

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada

known as “National Indigenous Fire Safety Council” (the “Association”)

And

The University of the Fraser Valley (“UFV”)

(Collectivity “the parties”)

Purpose

This MOU is intended to express the desire of each party to contribute where possible and practical, research through scientific participation or other contributions.

Preamble

The purposes of the Association are to:

- A) Provide national coordination and collaboration to improve fire safety in all Indigenous communities across Canada to protect and enhance the quality of life, health and safety including the development and implementation of the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council and the service delivery arm (Indigenous Fire Marshal Service).
- B) Define service levels and deliver fire prevention programs, liaise with national non-Indigenous organizations to promote Indigenous representation and perspectives, promote NFPA standards and support the development of a national fire reporting system.
- C) Promote the evolution of a National Indigenous Fire Protection legislation developed by First Nations leaders, promote adoption of Building & Fire Codes, support the development of a national building inspection framework and support communities’ abilities to meet insurance standards.
- D) Develop and support operational fire service standards, enhance community based Indigenous fire service, collaborate with regional organizations to support communities, and enhance level of service standards.

The University of the Fraser Valley is a university continued under the *University Act*. UFV has campuses and locations in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, and Hope, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

Consequently, the parties recognize the importance of strengthening the relationship between UFV and the Association.

Possible Areas of Collaboration

In the spirit of developing a collaborative relationship, each Party may offer to the other opportunities for engagement that may include research, training and professional development, and knowledge mobilization.

Specific research activities and programs implemented under authority of this MOU will be subject to availability of funds and the approval of each Party's authorized representatives. The parties contemplate possible implementation of programs or activities which may include but shall not be limited to the following:

- A) joint research, cultural, and educational activities;
- B) exchange of researchers; and,
- C) collaboration on and exchange of research materials, tools, publications, and other information.

Should the parties decide to implement any specific program or activity as a result of this MOU then it is anticipated that those activities will be set out and described more particularly in further written agreements.

Tasks for Participants

Each Party will use its best efforts to maintain regular and reasonable contact with the other Participant and engage in discussions regarding potential collaboration and research activities. If appropriate, each Participant will nominate a member(s) of its senior staff to be responsible for overseeing matters pertaining to this MOU.

Non-Binding Nature

This MOU is an expression of the desire of each of the parties to collaborate as set out herein. No provision of this MOU shall be construed so as to impose any legal obligation on either of the parties or to require them to expend any human or financial resources.

Term

This MOU will enter into force as of the Effective Date and will terminate on December 31, 2024 unless sooner terminated in accordance with the conditions outlined under the section on Termination below, or upon the written agreement of the Parties.

Termination. Either Party may terminate this MOU upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other Party.

The undersigned agree to all the principles outlined in this MOU dated this 15 day of December, 2020.

National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (“NIFSC”)

Garry Fehr

Associate Vice President
Research, Engagement & Graduate Studies
UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Date

Blaine Wiggins

AFAC Executive Director
THE ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Date