



Chief Conroy Sewepagaham
Little Red River Cree Nation
AB-58, John D'Or Prairie,
AB T0H 3X0

Brad Milam
Incident Commander
Paskwa Fire Incident Management Team

Spencer Verdiel
Incident Commander
Davidson Fire Incident Management Team

July 2, 2023

RE: Evacuation alert recommendation for Garden River

Dear Chief Conroy,

As you know, the Unified Command Team has been working hard to prevent fire spread from impacting the community of Garden River. As of 1800h today, we are recommending removal of the 24-hour evacuation alert that has been in place for the community.

This recommendation is being made based on several factors, including;

- **The change in status of the Paskwa fire from Out-of-Control to Being Held.** No growth in the fire perimeter has been observed since June 26 and no further significant spread is anticipated. This is despite hot, dry and windy conditions experienced across the fire area.
- **Significant progress by ground crews on the Davidson Fire southwest and southern perimeter.** Crews have secured the perimeter of the fire closest to Garden River and will finish this work in the coming days. The fire activity in this area has been reduced to smouldering ground fire, even during the recent hot, dry and windy period. The fire is not expected to grow beyond its current boundary in these areas.
- **Completion of the community fireguards surrounding Garden River.** Garden River is now surrounded by a fireguard that ties into the Peace River as well as two additional guards between Garden River and the Davidson Fire.
- **Increased moisture in aspen fuel.** 24 kilometres of predominantly aspen forest and several watercourses remain between the Davidson Fire and the community. The change in fuel type and increasing moisture content has significantly reduced fire spread.
- **Community support for the removal of the structure protection and evacuation alert.** Representatives from the Unified Command, including both Incident Commanders met with community members in Garden River today and received support for the removal of the evacuation alert and demobilization of the structure protection group from the community.

With the threat to Garden River abated, focus for the Fire Complex will shift to completing the remaining work within the community of Fox Lake in anticipation of the re-entry date of July 15.

We know the past two months have been challenging and we appreciate the Little Red River Cree Nation's hospitality for the fire crews who have been and continue to work on the Paskwa and Davidson fires.

Sincerely,

Brad Milam
Incident Commander

Spencer Verdiel
Incident Commander

