



Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022



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AFAC President Message



Michelle Vandevord,
President

This past year continued to be a challenging year for our communities, families, and fire responders. On behalf of the AFAC Board of Directors, we'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who continue to serve our communities throughout fires, floods, and COVID-19 outbreaks. This year, we saw many evacuated from their homes, and the generosity of those communities who welcomed them in – the true meaning of community.

Among the many responsibilities for Indigenous leadership is the safety and well-being of their community members. As the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) transitions to a new entity, the emerging National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC), our work has been designed to play a critical role on behalf of leadership in ensuring fire safety and preventing future fire tragedies within Indigenous communities.

I believe that all fire calls are preventable and core to our work is supporting effective strategies to build capacity and support those on the front lines and in leadership. Building capacity means that First Nation Fire Departments can respond with the proper training and equipment. Further, not only do Indigenous communities have firefighting resources, but also educational programming, and funding to ensure that all fire response is proactive rather than reactive.

Lastly, the AFAC and the NIFSC support the creation of a National Fire Protection Act and support the adoption of Band Council Resolutions, By-laws and future NFPA regulatory standards to support fire prevention activity, fire safety and national and provincial code and standards.

We hope that you all continue to stay safe and look out for one another.

AFAC Executive Director Message



Blaine Wiggins,
Executive Director

The past year marked the official transition of the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) to the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC), supported with the guidance and leadership of the National Advisory Committee. The main reason for this transition is to ensure that AFAC continues to grow and respond to the needs of all Indigenous communities. The NIFSC was designed to support the establishment of a national mandate to support fire safety programming in Indigenous communities as well as develop internal capacity to support safety and resiliency across our communities. We look forward to welcoming the incoming NIFSC Board of Directors in May 2022.

As we look forward to the future of the NIFSC, the mission and vision of the organization have never been more pertinent. Fire prevention and risk mitigation strategies are critical if we hope to address emerging trends. This past year, the NIFSC implemented Cause and Determination reports for incidents occurring in First Nations communities – the first of its kind in Canada. Along with these reports, we are also distributing safety bulletins in the hope of creating learning opportunities and preventing similar events from occurring.

AFAC Transitions to National Indigenous Fire Safety Council – April 2022



The goal of developing the NIFSC was an organization that represented all Indigenous peoples and a governance body that reflected this collaboration. The NIFSC Board of Directors incorporates First Nations, Metis, and Inuit representation along with newly defined Board Directors to represent public safety subject area expertise in emergency management, wildfire, and EMS.

The transition to the NIFSC Board of Directors, which was supported by the NIFSC National Advisory Committee (NAC), will result in a more fulsome representation of national and regional Indigenous leadership, as well as subject matter experts to impact community fire and public safety.

The benefits of this transition include broader subject matter expertise, inclusivity, collaboration with Indigenous leadership and improved accountability to service populations.

To support the recruitment, development of selection criteria and the assessment of the candidates, a Recruitment and Selection Committee was created consisting of four members of the NAC. Each candidate was assessed based on a pre-determined matrix and desired qualifications. Recommendations by the committee were put forward to the AFAC Board of Directors for review and a final vote was conducted. The incoming NIFSC Board of Directors will meet in May 2022.

AFAC Board of Directors FY 2021-2022

- Michelle Vandevord,**
President, Saskatchewan Representative
- Anthony Moore,**
Vice President, British Columbia Representative
- Allan Peters,**
Secretary/Treasurer, Atlantic Representative
- Melvin McLeod,**
Director, Ontario Representative
- William 'Billy' Moffat,**
Director, Quebec Representative
- Ted Clouter,**
Director, Nunavut Representative
- Blaine Wiggins,**
Executive Director

Overview of the NIFSC Board of Directors Composition

#	ORGANIZATION	TYP E	APPOINTMENT PROCESS	STATUS
1	Assembly of First Nations	Voting Director	Appointment from AFN	Irving LeBlanc (Placeholder until confirmed by AFN)
2	Metis National Council	Voting Director	Appointment from MNC	Erin Meyer (Placeholder until confirmed by MNC)
3	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Voting Director	Appointment from ITK	(Declined due to capacity)

4	BC Region – First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC	Voting Director	Appointment from FNESS	Anthony Moore – Appointment by FNESS
5	AB Region - > Primary - Technical Services Advisory Group > Secondary - Alberta Assembly of First Nations Fire Chiefs	Voting Director	Primary - Appointment from TSAG Secondary nominee put forward by the Alberta Assembly of First Nations Chiefs	Pending
6	SK Region – Prince Albert Grand Council/Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management	Voting Director	Appointment from PAGC/SKFNEM	Michelle Vandevord – Appointment by PAGC/SKFNEM
7	MB Region – Manitoba Tribal Fire Officers	Voting Director	MB Nominee from the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs Nominee vetted by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs	Pending
8	ON Region Ontario Native Fire Fighter Society	Voting Director	Appointment from Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society	Melvin McLeod – Nominated by ONFFS
9	QC Region – Quebec First Nations Fire Chiefs	Voting Director	Nominee from Quebec First Nations Fire Chiefs QC Nominee vetted by the Assembly First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL)	Billy Moffat – Nominated by QFNFC
10	ATL Region – Atlantic First Nations Firefighter Association	Voting Director	ATL Nominee from Atlantic First Nations Firefighter Association ATL Nominee vetted by Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat	Allan Peters – Nominated by AFNFA

11	Yukon Territory - Proposed for discussion	Voting Director	Primary Appointment by AFN Yukon Region Secondary – Nominee by Council of Yukon First Nations	Pending
12	Northwest Territories Representative – Proposed for discussion	Voting Director	Primary Appointment by AFN NWT Region	Pending
13	Emergency Management / Disaster Resiliency representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	David Formentini
14	Emergency Medical Services representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	Edward Landriault
15	Wildfire representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	Ashley O'Neil
16	Elder	Ex-Officio	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	
17	Executive Director	Ex-Officio	Employment Contract	

Our Commitment to Inclusivity

The AFAC Board of Directors is committed to the inclusion of all Indigenous Peoples in its current inception and in the planning and development of the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC).

The AFAC Board is undergoing governance changes and has extended invitations to Inuit and Métis peoples to serve on the current AFAC Board and participate in the strategic direction and development of the NIFSC.

The governance goal of the NIFSC is to reflect all Indigenous Peoples and will rely on the National Advisory Committee and collaboration with national Indigenous organizations to meet that goal.



Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Hosted by First Nations Emergency Services Society

Location: 70 Orwell St, North Vancouver BC 3R5

Virtual via Zoom with a Moderator

Barriers to Success

The 2021-2022 fiscal year has brought many challenges and barriers to planned activities and projected progress: COVID-19, community evacuations due to wildfire and floods, communication challenges, and interagency relationship building.



COVID-19

Naturally, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected in-person training deliveries and programs. Many communities with whom we were actively engaged entered lockdown and/or suffered outbreaks. As such, all activities were halted in those communities until the conditions changed.

Wildfire and Flood Evacuations

The 2021 wildfire season brought unprecedented numbers of community evacuations across Canada. The displacement of entire communities affected many of the communities with whom the NIFSC actively engaged with. The team tracked evacuations across the country to enable conscientious communication with communities. This also allowed the team to pause ongoing projects and deliveries and to begin to estimate when projects might continue after evacuation rescind.

The intersectionality of fire cannot be overlooked. Wildfires impact regions on an annual basis and intersect with urban areas. This interface can result in chronic health condition due to contaminants in the air, loss of property, evacuations and injury and loss of life. With such an extreme wildfire season, floods soon followed, and we saw communities once again evacuated, roads washed away and unimaginable damage. Across the country, we saw extreme heat and cold fronts. The impacts of climate change visible all around us.

Our team tracked fire and flood evacuations. The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre reported that there were 6,224 fires in 2021.

YTD Fires

Agency	2020	2021
BC	627	1,522
YT	23	112
AB	649	1,202
NT	69	139
SK	127	596
MB	148	446
ON	597	1,185
QC	675	593
NL	86	81
NB	402	169
NS	168	112
PE	13	1
PC	81	66
Total	3,665	6,224

Area Burned YTD (Ha)

Agency	2020	2021
BC	15,295	889,813
YT	15,136	118,019
AB	1,668	52,853
NT	21,139	138,903
SK	42,076	849,900
MB	49,527	1,264,531
ON	15,475	773,404
QC	68,771	57,230
NL	4,230	336
NB	1,260	380
NS	706	197
PE	10	0
PC	1,663	36,976
Total	236,956	4,182,542



NIFSC Research: The Foundation

Traditionally, the fire service has focused on building and maintaining a rapid and effective emergency response capability; however, this approach is not enough. To truly mitigate risk requires an initiative-taking approach and community-organized collaboration. Fire mitigation is a complex landscape that intersects climate change, wildland urban interface, emergency management, built environments, public education, fire prevention and fire protection, among other variables. Upstream mitigation strategies are the way forward if we are to protect communities, property, and lives.

The research approach taken by the NIFSC commenced in 2020 and set out to learn and describe the fire risk in First Nations communities in Canada. This has proved to be a challenging task such that relevant fire occurrence data collection was discontinued nearly 10 years previous. Data collection through the National Incident Reporting System (NIRS), program delivery, and research hope to triangulate and fill the gap in fire incident data as it pertains to Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Within the area of research, two approaches were taken. The first looked at related population health data that coaxed out mortality and morbidity rates among Indigenous populations in Canada and compared those to non-indigenous Canadians.

The second approach was to risk rank communities using census data referencing known social characteristics, housing conditions, and crowding to create a relative composite risk index. This was intended to be used for prioritizing programming.

This past year, the research agenda took a wholesome approach and investigated six (6) areas: apparatus recycling, research capacity and oversight at the NIFSC, community-based fire research, diversity and inclusion, fire safety messaging, and the potential impact of a fire ambassador program to address person and place-focused interventions.

Snapshot of our research: Fire Safety Ambassador: Content and timing of fire safety training and inspections on First Nation's communities to maintain sustainable behaviour changes toward fire safe communities

The Fire Ambassador research study looked to identify educational treatments and propose retreatment strategies and cycles for sustained positive fire safe behaviours within Indigenous communities in Canada. The main themes focused on education and engineering/environmental change.

There is a substantial body of evidence demonstrating person- and place-focused interventions can increase fire safety knowledge and reduce the risk of fire, fire damage, and fire casualty.

Based on available evidence, a conservative approach should be taken to the frequency of the **person-focused training** with a **2-year rotation through communities**.

For smoke alarms and inspecting in-built safety systems like sprinklers (where present), in addition to training residents to conduct their own annual audits, a conservative approach to **place-focused fire safety inspections and alarm installations inspection should occur every 4 years for buildings**.

An important question was asked –
How long before the benefits of training 'wear-off'?

Snapshot of our research: Interventions for Preventing Residential Fires in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods and Indigenous Communities: A Systematic Review of the Evidence

Produced by the British Columbia Injury Research and Prevention Unit, this review included reports published around the world after 1990 on any type of intervention designed to reduce the risk and frequency of residential fires and fire-related injuries.

At a high level, the review revealed the value of hands-on safety training and reinforcement, culturally appropriate programming, and the combination of both environmental and educational approaches in reducing fire incidents and associated injuries and death.

- ◇ Engaging household members in hands-on safety training proved to be effective in enhancing household knowledge, fire safety decisions and practices.
- ◇ Effective outcomes were obtained when multi-faceted fire safety interventions
- ◇ Among adults and elderly people, educational interventions are only effective in reducing fire incidence and injuries if they are part of a program including regular follow-ups and reinforcement of safety concepts.
- ◇ Most effective environmental modifications were smoke alarm giveaway programs that involved home visits by community leaders, fire personnel or volunteers to install, check batteries and provide education information – but even these had a limited long-term effect without follow-up and reinforcement.

Overall, environmental modifications and education intervention programs proved to be the most cost-effective interventions and – with appropriate deployment and follow-up – may have strong relevance for Indigenous and other vulnerable communities in Canada.

Snapshot of our research: Fire Risk Protection Model: A Decision Support Tool to Aid in Policy and Program Decision Making

The odds of a death in a residential building without sprinklers or a working smoke alarm were 4.3 times greater than for fires in buildings with both life safety systems in-place. This data drove the importance of developing a Fire Risk Protection Model to help combat the 10.4 times increased fire mortality rate for Indigenous people in Canada.

The Fire Risk Protection Model provides a decision support tool to aid in policy and program decision making and equips community leaders with a user-friendly interface that will assist in assessing communities existing risk. It enables the creation of “what if” scenarios and determine the management of risk through integration of smoke alarms and sprinkler systems. Through this tool, realistic capital and operations costs can be determined which will help develop the business case for integrating these fire and life safety measures.

Throughout the past year, this tool has been presented to several communities with resounding positive feedback and many intend to use the tool to support decision making. It is our hope that communities will utilize this model further to integrate smoke alarm programs and infrastructure changes that we know will help save lives.

High-level Overview of the Fire Protection Model

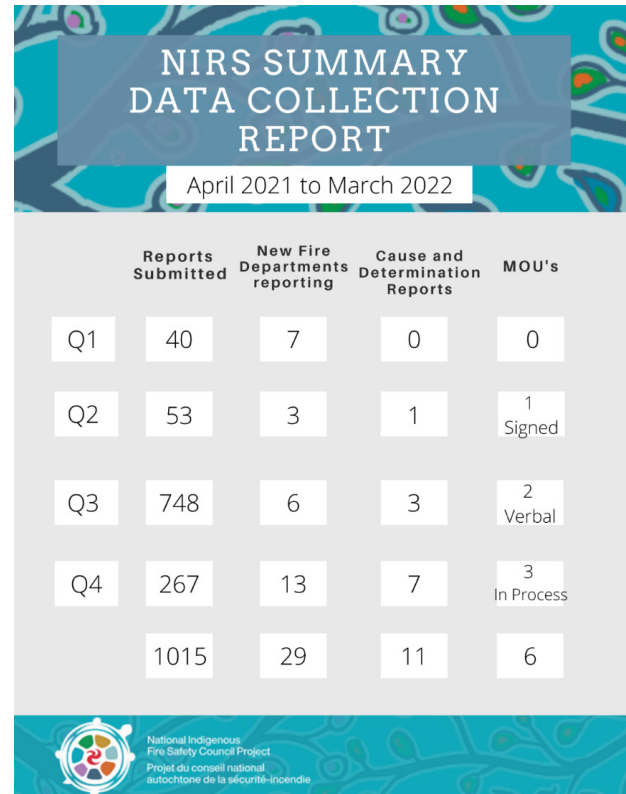
Required Input	Scenario Exploration Parameters	Resulting Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Size of community in square kilometers•Population•Pressurized or non pressurized water supply•Fire department size: none, small, medium large (characteristics of what constitutes each are provided)•Annual costs of existing municipal type service agreements where applicable•Number of single homes•Quantity of fire systems in place (fire/carbon monoxide alarms, sprinklers)•Size of home including square footage, number of floors, and number of bedrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Size of ideal fire department (maintain existing or increase size)•Policy for smoke alarms the community would ideally meet (historical or National Building Code)•Percentage of unprotected homes that the community would like to install smoke alarm and/or sprinkler systems in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Cost impact – both initial purchase costs as well as annual maintenance costs (includes replacement costs for ongoing replacement when alarms are faulty or expired)•The death and injury rates from integration of each different type of change to be implemented

To learn more about our research initiatives, please visit our website - <https://indigenousfiresafety.ca/research/>

National Incident Report System (NIRS): Fire Incident Data is Essential

The National Incident Reporting System (NIRS) is a unique database managed by the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) that gathers, stores, and analyses fire incident data from Indigenous communities. By reporting fire incidents, the NIRS will be able to analyze the causes, origins, and circumstances of fires to identify risks and draw attention to areas of concern at a local, provincial, and national level.

Reporting fire incidents, and collecting this data, will also help identify trends, deficits, and emerging risks as well as inform future education, infrastructure, and economic planning.



NIFSC Cause and Determination Reports

Following a fatal fire, Cause and Determination reports are completed by investigators or the Provincial Fire Marshal/Commissioner of that region. This applies to all fires with the exception of those occurring on First Nations reserves. If a community would like a Cause and Determination report conducted following a fire on reserve, they are required to request it. Often, the report is never completed.

This results in a lost opportunity to evaluate what went wrong, and how we might prevent future incidents from occurring. As such, the NIFSC has submitted requests for information through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain additional details that are added to the National Incident Reporting System (NIRS). This database is the first of its kind in Canada for tracking incidents that occur on reserve.



Cause and Determination reports allow for the distribution of targeted Safety Bulletins to First Nations Fire Departments, Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners, and other regional partners. Further, recipients are requested to circulate the Safety Bulletins among their networks.

While it is too soon to determine what impacts these reports and associated bulletins may have, the NIFSC will continue to produce and circulate these reports as an opportunity for prompting fire and life safety, as well as analysis the emerging trends to drive future fire prevention and fire safety strategies.

Collaboration with Our Service Population

Over the past year, our working relationships with the regional Technical Service Groups (TSGs) has evolved to one with more formalised roles and expected communication channels. We are positive about the continuing development of our relationships with TSG's.

This fiscal year we reached out to 372 communities. Some of these communications were with communities with whom we had previously established a working relationship. Others were entirely new contacts.



The communities we have worked in this fiscal year reach across Canada.



Home Safety Assessments

Home Safety Assessments: Common Trends

This past year, 1,235 home safety assessments were conducted across 13 communities in Canada. The following three trends were identified:

1. Lack of Home Safety Planning:

The NIFSC Home Safety Assessment includes a section on premeditated home safety planning. Questions in this section include:

- a. Is there an established home safety plan/meeting location outside the home?
 - i. 55% negative response (685 out of 1235 homes)
- b. Is there an existing emergency contact list?
 - i. 40% negative response (490 out of 1235 homes)

2. Lack of Early Warning or Early Response to Fire:

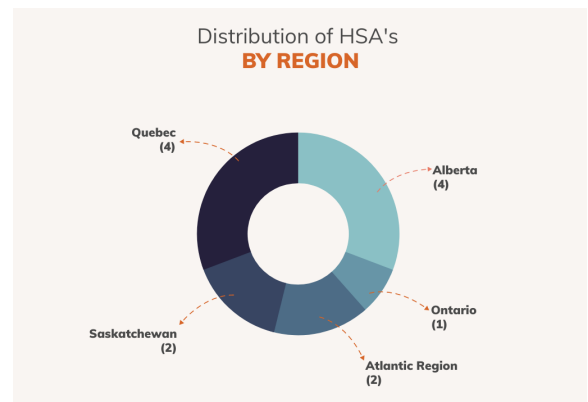
There are two questions relating to smoke/CO detectors and one question about fire extinguishers in the home safety assessment.

- a. Are there smoke detectors installed in the home?
 - i. 17% negative response (208 out of 1235 homes)
- b. Do the installed detectors work?
 - i. 29% negative response (357 out of 1235 homes)
- c. Is there one fire extinguisher per floor the home?
 - i. 59% negative response (728 out of 1235 homes)

3. Electrical and Structural Problems:

The assessment looked at four unique questions regarding electrical safety in the home, and three of these questions showed poor results. The assessment also asked about water damage in the homes, within both the structural and health related lenses.

- a. Are GFCI outlets installed in the homes where needed?
 - i. 32% negative response (392 out of 1235 homes)
- b. Are all the electrical outlets are functioning?
 - i. 17% negative response (207 out of 1235 homes)
- c. Are the light switch and outlet colours free of discolouration?
 - i. 28% negative response (345 out of 1235 homes)
- d. Is the home free of black mould-like stains, a musty smell, signs of water leaking/seeping in?
 - i. 33% negative response (403 out of 1235 homes)



These three trends indicate that there are deficiencies in the way fire safety public education is being offered or integrated by the assessed communities, that there are too many homes missing the mandatory and necessary early detection and suppression tools, and that the homes themselves carry a degree of risk based on the structural problems within them.

The NIFSC is dedicated to addressing these trends. One of the most important ways to address the lack of home safety planning will be through consistent educational messaging. Arguably the best way to do this will be to deliver the educational messaging in person and to revisit that education every two years, at minimum.

The NIFSC has the following public safety education programs to support increased fire safety knowledge and understanding for a proactive approach.

- a. 102 Getting to Know Fire
- b. 103 Learn Not to Burn
- c. 107 Cooking Safety
- d. 111 Home Escape Planning
- e. 112 Senior and Elder Safety
- f. 113 Multi-Generation Residence Safety
- g. 115 Wood Heat Safety

The second trend identified is the lack of early warning or early response to fire. This relates to the presence of smoke/CO installation, maintenance, and operation within homes, fire extinguisher placement and occupant training for use within the home. This requires a multi-prong approach. Education for home occupants is critical. In addition, the responsibility for the provision and maintenance of early detection devices belongs to the owner or provider of the home to the occupant. Installing smoke/CO alarms into homes by the hands of trained personnel who are available to support with ongoing maintenance and replacement is also essential.

The NIFSC has created programs to increase the capacity of fire departments within these communities, and to further educate the community members about how to give themselves the best chance of success in a fire situation.

- a. 104 Close Before you Doze
- b. 110 Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Installation
- c. 502 Fire Extinguisher Inspection and Maintenance Services

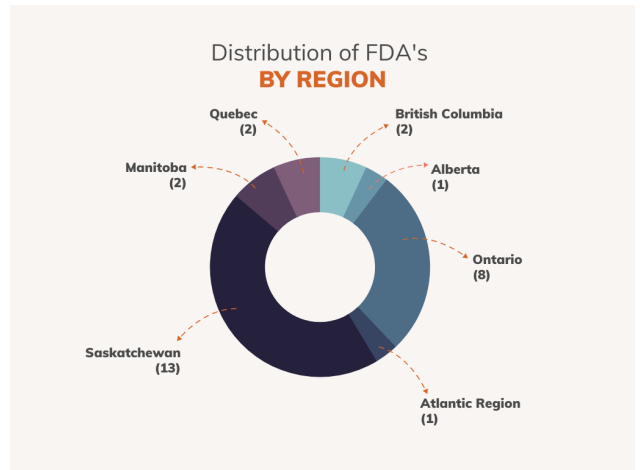
The NIFSC has recognized that 32% of the surveyed homes built on reservations across Canada do not meet the National Building Code requirements for GFCI outlets. As such, how will homes stand up to everyday use, and increased use due to overcrowding? The NIFSC has created programs to increase knowledge about these critical issues.

- a. 501 Fire Code Inspection Services
- b. 505 Provincial Building Code Training
- c. 506 Introduction to the National Building & Fire Code

Fire Department Assessments

A total of 29 Fire Department Assessments (FDA) were delivered to communities in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Each FDA was delivered alongside a customised Post Assessment Training Plan (PATP). Each PATP provides a suggested training plan for the coming 12 months for the fire department, with training areas identified through the assessment process prioritised by need.

Our Program Delivery Specialists have been working with each community to begin scheduling their identified training needs according to the PATP beginning April 1st, 2022.



Fire Department Assessments Common Trends

The following top three trends were identified this fiscal year:

1. Lack of standard operational guidelines (SOG)
2. Absence, or inadequacy, of a fire bylaw
3. Limited fire life safety public education program

Looking forwards, we will need to work with communities to ensure the developed SOG's are working for their operational or administrative needs; those bylaws meet fire department and community needs, and that community governance understands its role in supporting fire department operations; and that the fire life safety education program has the required budget and community support to be successful.

It would be beneficial to help communities track the success of their fire life safety public education programs, and to compare the public safety incidents prior to development of the program, and after. This will help us tailor our program deliveries, and help communities streamline their community education.

The following programs will help mitigate the identified fire department deficiencies:

- 2.3 Effective Governance for Fire Service Administration
- 2.6 Fire Bylaw Development
- 4.3 Policy and Operational Guideline Support
- 4.4 Policy and Operational Guideline Training
- 1.18 Fire Life Safety Educator
- The suite of Fire Life Safety Education Training: seasonal safety, home safety, community engagement

Community Fire Safety Assessments

Community Fire Safety Assessments: Common Trends

The following top three trends were identified this fiscal year:

1. Communities need a formalized home safety assessment program to identify and track safety issues within dwellings
2. Band Council members and Band Staff need EOC training relating to their position requirements during and EOC activation
3. Communities need a way to report emergency incidents that allows for trend tracking, and secure data management

Although the themes of the common trends appear diverse, they identify that community public safety needs are widespread in nature and are not purely operational or administrative. These themes show that in terms of public safety, the communities we worked with require assistance planning their public safety activities to enable them to make decisions and budgets based on reliable data.

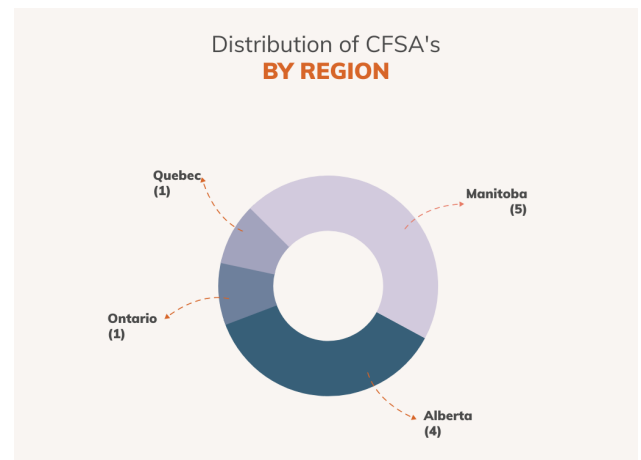
Communities also need access to a data management system that allows them to track data such as results of home safety assessments, training, and incident reports. When communities have access to their own data, they are more able to use the information they have collected to guide public safety decision making for long term planning.

Looking forwards, we need to ask how we can assist communities in gathering all the data they collect through inspections, assessments, and incidents so that the valuable information collected can be used to guide policy and planning.

The NIFSC has created the following programs to support communities:

- Enrollment into HSA program with community reporting and community data access
- 2.9 Emergency Operations Centre Support Services and Training
- Enrollment in the National Incident Reporting System (NIRS)

Throughout the fiscal year, 11 Community Fire Safety Assessments were delivered to community.



The National Firefighting Competition

This year, AFAC once again held a virtual National Firefighting Competition (NFC). This decision was in support of the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 competition intentionally shifted its focus to public education and fire prevention, and in the spirit of community, capacity building, and shared resources, the 2021 competition requirements involved the submission of the public education video based on one of the themes provided below. The goal was to create a digital library of public education and fire prevention videos created by communities for communities, to ensure that there are culturally relevant materials accessible to all.

The 2021 NFC results were announced on social media and during the AFAC Annual General Meeting. The winning teams received structural firefighting equipment valued at \$10,000 (1st place), \$7,500 (2nd place), and \$5,000 (third place).

Globally, 2021 was a challenging year with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a devastating wildfire season and the unearthing of unmarked graves. Given this, many teams chose not to participate in the regional and national competition.


1st place – Service Incendie Mashteuiatsh

Mashteuiatsh, QC
TOPIC:
Home Escape Plan



2nd place – Morin Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Morin Lake Reserve, SK
TOPIC: Home Escape Plan



3rd place – Lennox Island Fire Department

Lennox Island First Nation,
Atlantic Canada
TOPIC: Apparatus Safety Inspection





Summary of the 2021 NFC Winning Teams

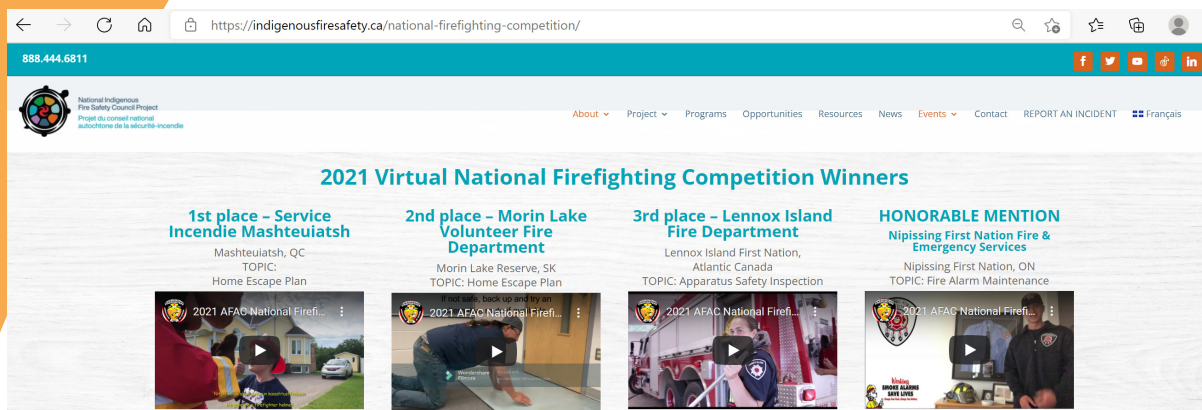
Summary of the 2021 National Firefighting Competition Winners				
Placing	Community Name	Fire Department Name	Region	Video Theme
1st Place	Mashteuiatsh	Service Incendie Mashteuiatsh	QC	Home Escape Plan
2nd Place	Morin Lake Reserve	Morin Lake Vol Fire Dept	SK	Home Escape Plan
3rd Place	Lennox Island FN	Lennox Island Fire Dept	ATL	Apparatus Safety Inspection
Regional Winner - ON	Nipissing FN	Nipissing FN Fire & Emergency Services	ON	Fire Alarm Maintenance

AFAC President, Michelle Vandevord, announced this year's winning teams, while AFAC Vice- President Anthony Moore thanked this year's participants for their involvement in the competition.

AFAC President Michelle Vandevord and Vice-President Anthony Moore congratulate all the teams that participated in this year's competition:

The announcement was published to the AFAC/NIFSC website: National Firefighting Competition - National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Project



The NFC winning videos were published to the AFAC/NIFSC website: National Firefighting Competition - National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Project. All participating teams received an public education e-resource.

AFAC National Poster Contest

One of the core pillars of the AFAC, and the NIFSC, is community safety achieved through fire prevention activities. In order to ensure that school aged children and youth are engaged in fire prevention activities in the classroom, AFAC implemented a teacher-led lesson plan to support fire safety at school and encourage those skills at home (the desired outcome).



Given the ongoing pandemic, and students attending classes virtually, the traditional contest wasn't feasible for many. For the 2021-2022 contest instead focused on a fire and life safety lesson plan were created for Kindergarten, Youth and Pre-teens that could be delivered virtually by educators. There is no current NFPA or other appropriate off the shelf teacher-based FPL plans and required collateral available to support educators, thus AFAC and the NIFSC created one.

In order to incentivize participation, prizes were offered to schools that submitted a photo of their school fire safety display. Displays could be virtual (on the school's website) or in a public area of the school (such as the school lobby). The purpose of the displays was to create a secondary method of spreading fire and life safety education.



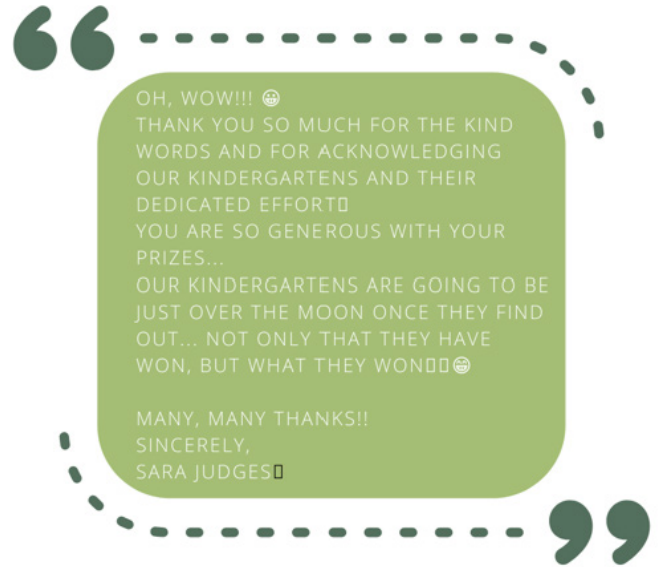
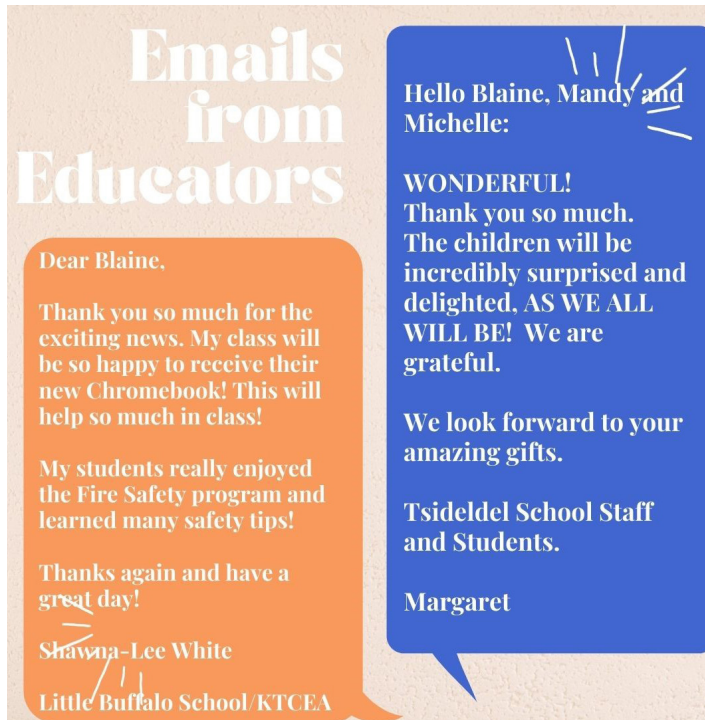
Display by Kikendaasogamig Elementary School



Display by Little Buffalo School/KTCEA

This year, prizes included educational tools designed to support fire prevention activities in the classroom. Prizes included Melissa and Doug Rescue Puppet set with a Police Officer and Firefighter puppets. Fire office costumes, Sparky fire hats, and Sparky's Colouring & Activity Books in English and French were sent to schools.

Messages from Educators:



National Advisory Committee (NAC)

National Advisory Committee (NAC)

The role of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) is to advise the AFAC Board of Directors on the NIFSC governance structure, mandate, scope of authority and scope of programs and services.

This past fiscal year, the NAC provided advise on the structure and proposed make-up of the incoming NIFSC Board of Directors. Recommendations put forward by the NAC will be reviewed in the coming fiscal year, including the need for greater representation, collaboration and partnership among Territorial parties and Tribal Councils.

NAC meetings took place monthly throughout 2021-2022.

The National Advisory Committee members, their roles and affiliations are:

Mike Mitchell,
Elder

Roberta Oshkabewisens,
Elder

Erin Myers with the Metis National Council

Irving LeBlanc with the Assembly of First Nations Housing and Infrastructure

Debbie Pierre with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en

George Cox with the Cree Nation Government

Harvey McCue with the First Nations Housing Professionals Association

Michelle Vandevord with Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management

Angel Beardy,
Independent Youth

Sean Vanderklis,
Independent Millennial

Dan George,
Independent, Former Firefighter

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to provide technical advice on the development and standards of IFMS programs and services.

The role of the advisory committee is to support the establishment of national Indigenous fire service standards, support the direction and parameters of research, identify emerging public safety issues, and provide a national forum for Indigenous fire service to collaborate and share information.

Voting membership of the TAC is comprised of the following invited organizations:

First Nations Emergency Services Society, primary contact is **Dean Colthorp**

First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group Inc. (Alberta), primary contact is **Vaughn Paul**

Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management & Protective Services, primary contact is **Michelle Vandevord**

Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation, primary contact is **Bryan Staats**

First Nations National Building Officers Association, primary contact is **Keith Maracle**

Nunavut Fire Marshal, primary contact is **Ted Clouter**

Assembly of First Nations, primary contact is **Irving Leblanc**

Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada, primary contact and facilitator is **Jeremy Parkin**

Indigenous Services Canada, primary contact is **Todd Keeseey**

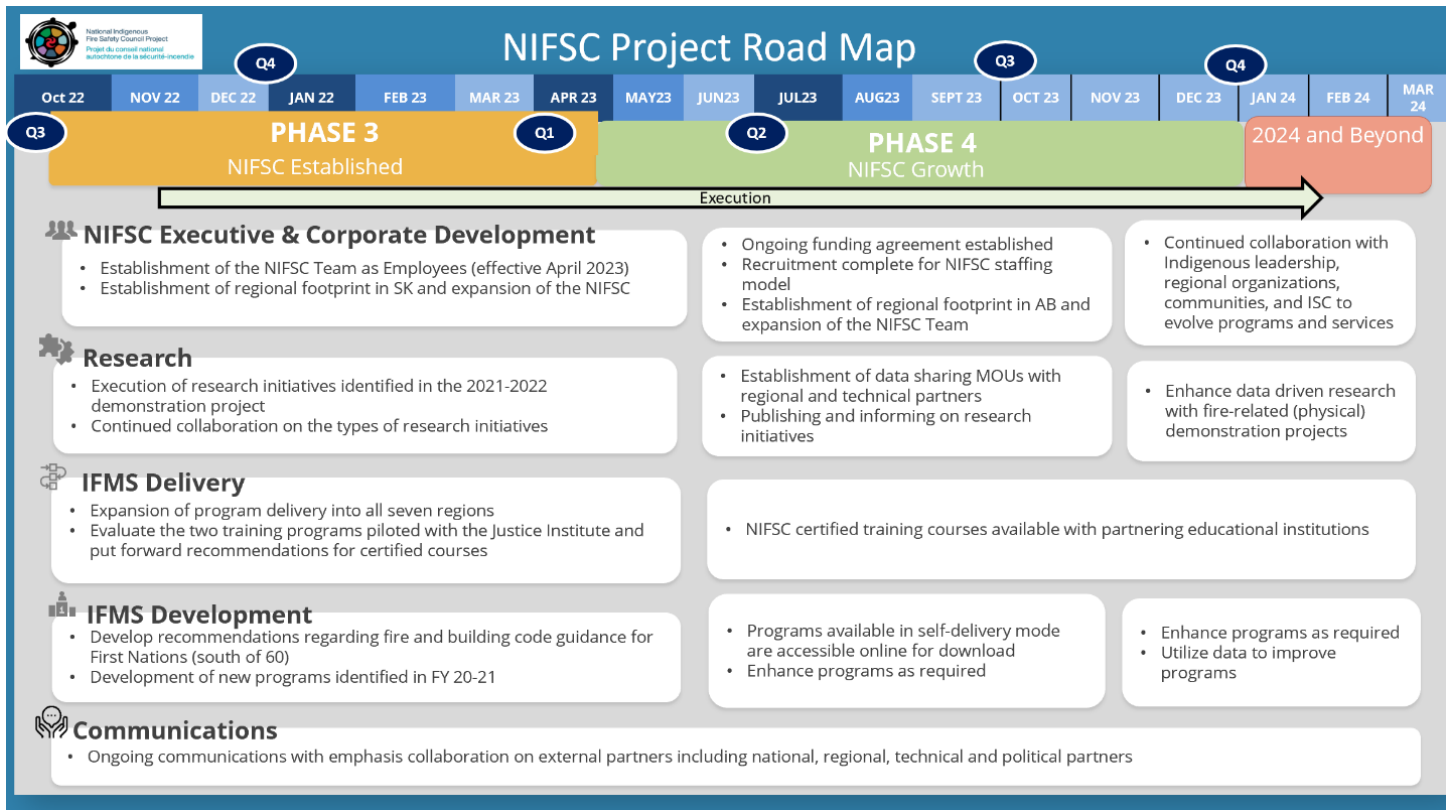
NIFSC Visual Project Roadmap



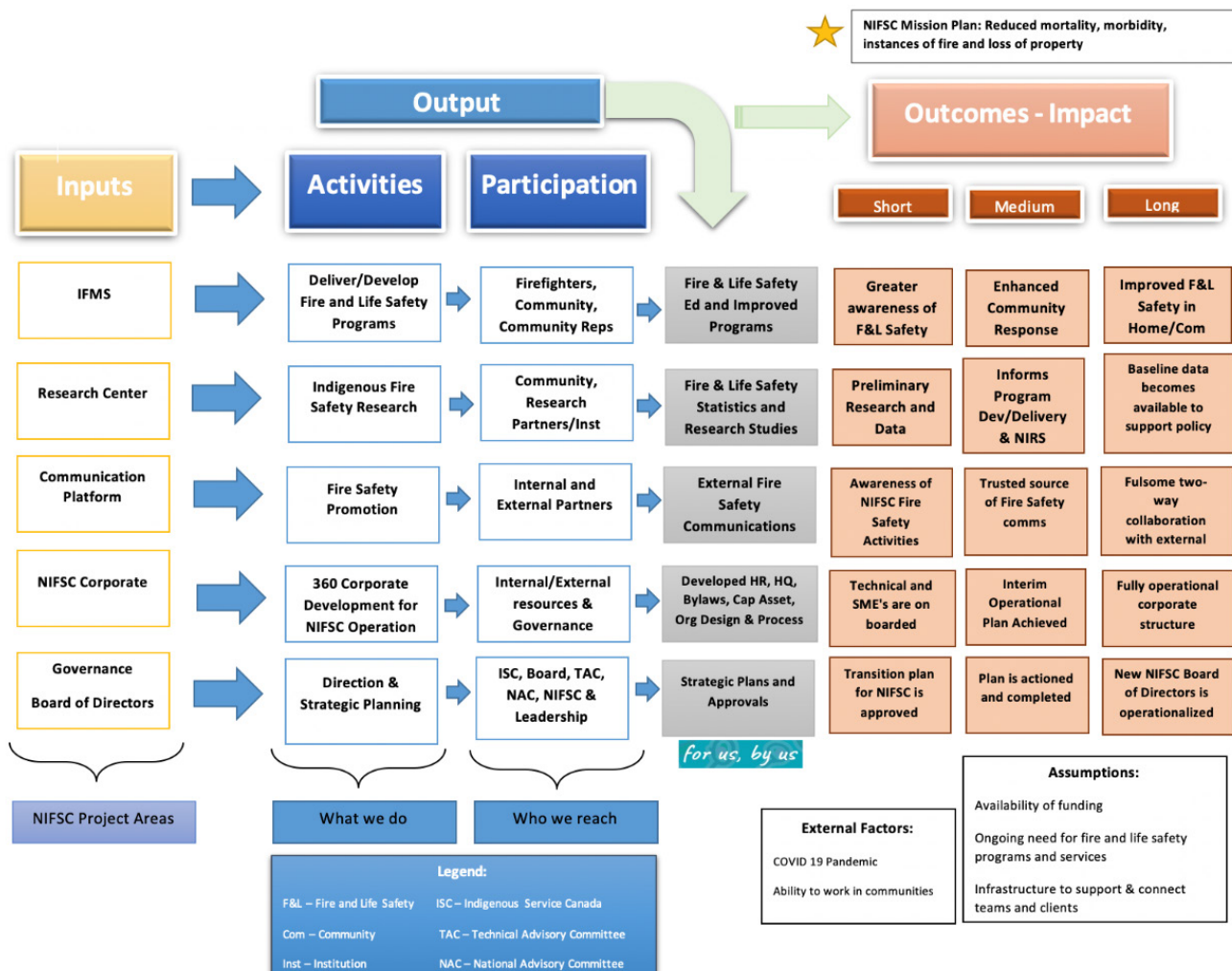
National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Project
Projet du conseil national autochtone de la sécurité-incendie



NIFSC Project Road Map																	
APR 21	MAY 21	JUN 21	JUL 21	AUG 21	SEP 21	OCT 21	NOV 21	DEC 21	JAN 22	FEB 22	MAR 22	APR 22	MAY 22	JUN 22	JUL 22	AUG 22	SEP 22
Q1				Q2				Q3				Q4					
PHASE 1 Initiation and Planning								PHASE 2 Implementation & Transition to NIFSC				PHASE 3 NIFSC Established					
Execution																	
<div data-bbox="138 1281 682 1312" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>NIFSC Executive & Corporate Development</h4> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Governance and Administration • NIFSC project funding negotiations / clarification with ISC from 2019 Federal Budget • HR Needs Assessment, Costing Models, new & future labor relationships 																	
<div data-bbox="138 1396 284 1428" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Research</h4> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct engagement sessions with key stakeholders to establish research priorities to support future research agendas of the NIFSC • Incremental research to inform policy and program development 																	
<div data-bbox="138 1501 332 1533" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>IFMS Delivery</h4> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the baseline operations with a focus on Fire Department Assessments and Community Fire Safety Assessments to establish baseline data in communities • Establish partnership agreements and relationships with communities and regional organizations 																	
<div data-bbox="138 1638 389 1669" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>IFMS Development</h4> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of programs • Identifying system improvements and redesigning core programs (Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) and Fire Department Assessments (FDAs)) • Funding not secured from ISC for Q2-Q4 (Updated: CFA approved effective August 11, 2021) 																	
<div data-bbox="138 1764 381 1795" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Communications</h4> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the internal communications team • Maintaining and enhancing external relationships & collaboration • Developing communication partnership with ISC team 																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIFSC policies, constitution, bylaws and business practices implemented • HR Department fully functioning in readiness for April '22 with contractors converted to Term Employees • Legal transition from AFAC Governance to NIFSC Governance is finalized • Strategic direction of research established with the new NIFSC Board of Directors • Framework created for community-driven and informed research that can be executed over the next 3-5 years • Analysis of community data to establish program growth rate • Revisions to the program delivery plan based on up-to-date data • IFMS/regional partner joint workplans • Development of fire & life safety programs in seven program areas are completed. • Improved automation of specific programs (such as HSA and FDA) • Utilize data to improve programs • The implementation of the NIFSC • AFAC Legacy Project - History of Indigenous Fire services in Canada • Establishment of NIFSC head office and regional footprint in BC • Analysis the research conducted on the geolocation of IFMS resources for further expansion • Data-informed & community informed decision making • Execute research initiatives identified in the 2021-2022 demonstration project • Programs and services to be informed by research findings • Expansion of program delivery into all seven ISC regions • Pilot training programs with education institution(s) • Development of new programs identified in FY 20-21 • Standardization of FDAs and HSAs across regions via NIFSC web portal • Ongoing communications with emphasis on external partners 																	



NIFSC Logic Model



AFAC and NIFSC Operating Budget

Independent Financial Audit Firm

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Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada

Annual Report

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