



Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

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SIFCo

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New Denver Wildfire Protection gets a boost!

WINLAW, BC – The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) -- the community forest based out of the Slocan Valley -- has just begun phase two of their comprehensive wildfire protection plan for the Village of New Denver. SIFCo has worked with the village since January 2016 to access the funds to do a prescription. Following this, SIFCo and the village applied for operational funding. In late September 2016 the Village heard that the operational funding application was approved. “It takes a council with a vision of a safer community for these applications to be successful”, says Stephan Martineau, Manager of SIFCo. “Without the belief in what SIFCo is proposing and a willingness to back it up with action by council and staff, we would be unable to do this work”.

Ninety percent of the funding comes from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Ten percent, however, still needs to be raised, and SIFCo is committed to helping the village find other sources of funding. Our basic approach is to make sure that wildfire protection does not burden a Village financially. “In this case, on a \$430,000 project, we cap the Village’s contribution to \$5000”, says Martineau. “That way the Village and its residents receive a state-of-the-art protection plan without an outrageous price tag, a win-win!”

Work will be ongoing, weather permitting, until June 2018. The project will treat 43.6 hectares of Crown and Municipal Land in and around the Village of New Denver. An information session will be held on November 8th at the Knox Hall starting at 7pm to answer questions from residents.

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