EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) process (evolving from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan - CWPP) was created in British Columbia (BC) as a response to the devastating 2003 wildfire in Kelowna. As an integral part of the Community Resiliency Investment Program, managed by the Union of BC Municipalities, CWRPs aim to develop strategic recommendations based on the seven FireSmart principles (Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management) to assist communities in improving safety and reducing the risk of damage to property and critical infrastructure from wildfires.

This CWRP is an update to the City of Coquitlam's 2007 CWPP. The area of interest (AOI) for this plan is Coquitlam's municipal boundary. The CWRP provides Coquitlam with an updated action plan to mitigate the wildfire risk to the community. The plan can be used to guide the improvement and / or development of emergency and evacuation plans, emergency response, communication and education programs, bylaw development in areas of fire risk, and the management of potentially hazardous forests within the eligible Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

A total of 43 recommendations and action items are presented in Table 1 below. The eligible WUI extends onto private land and land managed by other jurisdictions and agencies; thus, Coquitlam's capacity to implement action items may be limited in some instances, while other action items can be implemented directly. Ultimately, the recommendation and action items within this plan should be considered a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire threat to the City. The implementation of these recommendations should be prioritized based on guidance provided in Table 1 below, and as resources and funding allow.

FireSmart activities on private property and critical infrastructure (with a focus on a values-out approach, *i.e.,* starting with activities on the structure and then the surrounding areas immediately adjacent to the structure and continuing outwards) are critical recommendations put forward by this plan. The key to reducing structure loss in a WUI fire is to reduce structures ignitability. Mitigating the likelihood of structure loss should be the home and property owner's responsibility. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and the prioritization of activities should help home and property owners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

Field work completed through this CWRP allowed for fuel types to be updated and verified and for wildfire threat assessments to be compiled through an office-based analysis; the result is an update to the local wildfire threat for Coquitlam's WUI. A key subcomponent of this analysis is the *wildfire behaviour threat class* (analyzing fuels, weather, and topography sub-components), which has the following classes:

- Very Low: Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat;
- Low: Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread;

- Moderate: Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that are unthreatening to homes and structures;
- High: Landscapes or stands that are continuous forested fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown or continuous crown fires. These landscapes are often steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- Extreme: Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The result of the analysis shows that ~*23% of the Coquitlam WUI has a moderate wildfire behavior threat or higher.* This, along with other analyses presented and discussed throughout the document, indicate that wildfire is a real threat to Coquitlam and its WUI. Coquitlam has begun planning and preparing for a wildfire emergency but should refer to this CWRP on how to continue this process effectively.