

District of Barriere
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 25th, 2026	File:
To: Council	From: Fire Chief
Re: Rebate Program (Barriere FireSmart Fuel Mitigation and Education Program)	

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council that as the FireSmart program is in its second year, the District is now permitted to initiate the Barriere FireSmart Fuel Mitigation and Education Rebate Program through Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) funding.

Background

The District of Barriere continues to face increasing wildfire risk due to climate change, surrounding vegetation, and the wildland urban interface environment in which the community is located. Residential FireSmart mitigation measures such as vegetation management, debris removal, and home hardening have proven effective in reducing wildfire risk and increasing community resilience.

The District of Barriere has been approved through CRI funding to support a total of 19 properties under the FireSmart Rebate Program, including 9 properties in 2026 and 10 properties in 2027.

The program is intended to encourage residents to take proactive steps toward wildfire preparedness by providing partial financial reimbursement for eligible FireSmart mitigation activities completed on private property.

Program Overview

The Barriere FireSmart Rebate Program follows the CRI funding guidelines and aligns closely with similar programs currently operating in neighbouring communities, including the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), the City of Merritt, and the Village of Chase.

The program structure includes:

- A Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Home Assessment completed by a qualified Barriere Fire Rescue member
- Recommended mitigation activities for participating homeowners
- A cost-share rebate structure for eligible mitigation work
- A tier system to help prioritize higher-risk properties and support equitable access to the limited available funding

The rebate funding, including staff time associated with FireSmart assessments, is fully-funded through the CRI grant program and does not have a financial impact on the District.

Program Administration

Following the initial FireSmart assessment, homeowners will be provided with recommended mitigation activities. Once the work is completed, properties will be reassessed by a qualified Barriere Fire Rescue member to confirm eligibility. Supporting documentation, including receipts and required CRI forms, must be submitted prior to reimbursement.

As funding is limited, the program utilizes a tiered approach to help prioritize properties based on wildfire risk and overall program effectiveness.

Communication and Public Awareness

Staff will be launching a public communication campaign to support the rollout of the program. Information will be shared through:

- Social media
- District E-News
- Newspaper advertisements
- Community posters
- District and FireSmart websites
- Community events and FireSmart outreach opportunities

**submitted for information*

Prepared by:
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