

January 31, 2019

Alison Slater, Executive Director  
SILGA, Southern Interior Local Government Association  
PO Box 27017 Cityview PO  
Kamloops BC V2E 0B2

Dear Ms. Slater:

Re: SILGA Community Excellence Awards Nomination – Logan Lake Community Forrest Association  
Economic Development Category

It is with pride that I nominate the District of Logan Lake for consideration for the SILGA 2019 *Community Excellence Awards* in the Economic Development category. Both the District's Community Forest and FireSmart program have proven to be highly successful for more than a decade of activity.

In the early 2000's, the mountain pine beetle epidemic had significant impacts, ravaging the pine forests surrounding Logan Lake. In 2003, a 'firestorm' hit the region and made it evident that immediate and drastic measures needed to be taken if we wanted to protect our community. This was the catalyst for the District of Logan Lake to apply for a Community Forest Agreement to address the extreme wildfire hazard in our backyard. As a result, the District of Logan Lake was granted one of the first Community Forest tenures in BC in 2008.

Since the Community Forest was established, the District has worked closely with the forest management team to address Logan Lake wildfire hazards. This represents an investment of roughly \$250,000 to treat 50 hectares each year. The Union of BC Municipalities has been a key partner in our success, providing significant levels of funding support throughout the years under the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

Another source of pride is our long running high school FireSmart Team Program. For years, we have been employing our local youth to complete fuel management treatments in the wildland urban interface. This continues to be a strategically funded annual program support through a collaboration between the District of Logan Lake, the Logan Lake Wellness, Health & Youth Society (Logan Lake WHY), and the Logan Lake Community Forest. The students are trained on fuel reduction treatments and safe techniques for working with hand tools, skills that can be transferred to other aspects in their lives or careers. Students also have the opportunity to learn from forest professionals while out in the field – discussing plant identification, forest ecology, wildfire behaviour, biodiversity, job search skills, career and post-secondary education opportunities, and anything else on their minds while out working to better their community.

In 2013, Logan Lake was nationally recognized as **Canada's First FireSmart Community** through the Partners in Protection program with FireSmart Canada, after having successfully implemented FireSmart activities for 10 consecutive years. We are now entering our 16<sup>th</sup> year and intend to keep going strong. The key to our FireSmart success has been leadership. Our Major and Councilors have changed but the commitment to public safety has never wavered, and our Fire Chief has remained a champion for the cause. Our citizens are also to be commended for their understanding and owning their part of the equation, many of whom have completed FireSmart treatments on their own lands.



Our Logan Lake Community Forest Corporation found its beginnings in FireSmart and has evolved into a robust forest stewardship business that reflects the interests of our community. We are led by a Board of Directors that provides guidance to our professional forestry management team.

The Community Forest manages the natural resources and many values such as range, visuals, wildlife, and recreation to name just a few. It is important because we have a strong say in how things get done in our community and it has direct impacts on our citizens. We are able to have deeper engagement with all of the users on the landbase, including local First Nations – always looking for the common ground.

Regarding contributions to the community, the Community Forest has recently transferred to the District of Logan Lake \$2,908,436 (for 2017 and 2018) for re-investment back into the community. The Community Forest has also made its own direct investments and grants into the community since 2012, totaling \$803,584. Lastly, we are proud of all our graduates of Logan Lake Secondary, and the Community Forest recently established an annual scholarship and bursary program with 5 recipients receiving a total of \$5,250 in the last two graduating classes.

As you can see, our FireSmart program and Logan Lake Community Forest are intertwined in their purpose and success. We've learned a lot along the way and are excited to keep growing both initiatives. Thank you for reading this submission and considering us for the award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melisa Miles". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melisa Miles

Director of Corporate Affairs  
District of Logan Lake