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Edmonton

February 15, 2023

Ms. Courtney Teliske
Senior Biological Sciences Technologist
City of Edmonton, Parks and Roads Services
Kennedale Community Services
12830 - 58 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5A 4L3

Dear Ms. Teliske:

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Mitigation Strategy

On behalf of Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, I am writing to express our full support for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) risk mitigation strategy submitted by the City of Edmonton, Parks and Roads Services. As a fire department that serves a community that is susceptible to WUI fires, we understand the importance of proactive and effective measures in preventing and minimizing those fires. The increased frequency and intensity of WUI fires in recent years, as well as the growth of extreme weather events and a drier climate, have highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive risk mitigation planning.

We believe that the proposed plan will be an effective tool in addressing this issue. The plan's focus on public education and outreach, as well as land-use planning, legislation, and fuel management, aligns well with our mission to protect life and property from fire. We are excited to see the plan's emphasis on the importance of community involvement in WUI risk mitigation efforts. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services continues to build a more resilient and fire-resistant community by engaging and empowering residents and stakeholders.

We also appreciate the plan's recognition of the importance of communication and collaboration. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is committed to ensuring that our personnel are well-trained and well-equipped to respond to WUI fires. The plan's emphasis on interagency cooperation and coordination will be critical in facilitating effective response efforts.

In conclusion, the proposed WUI risk mitigation plan is an important step in addressing the significant risks associated with these fires in Edmonton. We commend our Parks and Roads Services partners for their thoughtful and thorough approach to this issue, and look forward to working with them and other stakeholders in implementing the plan's recommendations. Implementation of the plan will reduce the risks associated with WUI fires and help protect the lives and property of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Zatylny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Zatylny
Fire Chief, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services