



Wildfire Recovery Support Program Overview

In response to the 2017 wildfires in the Cariboo Chilcotin region of the Province, the Wildfire Recovery Support Program (WRS) has been launched. In a coordinated effort, it is being delivered throughout the region by three Community Futures offices, Williams Lake, Quesnel and Ashcroft. Each office will cover its local and regional mandated area.

The main purpose of the program is to offer hands on support to businesses in the region who have been affected by the wildfires. The program which is sponsored by Northern Development Initiative Trust and CCBAC will offer affected businesses both referrals to supporting agencies as well as personal administrative help. During the recovery process, many businesses have failed to apply for or seek out the available grants such as the Red Cross Phase I and II, Agricultural Supports, Health & Wellness programming and other financial opportunities such as supplemented business loans. The reasons for this are mixed and include lack of time, lack of resources, limited internet access, English barriers and lack of information. To overcome these barriers, the program Ambassadors will focus on meeting owner/operators from all business sectors in their regions. Once the specific needs of the business have been identified via a short questionnaire, referrals and assistance will be offered. Statistics from these meetings will be gathered and submitted to the funders for tracking purposes. The results will also be used to identify current and future assistance which may not yet be identified. The program will run until October 2018 and will make available ongoing information to businesses as programs and funding come on line.