

Fire Wagon #2: A Legacy for the Peace

By Heather Fossum



When Fire Wagon #2 commenced operations this summer, it completed the **set of 'state of the art' fire protection units** for the region. FW1 & FW2 are **available to Ranchers to help protect their properties** from wildfire in northeast BC. On Aug 19th FW2 was showcased and dedicated to the late Keith Carroll.

Chronicles of the Fire Schools & Fire Wagons

Back in the fall of 2023 Sonja Leverkus ([Northern Fire WoRx](#) & [Shifting Mosaics](#)) and Nadia Mori (PRFA Coordinator) worked on an application for wildland fire training and equipment in northeast BC. The goal:

⇒ **provide Ranchers/Farmers**, who are often the first boots on the scene, **with training & access to gear** to protect their properties from wildfires & **become part of the solution**.

Approval brought top-notch fire schools and structural protection equipment to the area.

- Over 150 people were trained in Basic Fire Schools in 2024. This year an Intermediate Fire School, Incident Command and Structural Protection training occurred.
- FW1 went to work in 2024 and after months of supply shortages FW2 was ready in 2025. The Fire Wagons were made in the US, outfitted by WASP (Kelowna) with equipment & custom shelves and inventoried/engraved by Northern FireWoRx.

On the Job

Both FW1 and FW2 were deployed this summer to help fight local wildfires. These deployments helped highlight the importance of having trained individuals on scene.

The Fire Wagons also supported the safe & successful completion of 2 prescribed fires last spring and 2 more this spring. These prescribed fires were part of a PRFA research project (please refer to page 14 for more info).

Dedication to Keith Carroll

Keith Carroll, long-time Peace Region Agrologist, was a supporter of prescribed fire on rangelands, especially as a tool to reduce woody regrowth and encroachment on grasslands and tame pastures. FW2 is dedicated to Keith's legacy and will soon sport a decal of Keith's favourite legume - birdsfoot trefoil.

"Keith remained a driving force in our collaborative effort to put good fire out on the land – so much so that he participated in the peer review team over the past couple years, contributing his rangeland expertise & knowledge to every discussion. Bringing forward connections and going above and beyond what was asked." Sonja Leverkus

"Being involved with the prescribed fire peer review team was a real gift for Keith to focus on during the fall/winter of 2023-24." Marilyn Carroll



All photo credits: Heather Fossum



cw: FW2 rear door open and pumps, suction hoses stored near ceiling, sprinklers, magnetic sign, and shelves on L side of trailer.



Stanley Barrett, Anne Carroll, Marilyn Carroll & Megan Haugan



Marilyn and Stanley participating in the inauguration of FW2.

The Training & Acquisition of Wildfire Response Equipment project (Fire Schools & Fire Wagons) received funding from the IAF Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund. Total project funding is \$644,728 with \$432,000 allocated to the 2 Fire Wagons (Wildfire Structural Protection Unit Trailers) & the remaining to providing Fire Schools (Wildland Fire Training). The project continues until Dec 31/25.