

# From Zero to Hero in Less Than 2 Months

By Nadia Mori, PAg



During the month of April, Sonja Leverkus and her team from [Northern Fire WoRx](#) worked extremely hard to offer a total of 6 fire schools across the region with a total of 150 locals trained in basic firefighting techniques according to the BC Wildfire Services standards. Among the participants we had 2 extra keen individuals who went on to be hired as wildland firefighters for the 2024 fire season.



Photo Credit: Sonja Leverkus

**Congratulations to Ivan Harbidge & Atlin Thiessen** who earned their full status of wildland firefighters with Northern FireWoRx in late May.

A big Thank You to all the wildland firefighters out there working tirelessly to protect our communities!

**For more info on these Fire Schools:**  
please check out an article in our previous newsletter (Forage First, Issue 98: pg 9-13).

The PRFA of BC received funding for Training & Acquisition of Wildfire Response Equipment (aka Fire Schools & Fire Wagons) through the IAF Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund. The project will continue until Dec 31, 2025.

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Photo credit: Heather Fossum



Learning how to operate the Mark3 pump, which is standard in fighting fires in remote areas.



Photo Credit: Sonja Leverkus

Participants had to work as a team to support the highly pressurized hose while the front person worked on learning muzzle control.



Photo Credit: Sonja Leverkus

The fun part: using the Pyroshot to drop Dragon Eggs (filled with potassium permanganate) which self-ignite after being injected with a small dose of glycol. These tools are used when fighting fire with fire or during prescribed fire.