

MEMO:**Date:** February 26, 2021**To:** FireSmart Canada – Local FireSmart Representatives**From:** Deanne Suddaby
FSC Program Coordinator**Subject:** FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program Update Status
Neighbourhood Recognition Program & LFR Workshop updates and new LFR Qualification Standard

FireSmart Canada is pleased to advise you all that the update to the Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) workshop is complete. As FireSmart Canada prepares to launch the revised LFR program, we want to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the changes and other related developments.

The LFR workshop required an overhaul to make it more user friendly and relevant. The new, eight-hour workshop includes revisions to the Champion Workshop, and introduces the new FireSmart Awareness Workshop, and the FireSmart Program Information Presentation.

To increase efficiency, all Neighbourhood Recognition Program documents have been simplified and are provided as fillable PDFs. In addition, Alberta has funded development of a web portal to facilitate online submission of documents. The portal is being tested and will be ready for use in 2021.

The LFR revision process also provided an opportunity to refresh the Community Recognition Program. Based on stakeholder feedback, and for consistency, the newly named Neighbourhood Recognition Program (NRP) more accurately and appropriately reflects the mandates of FireSmart Neighbourhood Champions and Committees.

Given these significant developments, and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the FireSmart brand and programs, it is appropriate that FireSmart Canada implement a qualification standard for LFRs. The standard will require LFRs to complete FireSmart 101 online training, attend the updated eight-hour LFR online workshop, and sign the FSC LFR Expectations Document. The qualification standard will ensure a consistent level of currency and understanding among LFR's across Canada.

Several online LFR workshops will be provided by FireSmart BC in early 2021. Existing LFRs from outside of BC are invited to attend a free virtual LFR workshop being held March 10 / 11, 2021. <https://firesmartbc.ca/events/category/course/> All currently qualified FSC LFR's will have until April 30, 2021, to meet the new qualification standard. LFR's who do not complete online training and submit an expectations document by April 30, 2021 will not appear on the FSC National Qualified LFR list and will no longer be able to act as a Local FireSmart Representative.

All these steps are being implemented to help FireSmart Canada better support the provinces and territories in the delivery of the NRP and to promote consistency nationally.

I am happy to address questions about these changes by email or telephone. Thank-you for helping FireSmart Canada with the exciting rollout of our new and improved Neighbourhood Recognition Program.

Yours Sincerely, Deanne Suddaby - FSC Program Coordinator