



## November 2023

This E-newsletter is designed to provide updates on the recovery process to residents affected by the Bush Creek East Wildfire. It can be integrated directly with our website's [sign-up function](#) and delivered straight to your email inbox or by text link to your phone. Residents must sign up through the link above to receive the information directly. The newsletter will also be made available on the [CSRD](#) and [Recovershuswap.ca](#) websites.

We hope you find the information useful. Please email [communications@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:communications@csrd.bc.ca) with any comments or suggestions.

## Program Governance

A governance structure has been developed to facilitate Recovery within the CSRD. Recovery will be a long process. It is important to ensure correct processes and communication flow are in place to create efficient, effective decision-making.

Multiple Steering Committee, Project Team, and Working Group meetings have taken place over the past weeks to confirm requirements and take action towards recovery goals. Working groups include representation from the CSRD, the community, outside agencies and experts in various areas of the recovery process. These efforts are focused on:



- Wellness, Housing & Unmet Needs

- Critical Infrastructure

- Development Services
- Environment & Debris Management

- Economic Development
- Indigenous Partnership Opportunities

A request for funding for an after-action review to identify lessons learned and opportunities for emergency management improvement has been submitted to the Province and is awaiting approval. Plans for the after-action review include an opportunity for residents to provide their input as part of the process.

## Wellness, Housing & Unmet Needs

The CSRD's biggest post-wildfire priority has been to look after the needs of residents who lost their homes. The CSRD has been actively working to find supportive temporary housing options and extend emergency support services (ESS) for people in need.

The CSRD met with a local vendor for a potential central housing option for displaced families, and proposed this as a temporary housing option to the Province. The CSRD is awaiting a response from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to see if this proposal can move ahead. In the meantime, the CSRD's working group participants are continuing to work with provincial ministries, such as the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction and BC Housing, in assisting these individuals and families.

The North Shuswap Disaster Relief Society, United Way, Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse are also working to disseminate existing funds to people in need and to acquire additional donations and funds for supporting residents within the community.

## Development Services

CSRD staff overtime will be required to support residents through development permitting and rebuilding. CSRD is confirming the anticipated requirements and submitting a funding request to the Province to support the overtime required. The CSRD will also be seeking funding support for other resources as required to ensure the rebuilding process continues smoothly.

The CSRD is in discussions with the Province to ensure any potential roadblocks for residents in re-developing are identified early and clearly communicated to residents. The goal is to help speed up the rebuild process for residents. BGC Engineering recently completed a [geotechnical assessment and report](#) which identified post-wildfire hazards related to changes to slope stability in the areas of the wildfire. The wildfire has increased the risk of landslide, debris flow and rockfall in some areas of the North and South Shuswap. Residents who may be impacted by the new hazards will be contacted by CSRD directly with additional information.

CSRD Development Services staff also met with members of the Shuswap Construction Industry Professionals (SCIP) to discuss the geotechnical report and ensure they are informed. Dedicated building and planning staff are on hand to help guide residents and members of the construction industry through the rebuilding process. The CSRD also updated SCIP about improving efficiency in development services through the use of new online tools for applications and report submissions. Another meeting is planned with SCIP before year-end.

## Environmental & Debris Management

The fires created large volumes of debris in the affected areas. Testing of debris prior to disposal at the Salmon Arm Landfill is required based on provincial regulations. The Province is developing a guidance document with further information which will be provided to residents once available. The CSRD is reviewing options to support residents in meeting the testing requirements. Surveys of the Salmon Arm landfill are underway to confirm landfill capacity and determine requirements for management of all debris, such as potential alternative disposal locations.



## Critical Infrastructure

The CSRD is looking at options for the redevelopment of the Scotch Creek Fire Hall. The hall was not only used for housing the fire trucks and equipment, but was a community hub for Scotch Creek. The CSRD is working with its insurance provider on plans for the design and construction of a new fire hall on the site.


## Indigenous Partnership Opportunities


An initial meeting was held with Skwłax te Secwepemcú'ł'ecw (Skwłax) to identify opportunities for working together on recovery efforts. The hope is to create partnerships that will reduce costs, increase efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts. The CSRD looks forward to future meetings and continued collaboration with the band.


## Helpful Resources

- [RecoverShuswap.ca](https://RecoverShuswap.ca) website - your guide to post-wildfire recovery. Or use the QR code to access.
- [BGC Bush Creek East Fire Post-Wildfire Geohazard Assessment for Emergency Decision Support](#)
- [BC Housing Community Supports in an Emergency](#) provides a summary of existing programs, eligibility, and where to find additional program information.



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