



JUN 11 2018

MR. FREDERICK BLAKE, JR.
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

Oral Question 331-18(3): Fire Prevention in the Mackenzie Delta

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 30, 2018 regarding Fire Prevention in the Mackenzie Delta. I am responding to your question with information about the outcomes of the FireSmart Workshop held in Yellowknife February 28 to March 1, 2018, as well as educational and economic support for mushroom picking in the Mackenzie Delta.

The purpose of the FireSmart Workshop is to assist community leaders and fire professionals in becoming familiar with the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program. This workshop provided participants with an understanding of current wildland and urban interface concepts, as well as the process of wildland fire hazard assessments. In addition, participants were given the tools and skills to recruit and motivate volunteer community leaders, including mentoring strategies to work with self-organized groups of citizens so that they have the ability to plan and implement wildfire mitigations within their communities.

Twenty-seven participants attended the workshop, including three representatives from the Mackenzie Delta. This included a community representative from Tsiigehtchic, a community representative from Fort McPherson, and one Mackenzie Delta-based staff member of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

The community of Fort McPherson has expressed interest in holding a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day in the community this summer, and ENR staff will be following up with support for this event.

With regards to government support for the mushroom-picking economy, ENR will work with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to determine opportunities to promote mushroom harvesting economic opportunities in the Mackenzie Delta. This may include the possibility of offering mushroom picking courses in the region.

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I trust this response addresses your question regarding the FireSmarting Workshop, as well as educational and economic support for mushroom picking in the Mackenzie Delta.



Robert C. McLeod
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs