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**Brazeau County receives \$214,600 in FireSmart Program Funding**

Drayton Valley, Alberta, Dec 3, 2014 - Brazeau County received a non-repayable grant of \$214,600 through the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) FireSmart program for the removal of vegetation/fuel management in an area of Lodgepole, Alberta. This involves thinning and pruning, vegetation removal/reduction and conversation of an area to more fire-resistant species.

The County has retained the services of Colin Campbell of CBC Consulting, who is working with local contractors to carry out the work. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development are also involved in the process, which will see them engaged directly with the consultant. Brazeau County will act as the Prime Contractor for the project.

Acting Reeve, Shirley Mahan states, "Keeping our residents safe from the risk of wild fires is ultimately why we are doing another fire smart program and we are so pleased that our application was approved for this significant amount of funding."

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What is the FRIAA FireSmart Program?

The program's purpose is to provide for improved protection of forest communities, resources and values through operational and planning activities designed to prevent wildfire occurrence and to reduce fire hazards throughout Alberta. The program supplements the work already done through the FireSmart Community Grant Program, sponsored by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Both aim to:

- Support community involvement and ownership of the wildland/urban interface issues within municipal jurisdictions.
- Provide financial assistance to those communities that wish to reduce the threat of wildfire.