

1. Introduction

Your feedback in this survey helps local organizers and leadership understand where our regional plans can be strengthened to better support everyone.

What is FireSmart?

FireSmart™ is a national Canadian program that helps individuals and communities prepare for wildfires. It offers practical tools and information to help reduce the risk of wildfire damage—especially in areas where homes and natural landscapes meet.

About This Survey

This survey contains 19 questions and takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Your responses will directly guide future Wildfire Resiliency and FireSmart planning, education, and resources in our region.

We know that discussing future wildfire risk can be difficult after what our region has experienced. We also recognize that discussing emergency preparedness can bring up painful memories. So, thank you for taking the time to share your perspective.

We also want to remind you that the Western Bay Clinic/Doorways program is available to anyone who may want or need mental health support. Please call the Western Bay Clinic: 709-598-2470 or the Doorways Booking Line: 709-945-6513. More information is available at the end of this survey.

This survey will remain open until October 19, 2026.

2. About you

1. How long have you lived on the North Shore?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 10-20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ I am a seasonal resident
- ☐ None of the above

3. About you

2. Which community on the North Shore do you live in (either permanently or seasonally)?

- ☐ Small Point, Broad Cove, Blackhead & Adam's Cove
- ☐ Ochre Pit Cove
- ☐ Kingston
- ☐ Northern Bay
- ☐ Western Bay
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. About you

3. Were you displaced from your home on the North Shore due to the 2025 wildfire and now live elsewhere?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Awareness and Concerns

4. How important is it to you that our region prioritizes future wildfire prevention and preparation efforts?

☐ Essential / Top priority

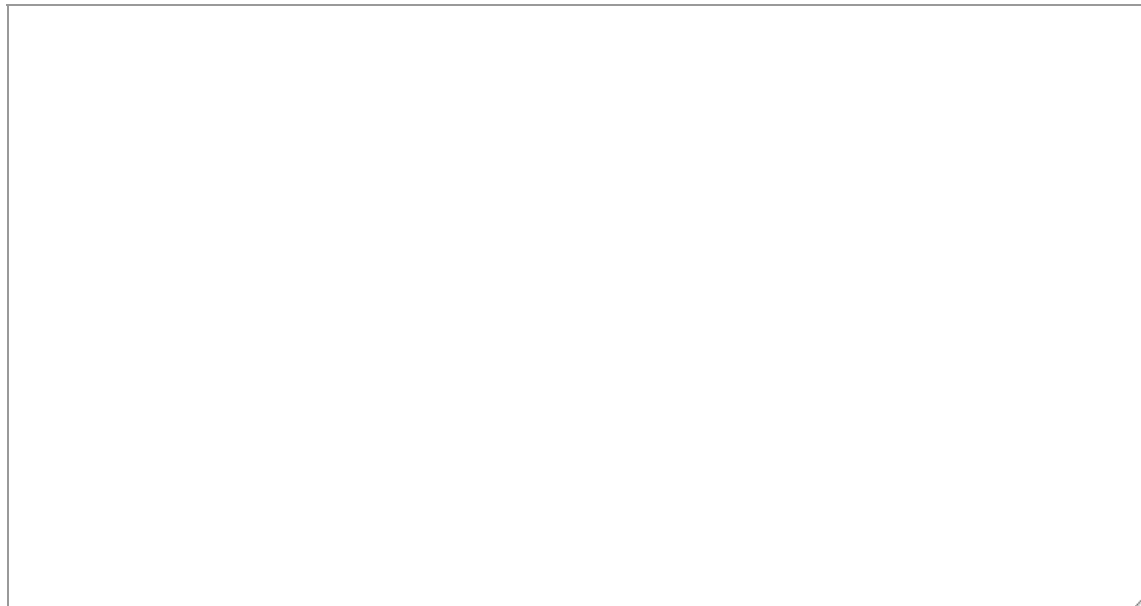
☐ Not important

☐ Moderately important

☐ Unsure

☐ Low priority

Feel free to add a comment

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6. Awareness and Concerns

5. Which aspects of wildfire risk do you think are most important to address in our Wildfire Resiliency Plan? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Personal and family safety
- ☐ Protection of homes and private property
- ☐ Protection of critical infrastructure
- ☐ Emergency planning
- ☐ Evacuation routes and access
- ☐ Emergency communication and power/cell service reliability
- ☐ Firefighting capacity and local volunteer support
- ☐ Protection of community attractiveness
- ☐ Vegetation management (e.g., tree thinning, brush clearing, or removal of fallen trees)
- ☐ More community training / awareness
- ☐ Other (please specify)

7. Regional Preparedness

6. How confident do you feel in our level of readiness for future wildfire emergency response?

☐ Very confident

☐ Not confident

☐ Somewhat confident

☐ Unsure

☐ Neutral

☐ Prefer not to answer

8. Regional Preparedness

7. Do you feel you have the necessary information and support to navigate an evacuation safely if one were required?

- ☐ Yes, completely
- ☐ Mostly, but I have some concerns
- ☐ No, I need more information or support
- ☐ Unsure

9. Regional Preparedness

8. What is the best way to notify you of a community or regional evacuation if one were required? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Provincial emergency cell phone alert

☐ Regional alert notification system

☐ Email

☐ Text/SMS notification

☐ Radio

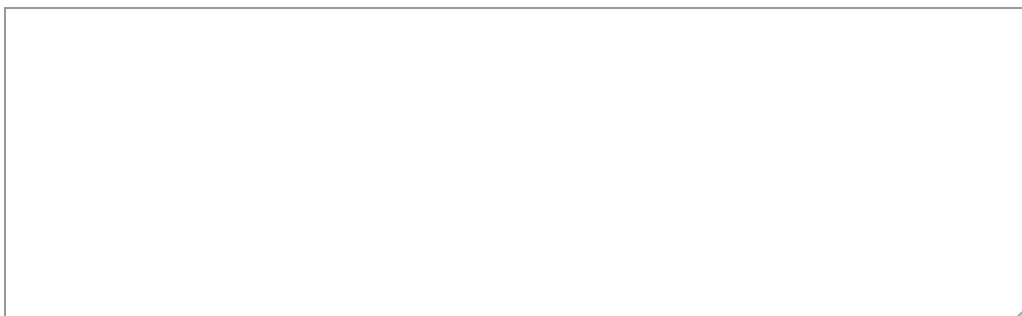
☐ Television

☐ Facebook

☐ Neighbours

☐ Emergency responders

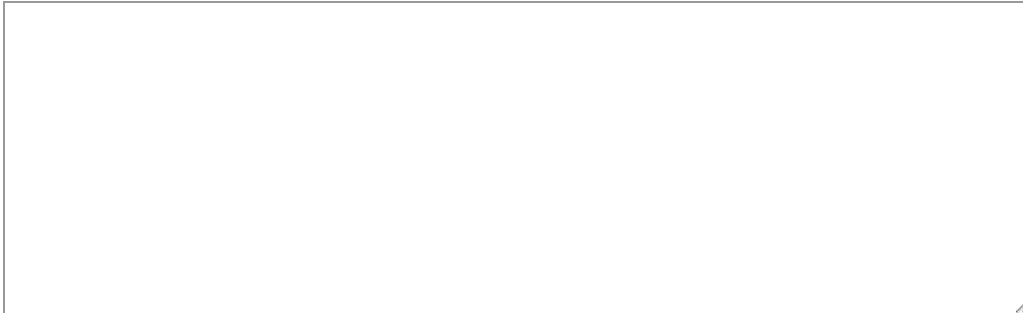
☐ Other (please specify)

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10. Vulnerable Areas

9. Which local infrastructure or areas do you feel should be prioritized for wildfire protection and risk reduction? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Emergency communication systems (cell towers, radio towers)
- ☐ Power transmission lines and utility infrastructure
- ☐ Key access roads and evacuation routes (e.g., Highway 70)
- ☐ Densely forested areas near residential communities
- ☐ Overgrown brush and vegetation along public roadways
- ☐ Properties/neighborhoods with heavy accumulation of flammable materials
- ☐ Trails and green spaces
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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11. Regional Assets

10. Are there specific locations or public spaces where you think vegetation management (such as tree thinning, brush clearing, or removal of fallen trees) is needed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please list these areas:

12. Regional Assets

11. Are there special areas, such as parks, trails, or woods, where you think vegetation management (such as tree clearing or trimming) should be limited to maintain their natural appearance?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please list these areas.

13. FireSmart Knowledge and Actions

12. Which of the following FireSmart measures have you completed, or would you consider for your property? (Select one answer per row.)

	Already completed	Will take in the future	Would consider taking	Will not take	Not applicable
Clearing dry vegetation, leaves, brush, and yard debris	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trimming trees or removing low-hanging branches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cleaning gutters and roof debris	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Storing firewood and flammable materials at a safe distance from buildings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adding fire-resistant building materials (siding, decking, roofing)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in local safety workshops	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Taking FireSmart 101 Online Training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

14. FireSmart Knowledge and Actions

13. Are there barriers that prevent you from taking FireSmart actions at your current property or residence? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Lack of time
- ☐ Lack of information
- ☐ Physical limitations
- ☐ Rental property limitations
- ☐ Concern about landscape attractiveness
- ☐ Lack of yard waste disposal options
- ☐ Unsure what actions to take
- ☐ Difficult memories or emotions related to the fire
- ☐ Feeling overwhelmed discussing fire safety or preparedness
- ☐ No barriers
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other (please specify)

15. Emergency Preparedness

14. Which of the following emergency preparedness items does your household currently have? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Emergency evacuation plan
- ☐ A go-bag (with cash, snacks, copies of important documents, clothes, etc.)
- ☐ Emergency contact list
- ☐ Property or tenant insurance that covers wildfire
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

16. Emergency Preparedness

15. Do any of the following circumstances apply to you or your household regarding emergency evacuation planning? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ I or someone in my household has a disability or mobility limitation
- ☐ I or someone in my household requires assistance or medical equipment to evacuate
- ☐ I have a physical condition that limits my ability to evacuate on my own
- ☐ I do not have access to personal transportation
- ☐ I am a senior citizen
- ☐ I have pets that need evacuation support or temporary shelter
- ☐ I have livestock or large farm animals requiring evacuation transport
- ☐ I would require emergency shelter in the event of an evacuation
- ☐ I would be reluctant to evacuate
- ☐ None of these apply to my household

Other (please specify)

17. Emergency Preparedness

16. How familiar are you with the primary emergency evacuation routes for your area?

☐ Very familiar

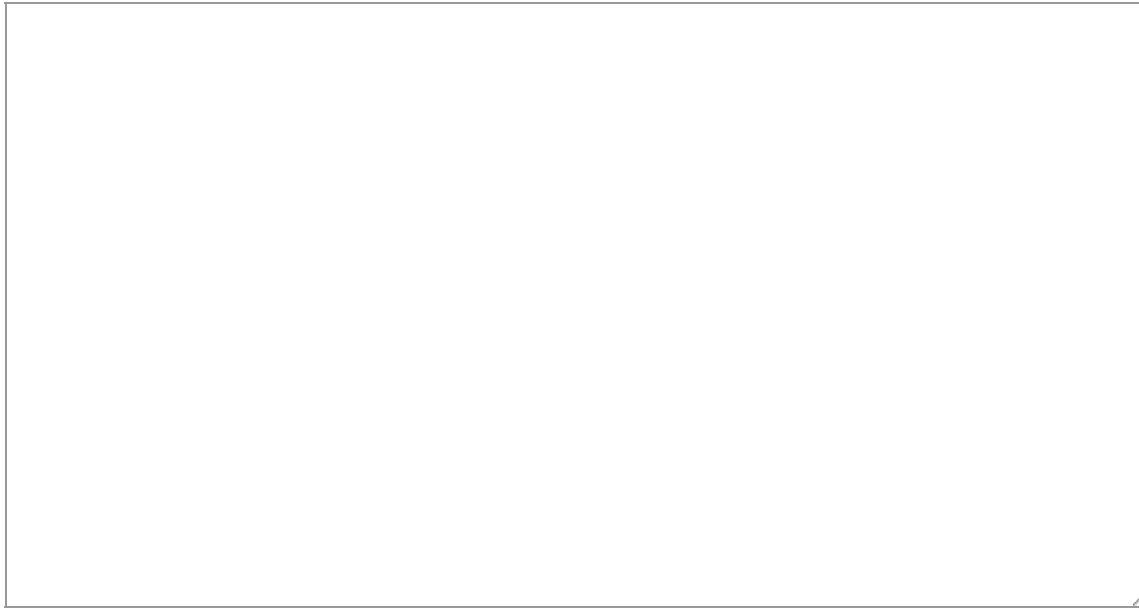
☐ Unsure

☐ Somewhat familiar

☐ Not applicable

☐ Not familiar

Do you have any comments or concerns regarding emergency evacuation routes in your area?

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18. Regional Priorities

17. Would you support the following FireSmart initiatives in your area?

(Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Community clean-up days
- ☐ Home assessments
- ☐ Neighbourhood Recognition Program (<https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs/neighbourhood-recognition-program>)
- ☐ Public education workshops
- ☐ Educational brochures and other materials distributed to households
- ☐ Vegetation management programs (clearing, thinning, and replacing plants)
- ☐ Emergency preparedness training
- ☐ Buddy system to assist others with evacuation
- ☐ Widening trails for emergency access
- ☐ Other (please specify)

19. Communication

18. How would you prefer to receive future FireSmart updates and information? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Social media (e.g., Facebook)
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Community website or municipal portal
- ☐ Flyers (to current mailing address or PO Box)
- ☐ Local radio announcements
- ☐ In-person workshops or community meetings
- ☐ Online webinars / training sessions
- ☐ I do not wish to receive FireSmart information
- ☐ Other (please specify)

20. Additional Feedback

19. Are there any other regional wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives you would like to see?

21. Additional Support Services

The Western Bay Clinic is available to anyone who may want or need mental health support. Please call the Western Bay Clinic: 709-598-2470. Other support services are provided below:

Doorways

Virtual and in-person mental health counselling at a location near you.
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Call: 709-945-6513

811 Mental Health and Addictions Line

Urgent mental health, substance use and addictions support and support in a mental health crisis 24/7.
Call: 811

Lifewise Warm Line

Peer support from those who understand.
Available daily, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (midnight)
Call: 1-855-753-2560

Bridge the gapp

Mental health resources and supports.
Visit: nl.bridgethegapp.ca