris accumulations
Yard / Zone 2 (10 to 30 metres from Home) and Zone 3 (30 to 100 metres from Home) Note: Zone 3 should not be addressed until the building, Non-Combustible Zone, Zone 1 and Zone 2 have first been addressed. Consider seeking the guidance of a forest professional with wildland fire knowledge on appropriate management options for Zone 3.	
Trees	Thin coniferous trees or replace with deciduous tree species Remove conifer tree branches within 2 metres of the ground
Surface Vegetation	Reduce surface vegetation – long grass and flammable shrubs Reduce accumulations of branches, logs and debris

Figure 1 – Example of FireSmart Rebate Program from City of Rossland



City of Rossland

2020 FireSmart Communities Program

FireSmart Rebate Program - March 23, 2020

FireSmart Rebate Program for Rossland's FireSmart Communities Program Homeowner's



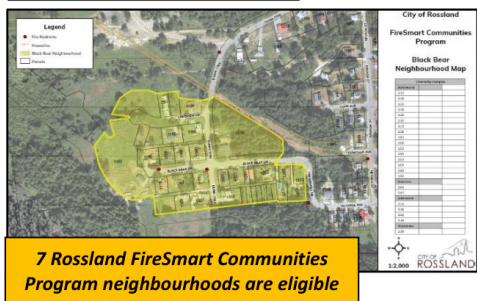
See reverse for a list of rebate eligible FireSmart activities

What? - Rossland's 'FireSmart Rebate Program' is offering some property owners a rebate of up to \$500 for qualified FireSmart hazard reduction work performed on their homes and yards. Homeowners will be reimbursed for 50% of material and labor costs with a maximum \$500 rebate per property on a \$1,000 or more expenditure.

Example: Bob spends \$300 on materials and 8 hours labor installing a section of non-combustible siding at the base of his homes exterior wood siding (creating 15 cm of ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance).

Bob's expense total is \$500 (\$300 mat'l's + 8 hrs @ \$25 = \$200)

Bob's rebate would be \$250 (50% of \$500)



7 Rossland FireSmart Communities Program neighbourhoods are eligible

Who? - Property owners in any of Rossland's FireSmart Communities Program 'recognized' neighbourhoods – can apply. Currently, there are seven recognized neighbourhoods in Rossland: Black Bear, McLeod East, Iron Colt, Kirkup McLeod, Earl Davis, Upper West Spokane and Red Mtn. Black Bear neighbourhood is shown in the sample map at left. Neighbourhood maps can be viewed at www.rossland.ca/rossland-firesmart-program



Eligible homeowners should apply now to start the hazard assessment/reduction – rebate process

How? - Homeowners eligible to participate in the FireSmart Rebate Program can apply for a free FireSmart hazard assessment on their home and yard. Following the assessment, **homeowners will work with the FireSmart assessor / advisor**** to identify priority hazard items and then perform the required hazard reduction work. Material costs and labor (reimbursed at \$25.43 per hour) are tracked and receipts submitted to the FireSmart advisor during the follow-up assessment visit.

****Note:** All COVID 19 restrictions will be accommodated.

Visit www.rossland.ca/rossland-firesmart-program for more information and application instructions.

Qualified applications will be serviced on a first come - first serve basis – Rebate funds are limited – Applicants are advised to submit applications as soon as possible.

Figure 3: Promotional Poster Example: May 2018 wood chipping for Gold River

FREE ONE TIME ONLY

CURBSIDE WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL

When: Monday May 13th - Tuesday May 14th 2019

Where: The end of your driveway

RULES

- *Debris brought to the curb after 9:00am on Monday May 13th may not be picked up
- *The wood cannot be treated
- *Must be neatly stacked with butt ends facing roadside
- *No nails, No roots, No rocks (to ensure it does not contain small rocks that may damage the machinery)
- *No invasive species accepted, such as Scotch Broom, English Holly, Giant Hogweed and Knotweed (information at www.coastalisc.com)

The Village of Gold River received a FireSmart Grant, which we are using to provide curbside wood debris pick up between Monday May 13th and Tuesday May 14th.

Adam's Tree Services will pick up the wood debris from the end of your driveway. Wood debris not at the end of your driveway ready for pickup by 9:00am on Monday May 13th may not get chipped.

Removing brush, yard waste and tree debris are the most significant immediate steps that homeowners can take to protect their property.

50% of home fires caused by wildfires are started by sparks and embers.

If you miss this opportunity, the Village Depot will still take Yard Brush at no cost.

For more information please contact Shaun Koopman at atskoopman@srd.ca or 250-830-6702 and visit www.firesmartcanada.ca,

This is a one-time curbside opportunity available through grant funding.

