

“Aren’t we there yet?”:

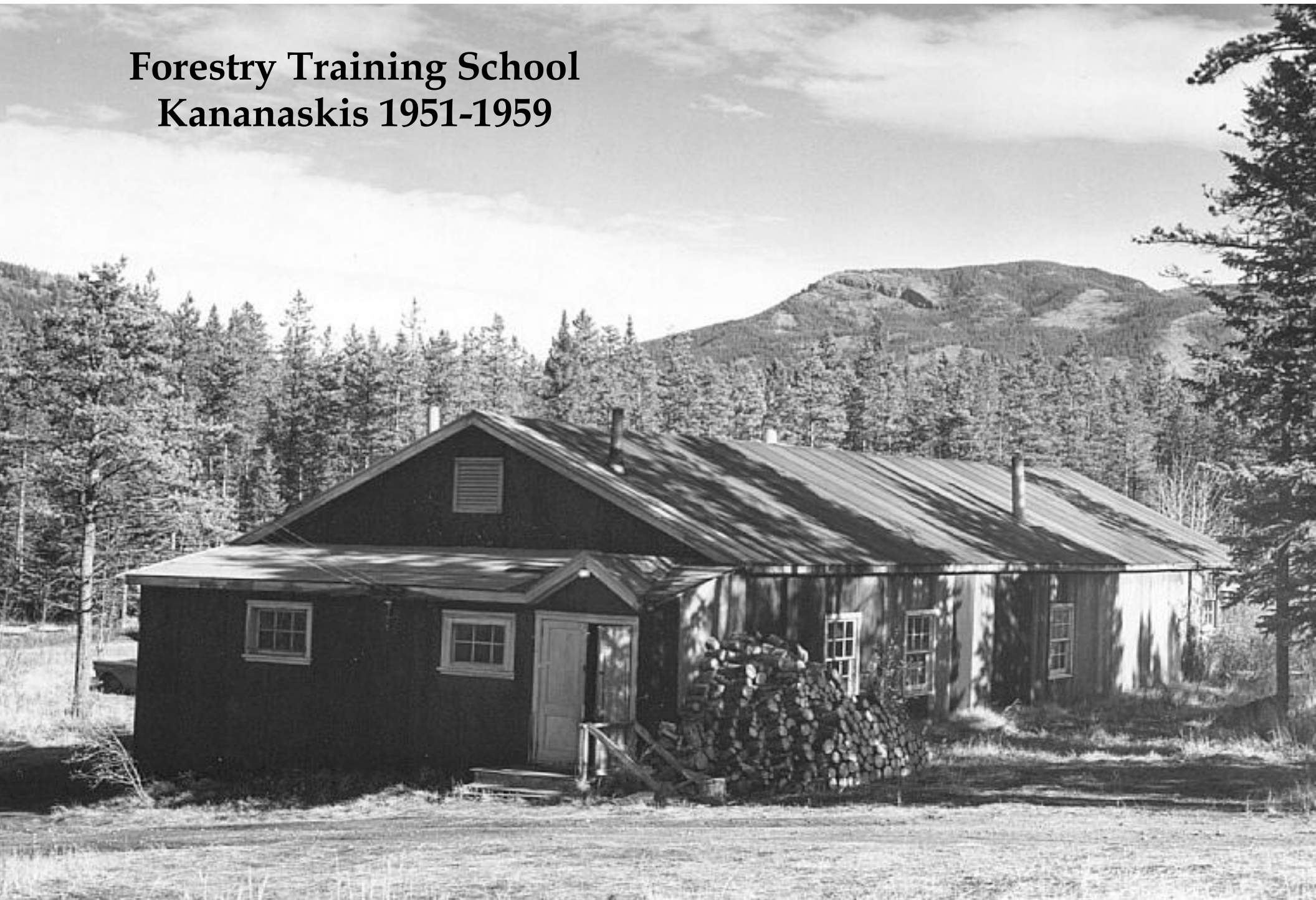
**Reflections on the Forest Fire
Management Journey**

**Wildland Fire Canada Conference
&
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
Kananaskis – Alberta
1 October 2012**

Welcome to Kananaskis



**Forestry Training School
Kananaskis 1951-1959**





1957

**With thanks
to ALL our
spouses,
partners and
families**



**Charles E.
Van Wagner**

1987

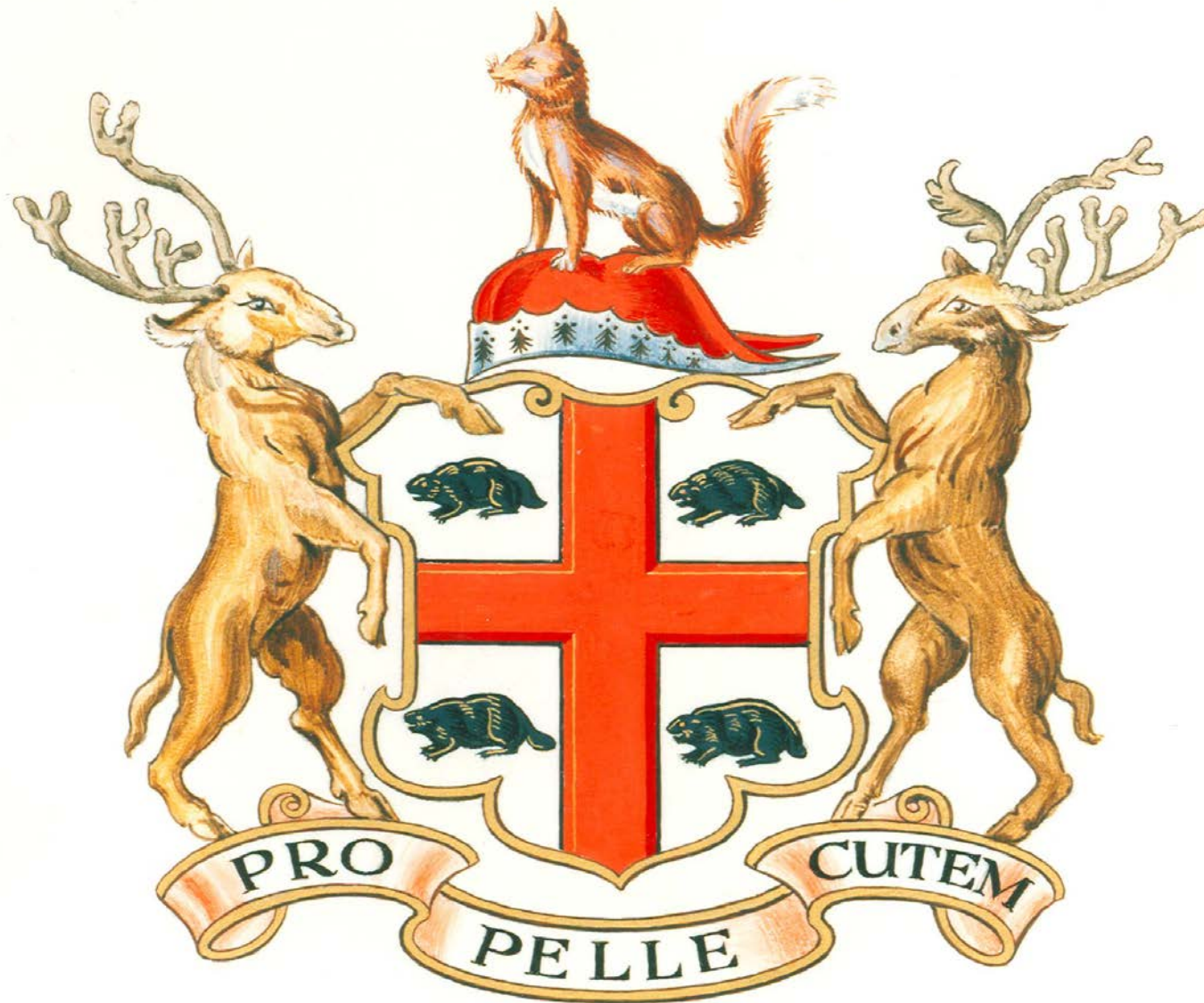
“we are well advised to look backward first every time we contemplate a look forward.”



Charles E. Van Wagner

1987

Hudson's Bay Company 1670



Rupert's Land

1670



York Factory

Fort Edmonton (Est. 1795)

Kananaskis

US/Canada Border (Est. 1818 and 1846)

In the meantime – before & during HBC --

Aboriginal
burning

Hank Lewis
1970s

Over 10
categories of
burning





Col. Sam Steele

NWMP 1874

Glenbow Archives NA-1506-1

Supintendent Sam B. Steele, 1881

“Indians ...
wilfully set the
prairies on fire
[in the autumn]

...

1874



Ed Moberly 1982



“... in the spring
that's the first
thing
everybody
does is burn
the meadows.”





“Why would they
not exploit fully
the most
indispensable
element of their
toolkit?”

Stephen Pyne 1999-09-26





Rupert's Land

1670



York Factory

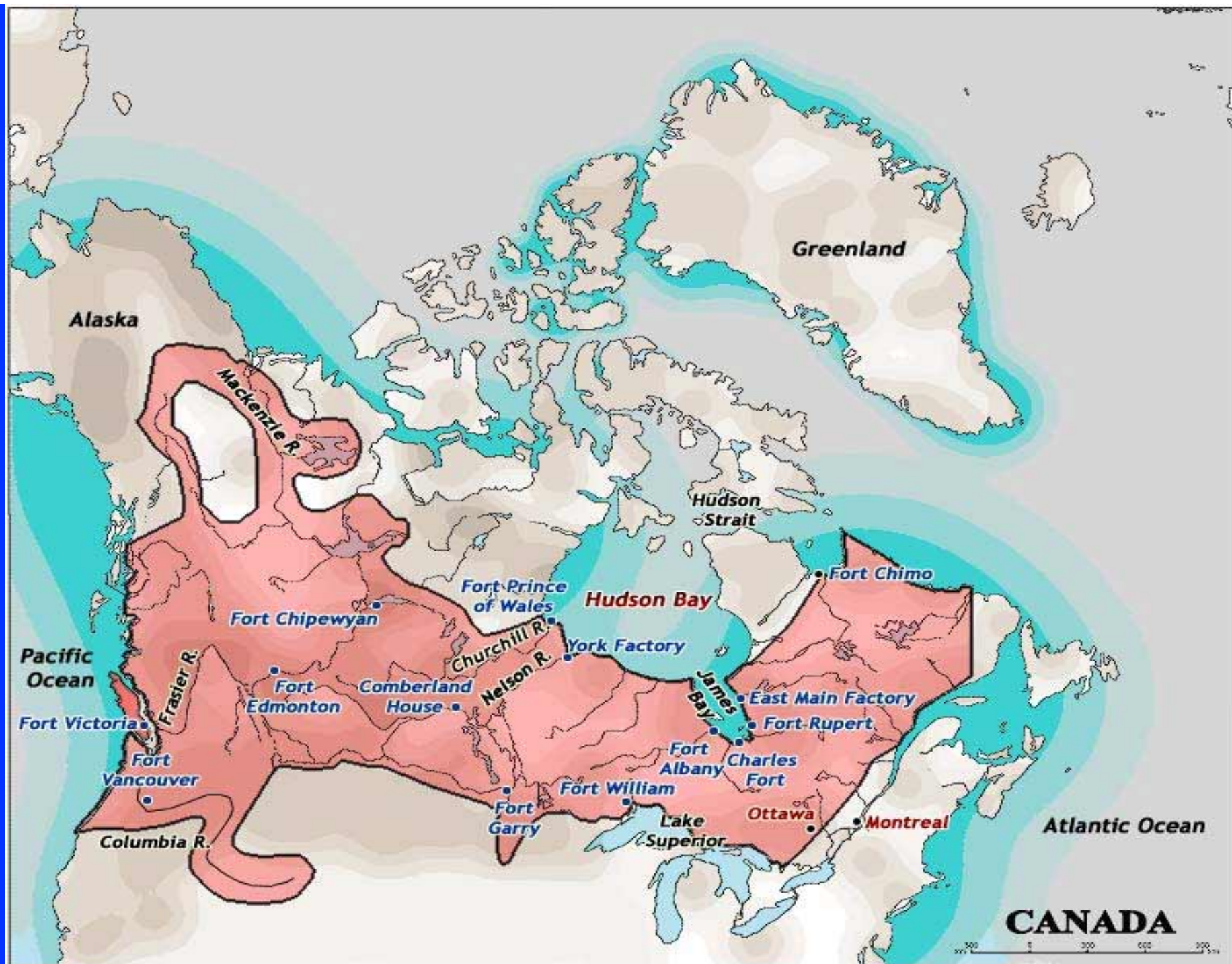
Fort Edmonton (Est. 1795)

Kananaskis

US/Canada Border (Est. 1818 and 1846)

North West Company “Perseverance”





**Hudson's Bay Company
Fort Edmonton**

12 October 1812

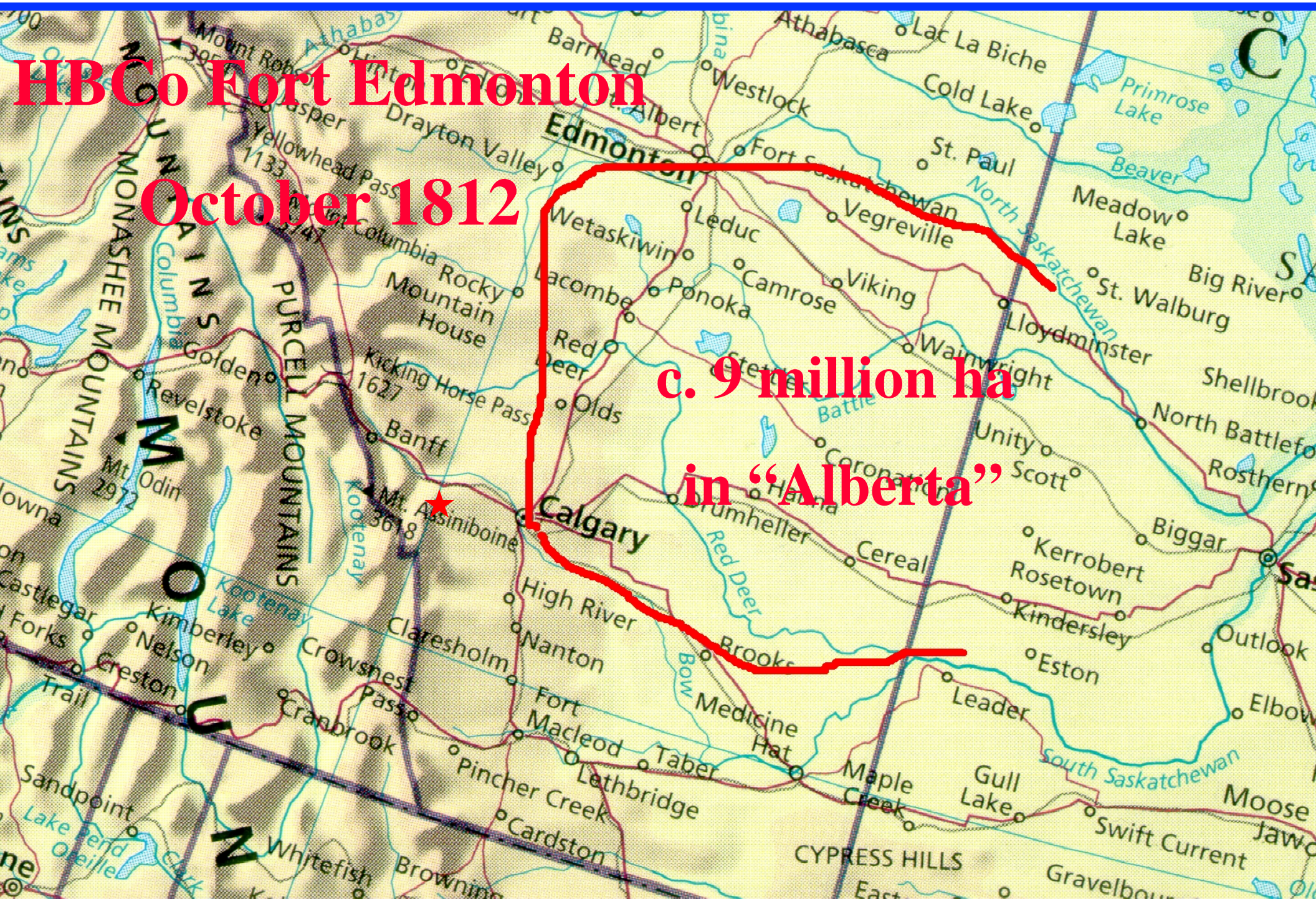


The Plains are, and have been these several Days past, burning in a most dreadful manner. Fires are raging in all Directions, and the sun obscured with Smoke that covers the whole Country

HBCo Fort Edmonton

October 1812

**c. 9 million ha
in "Alberta"**



Fort Edmonton – 1847 – Paul Kane



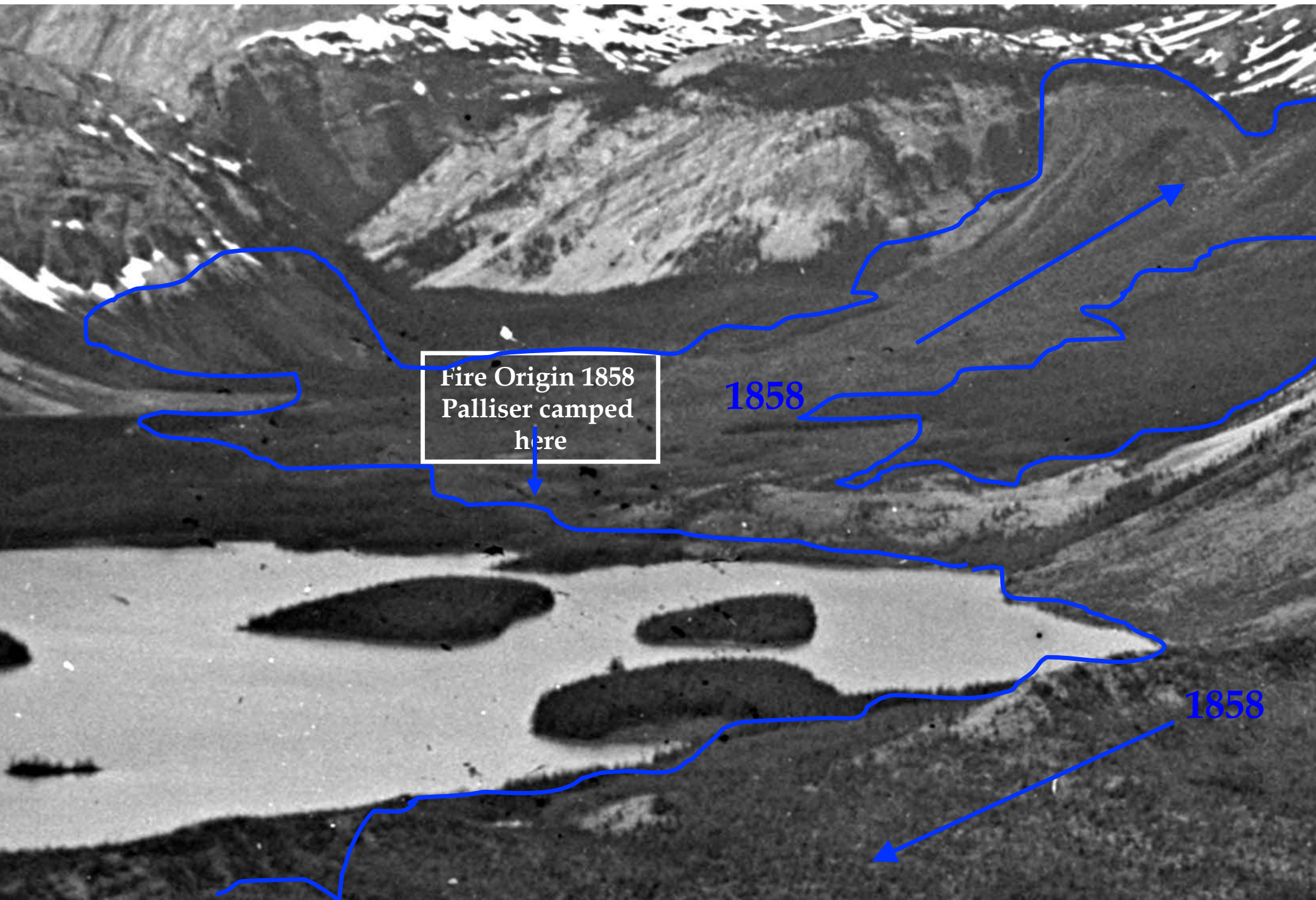
John Palliser and James Hector -- 1858







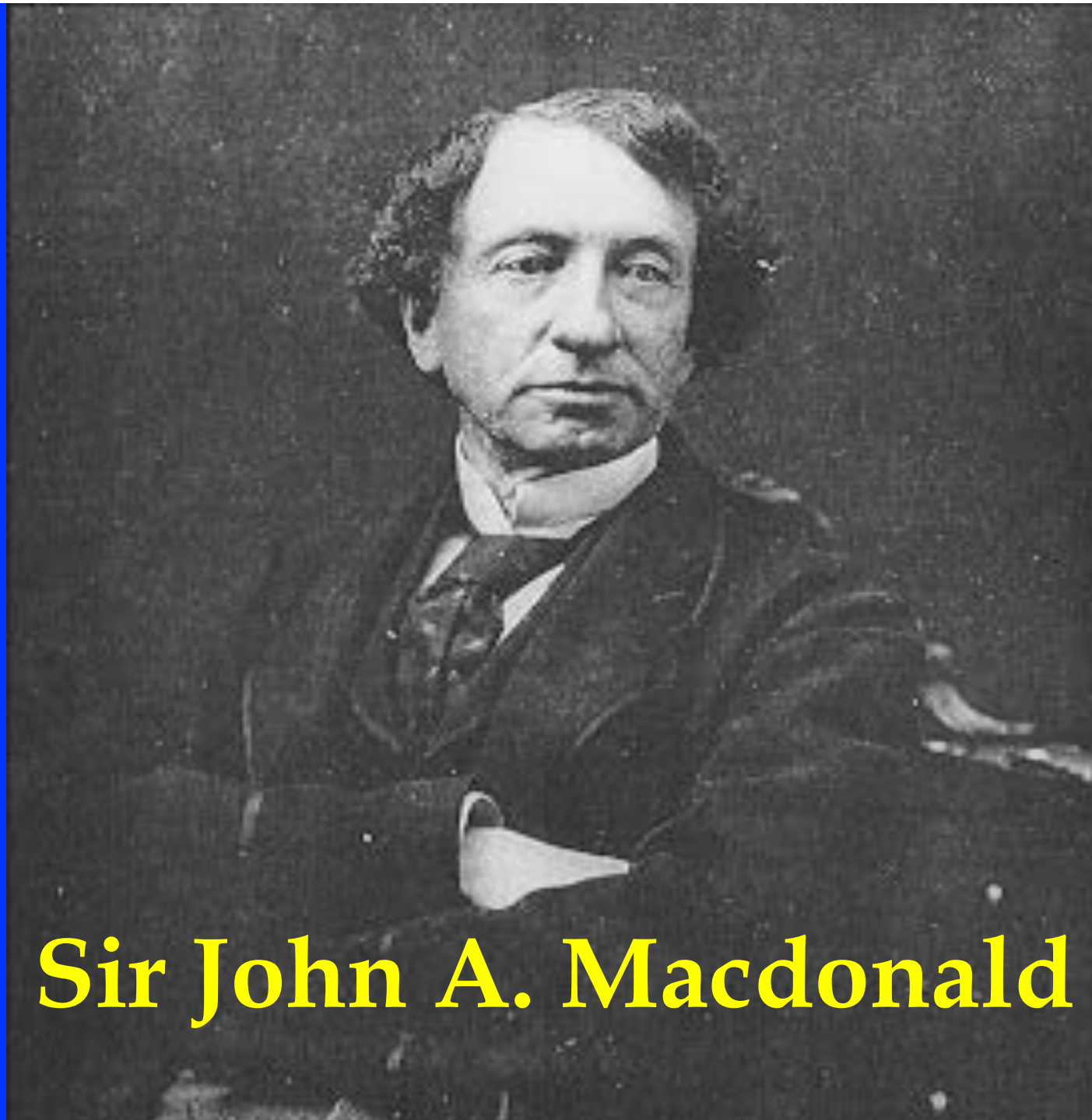
Brad and Lorraine Hawkes -- 1977



Fire Origin 1858
Palliser camped
here

1858

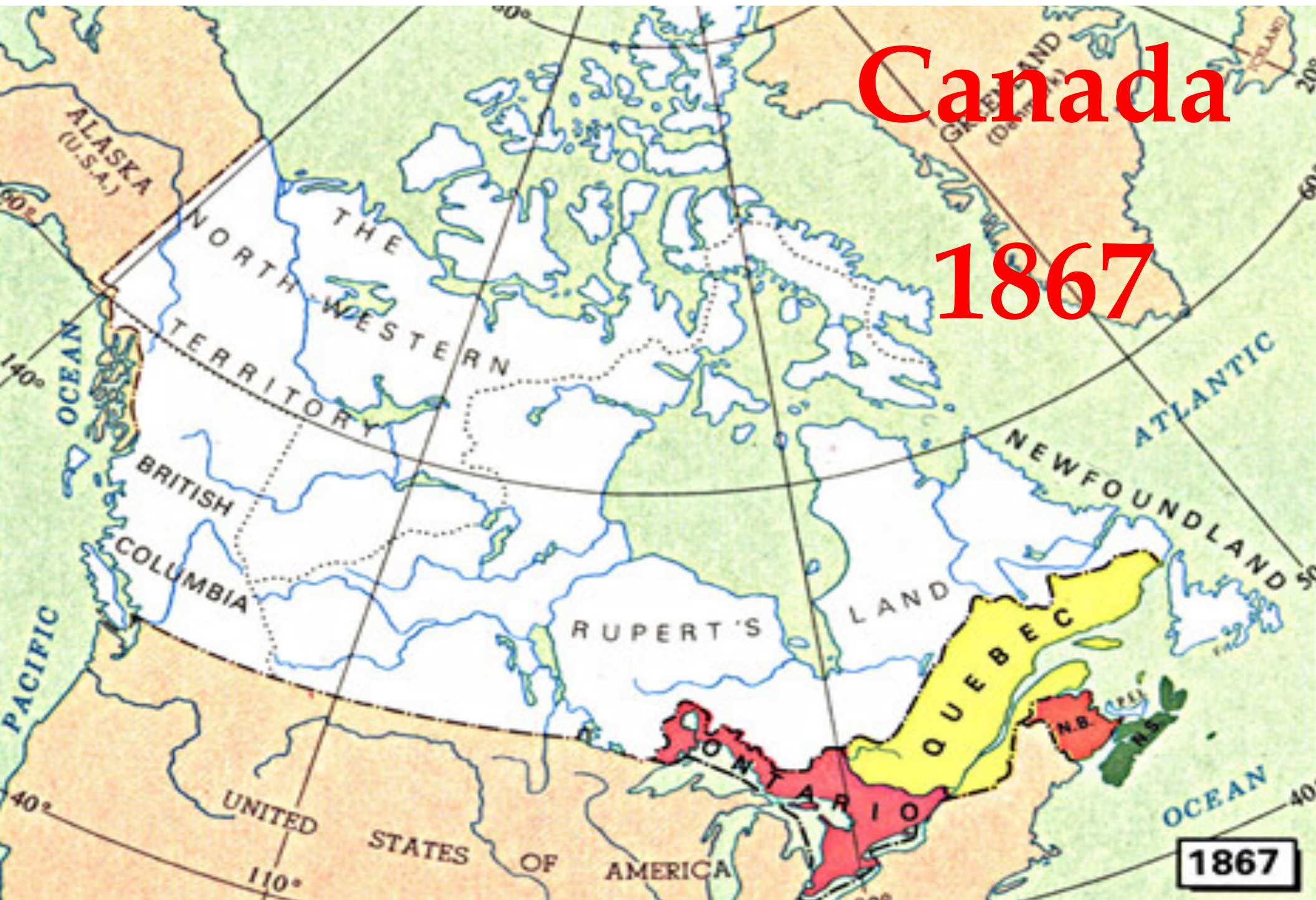
1858



Sir John A. Macdonald

Canada

1867

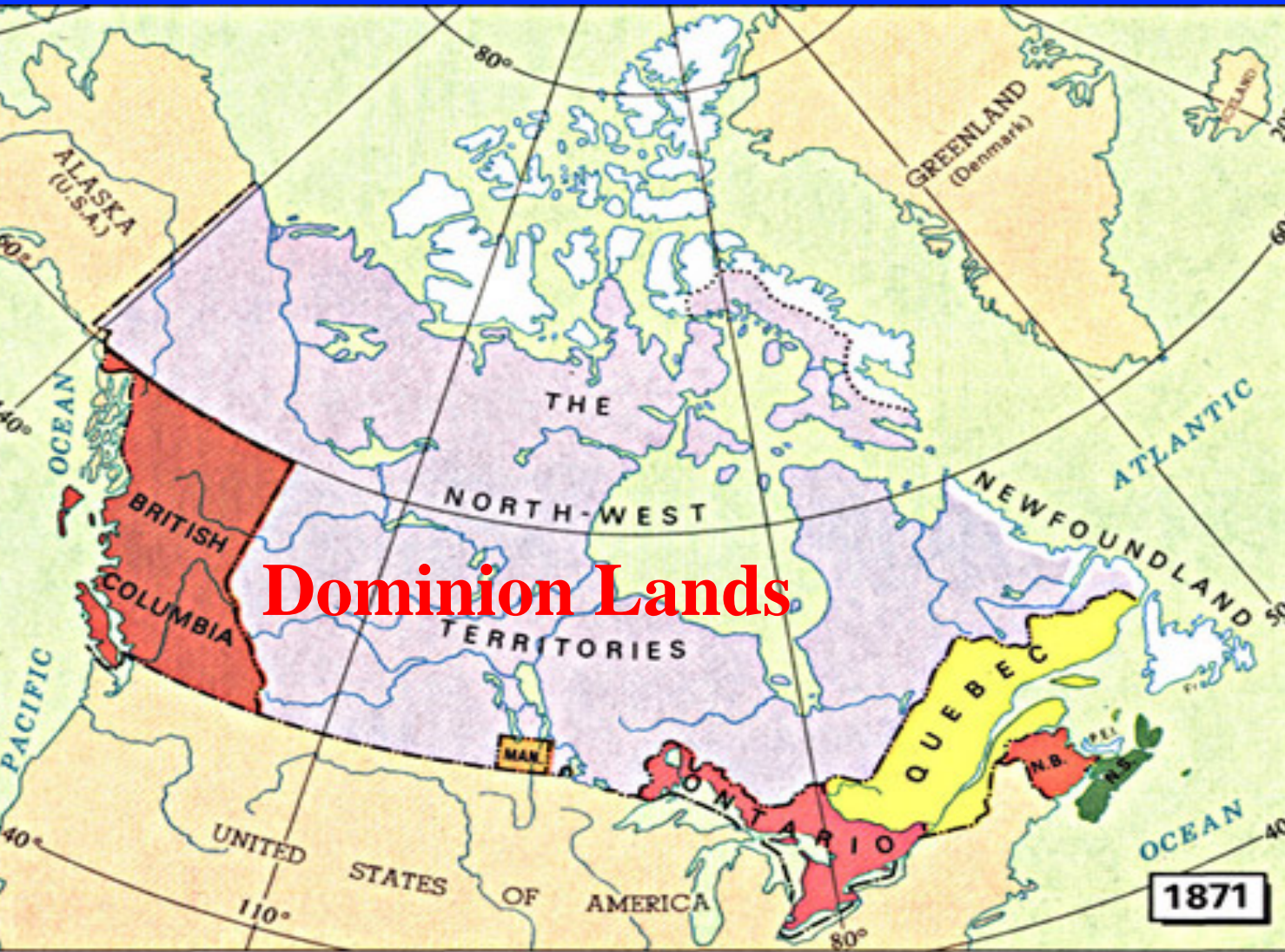


British North America Act 1867

Provincial Right:

“the management and sale of the public lands, including forests --- and of the timber and wood thereon.”

Dominion of Canada -- 1871



Dominion Lands

**Crown forest
lands belong
to provinces
1871**

**North West
Territories
became
Dominion
Lands**



J.M.W. TURNER









The Governor in Council may 1884

- **set aside for forest parks**
- **for the preservation of forest trees**
- **on the crests and slopes of the Rocky Mountains**
- **maintain volume of water in rivers and streams**
- **that traverse the North-West Territories**

Banff



**Hot Springs
Reserve 1885**



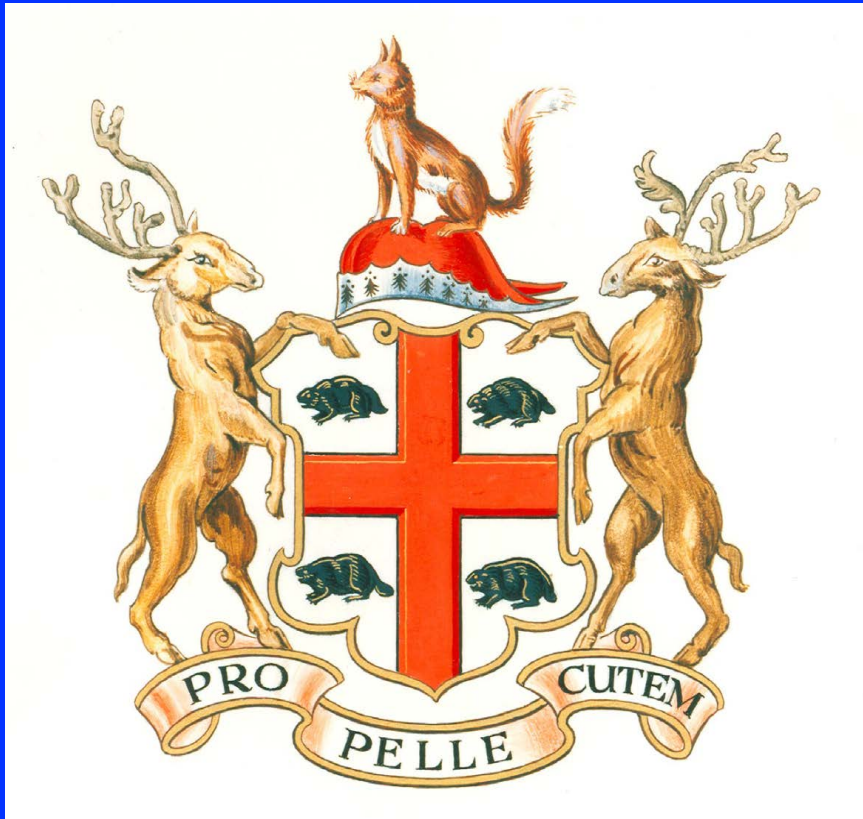
Fires of the 1880s & 1890s

Grande Prairie
and Eastern Slopes

900 km



“Large game is scarce” HBC 1890



Grande Prairie HBC Post Journal:

- Indians starving – a number died that year
- ate over 20 of their horses and 4 of HBC – credit offered

Jack & Mary Gregg

John & Marie Moberly



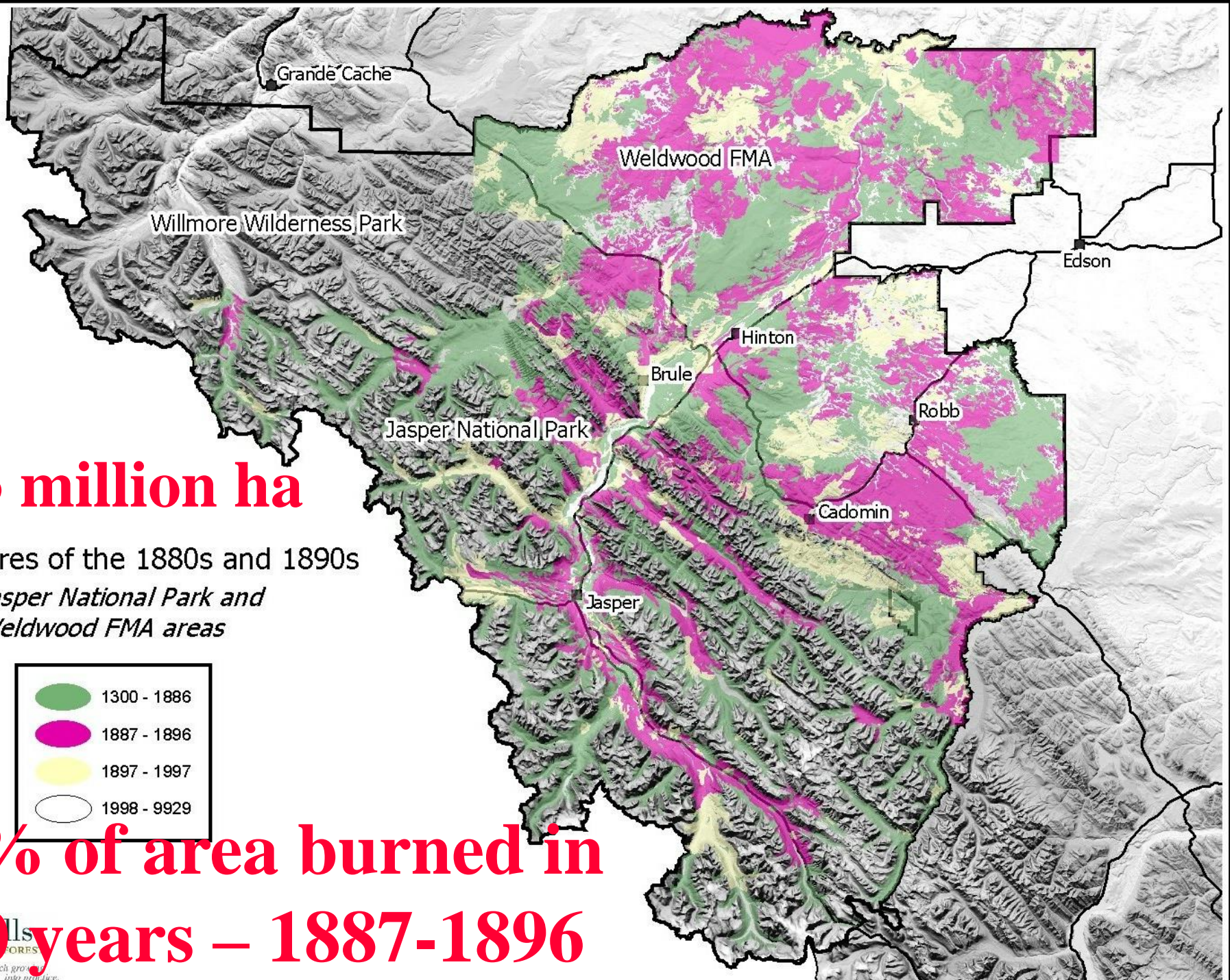
Marie Moberly

... about the big fires:

**“We had to escape
into the river.”**

John Moberly Homesite – Jasper -- 1910

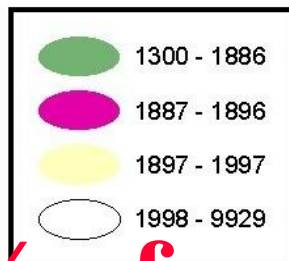




2.3 million ha

Forest Fires of the 1880s and 1890s

*Jasper National Park and
Weldwood FMA areas*



**36% of area burned in
10 years – 1887-1896**

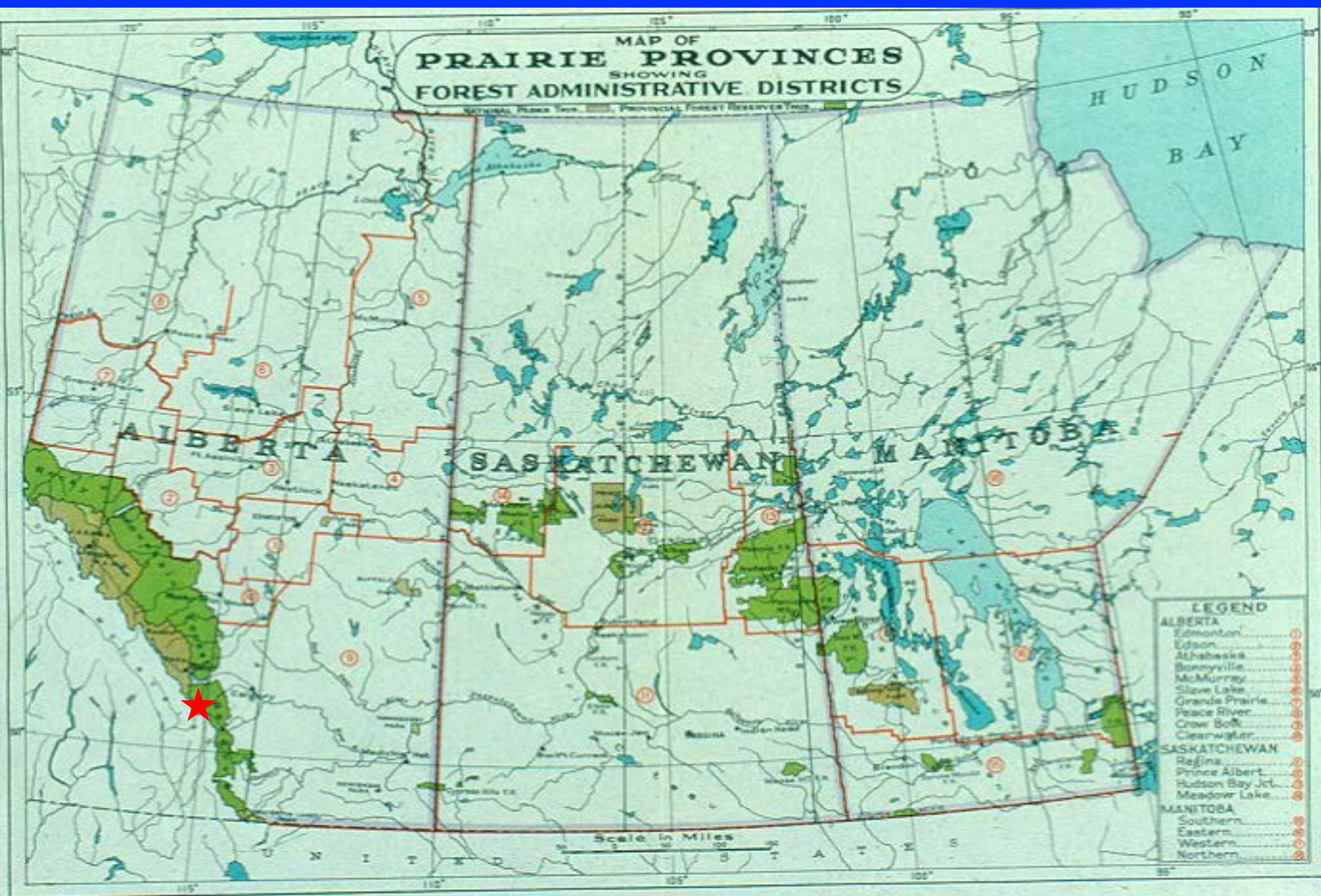
Dominion Forestry Branch



1899

Elihu Stewart

First Dominion
Forester



Alberta & Saskatchewan Provinces in 1905



**Dominion
Lands and
Mines
remained
Federal to
1930**



U.S. Forest Service History



“The Big Blowup”

Fires of 1910

1,210,000 ha

87 fatalities



1910 Burn – Highwood River

Alberta 485,000 ha





**Ernest (Fin) Finlayson –
1912
Inspector of Fire
Ranging**



Brdy survey 10, 11
UofT '12
1916 hazard test --
Beall

Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks

1912



**Dominion Forest
Reserves and
Parks**

&

**Northern Alberta
Fire Ranging
District**

1912

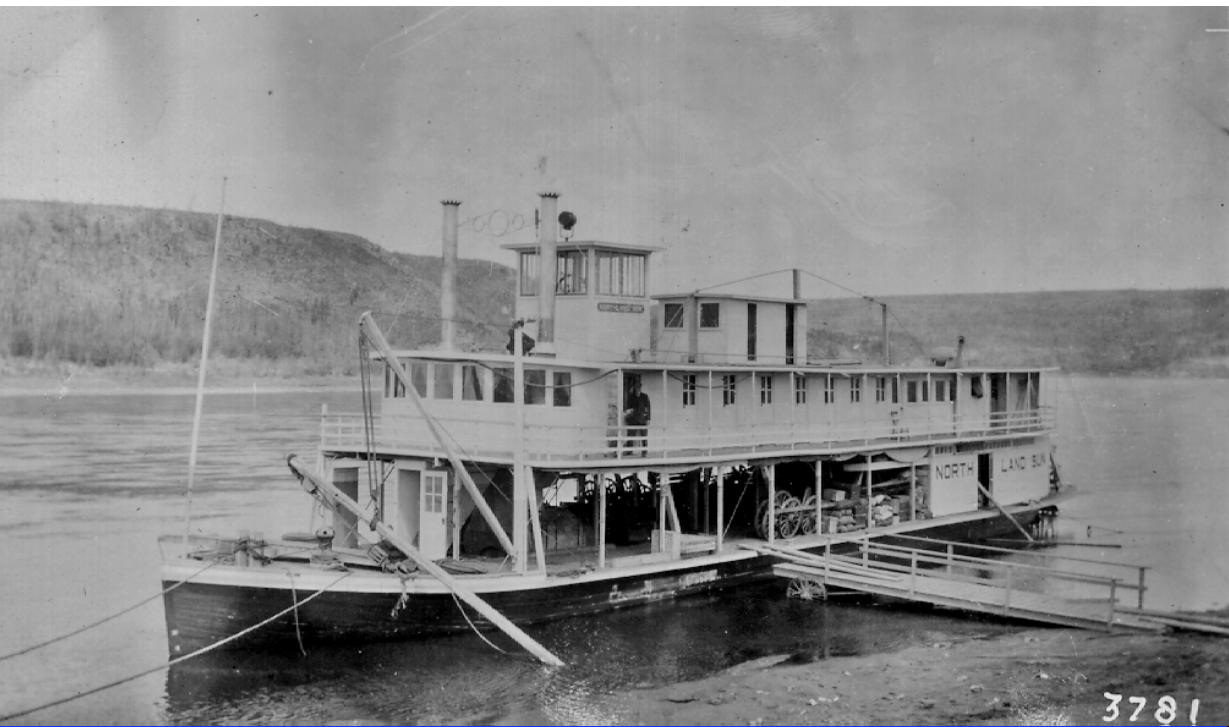


Lt. Col. Robert H. Palmer

DSC, Croix de Guerre

**Commander 22nd
Regiment**



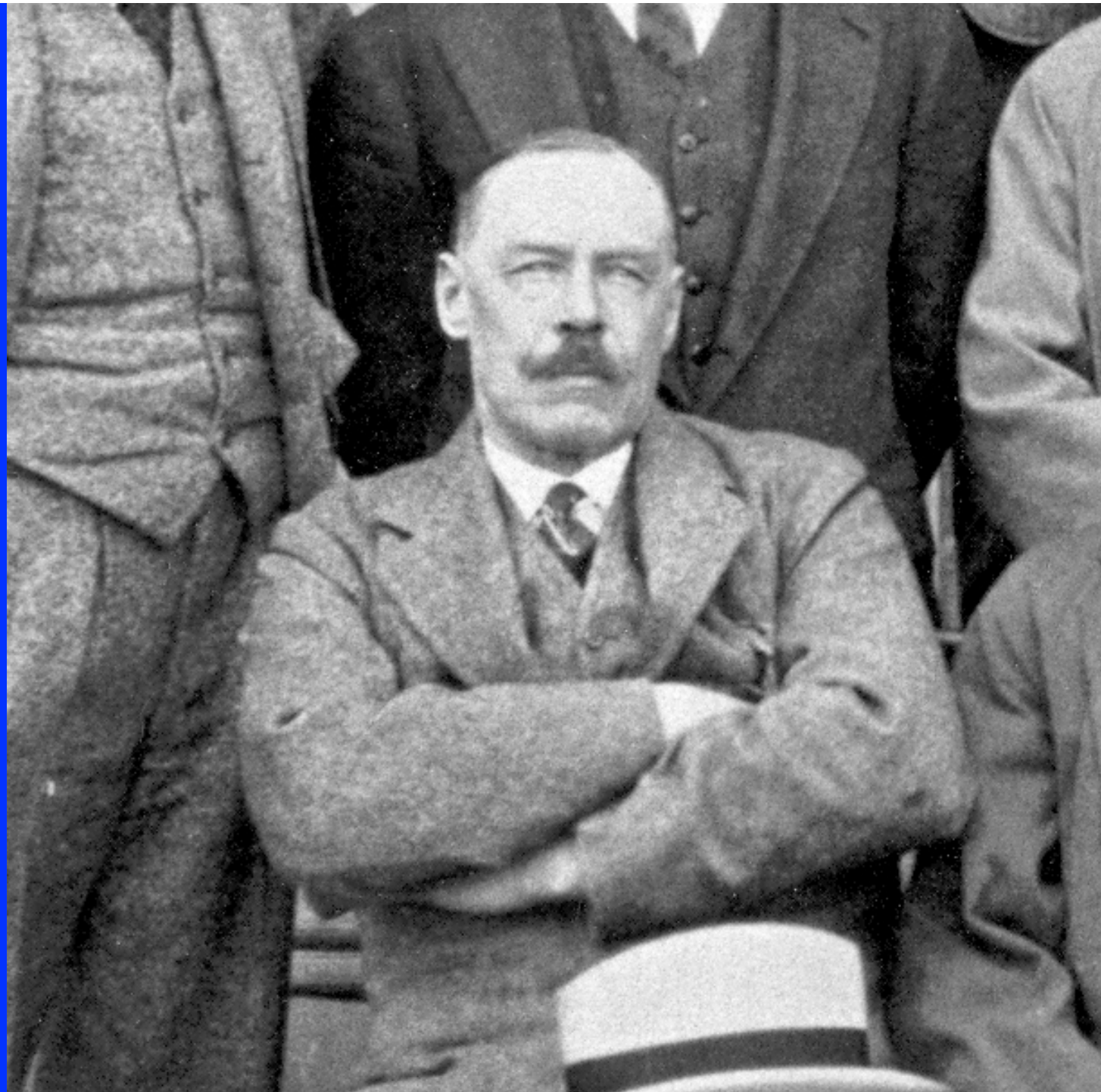


**Lt. Col. Robert
Palmer**

**Chief Fire
Ranger**

**Northern
Alberta Fire
Ranging
District**

1912-1930



19 May 1919







"Great Fire of 1919"

Approximate Boundary

c. 5 million ha

Edmonton

Prince Albert

Saskatoon

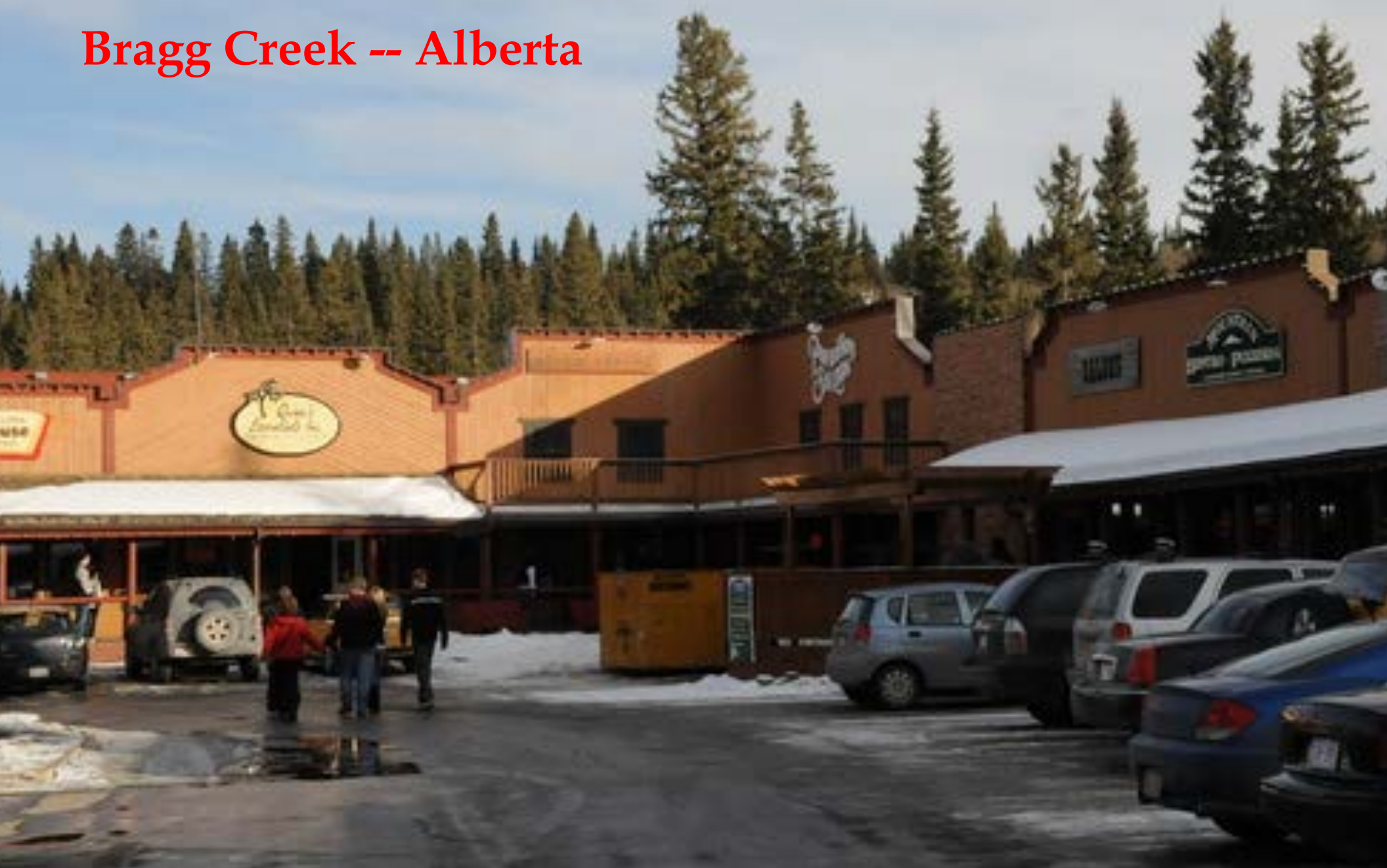


Island Lake 1919

“Only twelve of us survived that fire and we lost eleven; those who did survive bore the marks of their burns for life.”

Theresa Desjarlais

Bragg Creek -- Alberta



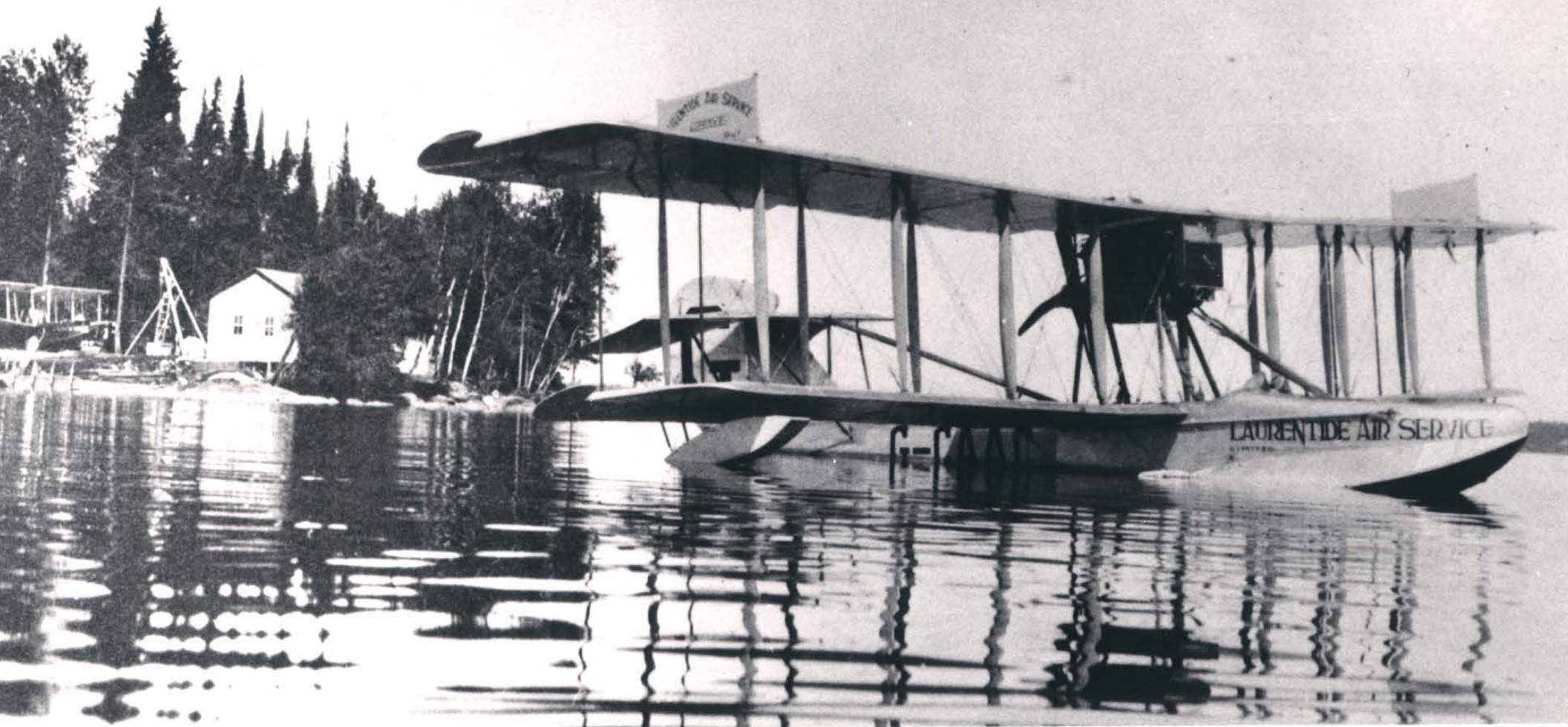
Freda Purmal - Bragg Creek
1919



“We had seen pictures of ocean liners all lit up at night and that is what that big hill looked like at night – just millions of lights – all over as far as you could see” Freda Purmal -- 1985



**St. Maurice Forest Protection Association
Quebec -- 1917
HS2L - First Aerial Fire Patrols**















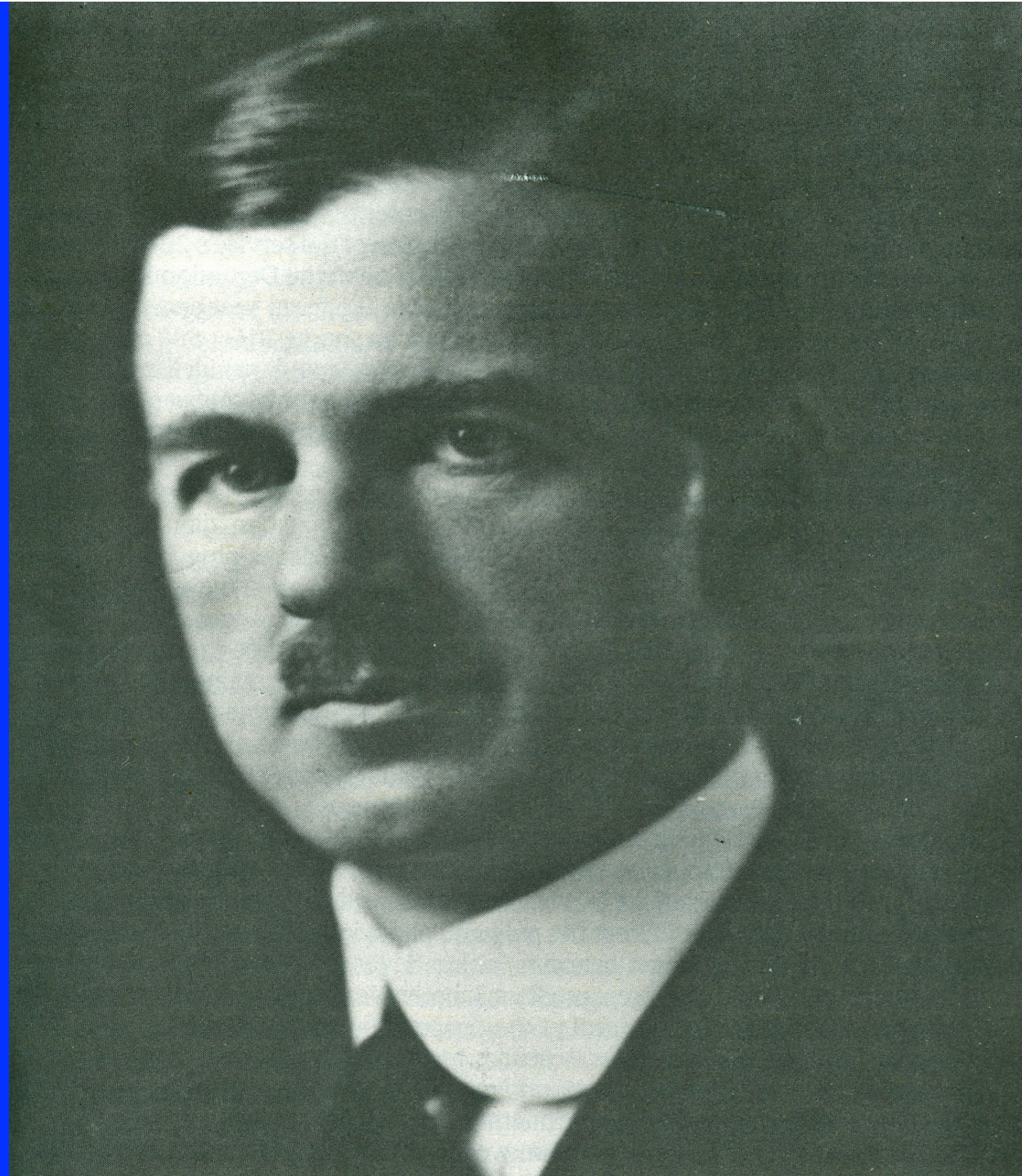
**Ernest (Fin)
Finlayson**

**Director of
Dominion
Forest Service**

1924-1936

Supported forest
fire research

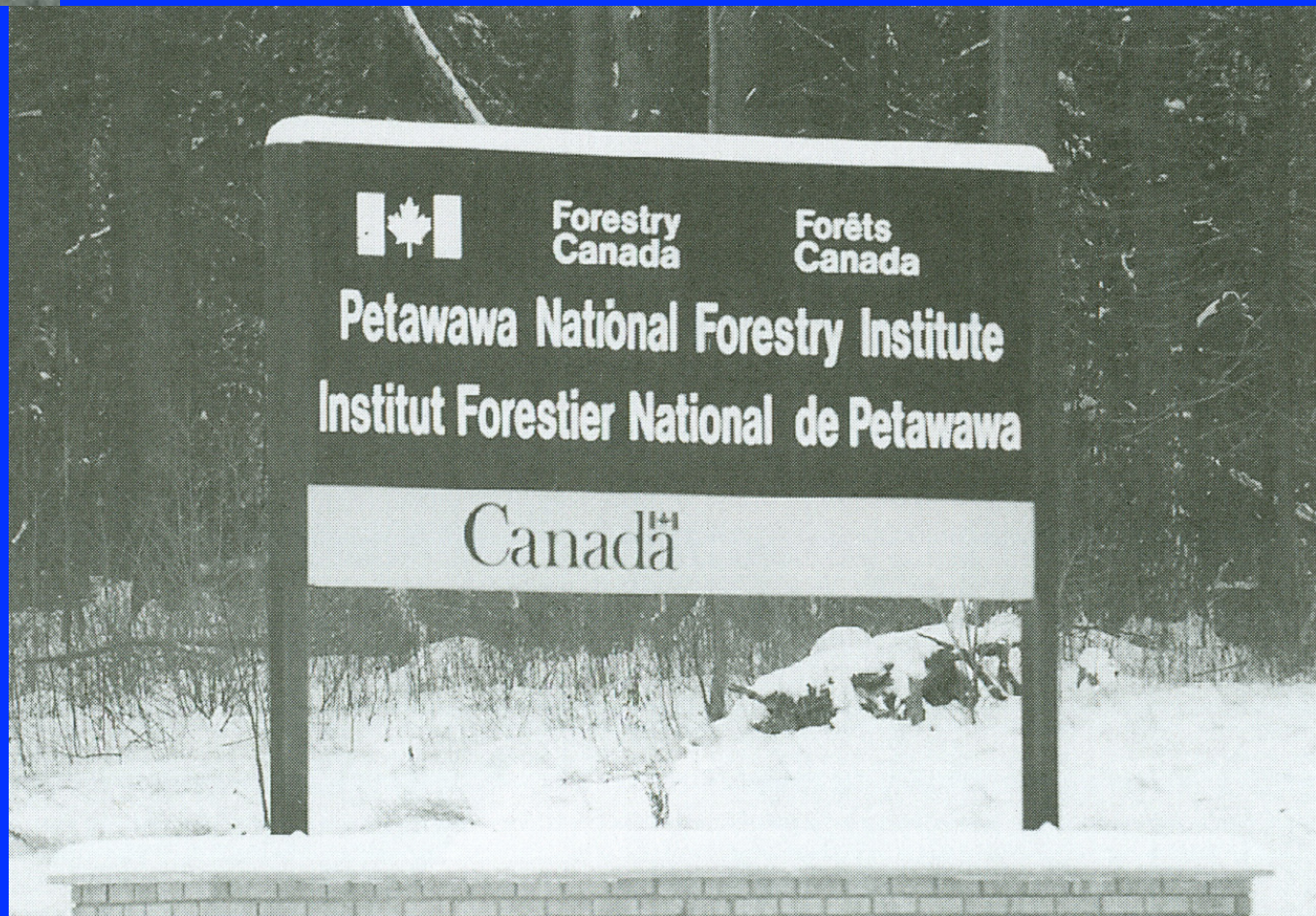
1916 tests





Petawawa National Forestry Institute

1917
to
1993





Jim Wright

CFS 1922

&

**1924 paper on
Relative Humidity
and Forest Fires**

**Start of CFS
fire research**

Herbert W. Beall - 1937 -- 2-minute test fire



**Canada
Transfer of
Resources Act
1930**



**Alberta Forest Service
October 1, 1930**

**Forests now on
Alberta
Provincial
Crown Lands**

Depression Years – Hard Times



Glenbow Archives NA-2256-1

Drought and Dust Storms

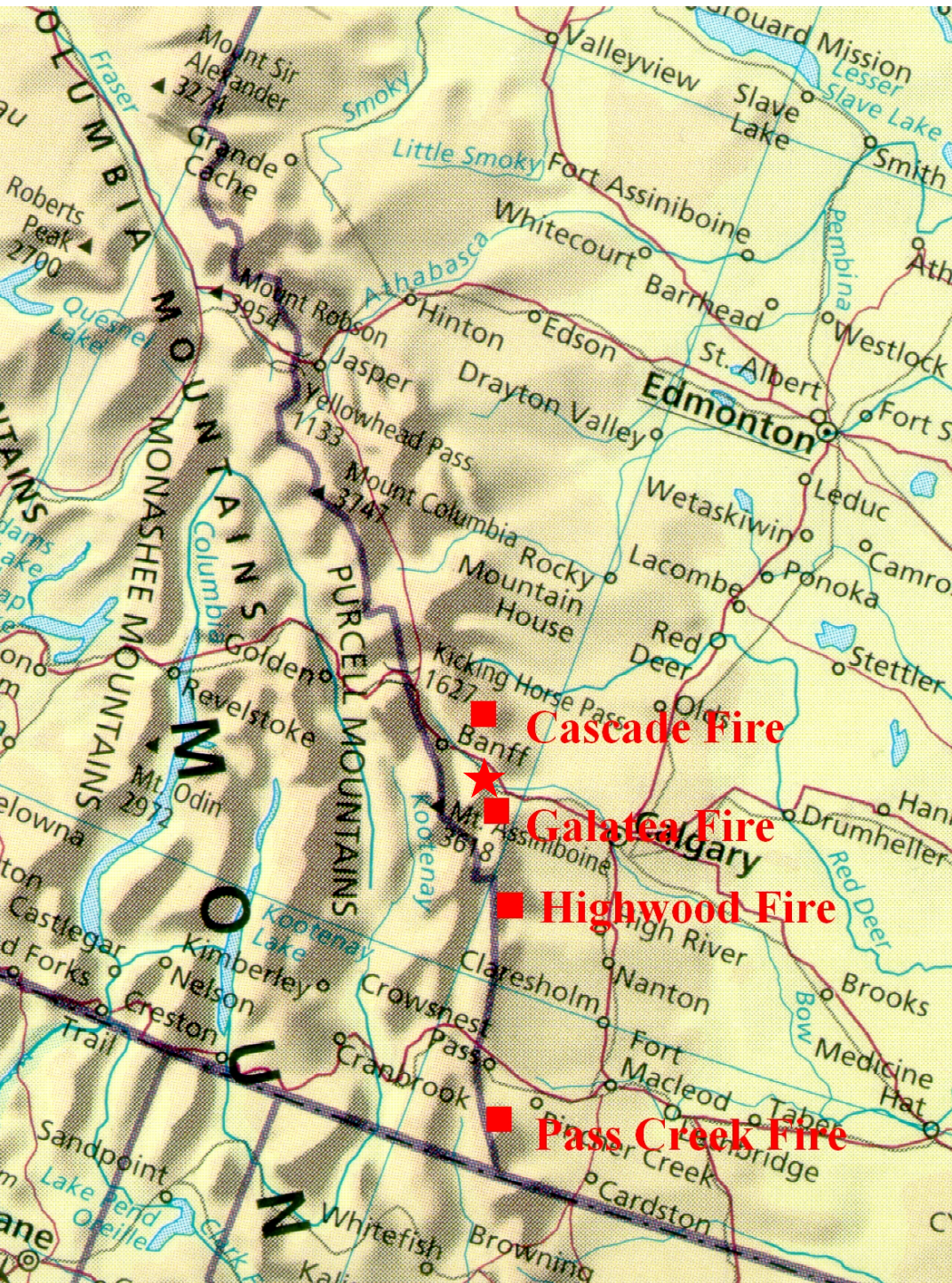
Glenbow Archives NA-1831-1



Fires of 1936

Policy Changing

- Cascade – Banff
- Galatea
- Highwood
- Pass Creek



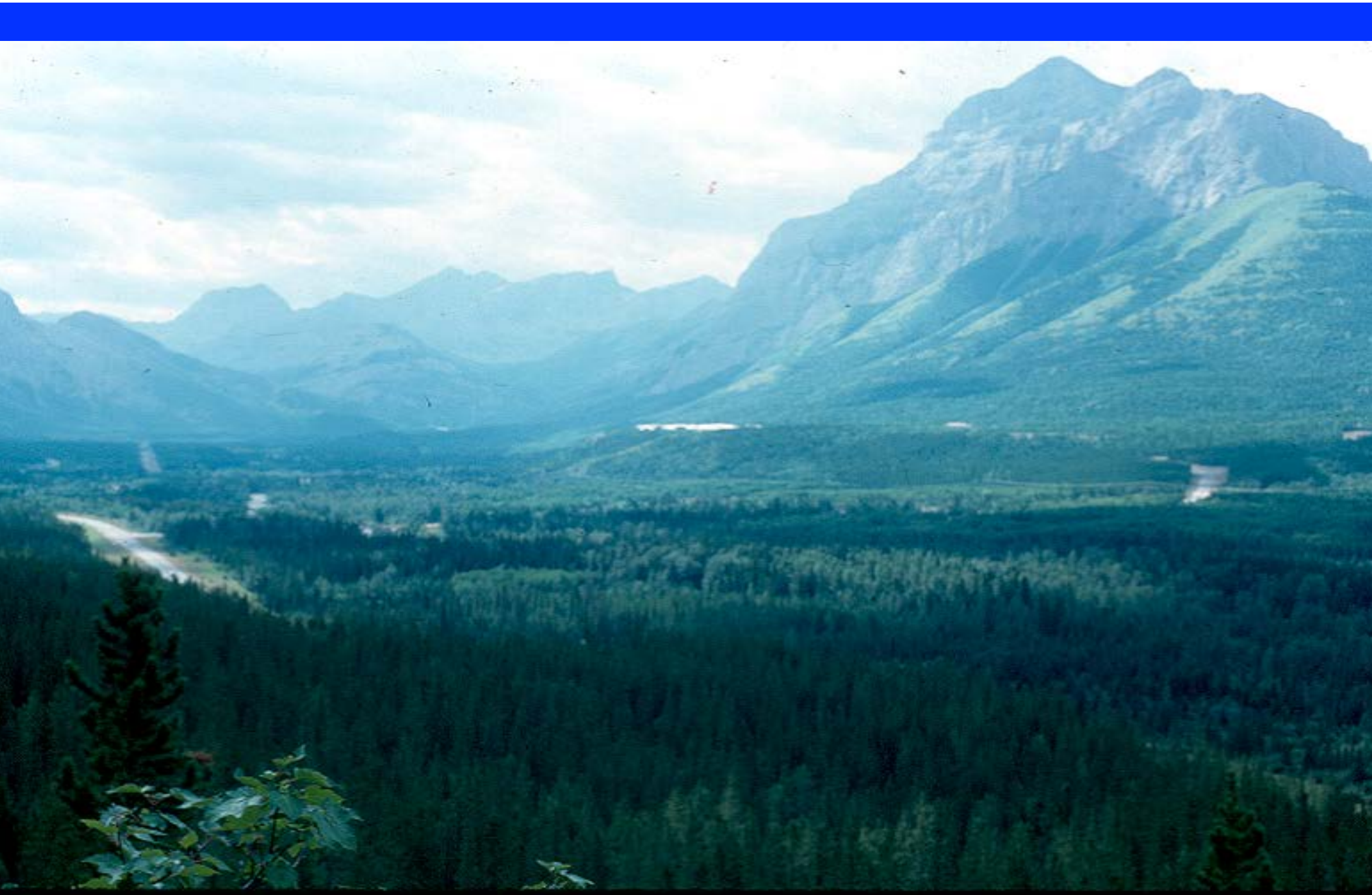




Galatea Creek and Kananaskis River

21560









**In the meantime, after 1930,
CFS focussed on forest research:
Fire behaviour
Pumps & hoses**



National Research Council (CIFFC Roots)

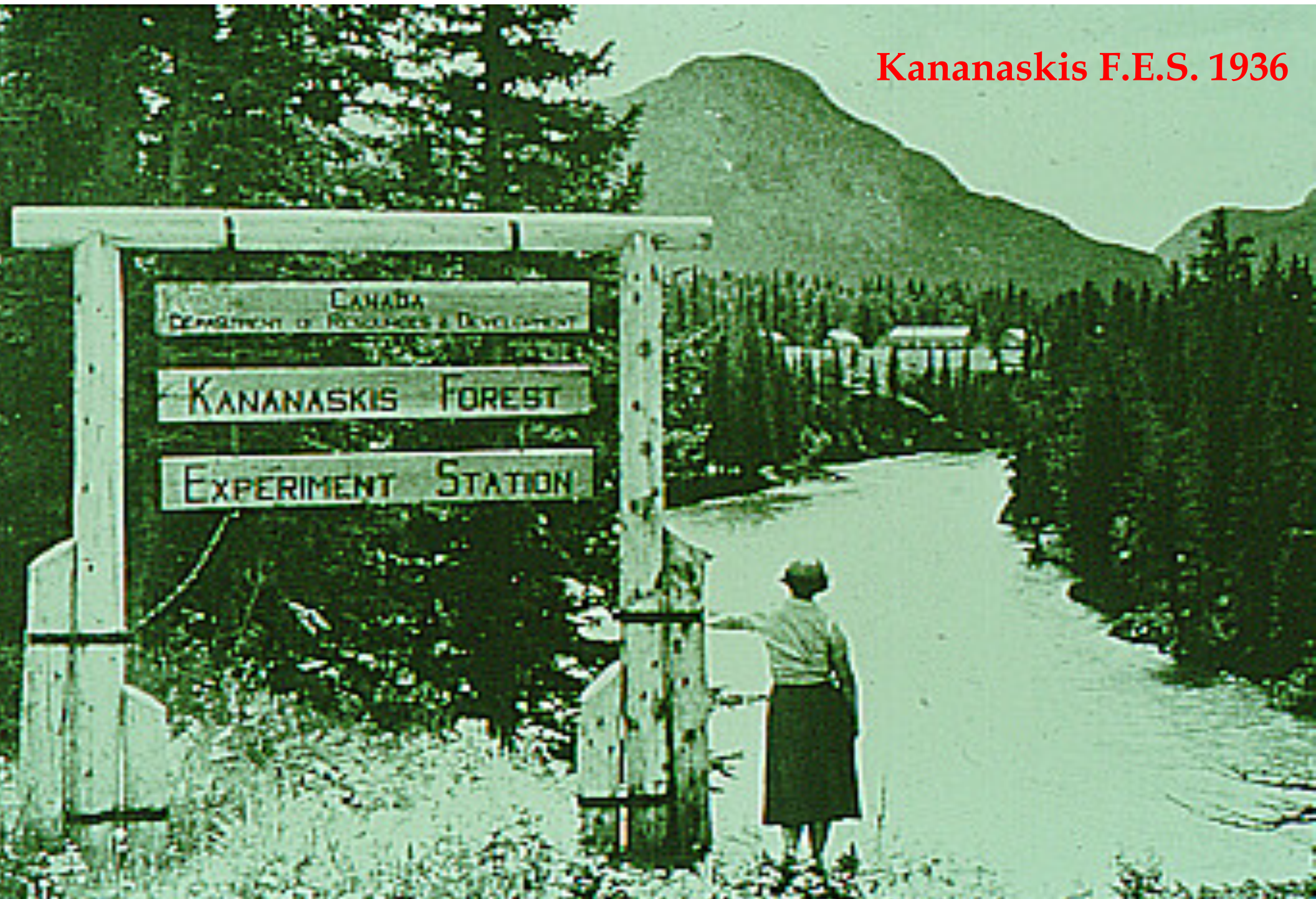
1935 -- Associate Committee on Forest Research.

1936 -- Sub committee on Forest Fire Protection

To collaborate with NRC in-house programs:

- - Pump and hose testing and development
- - Fire behaviour
- - Brought the forest fire community together -

Kananaskis F.E.S. 1936



Herb Beall - Kananaskis & Banff 1939



Kananaskis Prisoner-of-War Camp 1939-1945





Herb Beall

1928 summer
1932 UofT grad

1945 Chief Forest
Protection Division
CFS


1947 Chair, NRC
Forest Fire Sub-
Committee

1948 ERFCB Board

1950 – first Forest
Fire Danger Tables

1948

1962



**EASTERN ROCKIES
FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD
CALGARY**



Chinchaga River Fire 1950

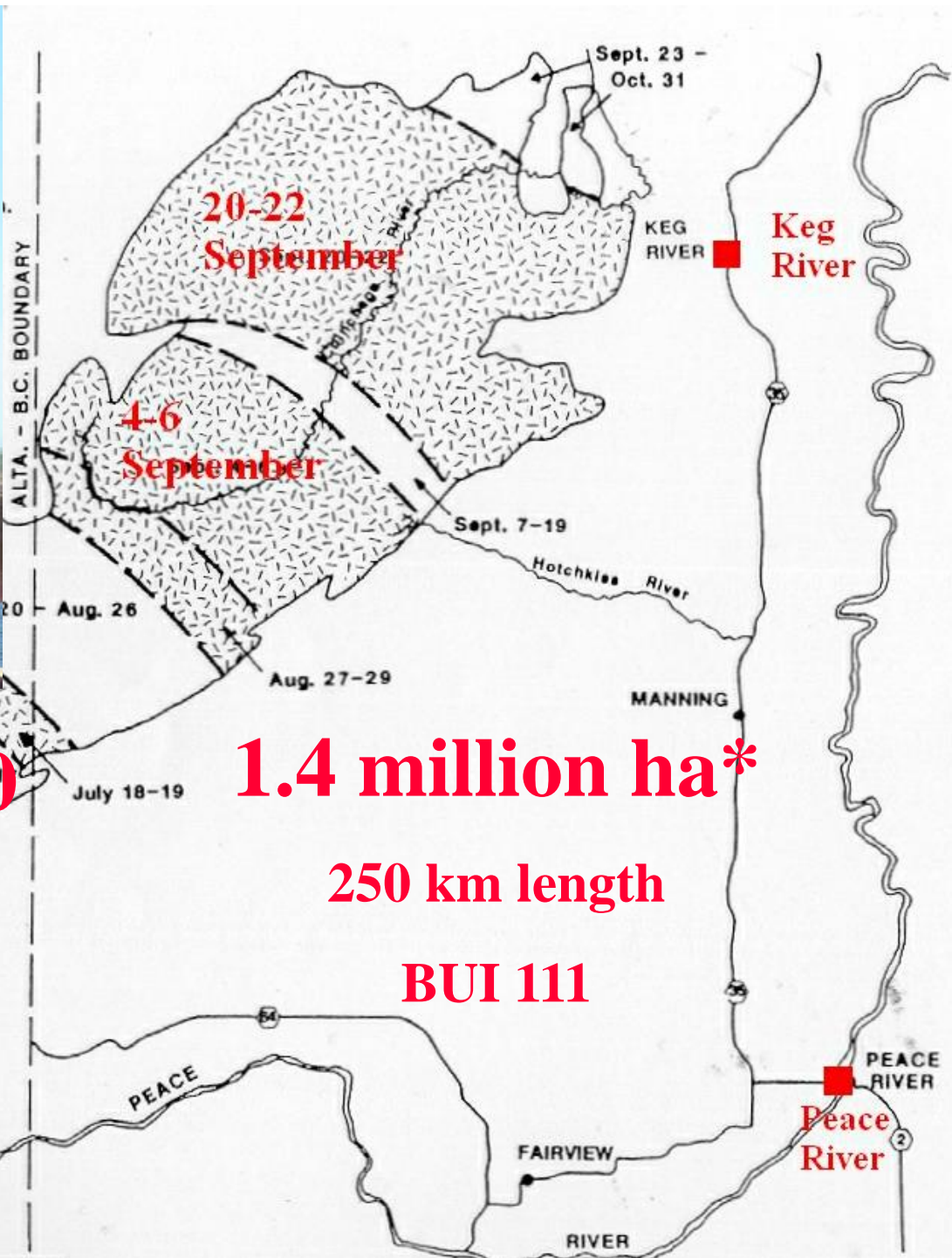


Jack Grant

Keg River

1951





Chinchaga 1950

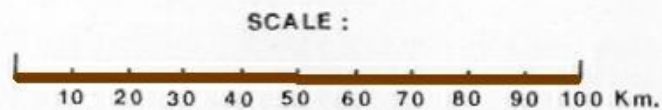
1.4 million ha*

250 km length

BUI 111

**2 June to
31 October**

**Fort
St. John**

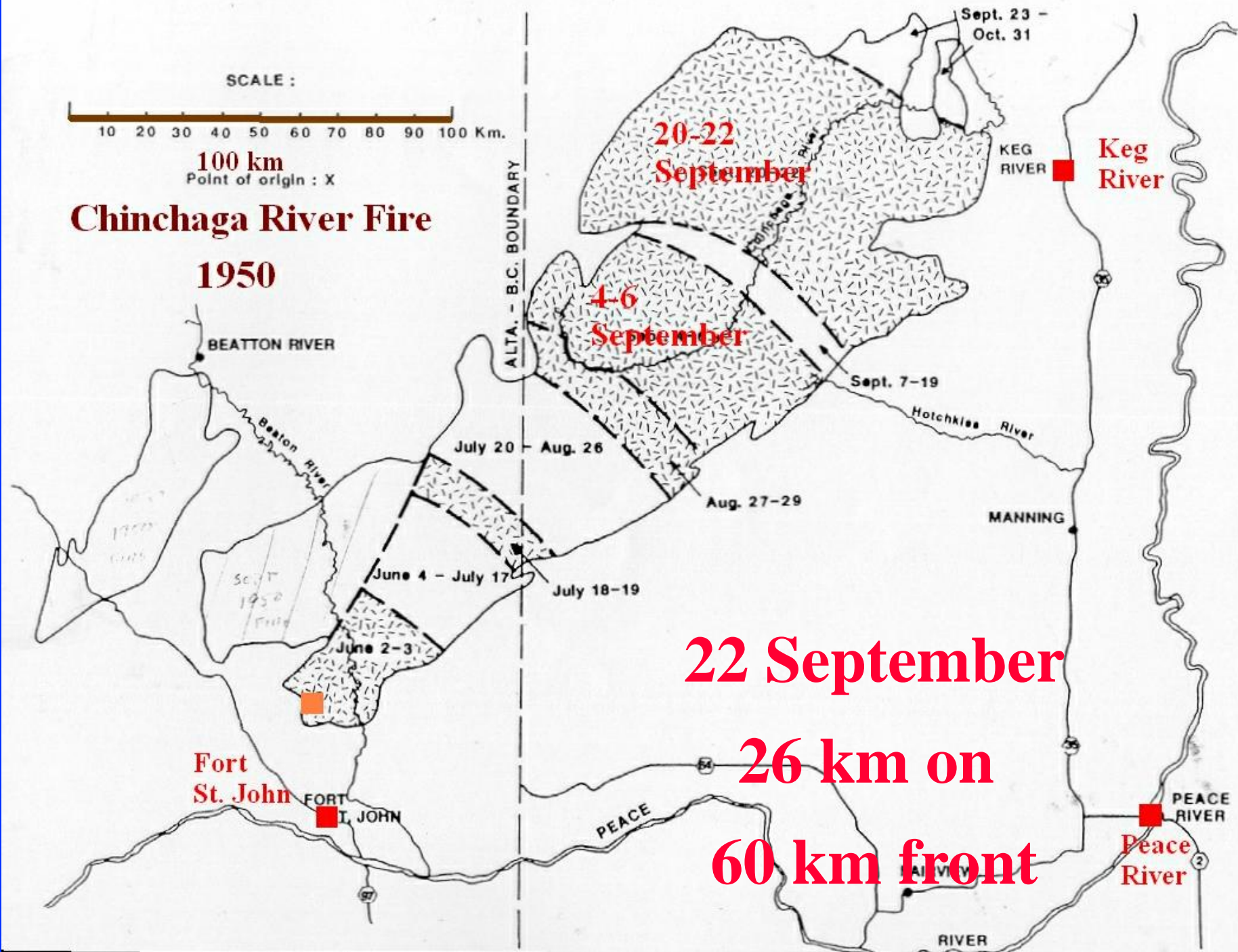


100 km

Point of origin : X

Chinchaga River Fire

1950



22 September

26 km on

60 km front

**Mid-afternoon, Street Lights On
Buffalo, N.Y. -- 25 September 1950**



First Forestry Training School – Kananaskis -- 1951





Forest Fire Danger Tables

1959



Weather stations at lookouts and ranger stations



w DoT - Pivotal

Canadian Forest Fire Linkages

5 NRC Associate
Committee on Forest Research

6 NRC Sub-Committee on
Forest Fire Protection

2 CCFFC Canadian
Committee on Forest fire
Control

3 CCFFM Canadian
Committee on Forest Fire
Management – to 1996

“Togetherness”

CCFFC - Fredericton -- 1979



Brian Stocks



Al Jeffrey





Stan Hughes

**1970 – Mutual
Aid paper for
CCFFC**

Colombia Fire Team

1973

Bill Wuth

Carson McDonald

Stan Hughes

Canadian Forest Fire Linkages

- 1935 NRC Associate Committee on Forest Research
- 1936 NRC Sub-Committee on Forest Fire protection
- 1952 CCFFC Canadian Committee on Forest fire Control
- 1983 CCFFM Canadian Committee on Forest Fire Management – to 1996
- 1970 Mutual Aid proposals
- 1982 CIFFC Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
- 1997 CIFFC Fire Science and Technology Working Group



CANADIAN INTERAGENCY FOREST FIRE CENTRE INC.

CENTRE INTERSERVICES DES FEUX DE FORÊT DU CANADA INC.

Established 2 June 1982

by

**Canadian Council of
Forest Ministers**



Al Jeffrey

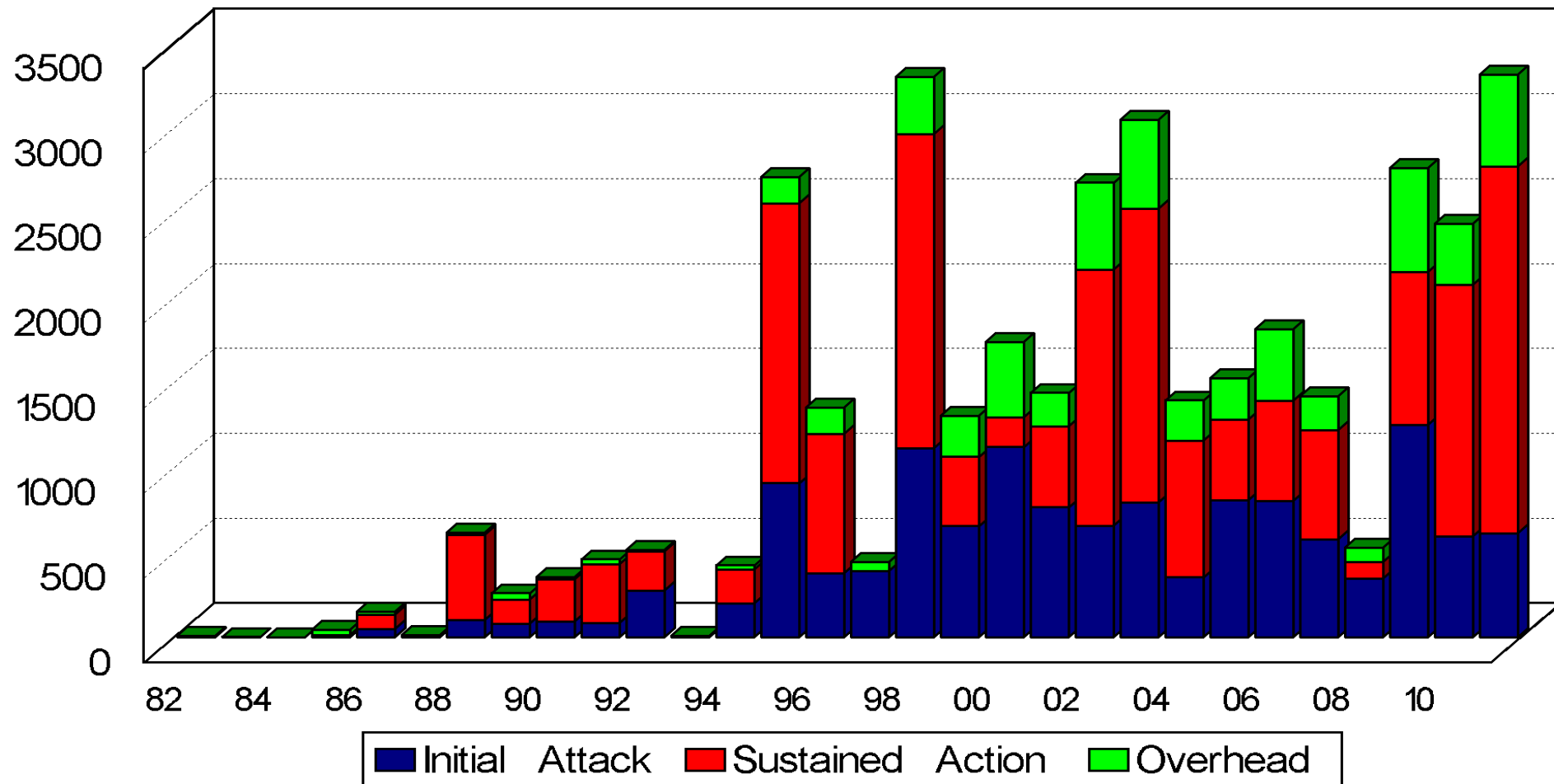
**Dennis
Brown**

**Tim
Connors**



Personnel Mobilized

1982-2011

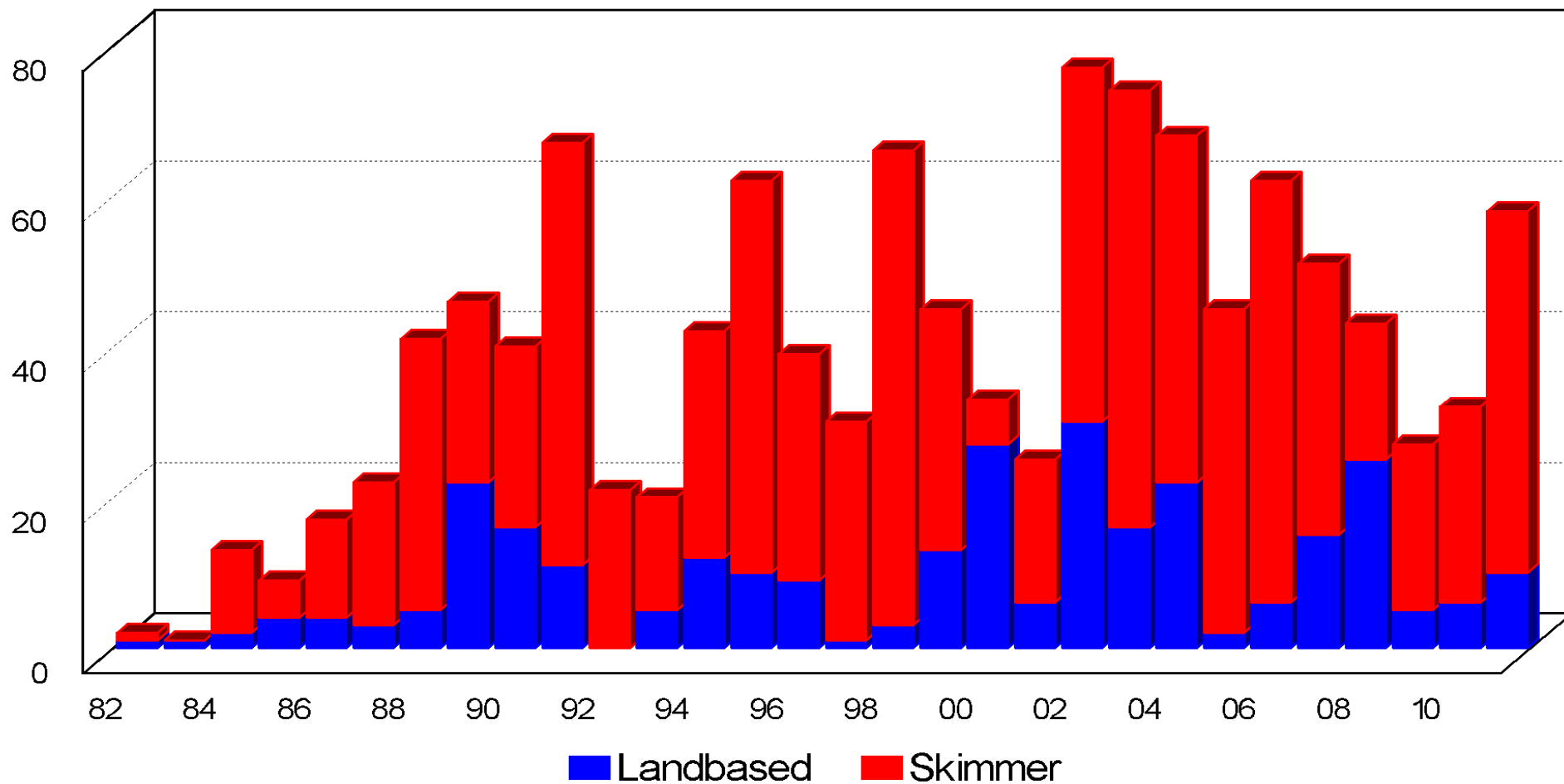


As of Sept 9, 2011



Airtankers

1982 - 2011



as of Sept 14, 2011





Wildland Fire Working Group

Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy

Fire Smart

- Includes municipalities
- Insurance industry
- Social acceptance





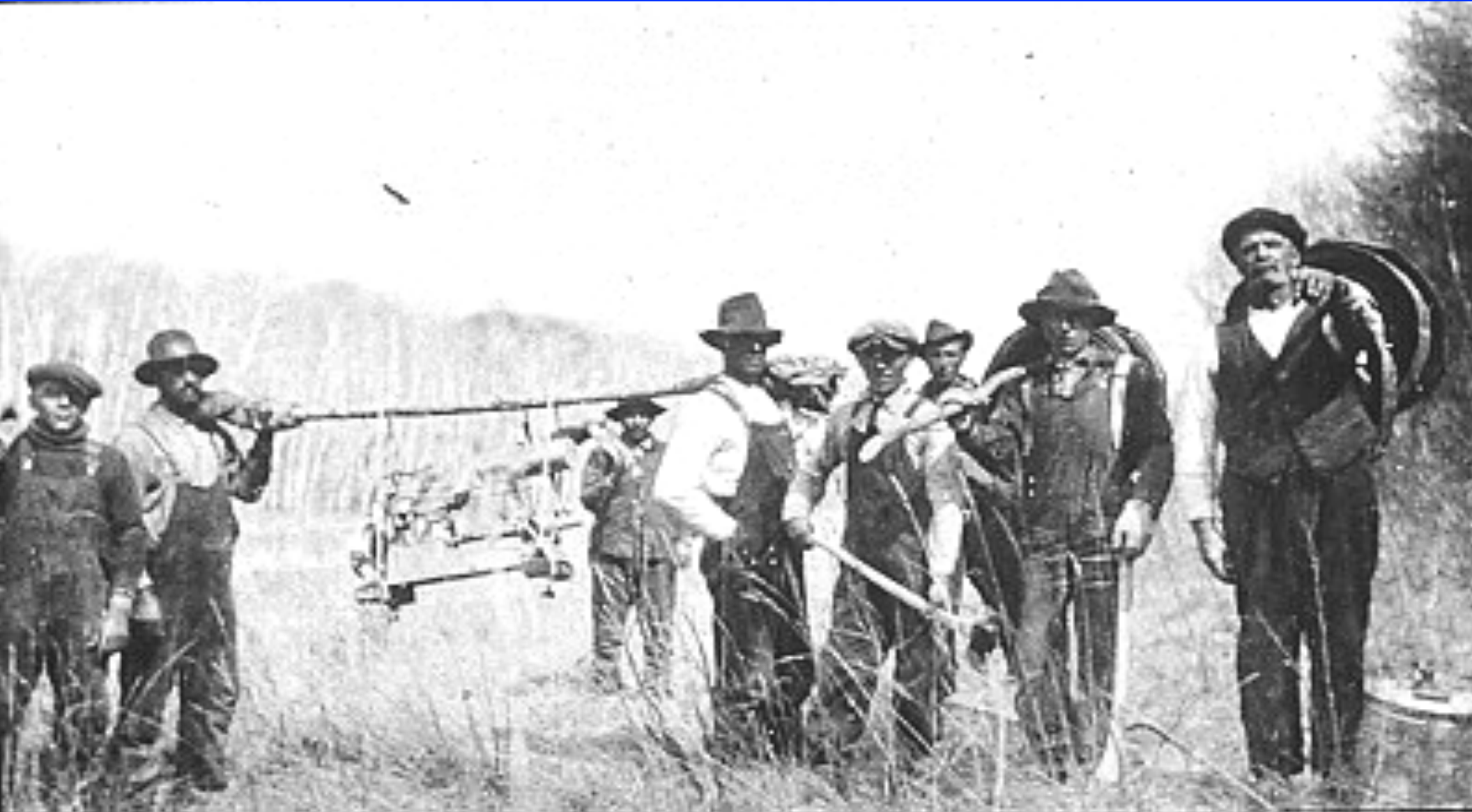
Once things started to come
together – look back at what
happened



Incident Command

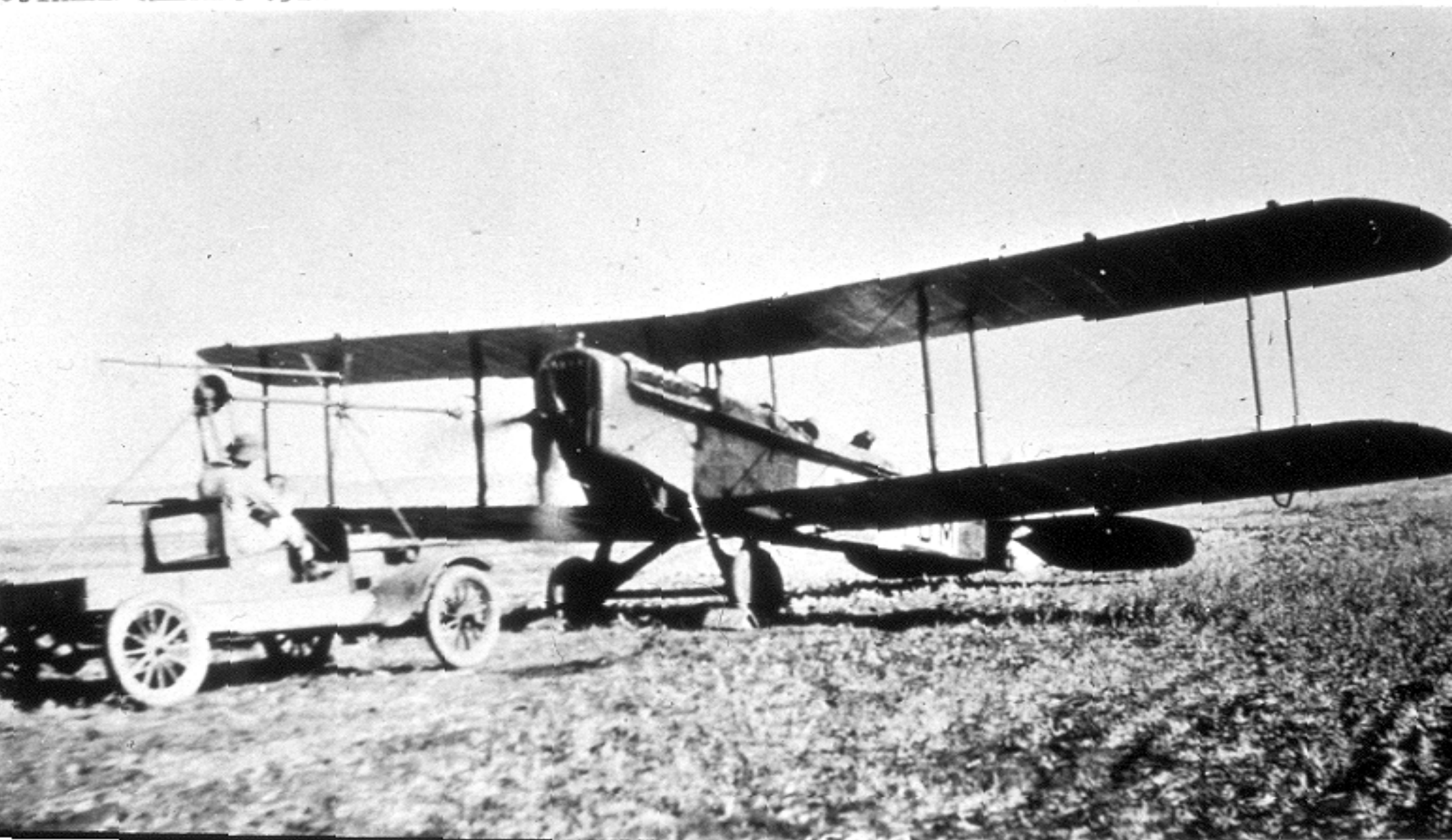


The Portable Power Pump

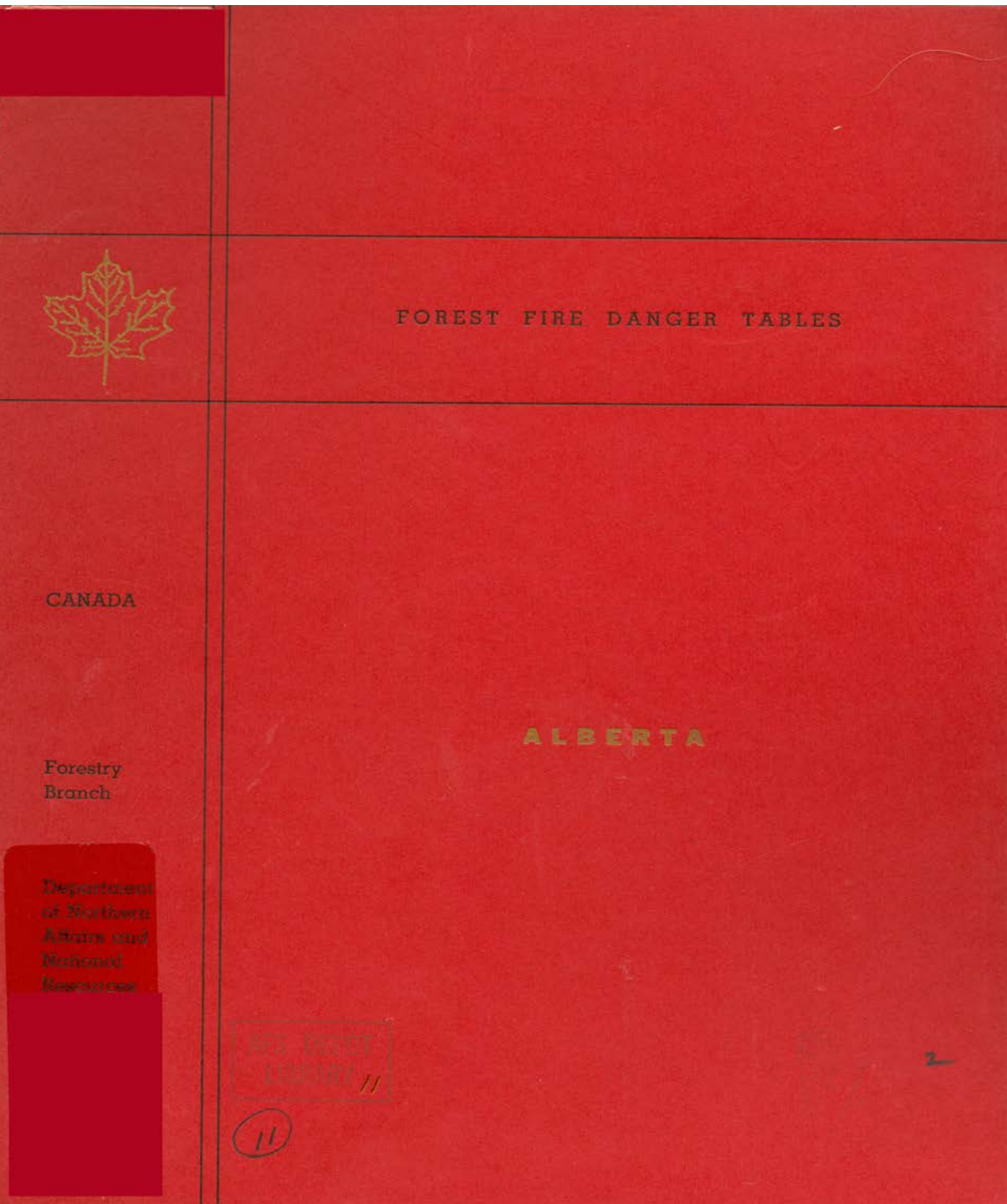




SOUTHERN ALBERTA 1922







FBP System



Prometheus

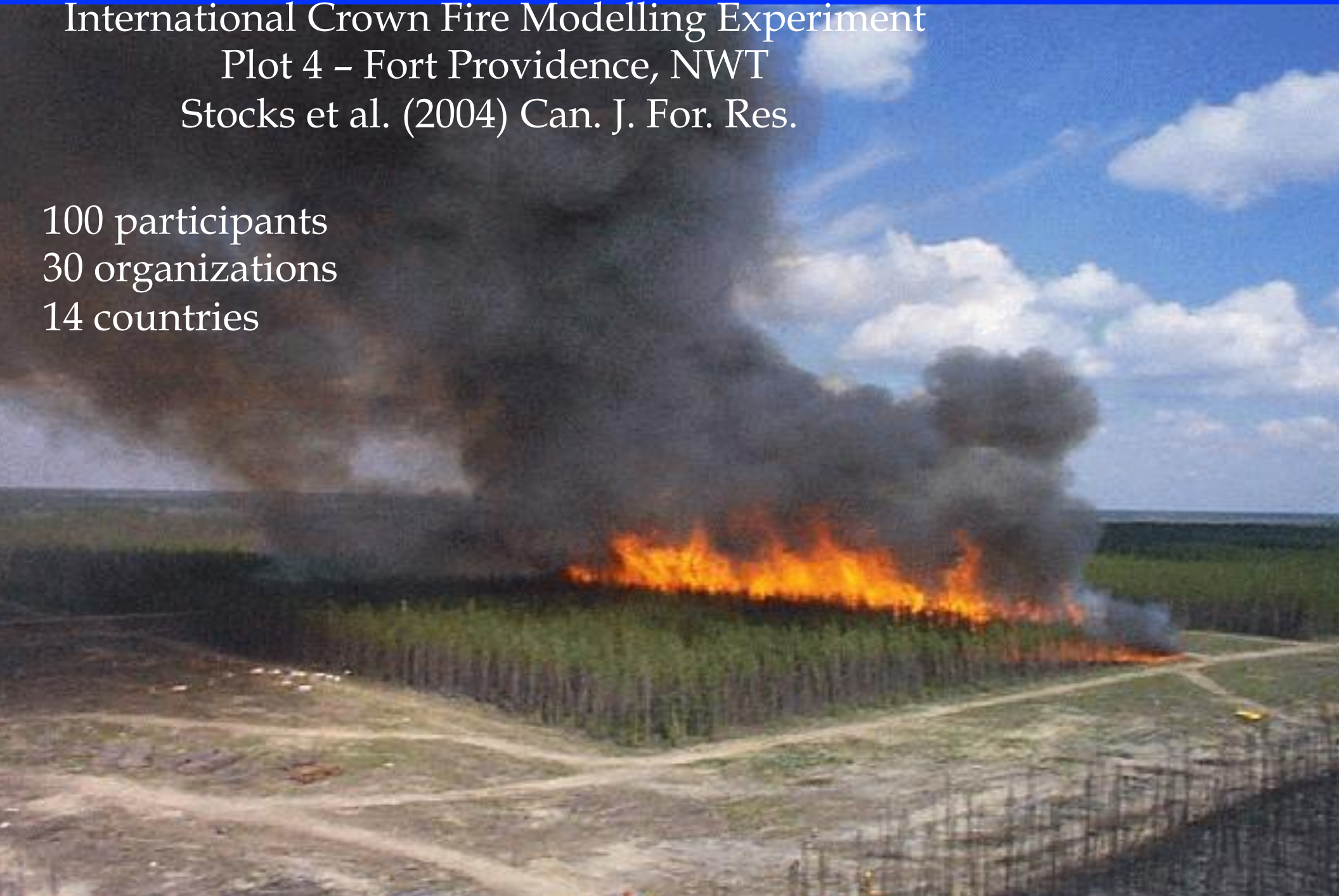


International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment

Plot 4 – Fort Providence, NWT

Stocks et al. (2004) Can. J. For. Res.

100 participants
30 organizations
14 countries



Banff Springs Hotel

c. 1895



Carrot Creek Fuelbreak -- Banff









28 June 2008





Mt. Nestor Fire Team -- 2008



Mt. Nestor Fire Team -- 2008

1. Simon Hunt - Parks Canada
2. Lisa Steels - Parks Canada
3. Robert Osiowy - Parks Canada
4. Cliff White - Parks Canada
5. Scott Jevons - Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
6. Charlie VanWagner - CFS retired
7. Bob Mazurik - ESRD
8. Dennis Quintilio - Contractor (ESRD retired)
9. Rick Arthur - ESRD
10. Ian Pengelly - Parks Canada









“Not bad!”



We've come a long way
together





We've come a long way
together





**“The ‘we’re all in
this together’**

**is a better
philosophy than**

**‘you’re on your
own.’ “**

William J. Clinton – 5 September 2012



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



Ressources naturelles
et Faune

Québec

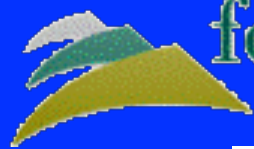


Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Environment and Sustainable
Resource Development



foothills RESEARCH INSTITUTE
research growing into practice.



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Environment



Société de protection
des forêts contre le feu



Ontario

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre



Stick together!



Collaborate widely!



Aren't we there yet?

Moving Targets



- Research needs
- Urbanization
- Climate change
- More values at risk
- Fuel continuity
- Sustainability
- Budget limits
- Multiple agencies

**“The problem will
never be solved.
It will just
continue to
change”**

**“ [We need to] create a
new narrative”**

Stephen Pyne -- 2011



“Canada’s talent of
dogged but effective
problem solving
[is]
heroic, dramatic
[and] sometimes
even interesting.”

Conrad Black

June 2012





The answers lie within us

Government
of Alberta



Happy 30th CIFFC!

