

# REDfire Lab



## Reciprocity, Ecology, and Diversity in Fire

Alex Zahara (NRCan) & Amy Cardinal Christianson (Parks Canada)  
David Young (NRCan)  
Jordan Twist (Prince Albert Grand Council)

# Fire research

Focus on non-Indigenous priorities/values and western science

Identified gaps in socio-cultural research

Numerous calls for increased involvement of Indigenous Peoples:

- Blueprint for Wildland Fire Science in Canada
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- UNDRIP
- Recent Indigenous community publications



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

## BLUEPRINT FOR WILDLAND FIRE SCIENCE IN CANADA (2019–2029)

S. Sankey, Technical Coordinator

Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre



# Jurisdiction

## Federal Government

- Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations
- Adherence to Indigenous rights
  - Inherent rights
  - Treaty rights
- UNDA (Bill c-15 law) - Canada's UNDRIP



# Practices of Data Sovereignty

- OCAP - Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession
- Consent and Refusal in research
- MOUs and/ or agreements specific with Nations or groups

## Refusal as Research Method in Discard Studies

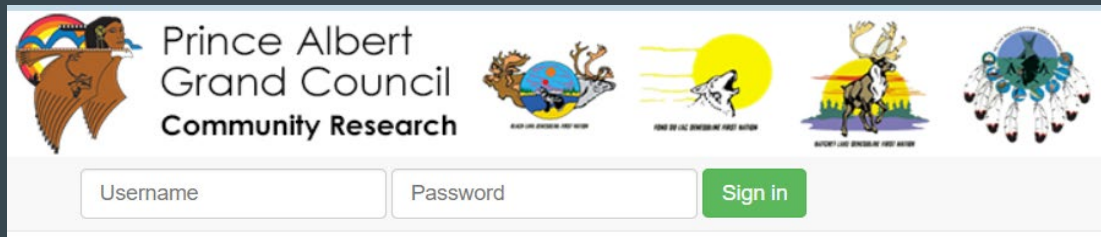
🕒 03/21/2016 👤 Alex Zahara



This image is the Facebook profile photo of a 'Stop the Dump Fires' group in the Arctic community of Iqaluit, Nunavut. It features a pregnant Inuk woman and activist, and was taken during a four month long dump fire that occurred during the summer of 2014. During the fire, pregnant women and women of childbearing age were warned not to go outside due to risks caused by dioxins. The Inuktitut syllabics written on her hand read 'Taima' or 'enough', referring to the decades of government underfunding that contributed to this and many other dump fires. The image is an example of refusal, as it refuses to depict Inuit as passive victims of slow violence and redirects attention towards government institutions. The image was distributed to media outlets before becoming the protest group's profile photo. Photo courtesy: Shawn Inuksuk, 2014 from the 'Stop the Dump Fires' Facebook page.

# Projects we've been involved in and inspired by:

## 1. Prince Albert Grand Council collaboration



- Tribal Council: Nation-specific protocols
- Data sovereignty: handling data, infrastructure and data storage use
- Interdisciplinary focus, 'yes and'-ing



## Prince Albert Grand Council Wildfire Resilience Initiative: Art of Research Exhibit



**PRESENTED BY:**  
PAGC Forestry and Muskrats to  
Moose Project Team

This exhibit examines the role of art in Indigenous-led wildfire research and practice. Featuring over 10 artists, the "Art of Research" honours the vast expertise of Indigenous wildfire knowledge in northern Saskatchewan, providing First Nations and Métis perspectives on fire, sovereignty, and the scientific research process.

Artwork includes painting, photography, graphic design, ribbon skirts/ribbon shirts, videography, and more.

On the Avenue Artisan's Gallery  
1101 Central Ave, Prince Albert, SK

Grand Opening:  
August 17th, 2023 @ 1:30 - 4:00pm

Art Exhibit will be available:  
Monday- Saturday 10AM - 4PM  
August 17 - 31st, 2023





## 2. We are Fire

wearefire.ca



Home

Giving Thanks

Grounding the *We Are Fire* Toolkit

Navigating the *We Are Fire* Toolkit

Using Fire

Knowing Our Land

Understanding the Politics of Fire

Moving Toward Fire Reconciliation

Engaging in Indigenous-Led Fire Prescriptions

Disclaimers

### Welcome to We Are Fire

#### A Toolkit for Applying Indigenous-Led Fire Practices and Western Fire Management in the Saskatchewan River Delta

tawaw kinanaw oma iskotēw: oma  
apacīcikan oci ininiwak ka nīkanōtak  
iskotēw kākētوام itotamowina ēkwa  
pakisimōtāk iskotēw ōpimpanītowāk ōta  
kisiskāciwani-sīpiy maskēko askīy

[Listen to Cree](#)

The *We Are Fire* Toolkit is an online [knowledge product](#) that invites you to learn about and explore uses of fire on the land.





Muskrats to Moose Project Team: Cliff Buettnar, Amy Cardinal Christlanson, Michela Carrière, Solomon Carrière, Renée Carrière, Natasha Caverley, Laura Chaboyer, Chris Dallyn, Tanya Gaddby, Tom Spetter, Graham Strickert, Madeline Walker, David Young and Alex Zahara

Muskrats to Moose Project Interviews and Northern Saskatchewan Youth Artists

Peer Reviewers: Anonymous Reviewer, Ryan Lee Carrière, Paul Courtoisville, Dane de Souza, Bryan Fraser, Joe Gilchrist, Robert W. Gray, Brady Highway, Colleen Nina MacColl-Buck, Denise Mckay, Herman J. Michell, Scott Murphy, Robert Patrick, Todd Sleeman and Jordan Twist

Funding was provided by Natural Resources Canada - Emergency Management Strategy - Wildland Fire Resilience Initiative



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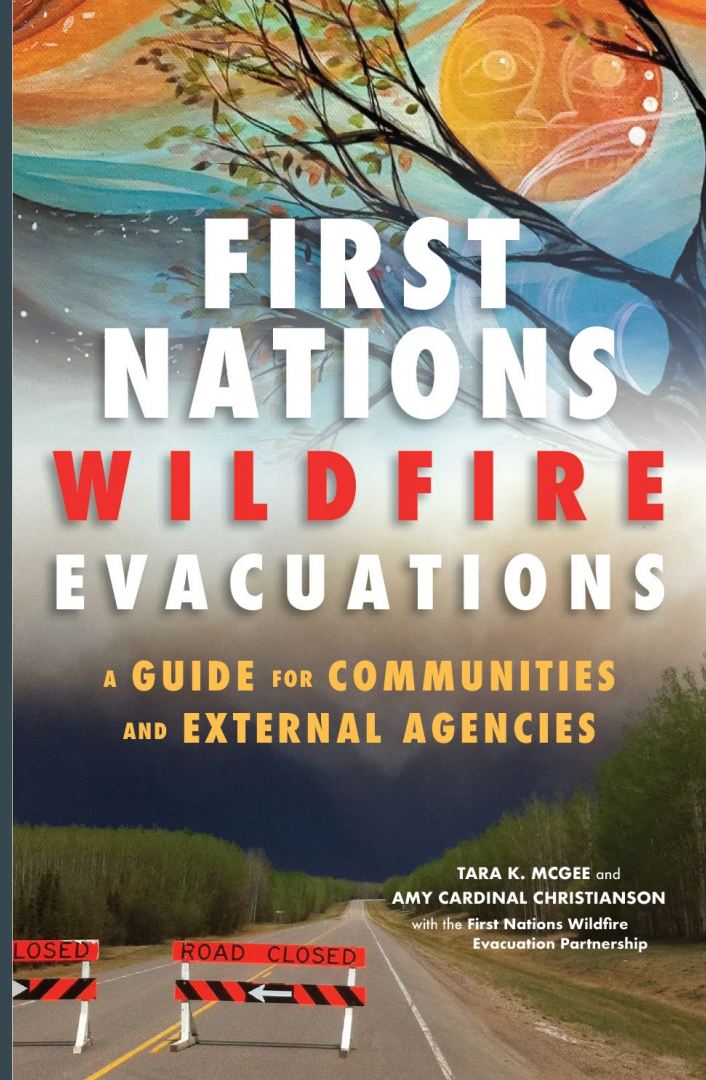
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### 3. First Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership



# FIRST NATIONS WILDFIRE EVACUATIONS

A **GUIDE** FOR **COMMUNITIES**  
AND **EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

TARA K. MCGEE and  
AMY CARDINAL CHRISTIANSON  
with the First Nations Wildfire  
Evacuation Partnership



## 4. Thunderbird Collective



# Budget 2022

Centre of Expertise in Indigenous Fire Stewardship (Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate, 2022) - *The REDFire Lab*

Center of *Excellence* in Wildfire Innovation and Resilience (National Adaptation Strategy, Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative 2022)

*Pillar 3: Support for Indigenous Fire Stewardship*





## REDfire Lab

The REDfire Lab is an interdisciplinary research hub that supports Inherent and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples to steward a healthy and resilient cultural landscape with fire.

Through building relationships with under-represented and minority groups, we aim to produce research that strengthens Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination and promotes reconciliation with fire in Canada.



# Guiding value statements and practices

1. Responsiveness to Indigenous needs
2. Respect for sovereignty of Indigenous Nations, communities, people
3. Strengthening relationships through wildfire research



# Structure of Lab

1. Project Advisors
2. Lab Facilitators
3. Lab Staff/ Core Members
4. Casuals

Likely to change and adapt to needs  
and personnel over time





Questions/ Thank you!

