September 1, 2017: For Immediate Release

**ʔaq̓am- Fire of note on reserve**

Cranbrook, BC – On Friday, September 1st, 2017, a fire started on the lower half of the ʔaq̓am reserve. The City of Cranbrook Fire Department quickly responded to the fire and thereafter, the BC Wildfire crews were called in.

 Due to extreme conditions, despite the quick and aggressive response of the fire fighters, the fire spread fast. At approximately 2:00 pm an evacuation order was issued for 36 homes on the Mission Wasa Low Road; by 6:00 pm all evacuees were accounted for and, with the assistance of the RDEK, residents were redirected to alternate accommodations. Approximately 200 hectares have burned but, at this time, no homes are believed to have been lost.

 The ʔaq̓am Emergency Planning committee has stood down for the evening and will reopen at 9:00 am September 2, 2017. If and as any updates become available, they will be posted to the ʔaq̓am social media page on Facebook.

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