

WILDFIRE PROTECTION

The Background Briefs by leading provincial fire ecologists [Bruce Blackwell](#) and [Bob Gray](#) raise questions regarding whether our current forest policies and practices will address communities' future social, economic and environmental needs. We are again entering the wildfire season and have already evidenced tragic results of a wildfire in the community of Slave Lake, Alberta. This is another “wake-up call” regarding ecosystem conditions in BC, especially in areas where the mountain pine beetle has killed vast numbers of trees close to communities. If the experts are concerned, should communities and Government not be as well?

Bruce and Bob outline a number of policies and practices that they believe need changing to meet safe wildfire protection objectives. They will cost money, yet Government has indicated insufficient funds are available to fully treat areas around communities.

Challenge

How do we establish innovative funding mechanisms for communities to generate revenue from nearby forests to support necessary forest treatments?