



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# Media Release

April 17, 2018

For immediate release

## Kaslo Back Road and Woodbury receive national recognition for being FireSmart

Nelson, BC: The communities of Kaslo Back Road and Woodbury are receiving national recognition for their 2017 efforts to be FireSmart. The FireSmart Boards from each community were presented with their recognition awards by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and FireSmart Canada at the Kaslo Emergency Services Center last week.

"Wildfire protection starts with communities and individuals—there is a lot that people can do to help protect their homes from fires," said Aimee Watson, Director of RDCK Electoral Area D. "I'd like to recognize the residents of Kaslo Back Road and Woodbury for coming together to help make their communities more prepared and resilient."

The FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program promotes community-wide participation in the use of FireSmart practices that cut the potential for home ignition and minimize the loss of life and property to wildfire, independent of firefighting efforts.

FireSmart Canada is recognizing Kaslo Back Road and Woodbury for a number of initiatives, including:

- the creation of a FireSmart Board organized by Community Champions;
- the completion of a community wildfire assessment report by a local FireSmart representative;
- the development of a FireSmart community plan;
- education and hands-on FireSmart training for residents; and
- ongoing FireSmart events in 2018 to further reduce hazards through education and activities.

"The residents of Kaslo Back Road and Woodbury have made an incredible commitment and devoted hard work to keep their communities safe," said Nora Hannon, the RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator and Balfour Harrop Fire Chief. "I encourage other communities throughout the region to consider participating in the FireSmart Program."

For more information about the FireSmart Program, please visit the RDCK website at [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca), or contact Nora Hannon at 250-352-8177 or [nhannon@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:nhannon@rdck.bc.ca).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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*Photographs and accompanying captions from the recognition event are available upon request to Maria Hypponen (below).*

**For further information, please contact:**

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