

ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT





Vision statement

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

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 Indigenous communities across Canada.

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CONTENTS

Vision statement	2
Corporate address	2
PRESIDENT’S REPORT	4
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT	5
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	6
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	6
OUR MISSION	7
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	7
Fire Prevention.	7
Legislative Standards	7
Fire Service Operations Standards	8
National Coordination for Indigenous Fire & Emergency Services	8
AFAC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS	9
National Firefighter Competition	9
Competition Results.	10
NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST	11
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT	12
Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs	12
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation	12
National Fire Prevention Association	13
Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners	13
Assembly of First Nations	13
AFAC WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA	14
Facebook	14
Website	15
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION STRATEGY	16
Home Safety Assessments	16
Fire Department Assessments	16
AFAC OPERATING BUDGET	17
ADDENDUM	18
IFMO Project Annual Report April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019	18
IFMO PROJECT OPERATING BUDGET.	20

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 to 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

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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 Anilnihiak, 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.



AFAC AGM, August 9 2018, Dauphin MB

OUR MISSION

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

1. Enhance Fire Prevention on Indigenous 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.
4. Provide national coordination for Indigenous Fire Service & Emergency 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.
- > Promote National Fire Protection Association standards and best practice for Indigenous fire service.
- > Define adequate fire prevention programs in Indigenous communities.
- > Support the evolution of a national fire reporting system.

Legislative Standards

- > Support Indigenous 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 Indigenous communities in proposed Fire Protection Legislation and/or Regulations.
- > Support the evolution of a national comparable fire inspection strategy.
- > Provide technical support to Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous leaders.
- > Liaison with the Assembly of First Nations and regional Indigenous 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 Indigenous communities.

AFAC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

National Firefighter Competition



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

The National firefighter competition provides an opportunity to promote volunteerism, accountability for standards at the community level and support professional development of Indigenous 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



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, Igloodik, 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



Teams practice with the competition equipment prior to the 2018 National Firefighter Competition



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



Kikendaasogamig Kindergarten class with their prizes

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

- > Look. Listen. Learn.
- > 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



Prize-winning artwork by Tia Tremblay of Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan



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 Indigenous communities. We seek to provide education to mainstream organizations regarding Indigenous 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.



Planning meeting at the CAFC Chiefs on the Hill in Ottawa November 2018

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 Indigenous 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.



Canadian Firefighters Memorial September 2018

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 Indigenous housing and related infrastructure with the goal of ensuring that all Indigenous members living in or away from their communities will have access to housing that suits their needs.



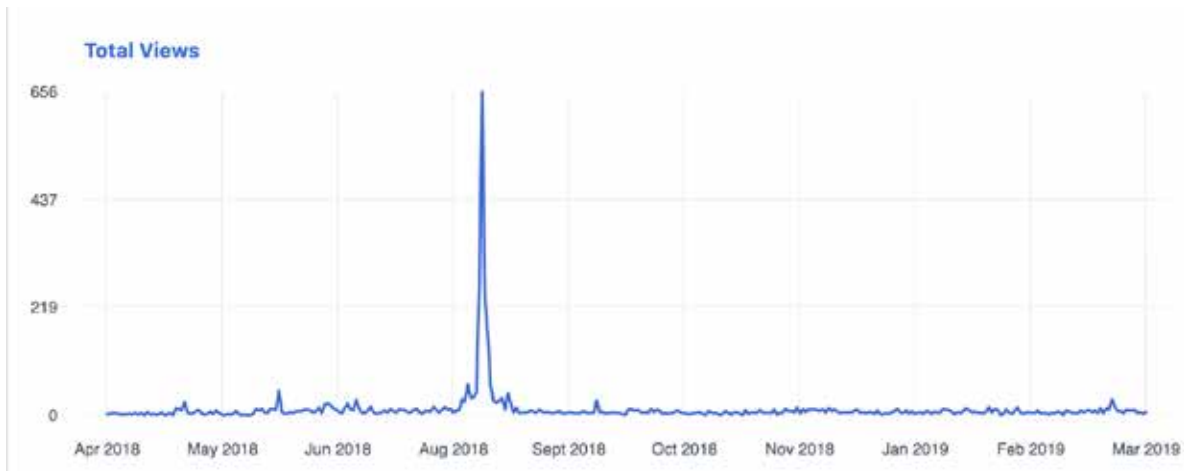
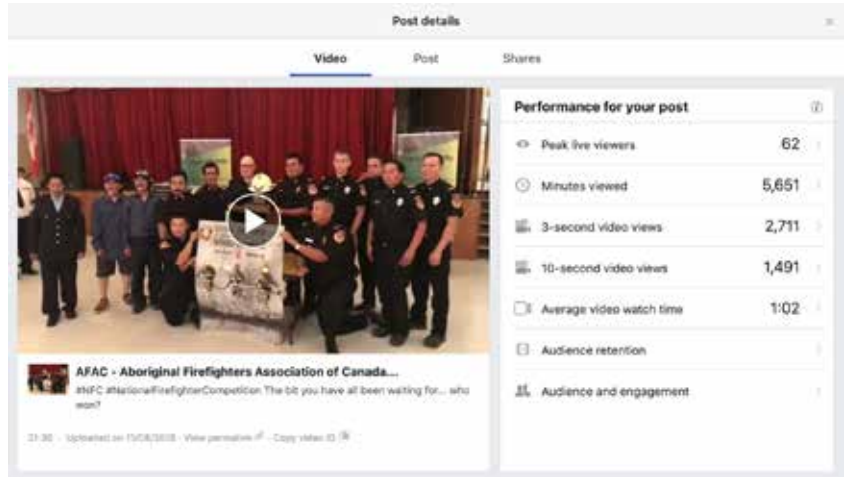
AFAC participated in the AFN Housing and Infrastructure Forum in Vancouver, October 2018

AFAC WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website & social media campaigns support ongoing engagement and promotion of fire prevention to Indigenous 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.

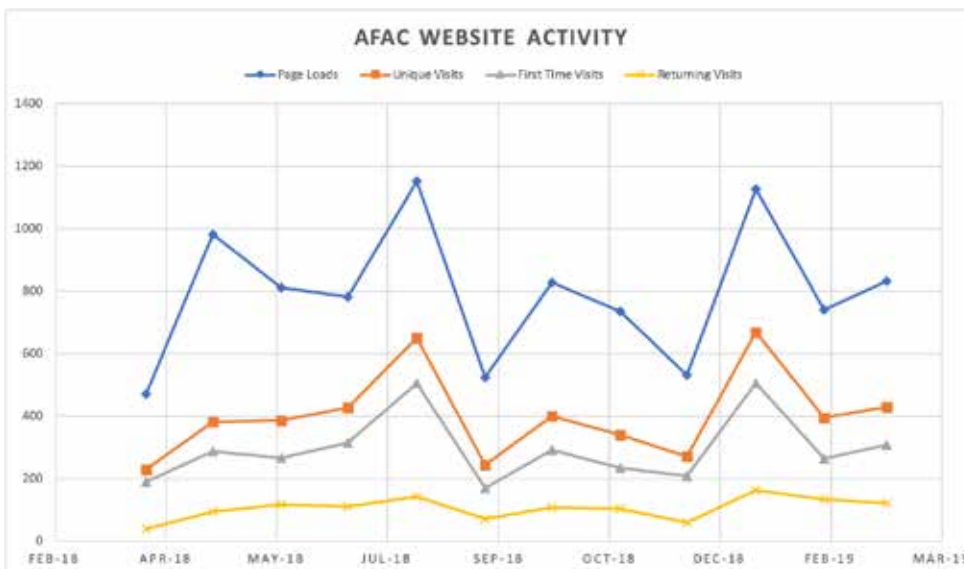


Website

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.



Average Monthly Page Views

793.8

Average Monthly Unique Visits

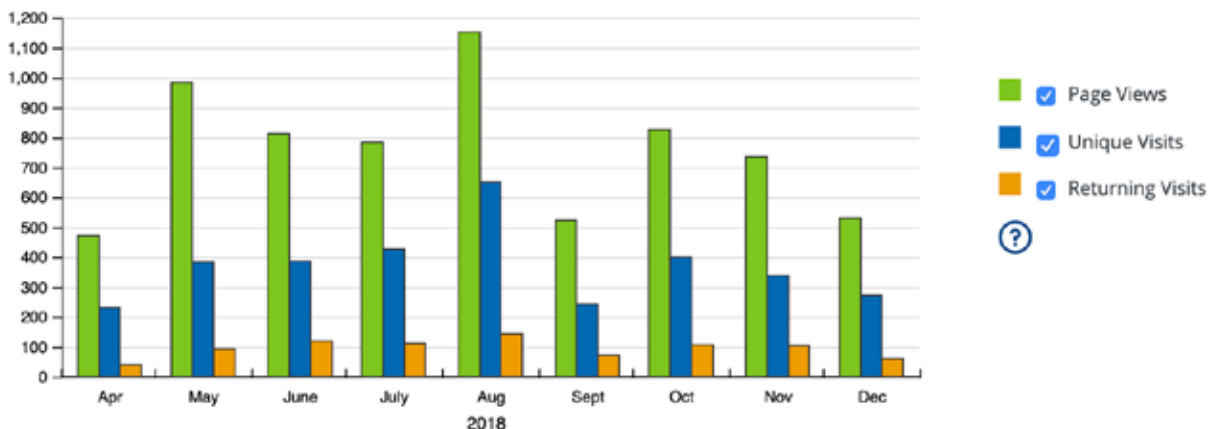
402.8

Average Monthly First Time Visits

296.8

Average Monthly Returning Visits

106.1



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 Indigenous Emergency Services organizations and 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

2018/19	Budget Description	Budget
1	BoD & AFAC Lost Wages	12,500
	Lost Wages Costs	12,500
2	Fin. Compliance & Risk Mngt	9,300
3	Nat. Fire Strategy coordination	10,000
4	Nat. Fire Competition planning & log.	6,000
5	Nat. Poster Competition coord & log.	4,000
6	IFFM Research	109,300
	Professional & Program Services	138,600
7	NFC Host Contribution & AFAC exp.	24,500
8	Travel - AGM	17,000
9	Travel - Nat. Fire Competition	95,000
10	Travel - Nat. Fire Strategy Meeting	20,000
11	Travel - AFAC Administration	11,000
12	NFS Engagement & Collaboration	13,000
	Travel, Meetings & Functions	180,500
13	Marketing/Promotion	13,000
14	Fire Prevention (Poster Contest)	22,000
15	Website	4,000
16	Translation	24,000
	Marketing, Adv. & Fire Education	63,000
17	Postage/Courier	1,500
18	Telephone/Fax	2,000
19	Office Supplies	2,000
20	IT Equip	2,000
21	Internal Allocation - Admin	10,000
22	Internal Allocation - Finance	10,000
	Administration	27,500
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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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

Budget Description	2018-19
Project Manager	241,861
MCK secondment	111,119
PAGC secondment	98,773
Prov BC Secondment	121,000
Comms/Research Consultant	110,250
Resources	683,003
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	334,001
Telephone/Conf call services	6,000
AFAC Project Management	51,150
Engagement Facilitation - Amendment	93,340
Operations	150,490.00
Total Budget	1,167,494