



SIFCo

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NEWS RELEASE

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Three Slocan Valley municipalities receive FireSmart Community Protection Achievement Award.

The Villages of New Denver, Silverton, and Slocan just received the FireSmart Community Protection Achievement Award for all the work that they have done in partnership with SIFCo to protect their communities from Wildfires. The FireSmart Community Protection Achievement Award identifies communities across Canada that have done outstanding work towards reducing their wildfire risk. SIFCo has been working in partnership with the Villages for the past 12 years conducting wildfire interface, educational events and community resiliency work to reduce the wildfire risks present within and surrounding those communities.

"SIFCo has been a motivating partner to Silverton and the surrounding areas. They have educated us on the importance of this work and increased our awareness of wildfire behavior, and the ways in which communities can protect themselves. Their vision and ability to organize and accomplish the wildfire protection work has resulted in a critical zone of protection around our Villages and adjacent properties." Leah Main, Acting Mayor Silverton.

FireSmart Canada is multidisciplinary non-profit association, made up of members representing national, provincial and municipal associations, government departments responsible for emergency services, forest and parks management, land use planning and private business and industry. The goal of FireSmart Canada is to reduce the wildfire risk to property, infrastructure and public safety in the Canadian wildland/urban interface by helping communities become fire-adapted.

"Undertaking landscape-level fuel management projects requires partnership, vision, and a willingness to lead the way. The success of these partnerships between SIFCo and our three municipalities would not have been possible without the tremendous support of councils and staff over the last 12 years" says, Stephan Martineau, manager at SIFCo.

SIFCo leadership has helped the three Villages acquire over 2 million dollars in grants during this period

The extensive wildfire interface work SIFCo has conducted has helped to reduce the wildfire hazard around the Villages and is an important step in wildfire risk reduction.

Wildfire risk reduction within the Villages and adoption of FireSmart practices by residents is a crucial step in preparing communities for wildfire. The three Villages and SIFCo are also partnering on the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program that aims to achieve this goal by creating wildfire adapted and resilient communities, where residents are prepared and informed in wildfire reduction efforts for their homes and properties. This will continue the joint wildfire risk reduction efforts underway within those three communities.

"Working with SIFCo over the past decade has proven to be a great asset in reducing our wildfire risk by taking on doing a whole community wildfire mitigation plan instead of doing a patch work effort. This has led us to greater success in protecting our communities." says Leonard Casley, New Denver Mayor

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