



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Indigenous Fire Stewardship in the Boreal

Amy Cardinal Christianson

Indigenous Fire Specialist, National Fire Management Division, Natural Resource Management Branch
Parks Canada / Government of Canada
Spécialiste des incendies autochtone, Division nationale de la gestion des incendies, Direction de la gestion des
ressources naturelles
Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Amy.Christianson@pc.gc.ca

September 13 2023

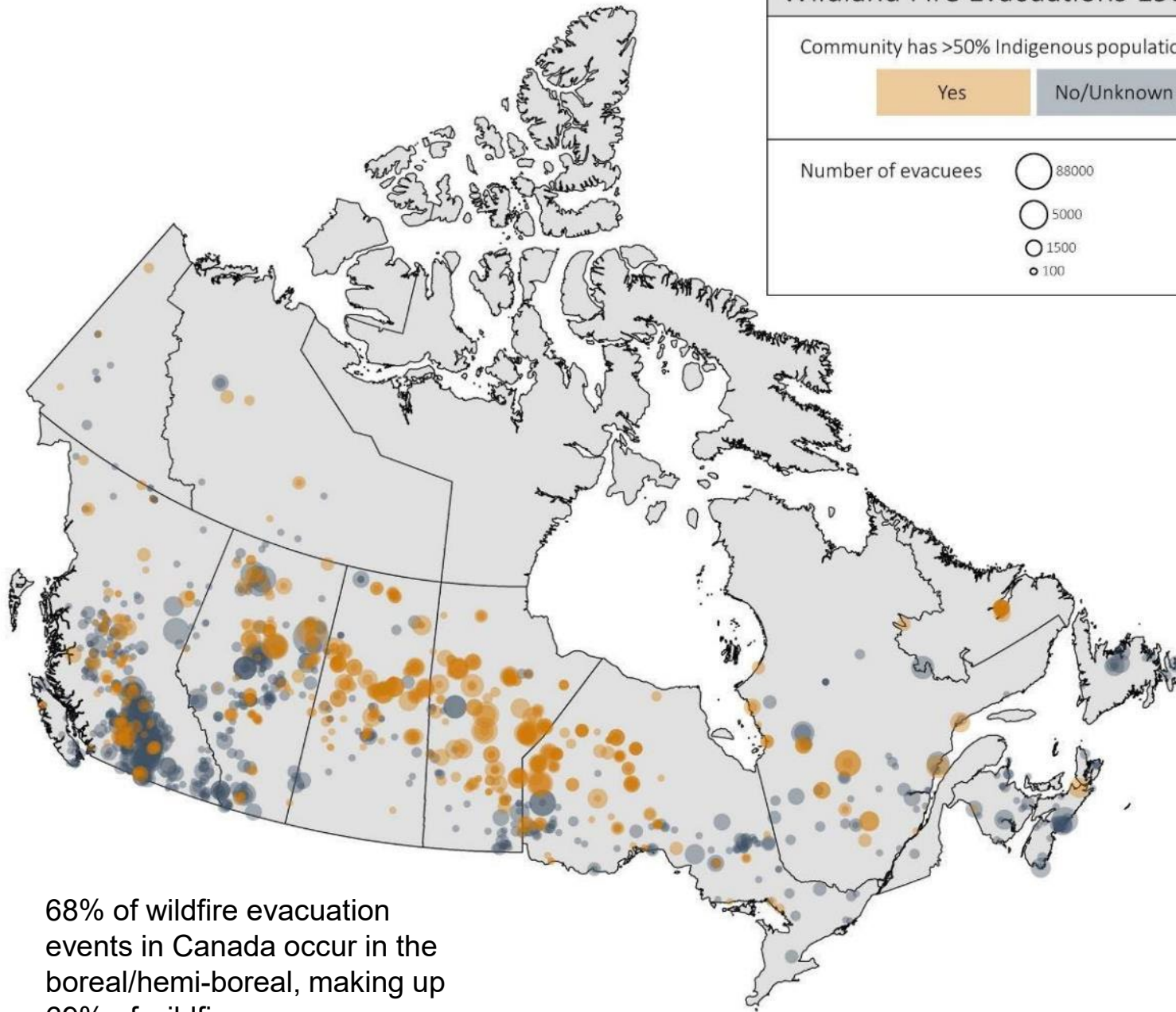
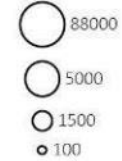
Wildland Fire Evacuations 1980-2021

Community has >50% Indigenous population

Yes

No/Unknown

Number of evacuees



68% of wildfire evacuation events in Canada occur in the boreal/hemi-boreal, making up 69% of wildfire evacuees between 1980-2021.

4.9%

Canadian population identifies as

Indigenous

42%

(583/1387)

of wildfire

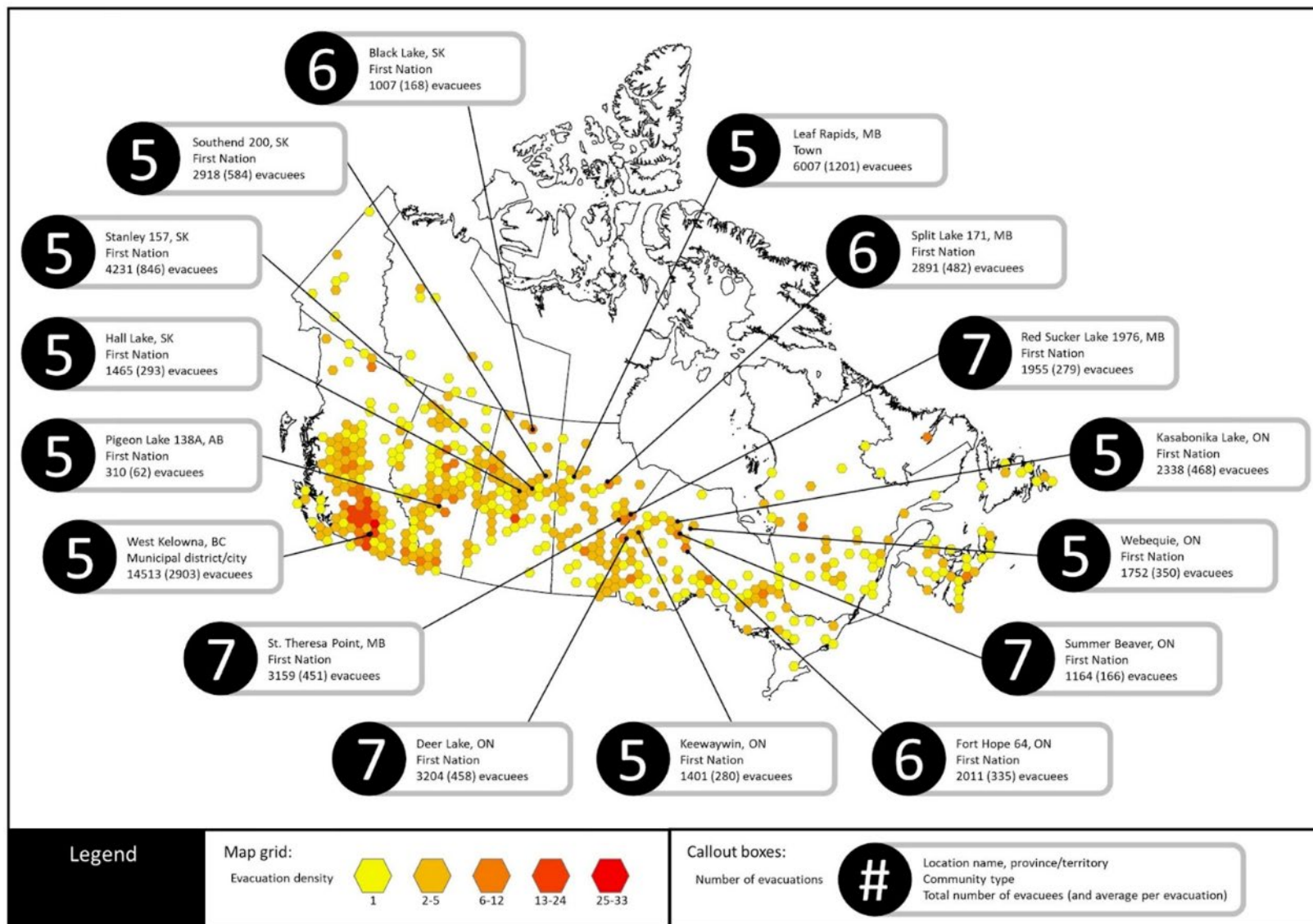
evacuation events

between 1980-2021

were of

Communities with >50% Indigenous population

- Christianson, Johnston, et al. submitted



Christianson, Johnston,
et al. submitted

Communities with
>50% Indigenous
population

Direct Threat

60%

~349 events

Smoke Only

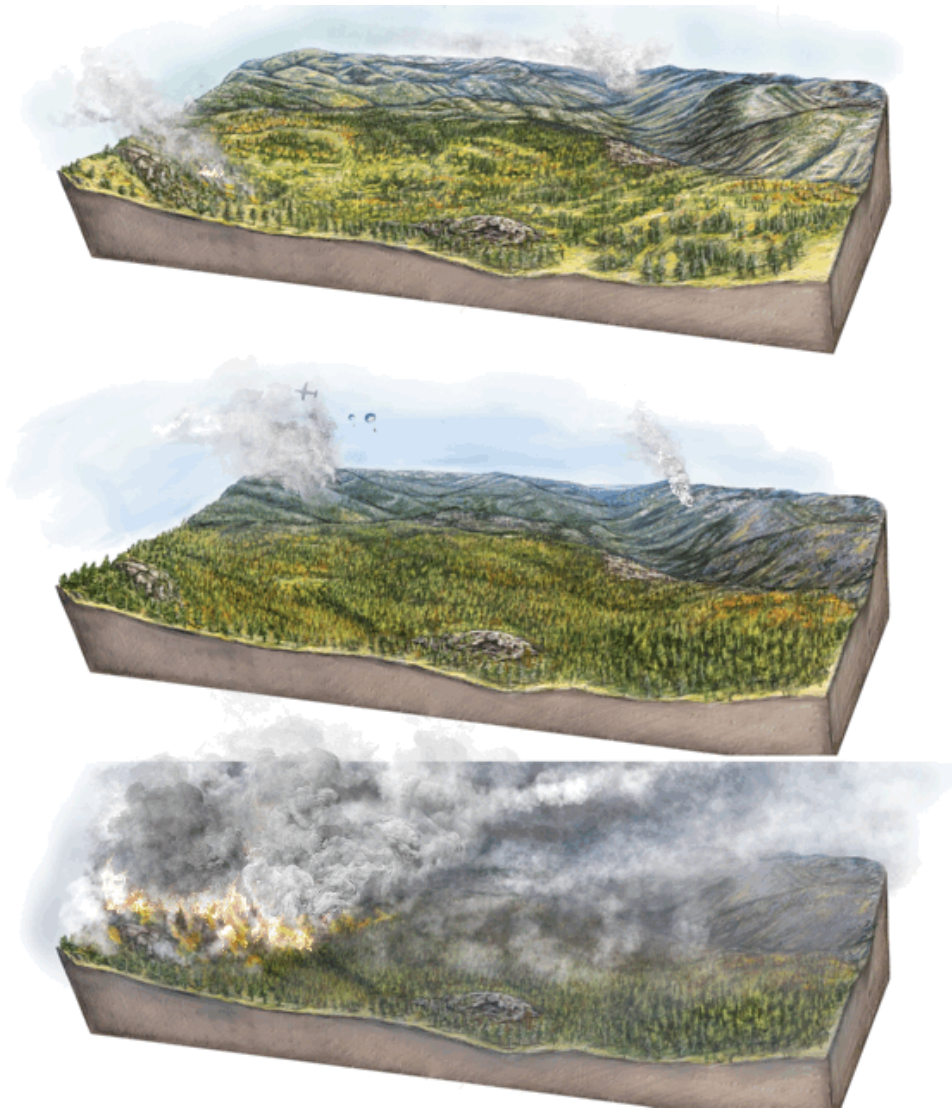
35.7%

~208 events

Other/Unknown

4.3%

~25 events



© Robert W Gray Consulting and Pyrosketchology

Cultural Burning

Indigenous peoples ‘sought to replace fires of chance with fires of choice’ (Pyne, 2007, p. 23). “cleaning the land”

Using fire to achieve specific cultural objectives

- *“I didn’t set the forest on fire just for the sake of burning, but so that I could return to hunt the next year and live”* (Ferguson, 1979, p.81).
- Cultural severance has had major implications

Fire Science and Management (ME Alexander, Section Editor) | [Open Access](#) |
[Published: 27 July 2022](#)

Centering Indigenous Voices: The Role of Fire in the Boreal Forest of North America

[Amy Cardinal Christianson](#) , [Colin Robert Sutherland](#), [Faisal Moola](#), [Noémie Gonzalez Bautista](#),
[David Young](#) & [Heather MacDonald](#)

[Current Forestry Reports](#) **8**, 257–276 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

2685 Accesses | **2** Citations | **83** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

<https://yourforestpodcast.com/good-fire-podcast>