



ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project



Commitment from Government

Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) has committed to funding the IFMO Project for the next three years, enabling AFAC to complete the Indigenous Leadership, Community, and Technical Engagement Sessions to provide guidance on the services needed and the governance model, and to start the process of developing the services for our communities.



An introduction to Innovation 7

For the engagement process, AFAC retained the services of a professional Indigenous Engagement Consultant to ensure that all participants views, knowledge, and experience are documented to assist with the creation of the new IFMO: *for us, by us*

Innovation Seven Inc. (I7) is a professional services organization that specializes in helping communities, businesses, governments, and agencies assess and develop opportunities for Indigenous knowledge and inclusion. Headquartered in Pikwakanagan, ON, I7 is a 100% Indigenous-owned business and is PSAB compliant.

I7 and AFAC: I7 is under contract by Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada for the Facilitation of the Technical and Community Engagement Sessions and is responsible for coordinating the collection of data as well as ensuring that Indigenous communities and people have sufficient input into the creation of the IFMO.



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Engaging Communities for Safer Communities

Community engagement is essential for the successful development of the Indigenous Fire Marshal Office. The first round of engagement was completed in 2018-2019 across Canada. The most important findings in these sessions were:

- > YES, there is a need for an Indigenous Fire Marshals Office.
- > The Creation, Vision and Mandate of the IFMO should be *for us, by us*

There will be 13 engagement sessions held this year. The voices of the community designates are the focus during these one-day, interactive meetings that include breakout sessions for participants to further explore the ideas. The group is also guided through discussion on the five themes that emerged from the 2018-/19 sessions:

- > Defining and Achieving Standards and Codes.
- > National Database and Data Collection.
- > Building Capacity and Training.
- > Community Advocacy.
- > Fire Prevention Programs & Service Delivery.

We are inviting designates from geographically-diverse Indigenous communities, regional political organizations, technical services groups, National Indigenous Organizations, self-government and treaty organizations to provide input on behalf of the people they serve.

Participation in the engagement process is your opportunity to have a voice in shaping the IFMO to meet your community needs, and to improve fire safety in all Indigenous communities across Canada.



How to Get Involved

Our team will be contacting communities, technical and political organizations directly to provide more information and invite designates to attend. If you wish to participate please contact us at engagement@ifmo.ca



THE IFMO PROJECT PLAN



Engaging Communities for Safer Communities

Technical session designates should be engaged in and/or knowledgeable about fire safety in their community or the communities their organization represents. For example, Fire Chief, Housing Manager, Infrastructure Manager, Technical Services Groups.

Community session designates should be in a leadership position and able to represent the voice of their community or organization. For example, Band Chief, Band Manager, Community Leaders, Regional Political Chiefs.

All designates are requested to come prepared to speak about the experiences, needs and successes of the communities they represent.

Designates with interest and related expertise are invited to register to attend their nearest event.

The IFMO project

Working together to improve fire safety in all Indigenous communities across Canada to protect and enhance quality of life, health, and safety.

The Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) is currently undertaking the development of an Indigenous Fire Marshal Office (IFMO) project with the following goals:

- > Secure new funding to build and operate the IFMO.
- > Collaborate with existing Indigenous fire & emergency services.
- > Engage with Indigenous communities to help define the IFMO.
- > Design programs and services to build and maintain capacity within Indigenous communities.
- > Address identified gaps in Indigenous fire service.

About AFAC

Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) was started by volunteer firefighters as a grassroots organization to advocate for the Indigenous fire services. It has grown to be a nationally registered association comprised of regional Indigenous emergency and fire service organizations and is recognized by the 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 has developed a research-based strategic approach with four key priorities. To meet these goals, AFAC has determined that an entire shift in the approach to Indigenous fire service is needed to address the common fire service goal of eliminating loss of life and property.



for us, by us

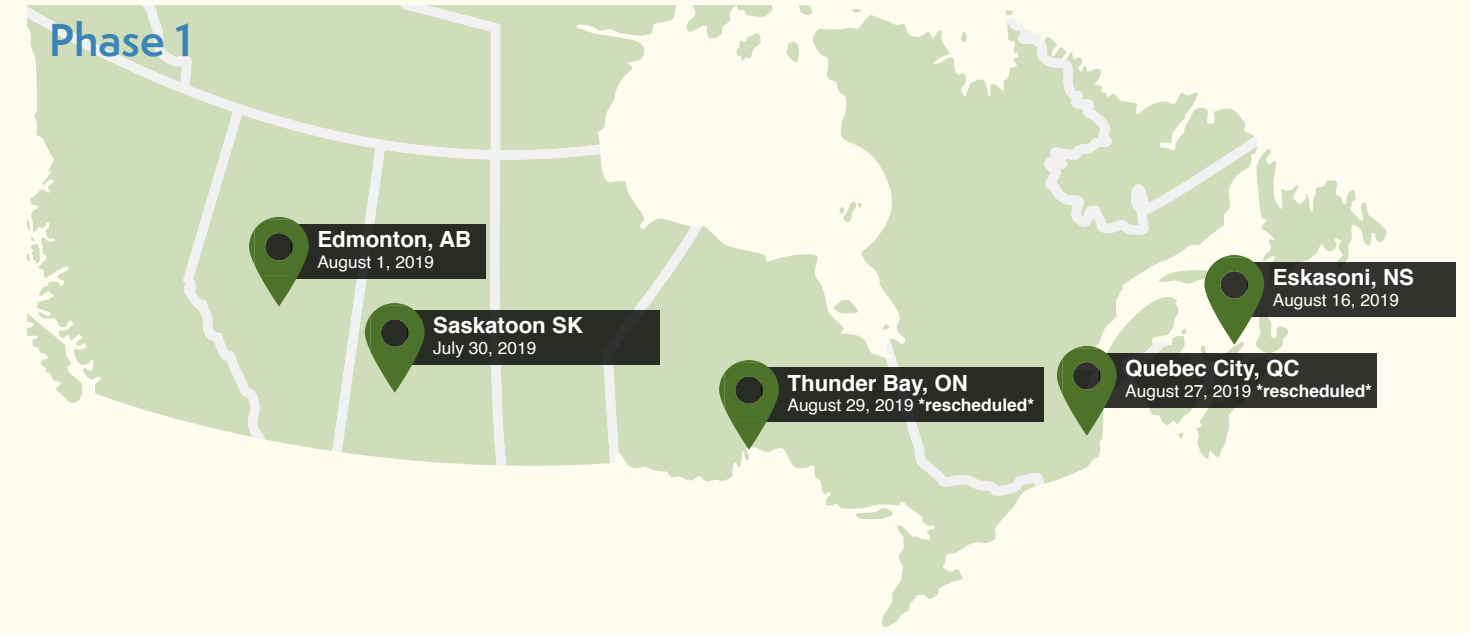
This is our guiding philosophy. It means:

- > Indigenous-created organization to serve Indigenous communities.
- > Indigenous governance structure developed in collaboration with Indigenous leadership.
- > New, ongoing funding, free of political interference.
- > Fire service careers for Indigenous Peoples.
- > An organization accountable to Indigenous communities through transparent reporting.

2019-2020 Engagement

The next series of Engagement Sessions will gather input from Indigenous Peoples, communities, and groups to ensure that the development of the IFMO stays consistent with the *for us, by us* commitment that AFAC has made to Canada's Indigenous Peoples

First Phase: The Technical Group Engagement Sessions are for Indigenous service providers to inform us of what they see as important for the IFMO to provide to them and the communities that they serve.



Second Phase: The Community and Leadership Engagement Sessions have the same purpose and outcome expectations as the Technical Group Engagement Sessions. They will also be an opportunity to "vet" the suggestions provided in the first phase of the Engagement Sessions.

