



Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Initiative

*2019 North American Partnership for
Environmental Community Action (NAPECA)*

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

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FollowUp Form

Project Title*

Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Initiative

Quick Analysis

1) What was the single best thing that happened during the project?*

The best thing that happened during the Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Project was the exceedingly positive uptake among participating communities. Their participation has undoubtedly helped in increasing both wildfire awareness and resiliency within mainland Nova Scotia First Nations communities, perhaps most notably within the pilot community of Bear River First Nation. It was evident from the beginning that the community was fully invested in the project and keen to increase the capacity of their members and community resiliency to wildfire. Community members actively participated in the home assessment process, wildfire suppression training, and implemented project recommendations- notably through the clearing of forest vegetation and landscaping around their Band Office and other key community infrastructure.

2) What was the single worst thing that happened during the project?*

The worst and most unexpected thing to occur during the project was undoubtedly the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and subsequent public health guidelines posed some obvious challenges for the project. Firstly, the inability to travel in and out of communities during the beginning of, and off-and-on throughout the project, required us to rework and reschedule some aspects of the work plan. Secondly, often to complete project activities and ensure effective knowledge transfer, face-to-face interaction with community members (i.e., wildfire suppression training, home assessments, etc.) was required, which could not happen during province-wide lockdowns. In the end, however, during pockets of low COVID-19 numbers when restrictions were eased, and with modified approaches, we were able to safely proceed with in-person activities.

3) What was the single most unexpected thing that happened during the project?*

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not happen during province-wide lockdowns. In the end, however, during pockets of low COVID-19 numbers when restrictions were eased, and with modified approaches, we were able to safely proceed with in-person activities.

4) What was the single thing that could have been done to make the project more effective?*

One thing that may have made the project more effective, would have been to have had dedicated project capacity within the participating communities. Having an Emergency Management Officer or a similar position within communities could have allowed for more consistent community awareness and project implementation, particularly during times when Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq staff and others were unable to travel into communities due to COVID-19 restrictions. This would likely have also helped streamline administrative processes, such as registering community members for training sessions, scheduling meetings, planning events, etc.

5) What will happen as a result of this project during the next five years?*

Over the next five years, wildfire prevention efforts are expected to continue in Bear River. In August of 2020, work on a fire break will begin in the community, to be completed by the community forestry team, in partnership with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry. Over the following years, the fire break will be maintained and expanded as required. Additionally, the community now has an enhanced understanding of FireSmart practices, and access to resources that will help to ensure that in the coming years, construction projects, including a proposed new multi-purpose building, will consider wildfire resiliency in their design.

An application has been submitted to FireSmart Canada on behalf of Bear River First Nation to have the community receive official recognition as a 'FireSmart Community', based on the efforts undertaken over the last year. If approved, Bear River will be the first community in the province to hold the FireSmart Community title. Largely based on lessons learned in Bear River, efforts are also on track to expand to other priority/high-risk communities. Preliminary discussions have begun with other band councils to gauge their interest in completing similar work in their communities.

6) Is there anything else that is important to say about the project?*

Within the context of climate change, more than ever, we must work proactively to enhance resiliency and increase emergency preparedness in First Nations communities. In the past, the threat of wildfire in the Atlantic region has been limited. In the past few years, however, conditions, becoming increasingly hot and dry during summer, are drastically increasing the chances of wildfires both igniting and spreading in communities. By taking part in the Wildfire Resilience Project, Bear River and other participating communities, have taken important steps toward increased wildfire preparedness and demonstrated their leadership in climate change adaptation.

Additionally, it is important to note the significance of partnerships created and enhanced during this project, such as those with the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office, Nova Scotia Lands and Forestry, and local Fire Departments. Creating synergy between these organizations will help increase community capacity and ensure that resources resulting from the project can be utilized most efficiently. Ensuring, for example, that the local Fire Department and NS Lands and Forestry are aware of new developments (such as

dry hydrant installations) will increase the efficiency of any fire response and will ensure the greatest amount of resiliency to wildfire in the community.

Project Evaluation

Results of the monitoring and evaluation activities*

Goal #1:

Host a two-part community workshop to train members on FireSmart practices. Including a classroom and practical field session.

Description:

Lands and Forestry and other community members attended the Harvest Gathering, Helicopter and Prevention Officer came with prevention materials for residents in regard to FireSmart.

Virtual FireSmart Training to be completed by Bear River community members during Summer 2021.

Outcome:

Community members have increased awareness of wildfire risks and increased capacity to improve community resilience.

Status:

In progress

Goal #2:

Establish a list of resources for communities to use for wildfire mitigation.

Description:

List compiled of local contractors for mitigation – excavators, arborists, chainsaw certified, Lands and Forestry

FireSmart resources (infographics, buildings standards, guides, etc.) compiled and made available on Emergency Management Hub website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cmm-em-resources/firesmart-canada-resources>

Outcome:

Communities have access to contacts, information, and resources that support ongoing wildfire resilience

Status:

Goal met

Goal #3:

Host at least 2 community wildfire mitigation field day events (cleanup/landscaping).

Description:

Events held in Bear River to clear areas and complete landscaping around critical community infrastructure.

Outcome:

Community capacity and awareness are increased, and wildfire risk is reduced

Status

Goal Met

Goal #4:

Install Dry Hydrant in Bear River and Acadia First Nation

Description:

Company has been contracted to install dry hydrants in Bear River and Acadia First Nations

Installation has begun in Bear River First Nation.

Installation has begun in Bear River and will begin in Acadia in September 2021.

Outcome:

Communities have access to central water source, improving efficiency of wildfire response and reducing wildfire risk

Status

In Progress

Goal #5:

Complete Chainsaw Safety Training in Bear River and with CMM staff.

Description:

CMM project staff completed training

Instructor hired to deliver training in Bear River First Nation – 3-day training session to be held in July 2021.

Outcome:

CMM staff and Bear River community members have capacity to clear trees around community infrastructure/homes, increasing resilience

Status:

In Progress

Goal #6:

Complete Wildlands Firefighting Training in Bear River.

Description:

Wildfire Suppression training was held at the Bear River Fire Department and community members attended.

Outcome:

Bear River Community members have increased capacity to respond to wildfires

Status:

Goal Met

Project Summary - Part I. Description

Participating organizations and geographic location(s) of the project (a small map can be included)*

The primary participants in the Mi'kmaq Wildfire Resilience Project were the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (Millbrook, NS), the Chief and Council of Bear River, Paqtnkek, and Glooscap First Nations, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry. Additional project support was provided by the Bear River, Windsor, Hantsport, and Brooklyn Fire Departments. Efforts were predominantly focused on the project pilot community of Bear River First Nation (near Digby, Nova Scotia). However, wildfire resiliency work was also completed in Paqtnkek (near Antigonish, Nova Scotia) and Glooscap (near Windsor, Nova Scotia) First Nations.

A one paragraph background or problem statement (why was the project carried out?)*

With climate change bringing hotter and drier summers in the Atlantic region, wildfire is a growing concern within communities. Additionally, multiple factors, including forest ecology/fuel type, terrain, and slope, location of infrastructure, etc. put our First Nations communities at further risk of wildfire. Following a risk assessment of all mainland Mi'kmaq communities, conducted by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, it was determined that "potential for fire starts within [Bear River] is Moderate based on fuel types, and past fire occurrence within the community, but the potential for a fire start outside of the community and then burning into is high to extreme". Based on these conclusions, Bear River First Nation was selected as the pilot community for the Wildfire Resilience Project.

A one-paragraph general description of the project (what was done?)*

The Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Project employed FireSmart practices and traditional knowledge to implement wildfire mitigation efforts within participating mainland Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia. As the project's pilot community, Bear River First Nation has, over the last year, participated in a range of activities including individual home and community building assessments, wildland fire suppression training, setting priority zones, installing street signs to improve emergency response efficiency, Firesmart landscaping, and more. All the activities completed as part of the project were designed to increase wildfire awareness, wildfire prevention, wildfire risk mitigation, community engagement, as well as build community capacity for wildfire management.

A one-paragraph description of outcomes and follow-up (what did the project achieve?)*

Activities completed include: Home and community FireSmart building assessments, Wildland Fire Suppression Training, Chainsaw Training, Community land clearing and landscaping events, Removal of trees and overgrowth from around critical infrastructure, Installation of street and civic address signage. The project has aided in increasing wildfire awareness and resiliency within Bear River First Nation and other participating communities. Follow-up activities include: The creation of a 10-metre fire break around the entire parameter of the Bear River First Nation community, Chainsaw/Tree Falling Training for Bear River Forestry Team, Installation of a dry hydrant in the Bear River community, Installation of a dry Hydrant in the Acadia First Nation community of Wildcat, Installation of civic signs in the Paqtnkek First Nation community, Completion of video documenting project work. For more info about the project and project materials, please contact Scott MacDonnell, Emergency Mitigation Officer with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. Tel: (902) 956-3936 Email: smacdonnell@cmmns.com.

Project Summary - Part II. Analysis

Successes*

The successes of the project include the completion of FireSmart risk assessments of each home and other critical community infrastructure in Bear River. Community members and homeowners were engaged and involved in the assessment process, increasing their understanding of FireSmart practices and ways to reduce the risk of wildfire in their own homes. Recommendations based on these assessments were implemented through the clearing of forest vegetation around the Bear River Band Office and other critical community infrastructure including the Community Center. A fire break will be created around the perimeter of the entire Bear River community in August. The installation of a dry hydrant and road signs in the Bear River community, and civic signs were installed in the Glooscap and Paqtnek communities has also proved a great success. These and other activities, will greatly decrease community wildfire risk and have wildfire awareness in all participating communities.

Challenges*

A major challenge to the project was the COVID-19 pandemic. The social distancing and travel restrictions made it difficult at first to complete home assessments and gather with community members for community events and deliver effective training. However, as COVID-19 restrictions were largely relaxed during the summer and fall of 2020, we were able to complete the assessments, install street and civic signs, hold a community clean-up event and deliver fire suppression training to community members.

Lessons Learned*

Again, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned early on that for project activities to be carried out successfully and in as meaningful a way as possible, we were going to need to be adaptable. The provincial social distancing mandates worked to reaffirm the importance of face-to-face communications and luckily with some additional planning and reconfiguration, we were able to complete project activities in a way that was meaningful and effective.

What next?*

The next phase of this work could see expansion to include other communities in order of priority based on the wildfire risk assessment. Bear River was the project pilot community and the work completed there could be scaled up and potentially completed for all other member communities. For example, individual home assessments and community infrastructure assessments could be completed for any member community. Recommendations based upon those assessments would guide mitigation activities for each community's unique needs. Fire breaks, modifications to existing infrastructure, guidelines for new construction, installation of dry hydrants, community training sessions, etc. are all examples of projects that could take place in other communities to increase wildfire resiliency.

Financial Report

Financial Report*

NAPECA financial-report_Final Report.xls

Project Products

[Unanswered]

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- NAPECA financial-report_Final Report.xls

Financial Report

Project Budget for: The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Project Name: Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Initiative

PART I. FOR THE LAST PAYMENT PERIOD OF (Jan 2020) TO (May 31, 2020)

	Current amount (\$)
Advance payment received from the Commission	\$ 37,125.00
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,349.09
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 22,719.28
Travel	\$ 778.07
Consultants/Professional Fees (if applicable)	\$ 36,676.61
Overhead (not to exceed 15 percent)	
Other (itemize on sheet 'Other')	\$ 1,111.62
Total Expenses:	\$ 72,634.67
Balance (cumulative advance payment less total expenses)	

PART II. TOTAL PROJECTED DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE NEXT PAY PERIOD (March 31, 2020) TO (July 31, 2020)

Expenses	Projections (\$)
Salaries & Benefits	
Equipment and Supplies	
Travel	
Consultants/Professional Fees (if applicable)	
Overhead (not to exceed 15 percent)	
Other (itemize on sheet 'Other')	
Total projected disbursements	

Notes:

- Please specify whether report is submitted in **Canadian dollars, US dollars or Mexican pesos**
- Budget categories may vary according to your original budget
- It is not necessary to enclose receipts (but they should be retained in case of audit).

Cumulative amount to date (\$)	
\$	111,375.00
\$	48,791.74
\$	35,538.93
\$	6,585.39
\$	36,676.61
\$	15,000.00
\$	6,807.22
\$	149,399.89
\$	(38,024.89)

Budget is in Canadian Dollars

Project Budget for: Enter Organization Name

Project Name:

PART I.

Other Expenses		Current amount (\$)	Cumulative amount to date (\$)
Training and workshops		\$ -	\$ -
Item 2			
Item 3			
Item 4			
Item 5			
Item 6			
Total Other Expenses:		\$ -	\$ -

PART II. TOTAL PROJECTED DISBURSEMENTS - PAY PERIOD (

Other expenses		Projections (\$)
Item 1		\$ 20,000.00
Item 2		
Item 3		
Item 4		
Item 5		
Item 6		
Total projected disbursements		\$ 20,000.00

Detailed Work Plan

Objective	Activities to achieve objective (How?)	Expected results	Performance indicator	Target	Timeline /Dates of activities	Budget	Outcomes
Objective 1. Hire project coordinator and determine the pilot community for this project by December 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the wildfire community assessments, community factors and demographics. 2. Meet with each community and project partners to discuss pilot opportunity. 3. Post job posting for position 	<p>Based on the assessment and meetings there should be 3 top communities (Glooscap, Bear River and Sipekne'katik) to pilot the project. One will be selected.</p> <p>Have someone hired by January</p>	Based on the assessments and demographics and project partners	Pilot one of the suggested communities and confirm them by the end of December.	Nov 2019 – Jan 2019	4500	<p>Feb 2020 – Position hired at CMM with dedicated capacity to Wildfire project</p> <p>Mar 2020 – Meetings held with potential pilot communities; Bear River selected</p>
Objective 2: By November 2020 increase knowledge and skill levels of community members for more environmentally friendly and sustainable wildfire mitigation practices that help reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the health of the community and its environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research FireSmart Practices 2. Host a two-part community workshop to train members on FireSmart practices through. Including a classroom and practical field session. 3. Host a pilot community wildfire mitigation day event(s). 4. Increase/implement the use of Two-eyed seeing and Netukulimk practices within wildfire mitigation and share practices. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/3. Establish a list of resources for communities to use for wildfire mitigation. 2. Participating community members have acquired the capacity to implement wildfire mitigation into existing community practices. Members are engaged by the various events. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. communities incorporating this into their land use and community planning. 2. # of community members participated. 3. Using the pilot community implement these concepts throughout their mitigation efforts. (e.g. see the use of removed Natural material being used for other community purpose) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilot community incorporated wildfire mitigation practices into the housing and maintenance department. 2. 2 community members from each community participated. 3. Host at least 2 community wildfire mitigation field day events (cleanup/landscaping) 	Nov 2019 – Nov 2020	27,100 (training and workshops)	<p>February – Mar 2020 FireSmart practices were researched; CMM and Lands and forestry staff trained and certified in Local FireSmart Representative course</p> <p>March 2021 - Wildfire Suppression training was held at the Bear River Fire Department</p>

	5. Create or use pre-existing infographics to promote project efforts						and community members attended. Bear River Fire Department is outside of the community boundary but responds to the First Nation Community. Throughout – Infographics and other awareness materials produced and distributed to communities to increase wildfire prevention/project awareness
Objective 3: Mitigate wildfire risk within the pilot community by November 2020 to reduce wildfire risk within community.	1. Set community priority zones and areas for wildfire prevention management. 2. Area cleaning and clearing around community buildings and removing debris 3. Plan and implement existing/new landscaping work to be FireSmart. 3. Community wildfire zone clearing and forest	Decrease risk of wildfires within the community.	Community Wildfire assessment score will have decreased.	Decrease community assessment risk to a moderate risk or down one category.	Nov 2019 – Nov 2020	41,000 (equipment and supplies and professional fees)	Mar-May 2020 - Home assessments of all homes/community buildings completed in Bear River Oct 2020 - The Community and CMM gathered with Lands and Forestry local

	<p>management within the community scope.</p> <p>4. Assess the pilot communities water source. And determine if a fire pond is needed and cost.</p> <p>(community staff, partners, volunteers, etc.)</p>						<p>staff to do a clean-up of the major structures (30m)</p> <p>Fall 2020 – Worked with community members to dig flower beds and plant FireSmart flowers around Bear River Cultural Centre</p> <p>March 2021 – Bear River Council, CMM, and Lands and Forestry assessed community and discussed location for dry hydrant water supply</p>
<p>Objective 4: Increase community's buildings address visibility for emergency responders by June 2020.</p>	<p>Community Housing department and local Fire Department will determine proper addresses and get equipment for the signage and installation.</p>	<p>Complete civic addressing and install civic addressing signage per building</p>	<p>Number of buildings and homes with installed civic address signage</p>	<p>75% of pilot community buildings completed</p>	<p>Jan – Jun 2020</p>	<p>6000</p>	<p>Fall 2020 - CMM and communities partnered with local fire departments to create street and civic signage; Bear River community members provided Mi'kmaq translations for all street signs</p>

							<p>Oct 2020 - New street signs and civic signs erected in Bear River First Nation</p> <p>Nov 2020 - Civic signs installed in Glooscap First Nation</p> <p>Aug 2021 - New civic signs erected in Paqtnkek First Nation</p>
<p>Objective 5: Develop a community report plan to continue to increase wildfire mitigation practices after this project by October 2020.</p>	<p>1. Determine available/needed resources and potential funding sources or community funding for wildfire mitigation.</p> <p>2. Meet with Community Chief and Council to determine needs assessment for wildfire mitigation</p>	<p>Community plan created for continuous wildfire mitigation efforts. May include land-use management, infrastructure adapted for wildfire risk, fire resistant materials identified, etc.</p>	<p>Project report is created</p>	<p>Concise project report continuation plan is created for the pilot community and shared with other communities.</p>	<p>Apr – Oct 2020</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>Spring 2020 – Additional funding researched and secured for the creation of a fire break around Bear River First Nation</p>
<p>Objective 6: Support wildfire mitigation efforts by November 2020 which also promote healthy community ecosystem and sustainable practices related to climate adaptation, by</p>	<p>1. Plant species in landscaped planned areas which promote a greater wildfire prevention aspect and pollinator preferred native plant species. Prepare for start of growing season (April/May).</p> <p>2. Clear up deadwood within the community and repurpose.</p>	<p>1. Increase in plant species to reduce wildfire risk. Increase in pollinator species within the community.</p> <p>2. Deadwood cleared up within communities and repurposed. Decrease risk of harmful species. (e.g. Hemlock woolly adelgid can also be targeted through the</p>	<p>1. By identification of pollinator species.</p> <p>2. Specific performance indicator can be challenging to determine one may say a higher retention of hemlock floatage in the area. However, it has been noted that cleaning up</p>	<p>1. Increase FireSmart/pollinator plant species within new landscaped areas by 30%</p> <p>2. Remove 50% of deadwood in priority area within the community</p>	<p>Mar 2020 – Sept 2020</p>	<p>4500</p>	<p>Fall 2020 – Worked with community members to dig flower beds and plant FireSmart flowers around Bear River Cultural Centre</p> <p>Spring 2021 – Deadwood and problem trees</p>

increasing positive species (plants, pollinators and decreasing risk of harmful species (e.g., hemlock woolly adelgid).		removal of deadwood within community)	deadwood can help the spread of the species but no specific indicator on how.				removed from around Bear River Band Office
Objective 7: Increase community partnership, wildfire mitigation, innovation, and collaboration between environmental programs.	Create a list of existing partner organizations. Develop a partnership inventory of potential project overlap and collaboration areas.	Establish an increase in project and community partnership.	Organizations assisting the community with wildfire mitigation and related efforts. Community collaborating with other projects and program on related or beneficial efforts. (E.g. woodchips being donated to the community trail, etc.)	Work with more than two organizations on the pilot project. Share appropriate resources.	Nov 2019 – Sept 2020	1500	Fall 2020 – List of existing partnerships between First Nations communities and local fire departments developed; list of mitigation support resources created (excavation, arborists, wood cutting, etc.)

Note: Salary and Overhead are not calculated into this since they are split between are aspects of the project. Equipment, travel, professional services and other “training and workshops” are all factored in.



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Description:

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Virtual FireSmart Training to be completed by Bear River community members during Summer 2021.

Outcome:

Community members have increased awareness of wildfire risks and increased capacity to improve community resilience.

Status:

In progress

Goal #2:

Establish a list of resources for communities to use for wildfire mitigation.

Description:

List compiled of local contractors for mitigation – excavators, arborists, chainsaw certified, Lands and Forestry

FireSmart resources (infographics, buildings standards, guides, etc.) compiled and made available on Emergency Management Hub website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cmm-em-resources/firesmart-canada-resources>

Outcome:

Communities have access to contacts, information, and resources that support ongoing wildfire resilience

Status:

Goal met

Goal #3:

Host at least 2 community wildfire mitigation field day events (cleanup/landscaping).

Description:

Events held in Bear River to clear areas and complete landscaping around critical community infrastructure.

Outcome:

Community capacity and awareness are increased, and wildfire risk is reduced

Status

Goal Met

Goal #4:

Install Dry Hydrant in Bear River and Acadia First Nation

Description:

Company has been contracted to install dry hydrants in Bear River and Acadia First Nations

Installation has begun in Bear River First Nation.

Installation has begun in Bear River and will begin in Acadia in September 2021.

Outcome:

Communities have access to central water source, improving efficiency of wildfire response and reducing wildfire risk

Status

In Progress

Goal #5:

Complete Chainsaw Safety Training in Bear River and with CMM staff.

Description:

CMM project staff completed training

Instructor hired to deliver training in Bear River First Nation – 3-day training session to be held in July 2021.

Outcome:

CMM staff and Bear River community members have capacity to clear trees around community infrastructure/homes, increasing resilience

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In Progress

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Complete Wildlands Firefighting Training in Bear River.

Description:

Wildfire Suppression training was held at the Bear River Fire Department and community members attended.

Outcome:

Bear River Community members have increased capacity to respond to wildfires

Status:

Goal Met

Project Summary - Part I. Description

Participating organizations and geographic location(s) of the project (a small map can be included)*

The primary participants in the Mi'kmaq Wildfire Resilience Project were the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (Millbrook, NS), the Chief and Council of Bear River, Paqtnkek, and Glooscap First Nations, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry. Additional project support was provided by the Bear River, Windsor, Hantsport, and Brooklyn Fire Departments. Efforts were predominantly focused on the project pilot community of Bear River First Nation (near Digby, Nova Scotia). However, wildfire resiliency work was also completed in Paqtnkek (near Antigonish, Nova Scotia) and Glooscap (near Windsor, Nova Scotia) First Nations.

A one paragraph background or problem statement (why was the project carried out?)*

With climate change bringing hotter and drier summers in the Atlantic region, wildfire is a growing concern within communities. Additionally, multiple factors, including forest ecology/fuel type, terrain, and slope, location of infrastructure, etc. put our First Nations communities at further risk of wildfire. Following a risk assessment of all mainland Mi'kmaq communities, conducted by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, it was determined that "potential for fire starts within [Bear River] is Moderate based on fuel types, and past fire occurrence within the community, but the potential for a fire start outside of the community and then burning into is high to extreme". Based on these conclusions, Bear River First Nation was selected as the pilot community for the Wildfire Resilience Project.

A one-paragraph general description of the project (what was done?)*

The Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Project employed FireSmart practices and traditional knowledge to implement wildfire mitigation efforts within participating mainland Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia. As the project's pilot community, Bear River First Nation has, over the last year, participated in a range of activities including individual home and community building assessments, wildland fire suppression training, setting priority zones, installing street signs to improve emergency response efficiency, Firesmart landscaping, and more. All the activities completed as part of the project were designed to increase wildfire awareness, wildfire prevention, wildfire risk mitigation, community engagement, as well as build community capacity for wildfire management.

A one-paragraph description of outcomes and follow-up (what did the project achieve?)*

Activities completed include: Home and community FireSmart building assessments, Wildland Fire Suppression Training, Chainsaw Training, Community land clearing and landscaping events, Removal of trees and overgrowth from around critical infrastructure, Installation of street and civic address signage. The project has aided in increasing wildfire awareness and resiliency within Bear River First Nation and other participating communities. Follow-up activities include: The creation of a 10-metre fire break around the entire parameter of the Bear River First Nation community, Chainsaw/Tree Falling Training for Bear River Forestry Team, Installation of a dry hydrant in the Bear River community, Installation of a dry Hydrant in the Acadia First Nation community of Wildcat, Installation of civic signs in the Paqtnkek First Nation community, Completion of video documenting project work. For more info about the project and project materials, please contact Scott MacDonnell, Emergency Mitigation Officer with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. Tel: (902) 956-3936 Email: smacdonnell@cmmns.com.

Project Summary - Part II. Analysis

Successes*

The successes of the project include the completion of FireSmart risk assessments of each home and other critical community infrastructure in Bear River. Community members and homeowners were engaged and involved in the assessment process, increasing their understanding of FireSmart practices and ways to reduce the risk of wildfire in their own homes. Recommendations based on these assessments were implemented through the clearing of forest vegetation around the Bear River Band Office and other critical community infrastructure including the Community Center. A fire break will be created around the perimeter of the entire Bear River community in August. The installation of a dry hydrant and road signs in the Bear River community, and civic signs were installed in the Glooscap and Paqtnkek communities has also proved a great success. These and other activities, will greatly decrease community wildfire risk and have wildfire awareness in all participating communities.

Challenges*

A major challenge to the project was the COVID-19 pandemic. The social distancing and travel restrictions made it difficult at first to complete home assessments and gather with community members for community events and deliver effective training. However, as COVID-19 restrictions were largely relaxed during the summer and fall of 2020, we were able to complete the assessments, install street and civic signs, hold a community clean-up event and deliver fire suppression training to community members.

Lessons Learned*

Again, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned early on that for project activities to be carried out successfully and in as meaningful a way as possible, we were going to need to be adaptable. The provincial social distancing mandates worked to reaffirm the importance of face-to-face communications and luckily with some additional planning and reconfiguration, we were able to complete project activities in a way that was meaningful and effective.

What next?*

The next phase of this work could see expansion to include other communities in order of priority based on the wildfire risk assessment. Bear River was the project pilot community and the work completed there could be scaled up and potentially completed for all other member communities. For example, individual home assessments and community infrastructure assessments could be completed for any member community. Recommendations based upon those assessments would guide mitigation activities for each community's unique needs. Fire breaks, modifications to existing infrastructure, guidelines for new construction, installation of dry hydrants, community training sessions, etc. are all examples of projects that could take place in other communities to increase wildfire resiliency.

Financial Report

Financial Report*

NAPECA financial-report_Final Report.xls

Project Products

[Unanswered]

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- NAPECA financial-report_Final Report.xls

Financial Report

Project Budget for: The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Project Name: Mi'kmaw Wildfire Resilience Initiative

PART I. FOR THE LAST PAYMENT PERIOD OF (Jan 2020) TO (May 31, 2020)

	Current amount (\$)
Advance payment received from the Commission	\$ 37,125.00
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,349.09
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 22,719.28
Travel	\$ 778.07
Consultants/Professional Fees (if applicable)	\$ 36,676.61
Overhead (not to exceed 15 percent)	
Other (itemize on sheet 'Other')	\$ 1,111.62
Total Expenses:	\$ 72,634.67
Balance (cumulative advance payment less total expenses)	

PART II. TOTAL PROJECTED DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE NEXT PAY PERIOD (March 31, 2020) TO (July 31, 2020)

Expenses	Projections (\$)
Salaries & Benefits	
Equipment and Supplies	
Travel	
Consultants/Professional Fees (if applicable)	
Overhead (not to exceed 15 percent)	
Other (itemize on sheet 'Other')	
Total projected disbursements	

Notes:

- Please specify whether report is submitted in **Canadian dollars, US dollars or Mexican pesos**
- Budget categories may vary according to your original budget
- It is not necessary to enclose receipts (but they should be retained in case of audit).

Cumulative amount to date (\$)	
\$	111,375.00
\$	48,791.74
\$	35,538.93
\$	6,585.39
\$	36,676.61
\$	15,000.00
\$	6,807.22
\$	149,399.89
\$	(38,024.89)

Budget is in Canadian Dollars

Project Budget for: Enter Organization Name

Project Name:

PART I.

Other Expenses		Current amount (\$)	Cumulative amount to date (\$)
Training and workshops		\$ -	\$ -
Item 2			
Item 3			
Item 4			
Item 5			
Item 6			
Total Other Expenses:		\$ -	\$ -

PART II. TOTAL PROJECTED DISBURSEMENTS - PAY PERIOD (

Other expenses		Projections (\$)
Item 1		\$ 20,000.00
Item 2		
Item 3		
Item 4		
Item 5		
Item 6		
Total projected disbursements		\$ 20,000.00

Detailed Work Plan

Objective	Activities to achieve objective (How?)	Expected results	Performance indicator	Target	Timeline /Dates of activities	Budget	Outcomes
Objective 1. Hire project coordinator and determine the pilot community for this project by December 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the wildfire community assessments, community factors and demographics. 2. Meet with each community and project partners to discuss pilot opportunity. 3. Post job posting for position 	<p>Based on the assessment and meetings there should be 3 top communities (Glooscap, Bear River and Sipekne'katik) to pilot the project. One will be selected.</p> <p>Have someone hired by January</p>	Based on the assessments and demographics and project partners	Pilot one of the suggested communities and confirm them by the end of December.	Nov 2019 – Jan 2019	4500	<p>Feb 2020 – Position hired at CMM with dedicated capacity to Wildfire project</p> <p>Mar 2020 – Meetings held with potential pilot communities; Bear River selected</p>
Objective 2: By November 2020 increase knowledge and skill levels of community members for more environmentally friendly and sustainable wildfire mitigation practices that help reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the health of the community and its environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research FireSmart Practices 2. Host a two-part community workshop to train members on FireSmart practices through. Including a classroom and practical field session. 3. Host a pilot community wildfire mitigation day event(s). 4. Increase/implement the use of Two-eyed seeing and Netukulimk practices within wildfire mitigation and share practices. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/3. Establish a list of resources for communities to use for wildfire mitigation. 2. Participating community members have acquired the capacity to implement wildfire mitigation into existing community practices. Members are engaged by the various events. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. communities incorporating this into their land use and community planning. 2. # of community members participated. 3. Using the pilot community implement these concepts throughout their mitigation efforts. (e.g. see the use of removed Natural material being used for other community purpose) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilot community incorporated wildfire mitigation practices into the housing and maintenance department. 2. 2 community members from each community participated. 3. Host at least 2 community wildfire mitigation field day events (cleanup/landscaping) 	Nov 2019 – Nov 2020	27,100 (training and workshops)	<p>February – Mar 2020 FireSmart practices were researched; CMM and Lands and forestry staff trained and certified in Local FireSmart Representative course</p> <p>March 2021 - Wildfire Suppression training was held at the Bear River Fire Department</p>

	5. Create or use pre-existing infographics to promote project efforts						and community members attended. Bear River Fire Department is outside of the community boundary but responds to the First Nation Community. Throughout – Infographics and other awareness materials produced and distributed to communities to increase wildfire prevention/project awareness
Objective 3: Mitigate wildfire risk within the pilot community by November 2020 to reduce wildfire risk within community.	1. Set community priority zones and areas for wildfire prevention management. 2. Area cleaning and clearing around community buildings and removing debris 3. Plan and implement existing/new landscaping work to be FireSmart. 3. Community wildfire zone clearing and forest	Decrease risk of wildfires within the community.	Community Wildfire assessment score will have decreased.	Decrease community assessment risk to a moderate risk or down one category.	Nov 2019 – Nov 2020	41,000 (equipment and supplies and professional fees)	Mar-May 2020 - Home assessments of all homes/community buildings completed in Bear River Oct 2020 - The Community and CMM gathered with Lands and Forestry local

	<p>management within the community scope.</p> <p>4. Assess the pilot communities water source. And determine if a fire pond is needed and cost.</p> <p>(community staff, partners, volunteers, etc.)</p>						<p>staff to do a clean-up of the major structures (30m)</p> <p>Fall 2020 – Worked with community members to dig flower beds and plant FireSmart flowers around Bear River Cultural Centre</p> <p>March 2021 – Bear River Council, CMM, and Lands and Forestry assessed community and discussed location for dry hydrant water supply</p>
<p>Objective 4: Increase community's buildings address visibility for emergency responders by June 2020.</p>	<p>Community Housing department and local Fire Department will determine proper addresses and get equipment for the signage and installation.</p>	<p>Complete civic addressing and install civic addressing signage per building</p>	<p>Number of buildings and homes with installed civic address signage</p>	<p>75% of pilot community buildings completed</p>	<p>Jan – Jun 2020</p>	<p>6000</p>	<p>Fall 2020 - CMM and communities partnered with local fire departments to create street and civic signage; Bear River community members provided Mi'kmaq translations for all street signs</p>

							<p>Oct 2020 - New street signs and civic signs erected in Bear River First Nation</p> <p>Nov 2020 - Civic signs installed in Glooscap First Nation</p> <p>Aug 2021 - New civic signs erected in Paqtnkek First Nation</p>
<p>Objective 5: Develop a community report plan to continue to increase wildfire mitigation practices after this project by October 2020.</p>	<p>1. Determine available/needed resources and potential funding sources or community funding for wildfire mitigation.</p> <p>2. Meet with Community Chief and Council to determine needs assessment for wildfire mitigation</p>	<p>Community plan created for continuous wildfire mitigation efforts. May include land-use management, infrastructure adapted for wildfire risk, fire resistant materials identified, etc.</p>	<p>Project report is created</p>	<p>Concise project report continuation plan is created for the pilot community and shared with other communities.</p>	<p>Apr – Oct 2020</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>Spring 2020 – Additional funding researched and secured for the creation of a fire break around Bear River First Nation</p>
<p>Objective 6: Support wildfire mitigation efforts by November 2020 which also promote healthy community ecosystem and sustainable practices related to climate adaptation, by</p>	<p>1. Plant species in landscaped planned areas which promote a greater wildfire prevention aspect and pollinator preferred native plant species. Prepare for start of growing season (April/May).</p> <p>2. Clear up deadwood within the community and repurpose.</p>	<p>1. Increase in plant species to reduce wildfire risk. Increase in pollinator species within the community.</p> <p>2. Deadwood cleared up within communities and repurposed. Decrease risk of harmful species. (e.g. Hemlock woolly adelgid can also be targeted through the</p>	<p>1. By identification of pollinator species.</p> <p>2. Specific performance indicator can be challenging to determine one may say a higher retention of hemlock floatage in the area. However, it has been noted that cleaning up</p>	<p>1. Increase FireSmart/pollinator plant species within new landscaped areas by 30%</p> <p>2. Remove 50% of deadwood in priority area within the community</p>	<p>Mar 2020 – Sept 2020</p>	<p>4500</p>	<p>Fall 2020 – Worked with community members to dig flower beds and plant FireSmart flowers around Bear River Cultural Centre</p> <p>Spring 2021 – Deadwood and problem trees</p>

increasing positive species (plants, pollinators and decreasing risk of harmful species (e.g., hemlock woolly adelgid).		removal of deadwood within community)	deadwood can help the spread of the species but no specific indicator on how.				removed from around Bear River Band Office
Objective 7: Increase community partnership, wildfire mitigation, innovation, and collaboration between environmental programs.	Create a list of existing partner organizations. Develop a partnership inventory of potential project overlap and collaboration areas.	Establish an increase in project and community partnership.	Organizations assisting the community with wildfire mitigation and related efforts. Community collaborating with other projects and program on related or beneficial efforts. (E.g. woodchips being donated to the community trail, etc.)	Work with more than two organizations on the pilot project. Share appropriate resources.	Nov 2019 – Sept 2020	1500	Fall 2020 – List of existing partnerships between First Nations communities and local fire departments developed; list of mitigation support resources created (excavation, arborists, wood cutting, etc.)

Note: Salary and Overhead are not calculated into this since they are split between are aspects of the project. Equipment, travel, professional services and other “training and workshops” are all factored in.