



Dear Partners in Protection Members,

I hope this note finds you and your family well during this period of COVID-19.

I want to provide an update on potential changes to the Partners in Protection Association and the FireSmart brand before the annual general meeting on Oct. 27.

In March, the Partners in Protection board of directors met in Edmonton to discuss the strategic direction of FireSmart. At the March meeting a proposal was presented by the co-chair of the Wildland Fire Management Working Group to have the FireSmart brand and programs transferred to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) under a new initiative to broaden the mandate of CIFFC to include wildfire prevention and mitigation.

For those unfamiliar with CIFFC, it is the Canadian agency that has coordinated the sharing of wildfire resources among provinces and territories since 1982. Over the past several months, an initiative has been underway to explore an increased role for CIFFC in coordinating wildfire mitigation and prevention activities nationally. An expanded role for CIFFC was approved by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers on Sept. 16.

We anticipate an important consideration for Partners in Protection membership in a CIFFC transition will be how current FireSmart programs and initiatives will be managed in the future. A proposed transition would include current FireSmart staff and advisors working with CIFFC to continue delivering existing programs, including the FireSmart Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program, and the Community Achievement Award Program. As well, revisions to the Local FireSmart Representative Program and the Neighbourhood Recognition Program will be implemented over the winter.

Once a draft transition plan has been developed and circulated, and with the approval of the Partners in Protection board, a special resolution will be sent to the Partners in Protection Association members for an online vote. As new information becomes available, I will have it posted to the FireSmart Canada website News and Events tab. If you have questions please feel free to call me or contact Ray Ault, our executive director.

Jeff Erwin  
President,  
Partners in Protection / FireSmart Canada