



Conservation and Water Stewardship

July 22, 2014

Northeast Region – Parks & Regional Services Division
P.O. Box 28 – 59 Elizabeth Drive, Thompson, Mb. R8N 1X4
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Dear Fire Chief Dobbin,

I am writing to confirm the Paint Lake Volunteer Fire Department's willingness to engage in a partnership with Manitoba Conservation Fire Program to initiate a FireSmart community planning process in Paint Lake Provincial Park. I have had preliminary discussions on this matter with the PLVFD and believe that safety in the Park would be enhanced by this initiative.

The purpose of FireSmart community planning is to assess the level and scope of community wildfire hazards and risks present in a community and develop appropriate mitigation strategies to reduce the threat of wildfires within a community wildfire protection plan.

The list of stakeholders that may become involved in the planning process includes residents, PLVFD, PLCA Executive and provincial government. Representatives of these stakeholders must work in a cooperative team environment to achieve the overall goal of reducing the risks posed by wildfire.

The preliminary step of FireSmart planning is gathering a Values-At-Risk (VAR) inventory. The VAR is collected using a home and site hazard assessment form. This information will be put into a database with geographical locations of the cottages for development of a Pre Response Plan and Sprinkler Deployment Plan.

The Pre Response Plan is used for first responders in protecting critical values, suppression activities and evacuation planning. The sprinkler deployment plan outlines how many sprinklers, pumps, hose and other equipment is necessary in the event of a wildfire threatening the cottage area. The deployment of these resources is done by Manitoba Fire Program, Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Paint Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

We would encourage participation from the PLVFD in helping with the Values at Risk portion of the FireSmart initiative at Paint Lake Provincial Park. We will be starting the assessments on Saturday July 26th. Any volunteers can contact me about place and time.

We look forward to working with the Paint Lake Volunteer Fire Department in developing a long-term, comprehensive FireSmart strategy.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shauna Kortz
Fire Control Officer
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship