

**Wildfire Resilience in Times of Uncertainty: A Scholar-Practitioner Workshop**  
*Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC), Whistler*  
6 – 7 May 2025

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**DAY 1 AGENDA**

- 8.30 am – Welcome by the Organizers:** Heather Beresford (*Cheakamus Community Forest - CCF*) and Dr Adeniyi Asiyani (*UBC, Okanagan*)
- 8.40 am – Land Welcome:** Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Cultural Ambassadors
- 8.50 am – Welcome by the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW):** Arthur De Jong (*Resort Municipality of Whistler - RMOW Councilor and CCF Board Member*)
- 9.00 am – Keynote Address:** Alan Westhaver (*Former National Park Warden, FireSmart Co-initiator & Wildfire Investigator*)
- 9.30 am – Coffee Break**
- 9.45 am – CCF's Climate Resiliency Plan (Landscape):** Nick Soverel (*Frontera Forest Solutions*)
- 10.05 am – Whistler's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan:** Luisa Burhenne (*RMOW Climate and Environment Manager*)
- 10.25 am – Break**
- 10.40 am – Whistler's FireSmart Program:** Scott Rogers (*FireSmart Supervisor, RMOW*)
- 11.00 am – Q/A on Whistler's Wildfire Plans, Policies and Programs:** (Heather, Luisa, Nick, Scott, Arthur, and Fire Chief Thomas Doherty)
- 11.45 pm – Lunch Break** (*Bagged lunch provided off-site*)
- 12:30 pm – Field Trip:** Lost Lake Thinned Forest Area. Led by Stirling Hart, Alpine Axeceleration
- 2.30 pm – Managing Wildfire Risk in Whistler's Forest:** Dr Lori Daniels (*UBC Vancouver*)
- 3.00 pm – Introducing the *Living with Wildfire (LwW)* Interdisciplinary Cluster, UBC Okanagan:** Dr Greg Garrard (*LwW Group Lead, UBC Okanagan*)
- 3.10 pm – Public and Institutional Actors' Expectations around Wildfire Security in Whistler:** Dr Adeniyi Asiyani; Worship Ayodele-Makun (*UBC Okanagan*)
- 3.45 pm – Unveiling *WISEC* (a public wildfire planning mobile application):** Dr Ifeoma Adaji; Iyanu Sowande (*UBC Okanagan*)
- 4.15 pm – Day Session Closing**



## Day 1 Evening Panel Discussion

May 6, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m

@ SLCC Longhouse

*(Sponsored by CCF - 50 attendees. Target audience is the general public + workshop attendees)*

**Title: *The past, present and future of wildfire risk reduction in Whistler & the Cheakamus Community Forest***

**Panelists: *Dr. Lori Daniels, Nick Soverel, Dr. Rhonda Millikin, Abe Litz, and Luisa Burhenne***

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## DAY 2 AGENDA

**8.30 am – Welcome by the Organizers:** Heather Beresford (*Cheakamus Community Forest - CCF*) and Dr Adeniyi Asiyebi (*UBC, Okanagan*)

**8.40 am – UBC Strategic Initiatives on Wildfire:** Dr Leal Parrott (*Dean of the Faculty of Science, UBC Okanagan*)

**8.50 am – Lightning Talks: Wildfire Researchers from UBC Okanagan and UBC Vancouver**

*Speakers:* Andreas Rutkauskas, Dr Desiree Valadares, Dr Greg Garrard, Dr John Janmaat, Dr Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, Dr Tim Paulson, Blair Visscher, Bunmi Ayodele-Makun, Gillian Der, Judee Burr, and Rajul Rehlan

**10.30 am – Coffee Break**

**10.45 am – Indigenous Wildfire Management: Experiences from Lil'wat Nation:** Hayden Leo (*Lil'wat Nation*)

**11.15 am – Community Wildfire Resilience in BC:** Dr Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz (*UBC Vancouver*) and Dave Pascal (*First Nations' Emergency Services Society, BC*)

**11.45 am – BC wildfire policy, settler colonialism and Indigenous self-determination:** Dr Onyx Sloan Morgan (*UBC Okanagan*)

**12.15 pm – Lunch Break** (*Bagged lunch provided off-site*)

**1:30 pm – Reconsidering Whistler's wildfire mitigation approach:** Dr. Rhonda Millikin (*EchoTrack, Whistler*)

**2:00 pm – Wildfires in the Coastal and Transition Forests of BC:** Marc Simpson (*Wildfire Officer, BC Wildfire Services - Pemberton/Squamish*)

**2:30 pm – Lessons: 2023 Okanagan Wildfires & 2016 Fort McMurray Wildfire:** Dr Cordy Tymstra (*Wildfire Management Consultant and former Alberta Government Wildfire Scientist*)



3:00 pm – *Break*

3:15 pm – **Small table discussions:** *Reflections, group chats, distilling lessons/ emerging themes*  
(Provide stationery: easels, markers, post-it & pens)

3.45 pm – **Share key points from table discussions:** *The Audience*

4:00 pm – **Workshop Closing Remarks:** *Heather Beresford & Adeniyi Asiyebi*

### Day 2 Evening

#### **Living with Wildfire Interdisciplinary Cluster (UBCO) Retreat**

May 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m

@ Quattro Whistler

To Attend: *Members of the Living with Wildfire Interdisciplinary Cluster, UBC Okanagan*

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### **THEME STATEMENT**

In addressing the theme of the workshop, **Wildfire Resilience in Times of Uncertainty**, we invite all participants to reflect on one or more of the following key questions: *What is uncertain regarding how we manage landscapes that burn? What are the social, economic and political uncertainties surrounding wildfire management, and how do these intersect with the diverse and shifting expectations of different stakeholders and First Nations? What are some gaps in our knowledge of wildfires, and what sort of research and collaborations are needed to address these gaps? How might interdisciplinarity and cross-cultural collaborations help us grapple with uncertainty?*

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Organizers:** Heather Beresford (*Cheakamus Community Forest*) and Dr Adeniyi Asiyebi (*UBCO*)

**Sponsored by:**

- [Living with Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Excellence Cluster](#), UBC Okanagan
- [Cheakamus Community Forest](#) (Resort Municipality of Whistler, Squamish Nation, Lil'wat Nation partnership)
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- [Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences](#) Strategic Development Fund, UBC Okanagan
- [UBC Okanagan Principal Research Chair](#), Dr Onyx Sloan Morgan

**Supported by:**

- [The Whistler Institute](#)