

Disaster Forum – November 4-6, 2024

I attended the Disaster Forum, November 4-6, 2024. I was the opening keynote for the forum on the morning of November 5. I spoke about lessons learned in leadership during COVID and the 2023 evacuation (presentation attached).

The forum also had a keynote speaker from Jasper (lessons learned during their 2024 wildfire and evacuation) and the Fire Chief from West Kelowna (lessons learned during their 2023 wildfire and evacuation).

Navigating Crisis: The Role of Leadership Resilience

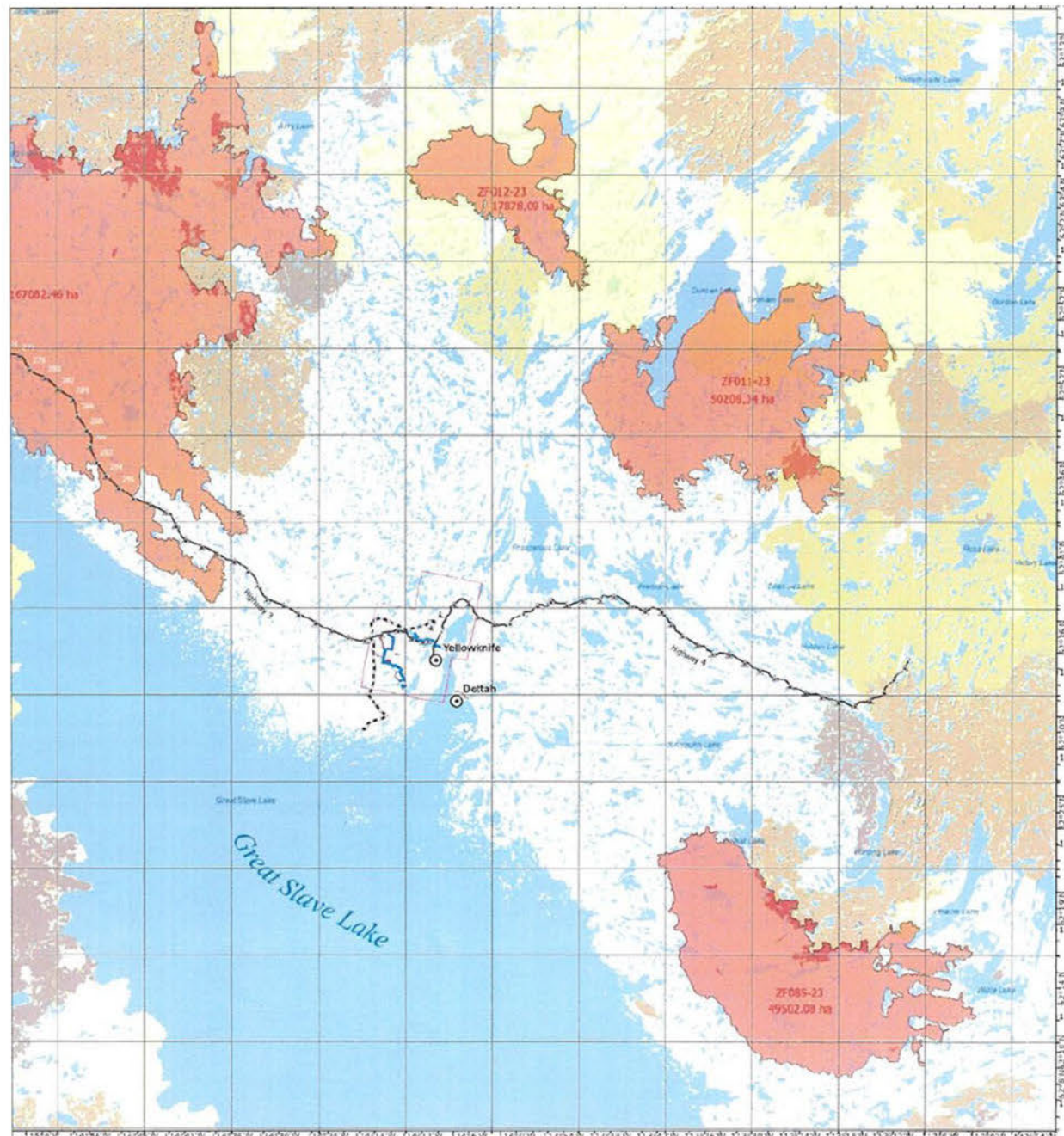


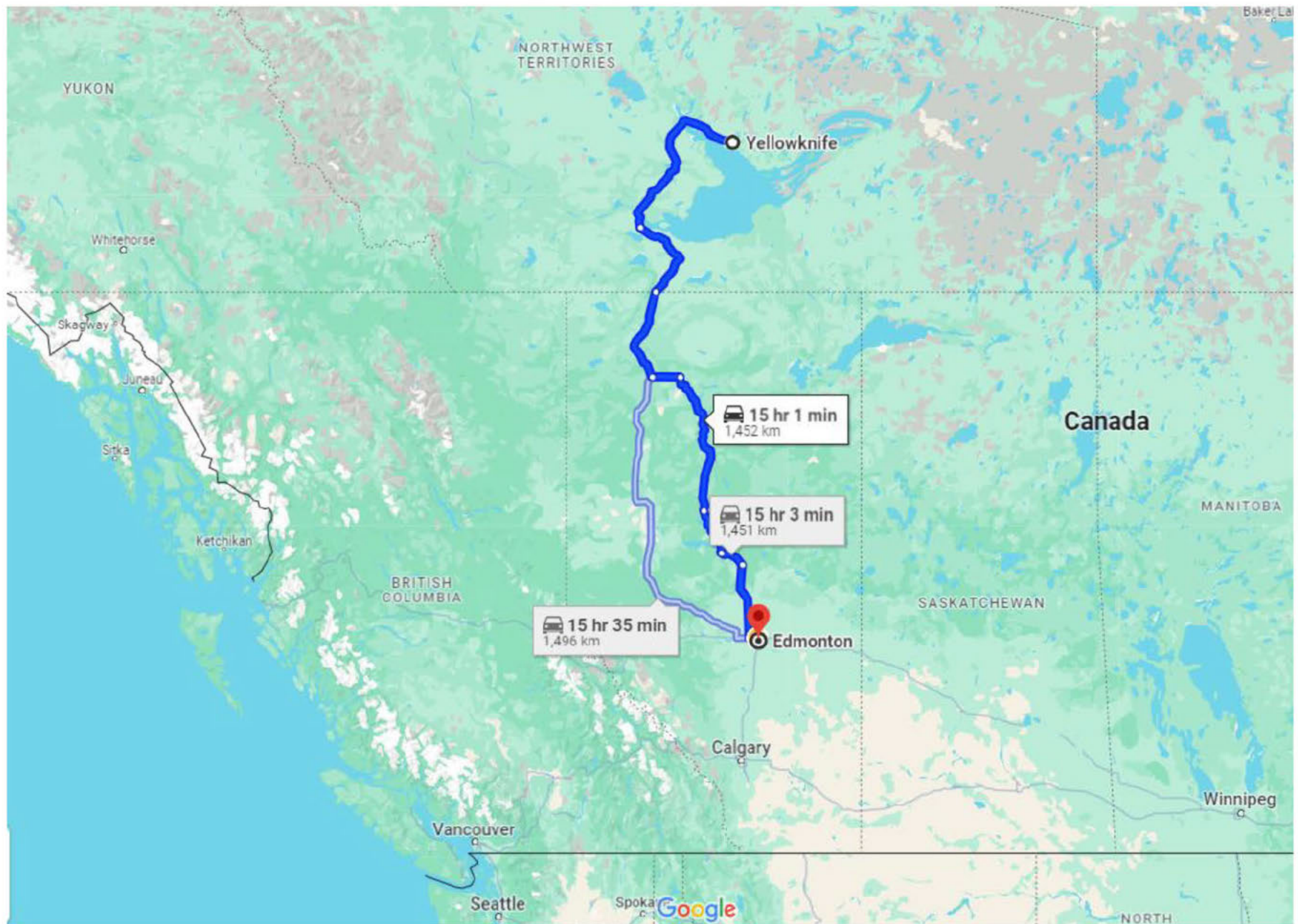
CITY OF
YELLOWKNIFE



2023 Wildfire

- July 16, 2023: Wildfire in the North Slave area begins – Yellowknife and Behchoko are deemed not at risk
- July 24: Evacuation order issued for Behchoko
- Between July 16-August 13: Many actions taken including fire retardant lines placed, planned ignition operations, etc.
 - [August 8: Maui Wildfire](#)
- August 13: Fire breaches control lines.
 - [August 13: A Fire destroys NWT community of Enterprise](#)
- August 14-15: Wildfire moves towards Yellowknife and by Aug 15, is within 15 km of the community boundary
- August 15: Evacuation Alert for the west side of Yellowknife.
- August 16: Evacuation order issued for all of Yellowknife
 - [70% of the population of the NWT was evacuated the week of August 13](#)
- September 1: Notify residents of re-entry date of September 6





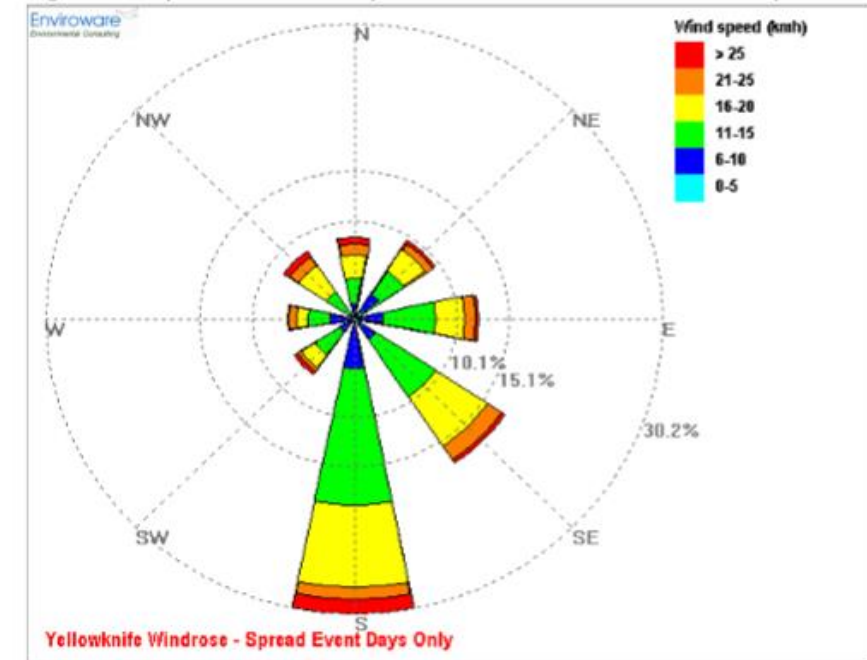
Thorsten Gohl



2019 Community Wildfire Protection Plans



Figure 1: Spread-Event Day Predominant Wind Direction (Yellowknife 2004-2018)



There are approximately 35 days per year with Very High or Extreme fire danger levels ($FWI \geq 19$) and winds on those days are predominantly from the south and southeast (Figure 1).

Map 4 - Wildfire Behaviour Potential

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

Non-Fuel

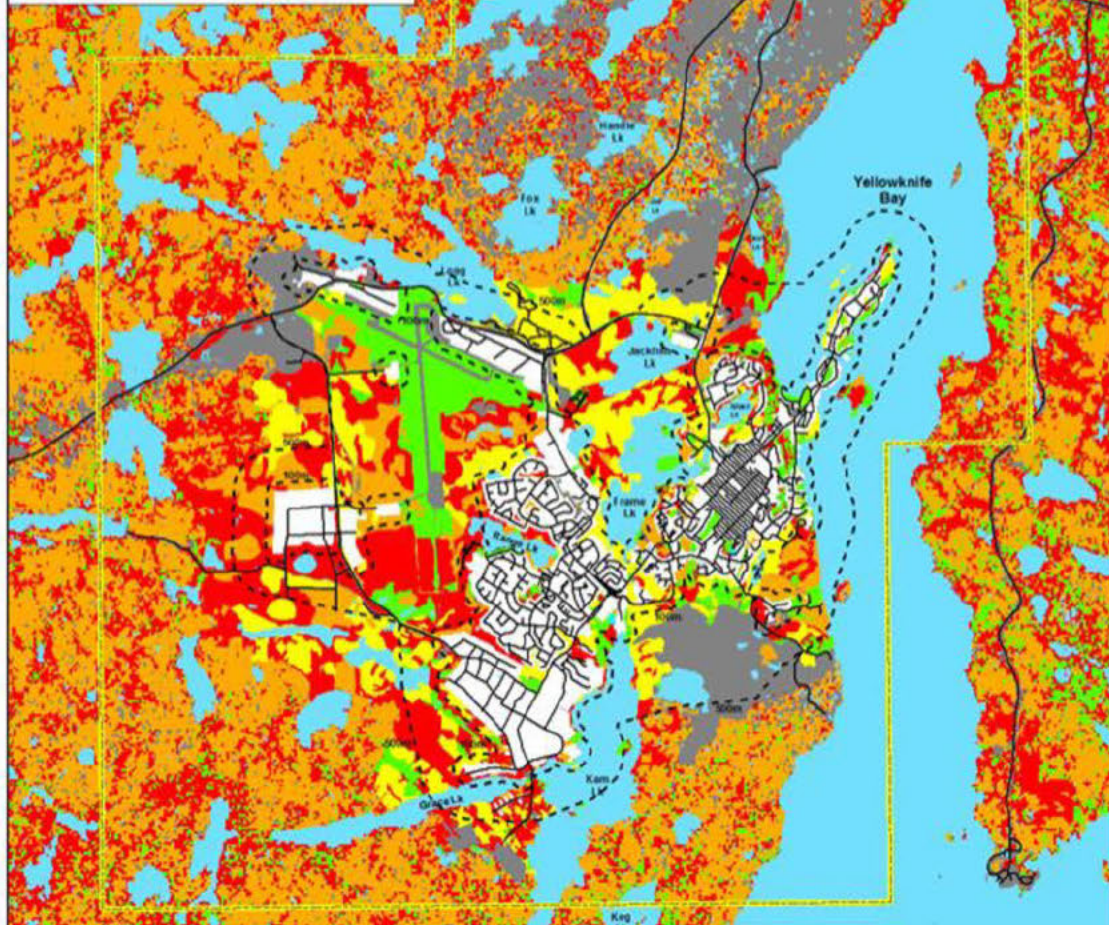
Built Environment

Short-Range (100m) & Long-Range (500m) Ember Buffers

N

1,500

Meters



Map 1 - Land Status Authority

Yellowknife Municipal Boundary

Land_Authority

Commissioner

Federal

Indian Affairs Branch

Municipal

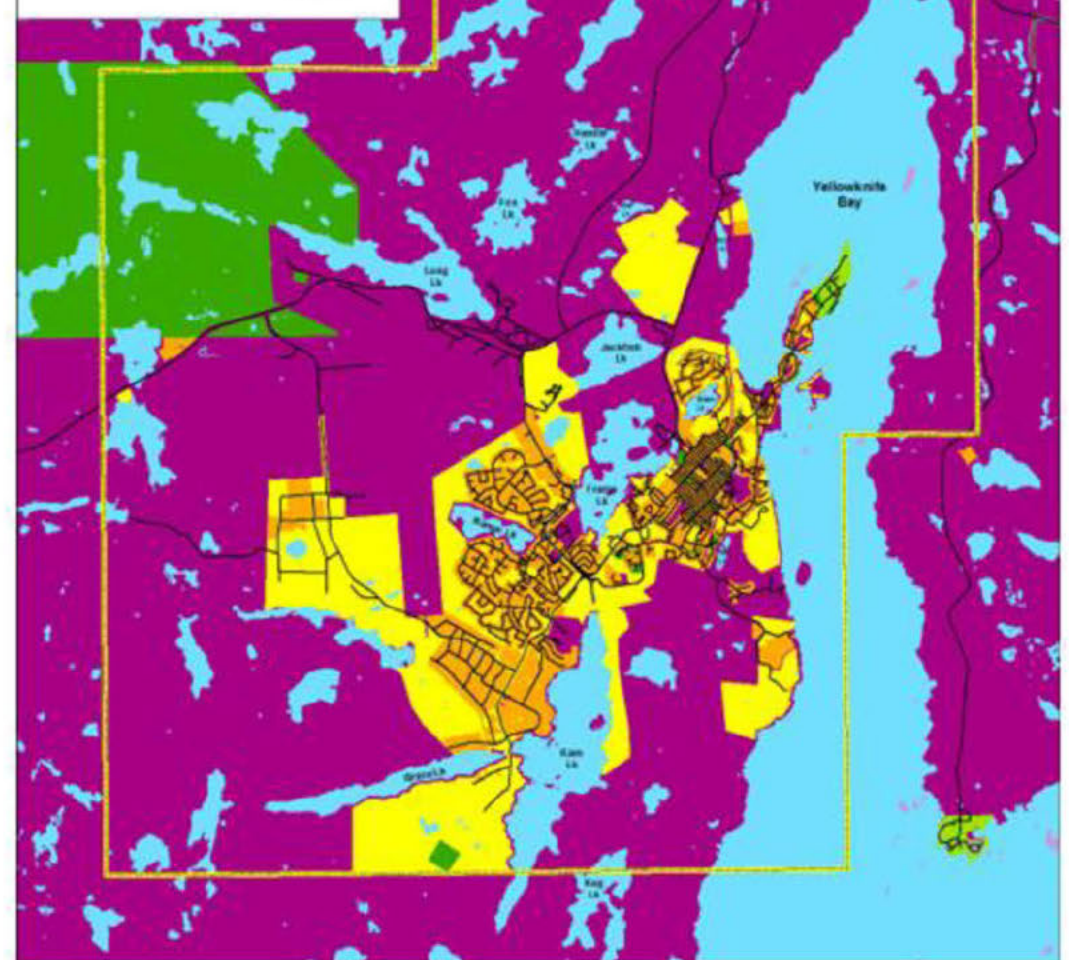
Private

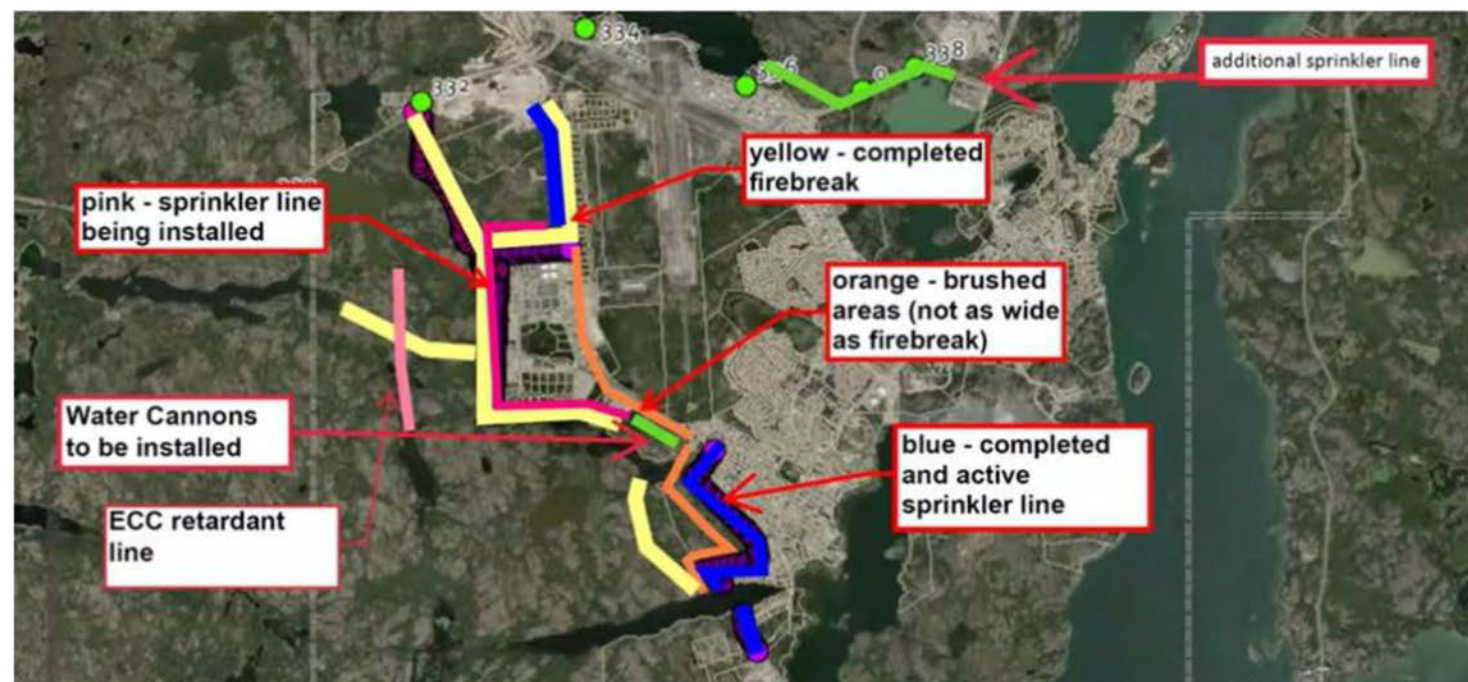
Territorial

N

1,500

Meters



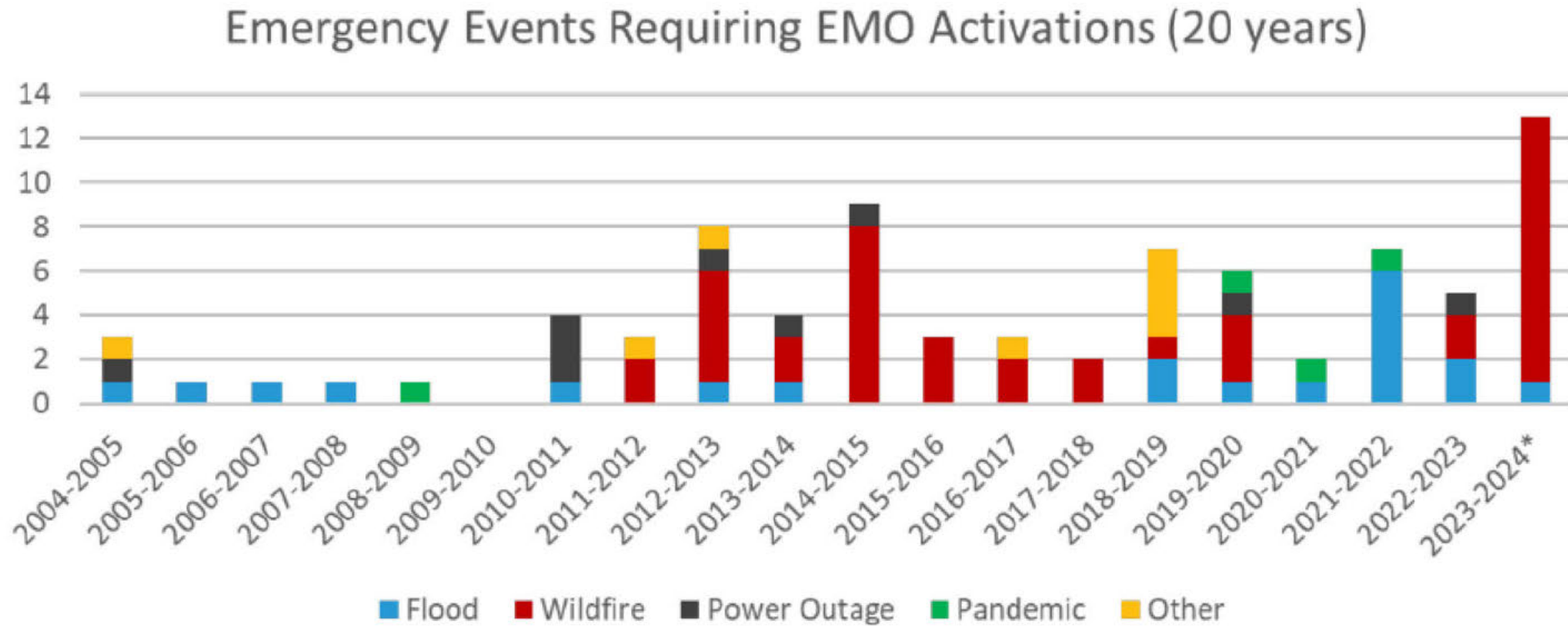


August 2023 Wildfires

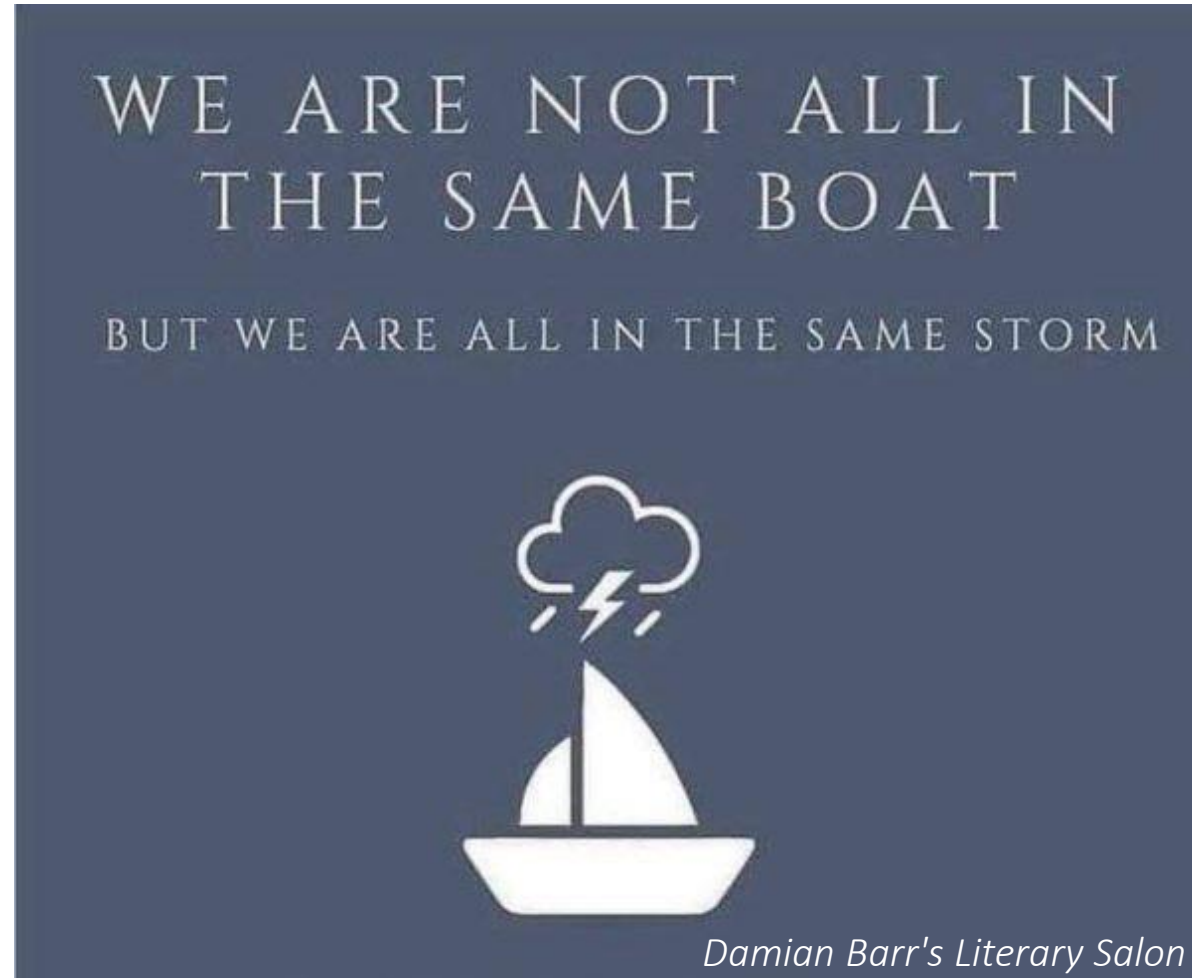


Why is Emergency Management Important?

- Events are increasing in frequency, complexity, and scale.



Things that I learned...



Phases of Emergency Recovery

Community recovery leaders need to be prepared for a variety of emotions and challenges during the recovery process. This pattern is common during the recovery process and should influence recovery planning.



Leadership Resilience

- Emotional Regulation
- Decision-making
- Reflection
- Empowering teams

Communications & Relationships

- Communicate – Regularly and Consistently
- Use Technology
- Ask for Help
- Develop Support Networks
- Appreciation

Work with the University of Toronto

- School of Cities Canadian Urban Leader
- Virtual Panel with fellow Mayors
- Leadership lessons learned

Help is Available

- 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline – Available across Canada
- Here in Alberta:
 - 2-1-1: Crisis support and virtual services
 - 1-877-303-2642: Alberta Mental Health Line



Thank you.

Questions?



**CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND EXPENSE CLAIM**

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE - EXPENSE CLAIM

EXPENSE ITEMS	ALLOWABLE AMOUNTS Note: Receipts are required for ALL items indicated in "Receipts" column	RECEIPTS Number & show #	Enter date. Use one column for each day.						TOTAL EXPENSE
			Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7			
AIR TRAVEL	Economy Class (Attach passenger ticket with arrival/ departure times)								
RENTAL CAR	Actual								
PRIVATE VEHICLE	_____ km x _____ rate = \$ _____ (\$0.705/km NWT & \$0.565/km elsewhere)								
TAXI & TRANSIT	Receipts required for all amounts over \$5.00								
ACCOMMODATION	Hotels								
	Private Accommodation (\$50.00 / per night)								
INCIDENTALS	\$17.50 / day		17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50			70.00
MEALS	Do not claim for sponsored meals or meals included in price of transport	Breakfast \$28.10 / day		-	-	28.10			28.10
		Lunch \$34.10 / day	34.10	-	-	34.10			68.20
		Dinner \$72.95 / day	72.95	-	72.95	-			145.90
TELEPHONE	Specify Purpose								
OTHER	Specify Purpose								
TOTAL EXPENSE	Specify Purpose								
HONORARIUM	Council only - \$260.00 / day (paid separately through HR)								
GRAND TOTAL			124.55	17.50	90.45	79.7			312.20

I certify that I have expended the amounts claimed and that all expenditures were on City Business.

Less Advance Received - \$ _____

Balance Owng - To/by Employee/Councillor - \$ _____

(CASH/CHEQUE ATTACHED)

Financial Coding: _____

<ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MAYOR>

(SIGNATURE OF MAYOR)

<ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CITY MANAGER>

Nov 14, 2024

(DATE)

Date

Cod ing: _____

Authorization is given for a Travel Expense Advance of \$ _____

Approved, Mayor

For Travel Advance:

Approved, Mayor

Name: KEBECCA ALTY Date: Nov 14, 2024
 Department: Mayor & Council
 The above named is authorized to travel for 4 days, departing Nov 4
 For the purpose of: Disaster Forum