

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'éscen – Canim Lake

Stswécem'c/Xgat'tem' – Canoe/Dog Creek

Esk'étemc – Alkali Lake

Llenllenéy'ten – High Bar

Tk'emlúps – Kamloops

Sk'atsin – Neskonlith
Simpcw – 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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Kukpi7 Justin Kane Ts'kw'aylaxw Pavilion



Kukpi7 Wayne Christian Splats'in Spallumcheen



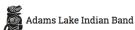
Meuni Kukpi7 Roy Fletcher Llenllenéy'ten **High Bar First Nation**



Kulepi7 Cole Kukpi7 Shelly Loring **Simpcw First Nation** North Thompson Soup Loup



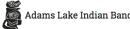
Kukpi7 Frank Antoine



Kukpi7 Lynn Duck-Chief



St'uxwtéws **Bonaparte First Nation**



Sexqeltqin Adams Lake Indian Band



Kukpi7 Barb Cote

Kenpésq't

Shuswap Indian Band



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

Kyn De

Sk'atsin Neskonlith



Kukpi7 Helen Henderson

Tsq'éscen

Canim Lake



Kukpit Fred Robbins





Kukpi7 Hilary Adam Stswécem'c Xgat'tem Canoe/Dog

Creek



Kukpi7 Sheri Sellars

Xats'úll Soda Creek



Kukpi7 Willie Sellars

T'éxel'c

Williams Lake



Kukpi7 Darrel Draney

Skítsesten

Skeetchestn



Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir

Tk'emlúps te

Secwepemc Kamloops



Kukpi7 Mike LeBourdais

Stil'qw/ Pelltíq't

Whispering Pines Clinton

