



Secwepemc Nation Declares State of Emergency

On July 19, 2021, at 6pm, Chiefs from the 16 communities of the Secwépemc Nation declared a State of Emergency due to the wildfires within the territory. The Chiefs have identified this as a drastic measure to ensure the continued safety of, and to reduce the threat to, vulnerable populations (Elders, immuno-compromised members with pre-existing and chronic health conditions, babies and young children) and also to communities' infrastructure.

Approximately 11,000 Secwépemc people live in our traditional territory, which covers 180,000 square kilometers across the interior of south-central BC. The 17 autonomous communities have their emergency plans in place; however, as a Nation, we work together to exercise our collective rights and sacred responsibilities for the health, safety, and well-being of all Secwépemc within Secwepemcul'ecw (Secwépemc Territory).

Since the 2017 Wildfire Season, many reports have been written reviewing past events as well as recommending improvements to future emergency responses. Reports such as "With Us Not for US" by FNHA (First Nations Health Authority) 2018; "The Fires Awakened Us" by the Tsilhqot'in National Government 2018, "Trial by Fire" by the Nadleh Whut'en 2018; and "#TahltanStrong" a report on the 2018 Alkali Lake Fire. The Province of BC has also released "Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks" in 2019 with 108 recommendations. Many of these recommendations have yet to be implemented and require immediate coordination of action to protect our people's health, safety, and well-being.

As the Secwépemc Nation continually grows its responsibility to support Secwépemc communities with emergency planning, response, and recovery over a range of issues impacting members' well-being, the current wildfire situation in the territory requires prompt coordination of resources to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing our Nation.

The Secwépemc Nation is currently working to establish an effective and efficient Emergency Response Center to coordinate activities in response to the 2021 wildfires.

The 16 communities are
Sexqeltqín – Adams Lake
St'uxwtéws – Bonaparte
Tsq'ésceen – Canim Lake
Stswécem'c/Xgat'tem' – Canoe/Dog Creek
Esk'étemc – Alkali Lake
Llenlley'ten – High Bar
Tk'emlúps – Kamloops

Sk'atsin – Neskonlith
Simpchw – North Thompson
Ts'kw'aylaxw – Pavilion
Kenpésq't – Shuswap
Skítsesten – Skeetchestn
Xats'úll – Soda Creek
Splats'in – Spallumcheen
T'éxel'c – Williams Lake
Stil'qw/Pelltíq't – Whispering Pines/Clinton

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	<p>Kukpi7 Justin Kane Ts'kw'aylaxw Pavilion</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Wayne Christian Splats'in Spallumcheen</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Roy Fletcher Llenlenéy'ten High Bar First Nation</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Shelly Loring Simpcw First Nation North Thompson</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Frank Antoine St'uxwtéws Bonaparte First Nation</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Lynn Duck-Chief Sexqeltaqín Adams Lake Indian Band</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Barb Cote Kenpésq't Shuswap Indian Band</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Judy Wilson Sk'atsin Neskonlith</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Helen Henderson Tsq'escen Canim Lake</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Fred Robbins Esk'étemc Alkali Lake</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Hilary Adam Stswécem'c Xgat'tem Canoe/Dog Creek</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Sheri Sellars Xats'úll Soda Creek</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Willie Sellars T'éxel'c Williams Lake</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Darrel Draney Skítsesten Skeetchestn</p>
	<p>Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc Kamloops</p>		<p>Kukpi7 Mike LeBourdais Stil'qw/ Pelltíq't Whispering Pines Clinton</p>