



## What is the National Indigenous Fire and Safety Council (NIFSC)?

The purpose of the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) Project is to develop an Indigenous organization that will provide national fire service coordination.

The NIFSC will, through the delivery of culturally relevant fire safety programs, support Indigenous communities to become healthier and safer.

The Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) created the NIFSC Project to support Indigenous communities to build capacity to determine their own fire and safety needs.

The project will offer programs in both English and French and will include delivery by the IFMS, train the trainers model, and self-driven delivery model. IFMS program areas (listed in the order that will have the greatest impact on fire life safety:

- > Community Safety Education
- > Fire Service Governance
- > Community Infrastructure & Engineering Support
- > Fire Department Management
- > Inspections
- > Investigation
- > Fire Department Operations

## What are the objectives of the NIFSC?

The NIFSC Project has the following objectives:

- > Create an organization that has sustainable funding
- > Create a National Incident Reporting System (NIRS)
- > Be driven by strategic priorities instead of political agendas
- > Create and promote Indigenous fire service careers and training
- > Create inclusive programs for all Indigenous communities

## What is the mandate of the NIFSC?

### NIFSC Mandate Statement

The National Indigenous Fire and Safety Council (NIFSC) supports Indigenous communities to build capacity to determine their own fire and life safety needs.

NIFSC will work within the parameters of funding provided yet aim to overcome funding and jurisdictional barriers so as to be inclusive of Inuit and Métis communities to improve the fire and life safety of all Indigenous communities in Canada.





NIFSC will work with communities to address gaps, ensure that there is a national safety net for the life and safety needs of Indigenous peoples, and enhance existing community programs. The approach will allow Indigenous communities to opt-into specific NIFSC programs that meet their needs and define the manner in which they work with the NIFSC.

The data and knowledge generated through these efforts will inform federal and provincial governments and fire and life safety organizations. This ensures that Indigenous needs and perspectives are embedded within fire and life safety systems, standards, processes, and strategies across the country. NIFSC will achieve this purpose by:

#### Providing advice and expertise:

- > To Indigenous communities and fire service, supporting their rights and assumed responsibilities in fire and life safety.
- > To regional and national Indigenous organizations on fire and life safety matters.
- > To federal and provincial and non-Indigenous fire and life safety organizations on fire and life safety policy, priorities research and data.

#### Delivering programs and services:

- > Supporting governance that provides fire and life safety services, planning, and policies within Indigenous communities.
- > Establishing and supporting adoptable standards in Indigenous community and fire services.
- > Providing access to specialized expertise in inspections, investigations, engineering, infrastructure, and application of standards and related codes, that support Indigenous governments to support communities to meet mandated regulatory requirements, adopted standards and community bylaws.

#### Capacity bridging and training:

- > Designing and delivering high quality and accredited training in all areas of the fire service.
- > Developing culturally relevant public and community fire and life safety education programs, products, resources, standards, and materials.

#### Generating Indigenous fire and life safety research and data:

- > Collecting, monitoring, and publishing data about fire and life safety incidents and services in Indigenous communities in a manner that upholds Indigenous data governance principles and all required privacy considerations.
- > Undertaking Indigenous-led research on fire and life safety, mitigation, infrastructure protection, insurance issues and emerging fire and life safety issues in communities.
- > Undertake and collaborate on technical and scientific topics including building standards, emerging technology, alternative engineered options, and relevant fire service infrastructure.
- > Preparing reports, studies, and submissions to achieve positive change in fire and life safety for Indigenous communities.



## Facilitating networking and co-creation:

- > Establishing a network of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, organizations, and fire and life safety officials.
- > Convening conferences and information sessions to facilitate two-way learning and develop collective fire and life safety priorities and perspectives.
- > Coordinating with Indigenous emergency management and housing organizations, and with non-Indigenous fire and life safety organizations, to maximize value to Indigenous communities

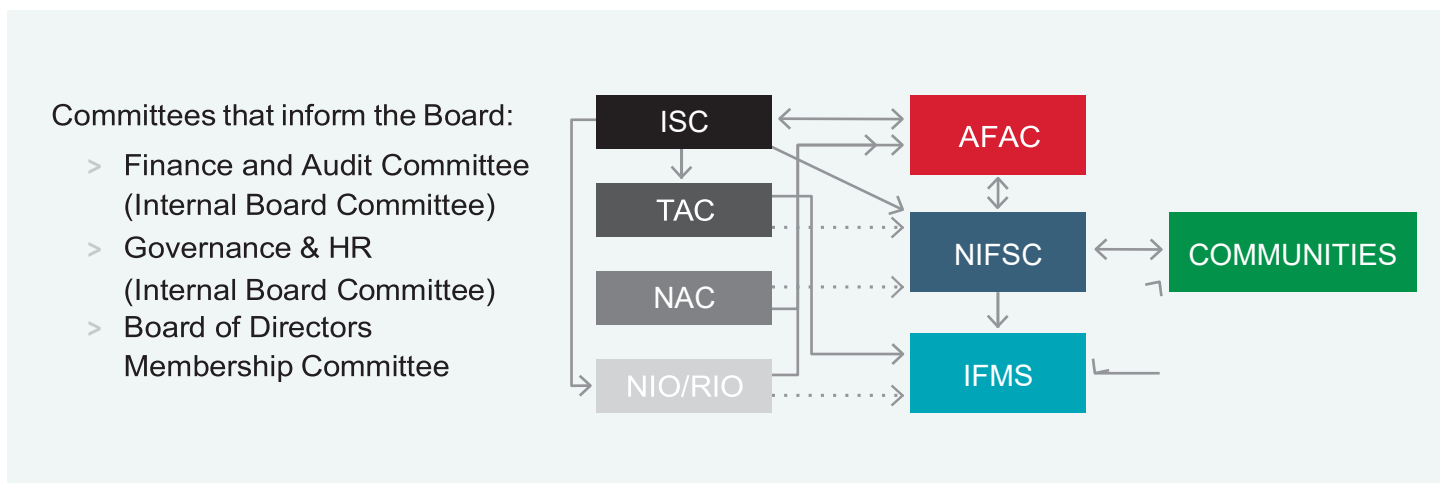
## NIFSC Legal Entity Legislation

- > NIFSC will be implemented as a not for profit as the interim inaugural legal model
- > AFAC will expand the existing mandate and services, adopt the NIFSC governance and administration model and change the AFAC legal name to 'National Indigenous Fire Safety Council' effective April 1, 2022.

## What does the NIFSC Governance Model look like?

### Key NIFSC governance model characteristics:

- > for us, by us
- > Regionally responsive
- > Good governance
- > Non-political decision making
- > Accountable
- > Informed & knowledgeable
- > Effective





The proposed Board of Directors composition is provided below

#	ORGANIZATION	TYPE	APPOINTMENT PROCESS	STATUS
1	Assembly of First Nations	Voting Director	Appointment from AFN	
2	Metis National Council	Voting Director	Appointment from MNC	
3	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Voting Director	Appointment from ITK	
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	
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 Association of Fire Chiefs	Voting Director	MB Nominee from the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs  Nominee vetted by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs	
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	
12	Northwest Territories Representative – Proposed for discussion	Voting Director	Primary Appointment by AFN NWT Region	
13	Emergency Management / Disaster Resiliency representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	
14	Emergency Medical Services representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	
15	Wildfire representative	Voting Director	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	
16	Elder	Ex-Officio	Application to NIFSC Board Membership Committee	
17	Executive Director	Ex-Officio	Employment Contract	

## Board of Directors Executive – voted on by the Board of Directors per the constitution & bylaws

POSITION	TERM	CYCLE
President	3 year	Year 1
Vice President	3 year	Year 2
Treasurer	3 year	Year 3
Secretary	3 year	Year 1
Executive Member at Large	3 year	Year 2



## What does the NIFSC Advisory Structures and Board of Directors Governance Model look like?

PROCESS / COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	COMPOSITION
National Advisory Council (NAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide strategic governance, political, and organizational development advice to the NIFSC Board of Directors</li> <li>&gt; Provide access to processes for political briefings, resolutions, and policy advice</li> <li>&gt; Describe political needs at regional and national levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Assembly of First Nations</li> <li>&gt; Métis National Council</li> <li>&gt; Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami</li> <li>&gt; Regional Indigenous leads for emergency management and fire and life safety</li> <li>&gt; Other interested governance experts</li> </ul>
Technical Advisory Council (TAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide technical advice to NIFSC operations / staff on the development of programs, services and standards</li> <li>&gt; Provide access to processes for technical briefings and operational partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Indigenous sectoral organizations in housing and emergency management</li> <li>&gt; Indigenous fire marshals</li> <li>&gt; Non-Indigenous fire and life safety organizations</li> <li>&gt; NIFSC funders</li> <li>&gt; Fire and life safety experts / consultants</li> </ul>
Elder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Participate in meetings of the Board of Directors and NIFSC Committees as required to provide cultural perspectives and knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; An Elder for all NIFSC-related governance</li> </ul>
Regional Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Collaborate with regional experts, community members, and organizations on NIFSC priorities, programs and materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Commitment to regular regional meetings for co-collaborations per the cycles / priorities of regional organizations</li> </ul>
Finance and Audit Committee (Internal Board Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Oversee financial conditions and performance</li> <li>&gt; Assess adequacy of financial information and controls</li> <li>&gt; Oversee risk and risk management</li> <li>&gt; Oversee internal and external audit</li> <li>&gt; Budget development</li> <li>&gt; Authority, security, assets, control policies</li> <li>&gt; Provide reports at each Board meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To be determined by the NIFSC Board members</li> </ul>
Governance & HR (Internal Board Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Advice on people and governance policies</li> <li>&gt; Arrange Board and organizational evaluation</li> <li>&gt; Oversee human resources performance metrics</li> <li>&gt; CEO/Executive Director succession planning and evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To be determined by the NIFSC Board members</li> </ul>
Board of Directors Membership Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Vet applications for NIFSC Board of Directors vacancies</li> <li>&gt; Provide advice on Board of Directors recruitment</li> <li>&gt; Make recommendations to the Board of Directors on applicants</li> <li>&gt; Provide recommendations on governance membership process, policy and bylaws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; To be determined by the NIFSC Board members</li> </ul>

## First Nations Fire Protection Legislation

- > AFAC formally recognizes the value and supports the need for a National Indigenous Fire Protection Act.
- > AFAC will provide subject matter expertise to Indigenous political leadership in the development of a National Indigenous Fire Protection Legislation.