**Partner Statement of Involvement**

**Purpose:**

The Partner Statement of Involvement is a living document that provides a concise summary about a given partner agency, their interests, and the nature of their interaction with Canada Wildfire (anticipated and completed/ongoing). Statements are completed and updated by the partner agencies annually (as required) and provide a transparent and accessible record of which agencies are or have been involved in Canada Wildfire and the nature of that involvement. The Partner Statement of Involvement is not a formal agreement or commitment. It is intended primarily for communication and reporting purposes.

**Content:**

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| **Name** | Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  Forestry Division  Wildfire Management Branch |
| **Contact** | Cordy Tymstra  Wildfire Science Coordinator  751 General Services Building  Edmonton, AB T6G 2H1  Phone 780-427-8690 |
| **Year Joined** | 2009 |
| **Years Active** | To Date |
| **Agency Overview** | The overall mission of the Wildfire Management Branch (Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019) is to “manage wildfire threats and opportunities to reduce risk to human life, communities and promote healthy ecosystems”.  The Branch is responsible for managing fires (both wildfires and prescribed fire) in Alberta’s legislated Forest Protection Area. The Alberta Wildfire Coordination Centre is located in Edmonton. There is also a Fire Centre in each of the 10 Forest Areas in the province. The Wildfire Service Program is organized into two business functions: Operations and Prevention. Operations focuses on preparedness, detection and the control and extinguishment of unwanted wildfires. The objective is to contain wildfire spread by 1000 h the following day. The decisions to allocate and use firefighting resources is based on the following priorities: i) human life; ii) communities; iii) watersheds and sensitive; iv) natural resources; and v) infrastructure.  Prevention is considered as the cornerstone of the wildfire management program. It is based on the principles of the three-E’s of prevention: education, engineering, and enforcement.  The Wildfire Management Branch supports research and innovation to ensure science informed decisions are being made. Branch staff strive for continuing excellence to ensure Alberta remains a world leader in wildfire management |
| **Top Research Priorities (this information may be included on the Canada Wildfire website)** | Every three years the Branch reviews and resets its research questions. The current research questions focus on: Appropriate response decision support; Barriers to FireSmart communities; Changes to the future wildland fire environment and economic impacts; Mitigation of future fire risk to communities; Improvements to the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System; Atmospheric stability and low-level jets; Wildfire operations efficiency and effectiveness; and, Field worker health, safety, and performance, when under stress. |
| **Executive Committee Representatives**  **(as applicable)** | Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Forest Division, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry |
| **Management Team Representatives**  **(as applicable)** | Cordy Tymstra, Wildfire Science Coordinator, Wildfire Management Branch  Mike Milner, Wildfire Prevention Officer, Whitecourt Forest Area |
| **Other Participants** |  |
| **Contributions** | Each year Alberta Agriculture and Forestry provides grant funding that includes core projects/activities, and targeted projects. Annual funding ranges from $500K to over $1 million.  The Wildfire Management Branch also supports graduate students and support staff:   * Wildfire management data * Seasonal staffing * Training (e.g. FBAN workshop, Prometheus course, Fire orientation, Fire retreat, etc.) * Opportunities for field experience (e.g. prescribed fire, ) * Funding key core positions in the Partnership (e.g. knowledge translation and mobilization, Managing Director) |