



JUN 27 2016

MR. FREDERICK BLAKE
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

Oral Question 156-18(2): Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans

Thank you for your questions from June 3, 2016. A Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan was put in place in 2012 for Fort McPherson. For your information, the plan is available online at <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca>. The plan is thorough and addresses many of the issues with wildland fire that may affect the community. In accordance with the plan, in 2012 and 2013 ENR constructed a fuel break to the south of Fort McPherson, linking up several lakes in the area to provide a defensible space. The project was completed in 2013.

The Tsiigehtchic fuel break was cleared in 2010 and is not immediately scheduled for any immediate maintenance. However, the Tsiigehtchic community protection plan requires further work which will be underway sometime this fiscal year. As I mentioned before, community protection is the responsibility of three parties, the community, Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). ENR provides technical support and advice, MACA provides community support, but the community has to own the plan and ensure that tasks that are described in the plans are carried out and maintained.

ENR is in the process of evaluating and updating all of its community protection plans over the next couple of years. The first part of the evaluation will be determining which communities are of immediate priority, dealing with these priorities and doing the same for the next set of communities and so on. During this process, we are planning to bring all responsible parties into a conversation to determine how we keep these plans in the forefront of emergency management planning to protect communities.

I appreciate your interest and thank you for your enquiries.

Wally Schumann
Minister of Environment and Natural
Resources

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive