



Building a Wildfire-Resilient Economy

Executive Summary

Wildfires represent both structural economic and infrastructure risks to Alberta. Longer fire seasons, increasingly severe wildfire events and growing exposure of communities and critical infrastructure are creating significant challenges for businesses, governments and communities across the province. While wildfire risk has historically been viewed primarily as an environmental or emergency management issue, recent wildfire seasons have demonstrated that the consequences extend far beyond forested regions and now directly affect economic stability, infrastructure reliability, workforce productivity and investment competitiveness.

The economic impacts of wildfires are increasingly systemic. Disruptions to electricity transmission, telecommunications networks, transportation corridors, pipelines and municipal infrastructure can create cascading effects across Alberta's economy and throughout national supply chains. Businesses face growing challenges associated with evacuations, smoke exposure, workforce displacement, project delays, rising insurance costs and operational disruptions. Furthermore, as insurers, lenders and investors place greater emphasis on resilience and climate-related risks, wildfire preparedness is becoming an increasingly important consideration in infrastructure planning and investment decisions.

Alberta has made meaningful progress in strengthening wildfire mitigation and preparedness through initiatives such as Alberta Wildfire Mitigation Strategy (AWMS), expanded hazardous fuels management programs, FireSmart initiatives, enhanced technology adoption and greater recognition of Indigenous fire stewardship practices. These efforts provide an important foundation for long-term resilience.

However, significant gaps remain. Opportunities exist to strengthen coordination between governments, emergency management organizations, regulators, municipalities and critical infrastructure operators; improve real-time information sharing and situational awareness; accelerate mitigation activities through more efficient regulatory processes; expand the use of predictive technologies and data-sharing systems; and increase support for community-level resilience and Indigenous-led mitigation initiatives.

This paper recommends that wildfire resilience should be viewed not only as a public safety and environmental priority, but also as an economic competitiveness issue. Building a wildfire-resilient Alberta will require a coordinated approach that integrates prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts across governments, Indigenous communities, municipalities, industry and infrastructure operators.

To support this objective, the Calgary Chamber recommends action in four key areas:

- **Strengthening critical infrastructure resilience** through improved planning, coordination and operational preparedness.
- **Expanding prevention and mitigation efforts** through hazardous fuels management, prescribed and cultural burning, FireSmart initiatives and landscape-level planning.
- **Improving governance, coordination and information sharing** among governments, regulators, municipalities, emergency management organizations and industry.
- **Accelerating technology adoption and innovation** to support predictive modelling, risk assessment, situational awareness and operational decision-making.

Wildfire risk is expected to continue increasing in the years ahead. The cost of inaction will grow alongside it. Alberta has an opportunity to strengthen resilience, protect critical infrastructure, reduce future economic losses and position itself as a leader in wildfire preparedness and adaptation.

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Introduction

Wildfires are increasingly a structural economic and infrastructure risk to Alberta, with growing implications for Canada's broader economic resilience, supply chains and investment competitiveness. Canada is warming at approximately twice the global average and, as home to more than [a quarter](#) of the world's boreal forests, is experiencing increasingly destructive wildfire seasons as a result. The past three wildfire seasons have ranked among the [10 worst on record](#), including the unprecedented 2023 season, during which approximately [17.3 million](#) hectares burned nationally – nearly seven times the historical average. In this same year, approximately 232,000 Canadians evacuated their communities in the wake of 282 wildfires. Closer to home, the 2024 Jasper wildfire destroyed roughly one-third of the town's structures and became one of the costliest natural disasters in Canadian history, with insured damages estimated at [\\$1.23 billion](#). The town has yet to be fully re-built. The 2025 wildfire season ranks as the second worst on record, with more than [8.3 million](#) hectares burned across nearly every province and territory.

Longer fire seasons, prolonged drought conditions, increasing development in the wildland-urban interface are contributing to larger and more complex wildfire events across Western Canada. Alberta's growing wildfire exposure is reflected in expanding government investments in response capacity, including the hiring of more than [550 firefighters](#) in Alberta ahead of the 2026 wildfire seasons and the introduction of a municipal mutual aid incentive pilot program that offers municipalities up to [\\$125,000](#) in wildfire response support. Yet, recent wildfire seasons have demonstrated that wildfire risk extends far beyond environmental and emergency response concerns and now directly affects economic stability, infrastructure reliability and business continuity.

The impacts of major wildfire events are increasingly systemic in nature. Businesses across Alberta are facing growing disruptions associated with evacuations, smoke exposure, transportation interruptions, workforce displacement and infrastructure outages. Wildfires threaten the reliability of interconnected systems including electricity transmission, telecommunications networks, pipelines, rail corridors and transportation infrastructure. Disruptions in Alberta can also create broader ripple effects across Canadian supply chains, energy systems and national economic activity.

Wildfire resilience is increasingly an economic competitiveness issue that directly affects Alberta's infrastructure systems, investment climate and long-term economic stability. Insurers, lenders and institutional investors are placing greater emphasis on climate and

infrastructure resilience when evaluating projects, underwriting risk and assessing long-term asset exposure. Building resilience now requires a broader and more integrated approach that includes infrastructure hardening, mitigation, prevention, business continuity planning, land-use planning, predictive technologies and recovery financing mechanisms.

In response to these growing risks, the Government of Alberta recently launched the Alberta Wildfire Mitigation Strategy (AWMS), establishing a long-term framework intended to shift the province toward a more proactive resilience model. The strategy appropriately recognizes the importance of hazardous fuels management, Indigenous partnerships, landscape-level planning and technology adoption. Despite this, there are significant gaps in coordination, information sharing, mitigation planning and regulatory alignment that must be addressed to strengthen long-term resilience.

This policy piece examines the growing economic and infrastructure impacts associated with wildfires in Alberta and identifies opportunities to strengthen prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts through improved collaboration between governments, industry, Indigenous communities and local stakeholders. In addition to member engagement sessions, the Calgary Chamber surveyed its membership to better understand the operational, financial and workforce impacts of wildfires on businesses. Survey results informed the findings and recommendations contained within this paper.

Alberta's Wildfire Management Approach

Alberta's Wildfire Management System (AWMS) involves coordination between municipal, provincial and federal governments alongside Indigenous communities, utilities, infrastructure operators and private industry. Historically, Alberta's approach has focused heavily on wildfire suppression and emergency response, reflected in recent investments such as the purchase of five new water bombers and expanded use of night-vision and hoist-equipped helicopters. However, increasing wildfire frequency and severity have demonstrated the need for a broader resilience-based approach that prioritizes prevention, mitigation and long-term system preparedness in addition to emergency response capacity.

The Government of Alberta's new AWMS recognizes that wildfire mitigation must occur on multiple levels, including individual and homeowner-level mitigation, community-level coordination and landscape-scale management initiatives. Through programs such as FireSmart Alberta, community hazardous fuels reduction initiatives and expanded landscape-level mitigation planning, Alberta has taken important steps toward a more proactive wildfire resilience framework.

The AWMS highlights several important areas of progress, including improved wildfire risk modelling, increased emphasis on technology and innovation, greater collaboration with Indigenous communities and enhanced focus on hazardous fuels management and landscape planning. Together, these initiatives represent meaningful progress toward a longer-term mitigation and resilience model. Yet, gaps remain in coordination, information sharing, regulatory alignment and operational preparedness that continue to limit the effectiveness of wildfire mitigation, preparedness and response efforts. Addressing these challenges will be critical to advancing a more integrated resilience framework involving governments, industry, Indigenous communities and local stakeholders.

Wildfires as an Economic & Infrastructure Risk

Wildfires now pose significant risks to Alberta's economic stability and infrastructure systems. The consequences of major wildfire events increasingly extend beyond direct physical damage and now include broad operational, financial and social impacts affecting businesses, workers, communities and governments across the province. 64 per cent of surveyed respondents reported being directly or indirectly impacted by wildfires over the past two to three years.

Modern economies depend on interconnected infrastructure systems that are vulnerable to wildfire disruption. Electricity transmission and distribution networks, telecommunications systems, pipelines, rail infrastructure, highways, airports and municipal utilities are all exposed to wildfire-related risks. Disruptions to power and telecommunications infrastructure can significantly impair emergency response operations themselves, creating cascading impacts across communities and economic sectors. As infrastructure systems become more interconnected and dependent on digital communications and real-time coordination, infrastructure resilience is becoming increasingly critical to public safety and economic continuity.

Utilities, telecommunications providers and infrastructure operators have made significant investments in wildfire mitigation and preparedness, including in vegetation management, fire-resistant materials, emergency operations centres, mobile infrastructure deployment and predictive risk modelling. The reality is, significant gaps remain in operational coordination and real-time information sharing during rapidly evolving wildfire events, particularly between governments, emergency management organizations and critical infrastructure operators.

Wildfires are also creating growing business continuity and workforce challenges across Alberta's economy. Smoke exposure, evacuations, transportation disruptions and infrastructure outages can impair workforce productivity, delay projects and disrupt operations for extended periods of time. During the 2023 wildfire season alone, over [43,000](#) Albertans were displaced by wildfire events. Wildfire-related disruptions increasingly affect economically significant regions and communities. Businesses located within wildfire-affected areas surrounding Edson, Alberta accounted for approximately [10 per cent](#) of the GDP within the Banff–Jasper–Rocky Mountain House economic region, highlighting the broader economic consequences that wildfire events can have on regional economics, workforce mobility and business continuity.

Smoke exposure associated with wildfire events is becoming a business risk in its own right, affecting workforce productivity, employee health and operational continuity. Following the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, Statistics Canada estimated a loss of approximately [8.5 million](#) work hours across Alberta over a two-month period, highlighting the significant workforce and productivity disruptions that can accompany major wildfire events.

Insurance affordability and availability are becoming significant constraints on business resilience and investment certainty. Businesses and infrastructure owners are reporting rising insurance premiums, reduced coverage availability and increasing uncertainty surrounding long-term insurability. As wildfire risks continue to grow, insurers, lenders and institutional investors are placing greater emphasis on resilience and climate exposure when evaluating projects, underwriting risk and assessing long-term asset exposure.

The implication is clear: wildfire resilience is increasingly an economic and infrastructure issue that affects business continuity, insurance affordability, infrastructure reliability and long-term economic resilience. As climate-related risks become a growing consideration in financing, insurance and infrastructure planning decisions, jurisdictions that invest in resilience will be better positioned to manage future risks and support sustainable economic growth.

Sector Impacts

Wildfire resilience is as an increasingly important operational, financial and strategic issue. Although the specific impacts vary by sector, several consistent themes emerged through engagement with infrastructure operators, utilities, energy companies, telecommunications providers and transportation organizations.

Utilities and Energy Infrastructure

Utilities and energy infrastructure operators are placing increased emphasis on predictive modelling, fuel management, infrastructure hardening and integrated planning to reduce wildfire risks. Ensuring critical systems remain operational during wildfire events requires stronger coordination between emergency management agencies, regulators and infrastructure owners. However, gaps remain in operational coordination, information sharing and regulatory certainty surrounding mitigation investments and cost recovery. More standardized risk frameworks and shared modelling assumptions would support more coordinated mitigation planning and infrastructure protection efforts.

Oil and Gas

Wildfire disruptions increasingly affect nationally significant infrastructure and industrial operations. In May 2023, Alberta wildfires forced operators to shut in at least [319,000](#) barrels of oil equivalent per day, representing approximately [3.7 per cent](#) of Canada's total oil production and affecting global oil prices. Wildfire resilience within the oil and gas sector depends on effective landscape-level mitigation planning, coordinated firebreak development, mutual aid frameworks and cross-jurisdictional coordination. Regulatory barriers associated with environmental permitting, fisheries legislation and migratory bird protections can limit the timely implementation of mitigation activities. Inconsistent approaches across jurisdictions can also complicate wildfire preparedness, mitigation planning and operational response efforts.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications infrastructure plays an essential role in emergency response and public safety during wildfire events. Significant investments have been made in network hardening, emergency operations, mobile communications infrastructure and operational monitoring systems to improve resilience. Despite these efforts, telecommunications operators are not always integrated into preparedness planning and emergency coordination processes, despite their critical role during emergencies. Expanded use of predictive analytics, AI-enabled monitoring systems and integrated situational awareness platforms could further strengthen operational response capabilities and network resilience.

Transportation and Logistics

Transportation and logistics networks are highly vulnerable to wildfire-related disruptions and play a critical role in emergency response and recovery efforts. Liability concerns, coordination challenges and operational uncertainty continue to create barriers to effective mitigation and response activities. Clearer guidance surrounding mitigation measures such as prescribed burning and greater certainty regarding liability exposure near transportation

infrastructure would support more proactive risk reduction efforts. Improved interprovincial coordination and stronger integration of transportation assets into wildfire response and recovery planning would further enhance resilience across the sector.

Building Long Term Wildfire Resilience

While wildfire impacts differ across sectors, the underlying issues are remarkably consistent. Information sharing remains fragmented, operational coordination is often inconsistent, and regulatory barriers continue to limit mitigation activities. Greater integration of critical infrastructure operators into preparedness and response planning, expanded use of predictive technologies and stronger collaboration between governments, Indigenous communities and industry will be essential to improving Alberta's long-term wildfire resilience.

Technology, Innovation and Data Sharing

Technology and innovation will be critical to Alberta's long-term wildfire resilience strategy. The AWMS appropriately identifies enhanced technology and innovation as a core pillar of future mitigation and preparedness efforts, including improved fuels mapping, predictive hazard modelling, research partnerships and measurement of mitigation outcomes.

Effective wildfire prediction and response depend on sustained investment in weather and environmental monitoring infrastructure. Weather observation networks, forecasting systems and environmental monitoring programs provide the foundational data that support wildfire risk modelling, early warning systems and operational decision-making. Reductions in monitoring capacity or forecasting resources risk creating gaps in situational awareness at a time when Alberta requires more precise and timely information to manage increasingly complex wildfire threats.

Advancing wildfire resilience will require stronger predictive modelling capabilities, integrated wildfire risk mapping, common data standards and shared situational awareness platforms capable of supporting real-time operational decision-making. Many organizations currently rely on fragmented information sources and inconsistent modelling assumptions when assessing wildfire risks and deploying operational resources, limiting the effectiveness of mitigation and response efforts.

Emerging technologies such as AI-enabled monitoring systems, remote sensing, drones, satellite imaging and predictive analytics offer significant opportunities to improve early detection, hazard assessment and resource deployment. Alberta is well positioned to

become a leader in wildfire resilience technologies through expanded pilot projects, research partnerships and commercialization initiatives involving government, industry and academic institutions.

While many organizations have adopted technologies to monitor or respond to wildfire risk, survey results indicate that cost, access to information, interoperability challenges and limited awareness of available solutions remain significant barriers to broader technology adoption. Addressing these barriers will be important to accelerating deployment of innovative technologies and ensuring resilience tools are accessible across sectors and regions.

Real-time information sharing between governments, emergency management organizations and critical infrastructure operators remains a critical component of effective wildfire management. Delays in access to wildfire intelligence and operational information can limit the ability of infrastructure owners to protect assets, deploy resources and support emergency response activities. Improving information-sharing processes and operational coordination would strengthen preparedness, mitigation and response efforts across the province.

The successful deployment of emerging technologies will also require addressing implementation barriers related to privacy, regulation, interoperability and data governance. Advances in satellite monitoring, remote sensing, artificial intelligence and predictive analytics are creating new opportunities to improve wildfire detection, situational awareness and operational decision-making. However, realizing the full value of these technologies will require improved data sharing, common standards and stronger coordination between governments, regulators, infrastructure operators and technology providers.

Governance, Coordination and Regulatory Challenges

Governance and coordination gaps remain significant barriers to effective wildfire resilience. Despite growing awareness of wildfire risk, survey results indicate that 72 per cent of respondents remain only somewhat prepared, or not prepared, for a major wildfire disruption. Survey respondents also overwhelmingly identified a need for stronger coordination between government and the private sector, particularly in the areas of information sharing, emergency coordination, infrastructure planning and cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Wildfire management systems remain fragmented across jurisdictions and agencies, with insufficient coordination between governments, regulators, infrastructure owners and emergency management organizations. Critical infrastructure operators are not always fully

integrated into preparedness planning and are often required to make operational decisions without timely access to situational information during wildfire events.

Regulatory and permitting processes can also limit the timely implementation of mitigation activities such as hazardous fuels reduction, firebreak development and prescribed burning. Permitting delays, environmental approval requirements and unclear regulatory guidance can impede proactive risk reduction efforts, while existing regulatory frameworks are not always aligned with the operational realities and urgency associated with wildfire mitigation.

Wildfire risks frequently span municipal, provincial and federal lands, yet mitigation priorities and land management practices are not always aligned across jurisdictions. Municipalities are playing an increasingly important role in wildfire preparedness and community protection, particularly in areas adjacent to provincial parks, national parks and other Crown lands. Strengthening resilience will require greater coordination of mitigation strategies, fuels management activities and preparedness planning across jurisdictional boundaries to ensure wildfire risk is managed at the landscape scale rather than within administrative boundaries.

Liability, cost recovery and interjurisdictional coordination remain additional areas requiring greater clarity. Uncertainty surrounding liability exposure associated with prescribed burning, wildfire suppression support activities and infrastructure-related wildfire risks can discourage proactive mitigation efforts. More consistent operational frameworks, clearer guidance and improved coordination between provinces, municipalities and federal agencies would support more effective preparedness, mitigation and response activities. Alberta's municipal wildfire mutual aid incentive pilot recognizes some of the operational and financial barriers municipalities face when escalating response efforts during rapidly evolving wildfire events.

Strengthening Alberta's wildfire resilience will require not only expanded mitigation efforts, but also more integrated governance structures, clearer operational frameworks and stronger coordination between governments, regulators, infrastructure operators and communities. This includes strengthening cross-jurisdictional coordination mechanisms, formalizing industry participation in emergency preparedness exercises, improving real-time operational information sharing and establishing clearer frameworks for critical infrastructure coordination during wildfire events.

Indigenous and Community Resilience

Long-term wildfire resilience depends on strong partnerships between governments, Indigenous communities, industry and local communities. The AWMS recognizes the importance of Indigenous fire stewardship practices and proposes the establishment of an Indigenous Fire Stewardship Advisory Committee alongside expanded cultural burning practices.

Indigenous communities possess longstanding knowledge and land stewardship practices that can help inform more effective and sustainable wildfire mitigation approaches. Indigenous communities are also disproportionately exposed to wildfire risks and impacts across Canada. Approximately [80 per cent](#) of majority-Indigenous communities are located within fire-prone regions, while more than [42 per cent](#) of wildfire evacuations in Canada have occurred within majority-Indigenous communities. Greater incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and cultural burning practices can improve ecosystem resilience, reduce hazardous fuel loads and strengthen landscape-level mitigation planning.

Community-level mitigation efforts also remain essential, particularly within the wildland-urban interface where communities and infrastructure are increasingly exposed to wildfire risks. Programs such as FireSmart Alberta, community fireguards and hazardous fuels reduction initiatives are essential to strengthening local resilience and reducing wildfire severity.

Local mitigation capacity remains uneven across regions and communities. Many municipalities and community organizations face financial, operational and staffing constraints that limit their ability to implement long-term mitigation initiatives and preparedness programs. Additional support for municipal resilience planning, public education, local mitigation funding and emergency management capacity will be important to strengthening province-wide resilience.

Improved collaboration between governments, Indigenous communities, municipalities and industry will be necessary to ensure mitigation investments, land-use planning and operational preparedness efforts are coordinated at both local and regional scales.

Recommendations

Alberta cannot afford to treat wildfire resilience as a seasonal response exercise. Building a wildfire-resilient economy depends on coordinated action across governments, Indigenous

communities, municipalities, infrastructure operators and industry. As wildfire seasons become longer, more severe and less predictable, resilience efforts must move beyond reactive suppression toward integrated prevention, mitigation, preparedness and recovery planning. Building resilience also requires the ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, evolving risk profiles and emerging operational challenges over time.

Provincial Recommendations

The Government of Alberta should continue transitioning from a suppression-focused wildfire model toward a broader resilience-based framework centred on prevention, mitigation, preparedness and long-term infrastructure resilience. Provincial leadership will be critical to improving coordination between emergency management agencies, regulators, municipalities and critical infrastructure operators while accelerating proactive mitigation activities across the province. Recommended provincial actions include:

1. **Expand landscape-level hazardous fuels management programs**, including hazardous fuels management, prescribed burning, cultural burning, fireguards and vegetation management initiatives. Proactive fuel management can reduce wildfire intensity and spread while incorporating Indigenous stewardship practices and local expertise.
2. **Develop a provincial critical infrastructure wildfire resilience framework** focused on electricity, telecommunications, transportation and municipal systems. Alberta's interconnected infrastructure systems require coordinated planning reduce cascading impacts during wildfire events.
3. **Improve real-time operational information sharing** between Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), municipalities, critical infrastructure operators and emergency response partners. Timely situational awareness enables faster decision-making, resource deployment and infrastructure protection.
4. **Formalize industry participation in wildfire preparedness exercises**, tabletop simulations and emergency coordination processes. Critical infrastructure operators and businesses play an essential role in emergency response and should be integrated into planning efforts before emergencies occur.
5. **Modernize permitting and regulatory processes for wildfire mitigation activities** while maintaining appropriate environmental safeguards. Streamlined approvals, clearer guidance and better coordination across regulators can support timely risk reduction and resilience investments.
6. **Expand FireSmart Alberta and community mitigation funding programs.** Communities are often the first line of defence during wildfire events and require

adequate resources to support preparedness, mitigation and long-term resilience planning.

7. **Develop standardized provincial wildfire risk modelling and mapping frameworks** to support coordinated mitigation planning and investment decisions. Shared risk assumptions improve consistency across jurisdictions and help prioritize investments where they are most needed.

Federal Recommendations

The Government of Canada has an important role to play in supporting long-term wildfire resilience through regulatory modernization, infrastructure funding, research support and interprovincial coordination. Federal policy and regulatory frameworks should better reflect the growing urgency associated with wildfire mitigation and infrastructure protection.

Recommended federal actions include:

1. **Review federal regulatory barriers that may constrain wildfire mitigation activities**, including permitting processes related to fuel reduction and firebreak development. Regulatory processes should facilitate proactive risk reduction efforts.
2. **Improve coordination between federal departments and provincial wildfire mitigation efforts**, particularly where federal legislation impacts operational mitigation activities. Better alignment can reduce duplication and improve the effectiveness of mitigation activities on the ground.
3. **Expand federal funding support for wildfire mitigation infrastructure, technology deployment and climate resilience projects**. Long-term resilience investments can reduce future disaster costs while protecting critical economic assets.
4. **Increase federal support for Indigenous-led wildfire stewardship** and cultural burning initiatives. Indigenous communities possess valuable expertise that can strengthen mitigation outcomes and landscape resilience.
5. **Strengthen federal investment in wildfire science**, weather monitoring, forecasting capabilities and research partnerships focused on wildfire risk, mitigation effectiveness and infrastructure resilience. Timely and reliable weather and environmental data support wildfire prediction, resource deployment and operational decision-making.

Coordinated Provincial-Federal Recommendations

Wildfire resilience requires stronger coordination across jurisdictions, agencies and infrastructure systems. Alberta and the federal government should work collaboratively to

develop integrated approaches to wildfire mitigation, operational coordination and long-term resilience planning. Recommended coordinated actions include:

1. **Align wildfire resilience planning with broader infrastructure, economic development and climate adaptation objectives.** Wildfire resilience should be treated as a core economic and infrastructure planning consideration rather than a standalone emergency management issue.
2. **Establish common wildfire risk modelling standards and interoperable data-sharing** systems across jurisdictions. Shared information systems and improved operational information-sharing can support more coordinated planning, preparedness and response efforts.
3. **Strengthen coordination related to critical infrastructure protection, transportation corridors and resource deployment.** Clear roles, responsibilities and communication protocols can improve decision-making and reduce disruptions during wildfire events.
4. **Expand collaboration between governments, Indigenous communities, municipalities, utilities and industry stakeholders** on landscape-level mitigation planning. Wildfire resilience requires a coordinated, whole-of-society approach that reflect the interconnected nature of wildfire risk.
5. **Enhance national and interprovincial mutual aid and resource sharing frameworks.** Wildfire risks frequently exceed jurisdictional boundaries and require coordinated responses across provinces and regions.

Conclusion

Wildfires are now a structural economic, infrastructure and public safety challenge for Alberta. Although Alberta has developed strong wildfire suppression and emergency response capabilities, increasing wildfire frequency and severity require a broader and more integrated resilience-based approach focused on prevention, mitigation, preparedness and long-term recovery.

The AWMS provides an important foundation for Alberta's long-term wildfire resilience by prioritizing hazardous fuels management, Indigenous partnerships, landscape-level planning and technology adoption. The challenge is that there remain significant gaps in coordination, information sharing, regulatory alignment and integration with critical infrastructure operators that must be addressed to strengthen Alberta's long-term resilience.

Wildfire resilience is no longer solely an environmental or emergency management issue. It is increasingly an economic competitiveness issue that directly affects Alberta's ability to

attract investment, maintain reliable infrastructure systems and support long-term economic growth. Alberta has an opportunity to lead. By investing in prevention, strengthening critical infrastructure resilience and improving coordination across governments and industry, the province can reduce future wildfire losses while protecting economic growth, investment and long-term competitiveness. The cost of inaction will only grow as wildfire risk continues to intensify.