



WRCC | CRFFC

Introduction to the Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada

Matthew Kristoff, RPF

Regional Coordinator – Boreal West – Wildfire Knowledge Network

KSL – Indigenous-led Integrated Forest Management Workshop | May 7, 2026



Introduction

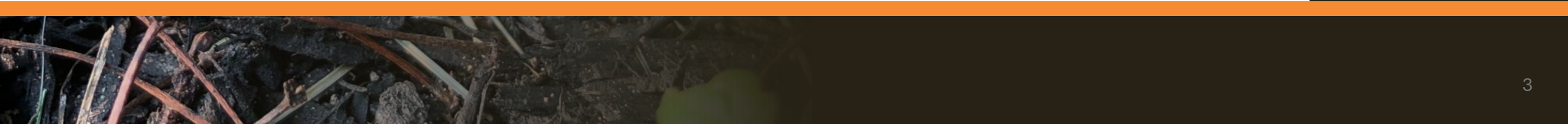
- Matthew Kristoff, RPF
 - Regional Coordinator – Boreal West - WRCC
- Initial Attack-GoA
- Forest Inventory –GreenLink Forestry
- YourForest and Good Fire Podcasts





Why

Why do we need the WRCC...



“Do Nothing” looks like this



WHY WRCC?

Plenty of expertise and impressive work



Lack of coordination, capacity & funding



Need for better communication and dialogue



WRCC



A background of a network diagram with orange nodes and lines on a darker orange background. Two blue rectangular boxes are overlaid on the image, containing white text.

A platform created to connect the dots.

A collaborative vision for wildfire resilience.



What

What is the WRCC...




How did we get here?

A horizontal orange arrow pointing to the right, with two blue circular markers on the line. The first marker is on the left, and the second is further to the right, indicating a progression of time or events.

2025: Canada Invests in Wildfire Innovation and Resilience Through New Centre of Excellence

- Minister of Energy and Natural Resource and Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience announced an investment of \$11.7 million over three years to establish the WRCC

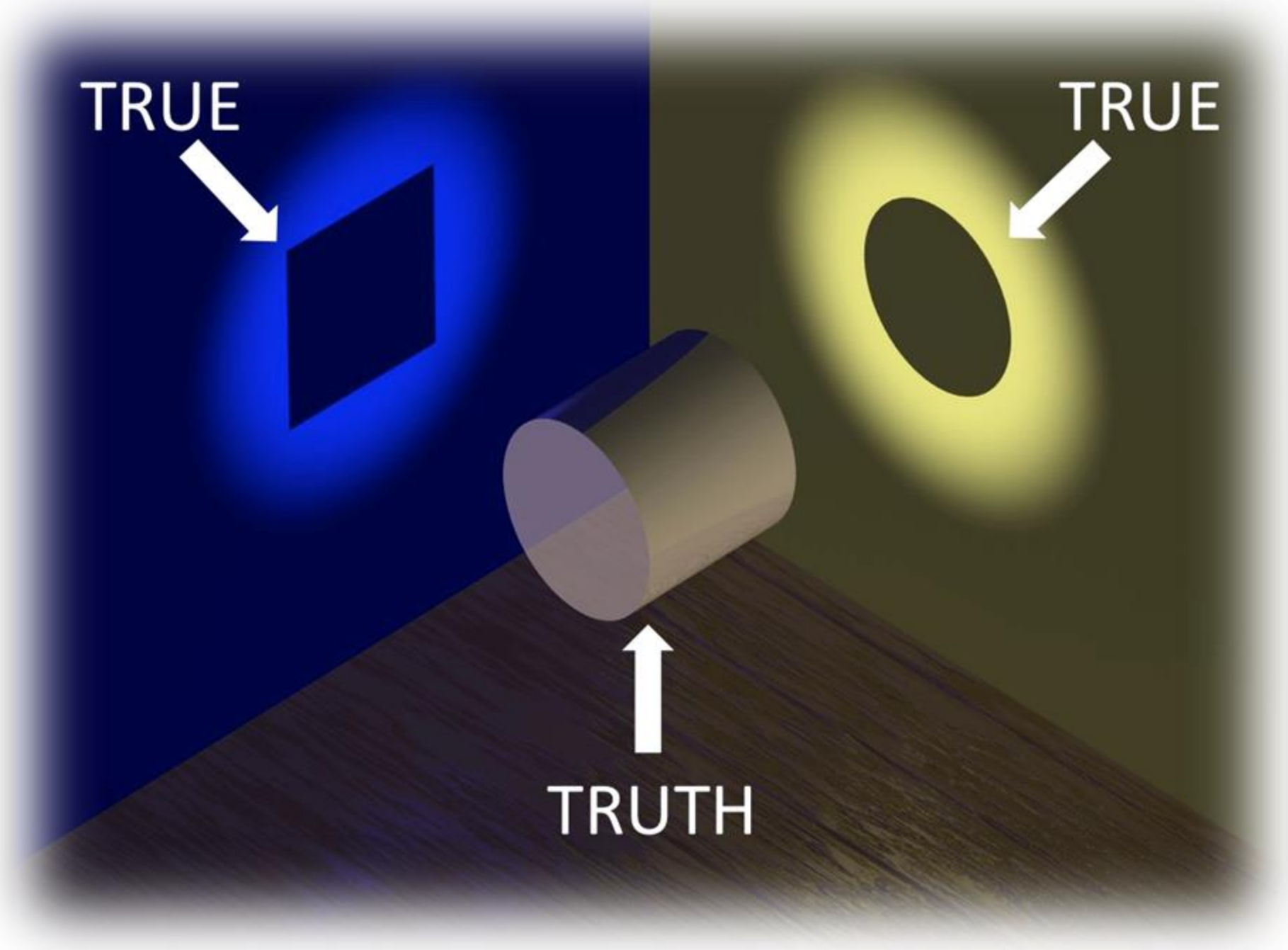
2025: WRCC Building Foundational Knowledge Gathering

- Officially launching the WRCC and discussing core activities and priorities within the wildland fire community
- 
- Two horizontal bars at the bottom right of the slide: a yellow bar on top and a blue bar below it, both pointing to the right.



Why a Consortium?





TRUE

TRUE

TRUTH

Whole-of-society

approach with a focus on *connection*



Who

Who is the WRCC...



Core Partners



Institut de prévention
des sinistres catastrophiques
Bâtir des communautés résilientes

Foundational Partners



National Indigenous Fire
Safety Council
Conseil national autochtone de la
sécurité-incendie



THOMPSON
RIVERS
UNIVERSITY
TRU Wildfire



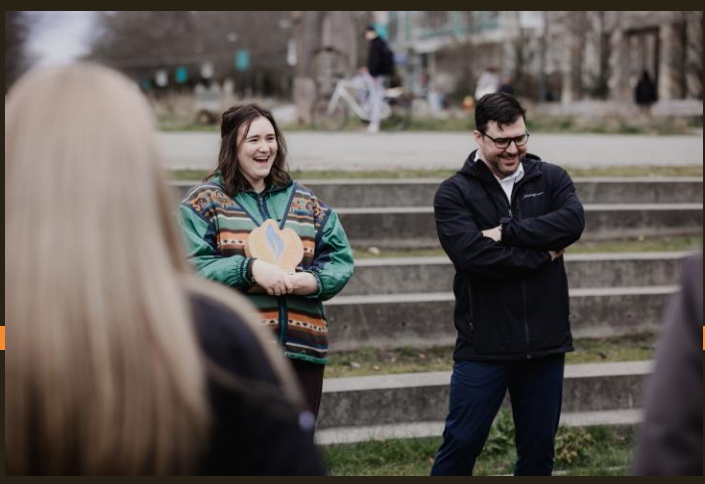
FPAC.ca
APFC.ca

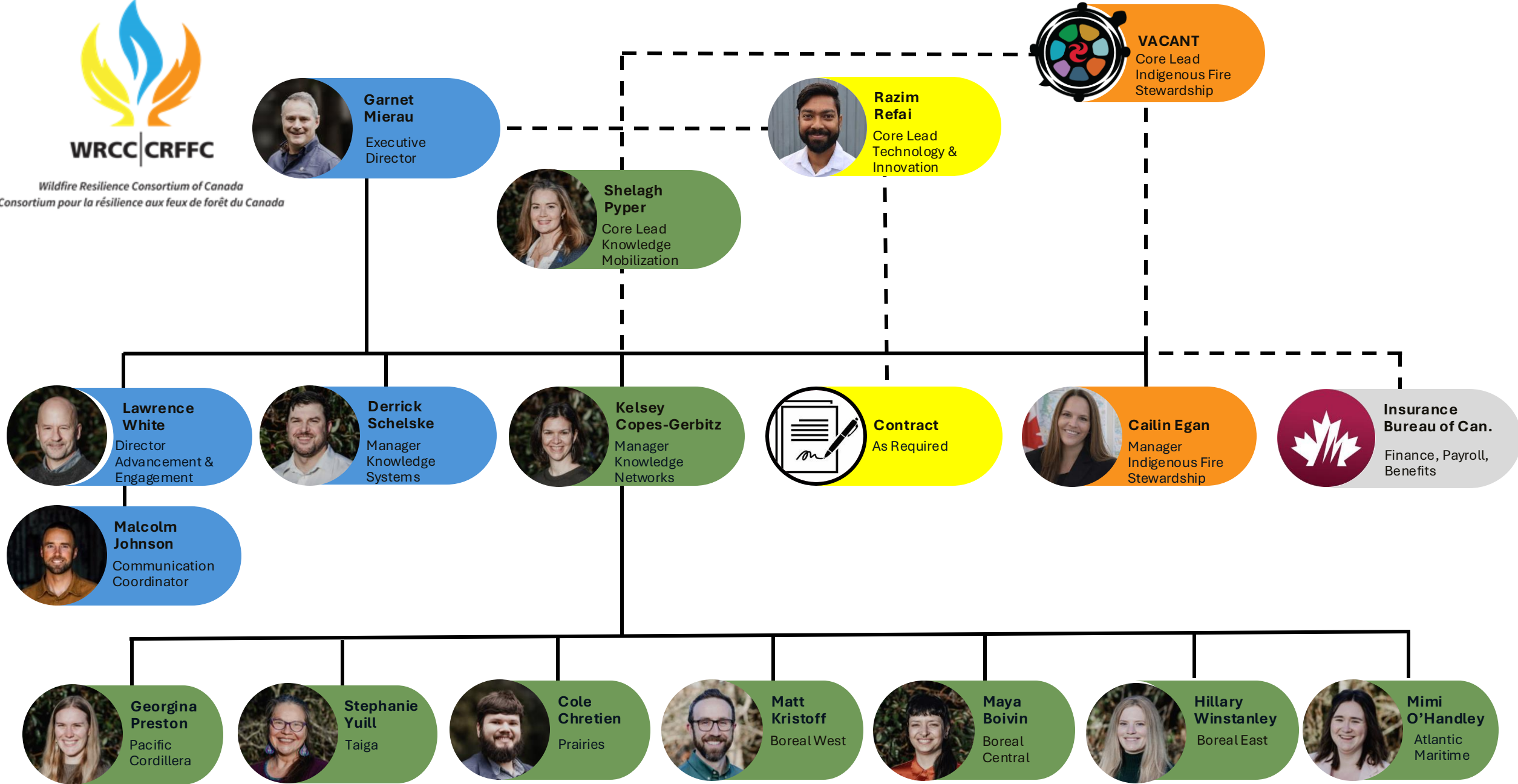

Board of Directors



Carver model of governance





Garnet Mierau
Executive Director



Razim Refai
Core Lead
Technology & Innovation




VACANT
Core Lead
Indigenous Fire
Stewardship



Shelagh Pyper
Core Lead
Knowledge
Mobilization



Lawrence White
Director
Advancement & Engagement



Derrick Schelske
Manager
Knowledge
Systems



Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz
Manager
Knowledge
Networks



Contract
As Required



Cailin Egan
Manager
Indigenous Fire
Stewardship




Insurance Bureau of Can.
Finance, Payroll,
Benefits



Malcolm Johnson
Communication
Coordinator




Georgina Preston
Pacific
Cordillera



Stephanie Yuill
Taiga



Cole Chretien
Prairies



Matt Kristoff
Boreal West



Maya Boivin
Boreal Central



Hillary Winstanley
Boreal East



Mimi O'Handley
Atlantic
Maritime



How

How will we deliver the WRCC mandate...



Three Cores to advance our goals



Indigenous Fire
Stewardship
Core



Knowledge
Mobilization
Core



Technology &
Innovation Core

Three Cores to advance our goals



Indigenous Fire
Stewardship
Core



Knowledge
Mobilization
Core



Technology &
Innovation
Core

Indigenous Fire Stewardship Core

- Previously led by the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) and their partners
- Currently, led by Cailin Egan (IFS Manager)
- Promotes self-determined, long-term land management that supports Indigenous knowledge and practices with wildfire management.
- Moving at the speed of trust





Westbank First Nation Cultural Burn

Amplify Indigenous Stories

Three Cores to advance our goals



Indigenous Fire
Stewardship
Core



Knowledge
Mobilization
Core

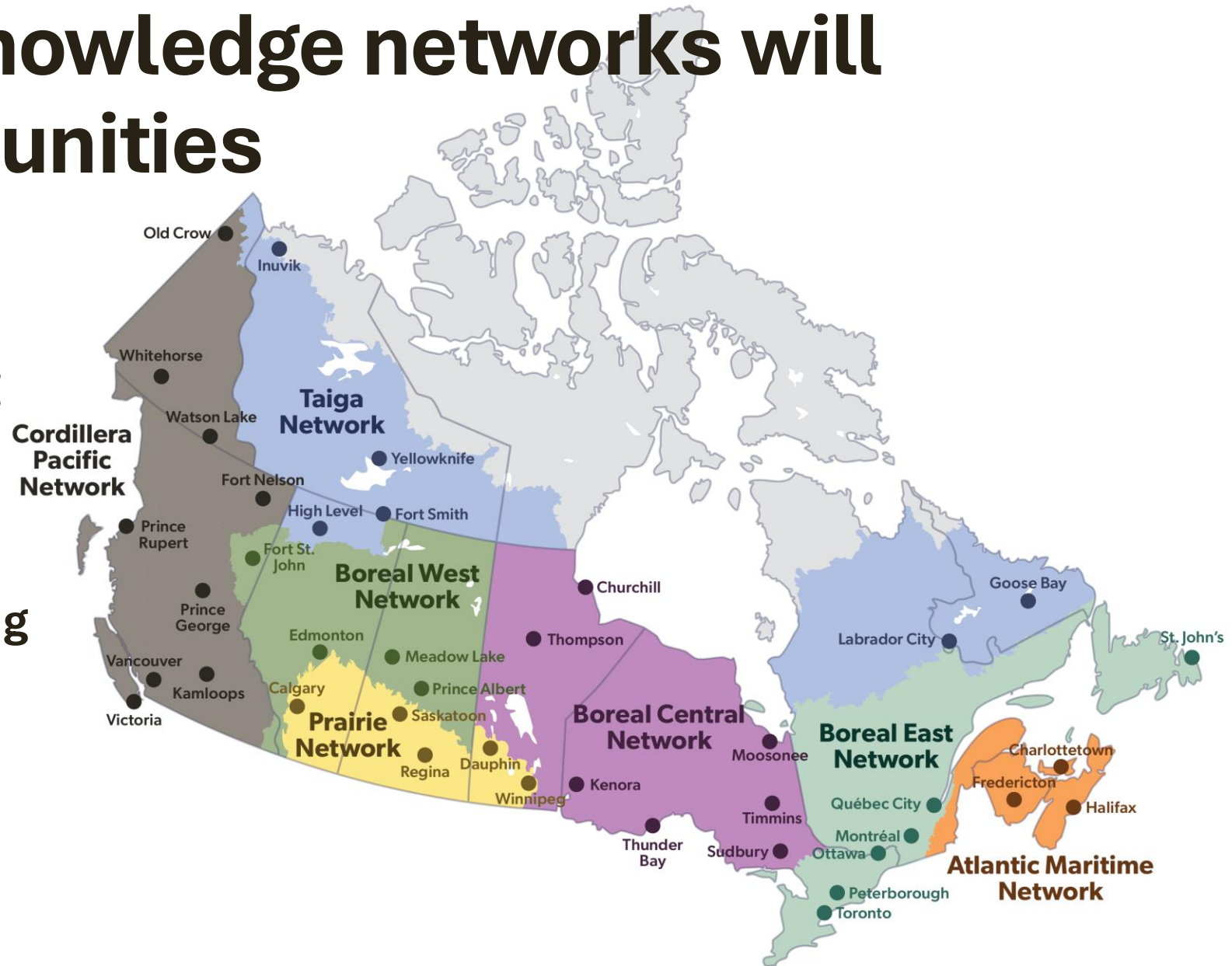


Technology &
Innovation Core

Place-based knowledge networks will connect communities

Seven networks representing Canada's terrestrial ecozones will foster wildfire resilience through:

- Two-way knowledge sharing
- Resource development
- Collaboration



Knowledge Mobilization Core

- Connecting people to ideas and each other
- Responsible for accelerating knowledge sharing and mobilization.
- Fosters connections between First Nations, governments, researchers, practitioners, and local communities, focusing on regional needs.



Three Cores to advance our goals



Indigenous Fire
Stewardship
Core



Knowledge
Mobilization
Core



Technology &
Innovation
Core

Technology & Innovation Core

- Accelerating the uptake of technological innovations that enhance wildfire resilience by linking innovators, funders, and end-users.



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*Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada
Consortium pour la résilience aux feux de forêt du Canada*



Communities of Practice

- Established
- Connected
- Empowered



INDIGENOUS FIRE
STEWARDSHIP



BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH



ADAPTIVE FOREST
MANAGEMENT



HUMAN
DIMENSIONS OF FIRE



POLICY AND
PRACTICE



TRAINING AND
CAPACITY BUILDING



Respond, Restore, Reimagine:
How Canada's Forest Sector Can Support Wildfire Resilience

 **Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)**
1st Edition: January 2024
2nd Edition: June 2025

1 | How Canada's Forest Sector Can Support Wildfire Resilience – 2nd Edition | UNG



How Canada's Forest Sector Can Support Wildfire Resilience

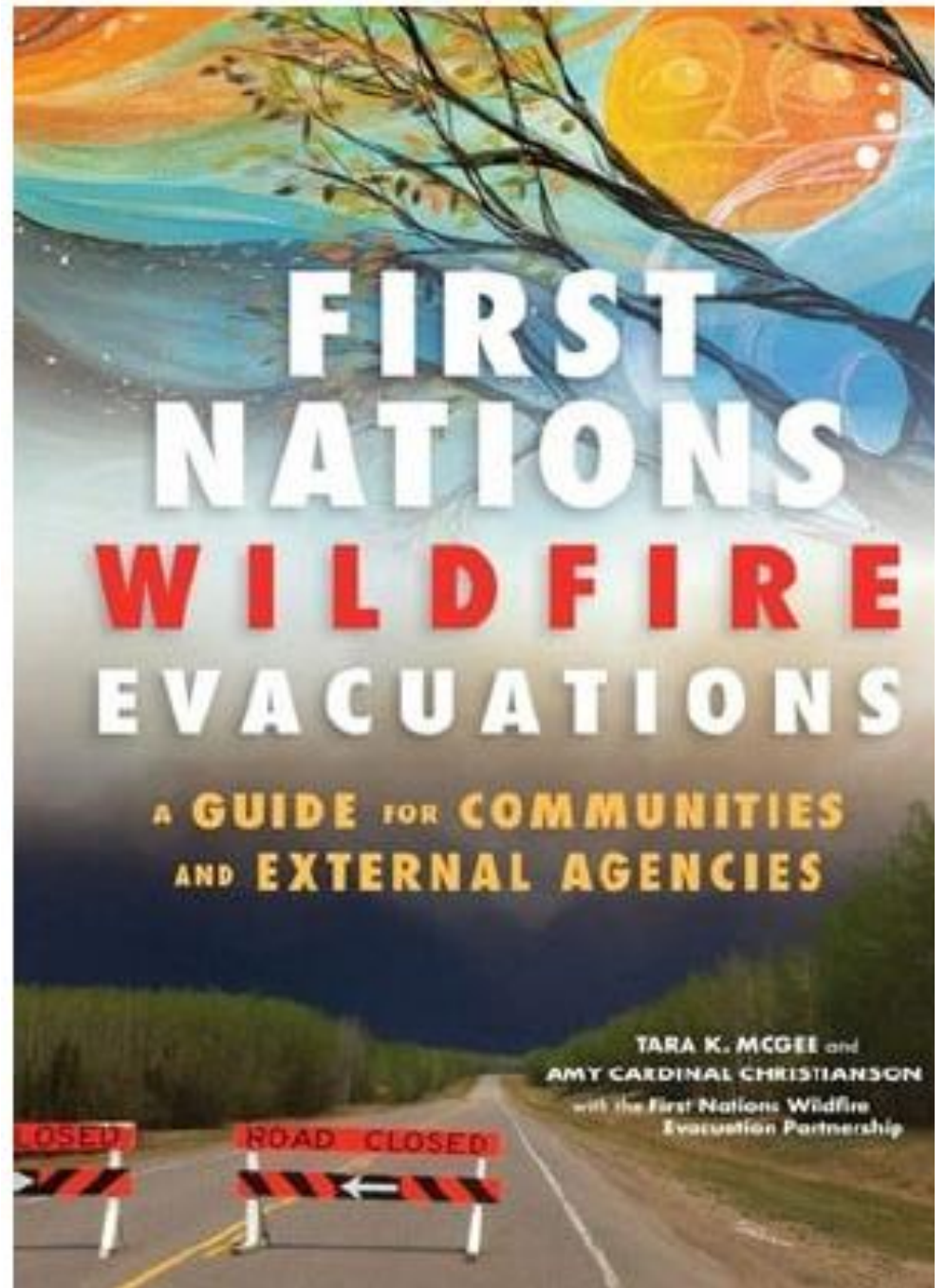
January 2024

Link: [How Canada's Forest Sector Can Support Wildfire Resilience](#)

FIRST NATIONS
WILDFIRE
EVACUATION
PARTNERSHIP



A yellow vertical banner with a rounded top. At the top is a QR code with a star in the center. Below the QR code are two portraits of women: one with dark hair and a black headscarf, and one with short grey hair. At the bottom of the banner, the text 'LEARN MORE!' is written in red.

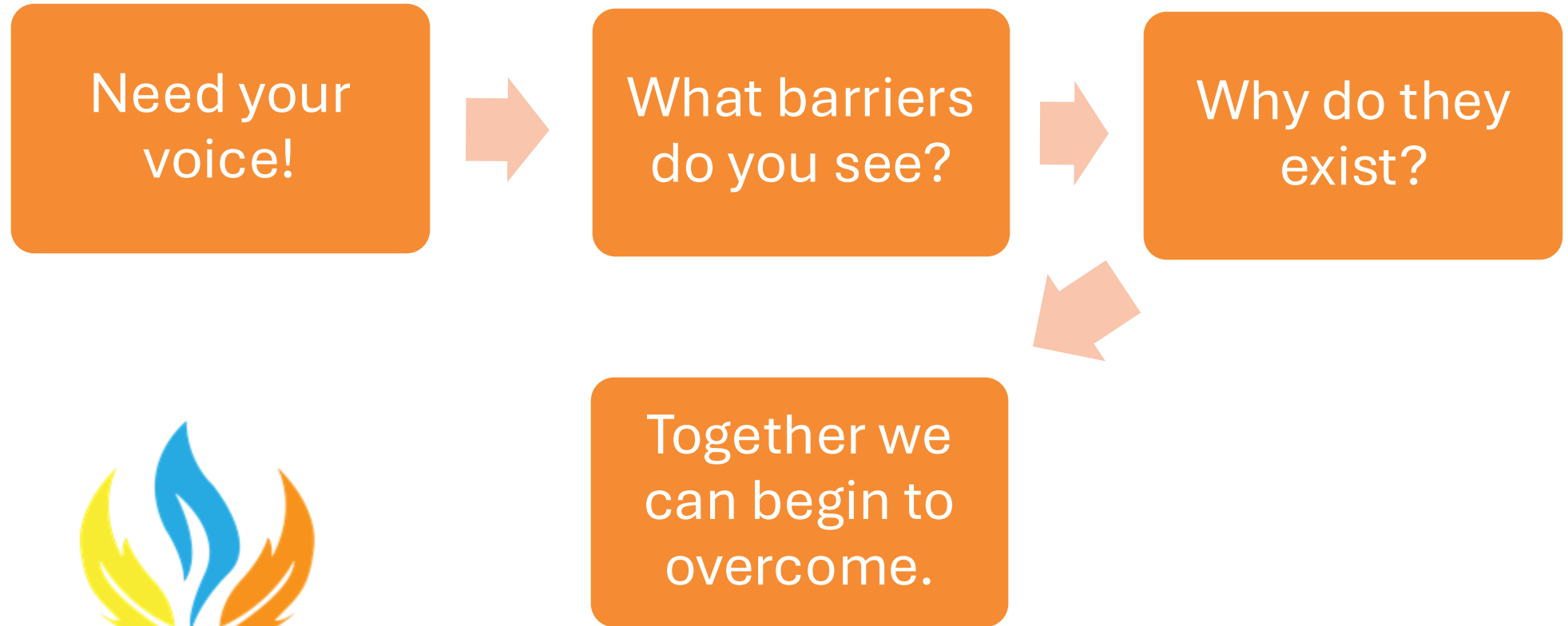




Blazing the Trail:

Celebrating
Indigenous Fire
Stewardship

Let's Talk!



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825-202-3205

Website:

[Together Transforming Wildfire Management in Canada | WRCC - CRFFC](#)