The Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) was formed in 1991 and officially incorporated on May 4, 1995. AFAC is formally recognized and supported by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) through Resolution 18-92 Recognition of an Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) and Resolution 33-94 Creation of an AFN Chiefs’ Committee on Fire and Emergency Services.

AFAC is a non-political, non-profit service organization comprised of regional organizations with membership in fire and emergency-related services from First Nations communities across Canada.

Vision statement

“Working together to improve fire safety in all Aboriginal/First Nation communities across Canada to protect and enhance the quality of life, health and safety.”

Corporate address

12411 Dawson Place
Maple Ridge   BC   V4R 2L6
info@afac-acpi.ca
1(250) 267 2579
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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I will begin by acknowledging the families of the first responders, for without their continued support the fire service would not be where it is today. On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, we would also like acknowledge all local fire and emergency services personnel.

This past year we have begun to witness the fruition of the hard work and dedication of the Board of Directors and with the support of our several partners, will begin to make great strides in improving fire safety for all.

AFAC looks forward to continuing the programs that have been operated in the past. With a full eight engagement sessions about the Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project completed, the voice and concerns of many have been heard and will be acted upon.

The recent budget announcement is further proof of the support of the government and a time of positive change is beginning.

Communities will be shortly informed of the second engagements and we trust there will be full participation from technical groups and key leadership.

The Annual General Meeting, a day of practical training, the National Firefighter Competition and an engagement session will all be hosted by the Nova Scotia Micmac community of Eskasoni in August.

AFAC has been fortunate of having an excellent support team, the dedication of Blaine Wiggins and Derek Haqq is duly noted.

I trust all will have a happy and safe summer.

Yours in the Preservation of Life and Property,
Arnold Lazare - AFAC President
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada

AFAC has made tremendous strides to reach goals that were set out several years ago. It would be great to take the time and relish the accomplishment, unfortunately the work ahead of us to build an Indigenous organization is going to take a tremendous amount of work. If we are to envision and build an Indigenous organization it must be done through collaboration, relationship building and seeking the like-minded committed people that are willing to sacrifice to realize this dream and fulfill our goal of an organization that was built for us, by us.

I have been inspired by the leadership of the AFAC Board of Directors. Taking on the IFMO project has challenged AFAC and helped us build a more resilient organization and through all of this the Board continued to demonstrate volunteerism for the regions they represent and the emergency services they come from. AFAC has maintained its grassroots connections and avoided becoming a bureaucratic entity. To reach our goals we leveraged our relationship with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and witnessed the passion for improved fire safety initiatives become infectious with the ISC team.

The partnerships, individuals and organizations that have contributed is a very long list, the support has come with no expectation other than the knowledge it is the right thing to do and long overdue. Recently another First Nations community lost several members in another house fire. It’s the potential to put an end to these tragedies that make the sacrifices, project work, travel, planning, logistics, program development, engagement, reporting, relationship building and education of the real circumstances within our communities all worth the effort.

Our IFMO project slogan is ‘for us, by us’. We can do great things if we don’t care who gets the credit. Making our communities safer is a great thing, thank you for the help towards this goal.

Blaine Wiggins
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The AFAC Board of Directors provides oversight for AFAC activities. The Board Executive consists of a President, Vice-President and Secretary Treasurer with Terms of Office set within the Constitution & Bylaws of AFAC. The AFAC governance comprises of representation from the following regions and First Nations organizations serving those regions:

- Atlantic Region – Atlantic First Nations Fire Chiefs Association – Allan Peters Secretary/Treasurer
- Quebec Region – Quebec Native Firefighters Association – Billy Moffatt Director
- Ontario Region – Ontario Native Firefighter Society – Matthew Miller Director
- Manitoba Region – Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters – Vacant
- Saskatchewan Region - Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management – Richard Kent Vice President
- Alberta Region – Canadian Volunteer Firefighters Alberta Region – Leon Smallboy Director
- British Columbia Region – First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC - Vacant
- Territories Representative - Jerry Anilinlniak, Nunavut
- Collaboration Director – Arnold Lazare – President
- Executive Director – Blaine Wiggins

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in conjunction with the Firefighter Competition, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) provides the oversight and direction for AFAC programs and services.

Business conducted at the meeting included updates from the various committees and organization representatives, approval of the previous year’s minutes and consideration of financial statements. Arnold Lazare was re-elected as Board President by acclamation.
OUR MISSION

To unite First Nations fire and emergency service organizations through a national association to achieve the following:

1. Enhance Fire Prevention on First Nations reserves across Canada by delivering fire prevention programs, liaising with fire prevention organizations, promoting NFPA standards and enhancing research.
2. Promote the evolution of a National Fire Protection framework on reserve and utilizing industry standard building and fire codes.
3. Support the development of fire service operations standards for on reserve fire services.
5. Coordinate efforts with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to meet the objectives defined in the joint national fire strategy.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Fire Prevention

➢ Delivery of National Fire Prevention Programs.
➢ Liaison with Fire Prevention Organizations/Associations.
➢ Define adequate fire prevention programs in First Nations communities.
➢ Support the evolution of a national fire reporting system.

Legislative Standards

➢ Support First Nations leaders to define and implement National Fire Protection Legislation on reserve that defines Authority Having Jurisdiction and applicable codes.
➢ Support the use of building and fire codes on reserve adopted by First Nations in proposed Fire Protection Legislation and/or Regulations.
➢ Support the evolution of a national comparable fire inspection strategy.
➢ Provide technical support to First Nations fire departments for enhancing their Fire Underwriter Survey.
Fire Service Operations Standards

- Develop operational standards (training, equipment, environmental scan, fire protection programs, community infrastructure support, volunteerism, etc.).
- Enhance fire service capacity on reserve.
- Enhance community fire service support through regional First Nations emergency services organizations and an Indigenous Fire Marshal Office.
- Support continued improvements of Level-of-Service Standards for communities.

National Coordination for Indigenous Fire & Emergency Services

- Implementation of an Indigenous Fire Marshal Office.
- Provide policy advice to Indigenous Services Canada, Assembly of First Nations, and regional First Nations leaders.
- Liaison with the Assembly of First Nations and regional First Nations political groups on fire policy.
- Liaison with other national fire organizations.
- Provide support to regional and community Emergency Management Services.
- Provide support to enhance Emergency Medical Service providers for First Nations communities.
AFAC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

National Firefighter Competition

The National firefighter competition provides an opportunity to promote volunteerism, accountability for standards at the community level and support professional development of First Nations firefighters. The 2018 competition was hosted by the West Region Tribal council in Dauphin MB and ran from Thursday August 9 to Saturday August 11.

Thursday’s training was focused on fire prevention and community-based programs such as home safety assessments. Many examples of simple yet effective ideas were shared during the interactive session. Teams were also provided the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the equipment that would be used in Saturday’s competition.

This year’s social was our very own version of The Amazing Race with teams visiting stations around the town to solve puzzles representing each region.

The evolutions drawn for the competition were

1. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Domino
2. Combination Relay
3. Bucket Target Throwdown Showdown
4. Standard Hoselay

Teams ready to compete at the 2018 National Firefighter Competition in Dauphin MB

Firefighters, Board members and ISC staff all competed in the Amazing Race Dauphin
Competition Results

- 1st Saskatchewan - Fond du Lac - 390 points, 65 penalties
- 2nd Manitoba - Cross Lake - 320 points, 70 penalties
- 3rd Atlantic - Eskasoni - 320 points, 80 penalties
- 4th Ontario - Six Nations - 280 points, 280 penalties
- 5th Nunavut (firefighters from Rankin Inlet, Igloolik, Clyde River, Taloyoak and Arviat) - 230 points, 65 penalties
- 6th Quebec - Micmac (Listuguj & Gesgapegiag) - 210 points, 70 penalties
- 7th Alberta - Maskwacis - 210 points, 95 penalties
- 8th British Columbia - Penelakut - 120 points, 70 penalties
- Most Sportsmanlike Team – shared by Ontario & Nunavut

2018 National Firefighter Competition Champions - Fond du Lac SK

2018 National Firefighter Competition 2nd place – Cross Lake MB

2018 National Firefighter Competition 3rd place – Eskasoni NS

2018 National Firefighter Competition Most Sportsmanlike Team – Nunavut & Six Nations ON
NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

The annual poster contest enables AFAC to engage First Nations communities and bring awareness of the annual Fire Prevention Week campaign. This year’s theme was

- Be aware.
- Fire can happen anywhere.

Packages were mailed to every band office and band or federally operated school. In addition to the contest information, the packages provided school teachers with a lesson plan to deliver a 25-minute session to teach three easy steps to take to reduce the chance of having a fire, and how to escape safely if there is one. Students were invited to create their own original artwork or colour the poster provided.

We received responses from all over the country. The AFAC Board judged the national contest and prizes were awarded to 14 individual students, 1 class and 5 schools.

Thank you to Principal Brenda Whiteduck of Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan / Pakinawatik School for sending in this picture of her presenting Tia Tremblay with her prize tablet. Tia was awarded an Honourable Mention in category 1.

Chi-Miigwech to Mrs. Judges and the Kikendaasogamig Kindergarten class for sending in this photo of the presentation of the special group entry prizes.
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

AFAC partners with national fire organizations to identify trends related to fire safety issues and ensure information exchange and collaboration between mainstream fire service and First Nations communities. We seek to provide education to mainstream organizations regarding First Nations community challenges.

Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) mission is to promote the highest standard of public safety in an ever changing and increasingly complex world to ensure the protection of the public through leadership, advocacy and active collaboration with key stakeholders.

AFAC has participated in the annual Fire Chiefs on the Hill advocacy program since 2013 when one of the three key priorities was “A Legislative Framework to Improve Fire Prevention and Fire Protection on First Nations Reserves”. We are proud to continue to support our fellow fire chiefs in bringing attention to current Fire Service issues.

Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is dedicated to honouring Canada’s fallen firefighters. AFAC is proud to participate each year in Canadian Firefighters Memorial and to support First Nations Fire Departments in submitting applications for recognition of Line of Duty Deaths (LODD).

AFAC was featured in the Winter 18-19 issue of Canadian Fire Chief Magazine.
National Fire Prevention Association

Membership of the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) provides access to a network of resources and industry expertise.

The NFPA Conference & Expo is one of the world’s biggest and most comprehensive fire, electrical, and life safety events. Participation at the conference provides the opportunity to learn from industry leaders and build key relationships.

Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners

CCFMFC is a recognized and trusted source of national leadership and knowledge for fire safety issues and in support of emergency resilience across Canada. This relationship supports AFAC’s desire for a cohesive and consistent national approach to fire service issues and concerns.

Assembly of First Nations

AFAC works to build awareness of the National Fire Prevention Strategy and our programs and services by reaching out to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) both regionally and nationally.

We attended the National Housing and Infrastructure Forum and Trade Show in Vancouver. The forum included plenary sessions and interactive workshops on the long-term approach for First Nations housing and related infrastructure with the goal of ensuring that all First Nations members living in or away from their First Nations will have access to housing that suits their needs.
AFAC WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website & social media campaigns support ongoing engagement and promotion of fire prevention to First Nations communities. We maintain a website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. In addition to sharing relevant news stories, events and Fire Service industry developments, AFAC produces its own content.

Facebook

Facebook is our primary mechanism for communicating with the public. A new feature for this year was Livestreaming aspects of the National Firefighter Competition and AGM. This activity created a 20% increase in followers from August 9 to 31. The final award ceremony attracted 62 live viewers and had an organic reach of 6,614. Our Christmas seasonal safety advent had an organic reach of 11,369.
Website

The website hosts

- Postings for the IFMO project Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Information on the annual fire safety Poster Contest
- National Firefighter Competition information and evolution manual
- Annual reports, constitution and bylaws.

Over the fiscal year there were 9,526 page loads on our website; 793 average monthly page views with 106 average monthly returning visits.
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION STRATEGY

AFAC supports and partners with both ISC and regional organizations to implement, promote and enhance a renewed national strategy. The goal of the National Fire Protection Strategy is to provide a foundation for the reduction of loss of life and property due to fire incidents on reserve.

Home Safety Assessments

AFAC is working to develop a standard Home Safety Assessment tool that can be utilized to support community-based fire prevention campaigns and support community risk assessments. The standard will include fire prevention, home electrical safety and heat source safety including central heat and wood heat. The work included collection and review of home safety programs, input from regional First Nations Emergency Services organizations and First Nations Fire Departments for best practices, review of related data incident reporting for home safety assessments, consultation with home inspectors and certified wood heat inspectors and planning for accessible tools.

Fire Department Assessments

To improve the functionality of fire departments this project is enhancing the standard for assessing the capacity of each fire department. The FDA will provide a guide to address gaps in training, general operations, fire life safety & public education delivery, fire service management, equipment management & maintenance, training programs, occupational health programs and all relevant documentation management. The FDA will continue to be enhanced as NFPA codes develop, improved infrastructure and capital planning processes and adjustments to the Fire Underwriter Survey and related insurance opportunities.
## AFAC OPERATING BUDGET

**April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019**

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<th>2018/19</th>
<th>Budget Description</th>
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**Total Budgeted Expenses** 422,100

- Amendment 1 - Fire Strategy Meeting 20,000
- Amendment 2 - IFMO Project* 1,074,154
- Amendment 3 - Engagement Facilitation* 93,340

**Total Budgeted Activity** 1,609,594

* IFMO Project Budget details in Addendum
ADDENDUM

IFMO Project Annual Report April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

IFMO Working Group Meetings

The IFMO Working group was convened to review the ongoing work and provide feedback to the project. Participation was extensive and we would like to thank the following for their input; Shayne Mintz – National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Mandy Sandhu – Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Ottawa Deputy Fire Chief Sean Tracy – Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), BC Fire Commissioner Gordon Anderson – Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC), Leon Smallboy – Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association (CVFSA), Fire Marshal Lt. Col. Lee Goodman – Department of National Defense (DND), Jerry Anilnilniak – AFAC Board.

Project Management and Oversight

AFAC is known for its role in advocating for improvements to the First Nations fire services and undertaking a variety of research and program development activities to quantify and qualify fire service gaps and the associated impacts on life safety in First Nations communities. AFAC identified and assembled a team to lead and inform the development of an Indigenous Fire Marshal Office.

Project coordination, including reporting and accountability were defined in project initiation documentation. To support the team in effective application of standard methodologies, a project management training session was held where attendees worked together on project planning.

A combination of contract and seconded resources, the project team were geographically dispersed across the country. For the most part, geographic separation was managed through the use of technologies, however, monthly project team meetings where possible, were convened to coincide with other AFAC activities to maximize the opportunity for the team to collaborate on project activities, while reducing the overall costs of doing so.

In preparation for the 2019/20 fiscal, multiple Request for Proposals (RFPs) were posted for contractors to perform key functions and project management software was procured.

Engagement

An estimated 203 First Nations groups were identified within 7 regions across the country: British Columbia - 83 groups; Alberta – 15 groups; Saskatchewan – 21 groups; Manitoba – 21 groups; Ontario – 33 groups; Quebec – 17 groups; Atlantic – 12 groups. The project approach to engagement was to leverage existing gatherings to maximize participation while reducing overall costs.
Engagement Sessions

- Quebec – Lac Beauport – October 11, 2018
- Atlantic – Truro NS – November 20, 2018
- Ontario – Thunder Bay – November 27, 2018
- Ontario – Toronto - November 29, 2019
- Manitoba – Winnipeg – February 5, 2019
- Alberta – Calgary – February 19, 2019
- British Columbia – Kamloops – February 21, 2019
- Saskatchewan – Saskatoon – March 26, 2019

During the day-long sessions, participants engaged in guided conversation around key questions to inform the project.

We heard that:

Communities want the IFMO to be the experts

- Provide a single source for reliable technical expertise
- Defined standards and a clear pathway of how to achieve them
- Be a hub for firefighters to network and train
- Build capacity in communities through career development activities
- We need to collect data to better understand the issues and design services and programs to address them

Communities want the IFMO to Meet Local Needs

- There should be accountability and reporting to ensure the services being delivered are meeting needs and making a difference.
- The IFMO should be willing to redefine its role and services as risks change and new services are required
- There should be enough resources in each region to be able to provide services in a timely manner
- Services need to be appropriate to local needs

Communities want the IFMO to Advocate for communities

- Help communities to access funding
- Work with chief and council to ensure there is understanding and support
- Provide expertise in the development of MOUs and Fire Service Agreements that are fair and equitable.
## IFMO PROJECT OPERATING BUDGET

April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

<table>
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<th>Budget Description</th>
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<td>Prov BC Secondment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comms/Research Consultant</td>
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### Resources

- Engagement sessions                       | 214,101 |
- Project Meetings                          | 38,420  |
- Translation Services                      | 15,000  |
- Design & Multimedia                       | 22,380  |
- Office Supplies                           | 1,600   |
- Printing / Postage / Shipping             | 36,500  |
- IT Costs                                   | 6,000   |

### Project Costs

- Telephone/Conf call services              | 6,000   |
- AFAC Project Management                   | 51,150  |
- Engagement Facilitation - Amendment       | 93,340  |

### Operations

- 150,490.00

### Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>1,167,494</th>
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