



Indigenous Fire Marshal Office Project Update to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure



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IFMO project goals:

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

Engagement findings to date:

Communities want the IFMO to be the experts

- > Provide a single source for reliable technical expertise.
- > Define standards and a clear pathway on how to achieve them.
- > Serve as a hub for firefighters to network and train.
- > Build capacity in communities through career development activities.
- > Collect data to better understand the issues and design services and programs to address them.

Communities want the IFMO to meet local needs

- > Accountability and reporting to ensure the services being delivered are meeting needs and making a difference.
- > Willing to redefine its role and services as risks change and new services are required.
- > Enough resources in each region to provide services in a timely manner.
- > Appropriate services for 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.

Community engagement is essential for the successful development of the Indigenous Fire Marshal Office.

We are performing 5 technical and 8 community and leadership engagement sessions From July to November 2019. So that engagement is impartial and complete we contracted Innovation 7 to perform the facilitation.

It is the intention to further define programs and services and then ensure the findings are vetted through key community leadership.



Technical Group Engagement Sessions Dates

- > Saskatoon SK - July 30
- > Edmonton AB – August 1
- > Quebec City QC - August 27 *rescheduled*
- > Thunder Bay ON - August 29 *rescheduled*
- > Eskasoni NS - August 16



Community and Leadership Engagement Dates

- > Moncton, NB – October 17, 2019
- > Quebec City, QC – October 22, 2019
- > Thunder Bay, ON – October 24, 2019
- > Winnipeg, MB – October 29, 2019
- > Saskatoon, SK – November 5, 2019
- > Edmonton, AB – November 7, 2019
- > Prince George, BC – November 19, 2019
- > Nanaimo BC – November 21, 2019

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



Governance

We will be establishing a National Advisory Committee which will review and provide strategic input for the IFMO Vision, Mission and Values. We will be seeking representation from:

- > the Assembly of First Nations.
- > the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.
- > the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.
- > the Métis National Council.
- > Treaty and Self Government groups.

Funding and Support from Indigenous Services Canada

A meeting with Minister O'Regan was held and he has indicated his continued support for the project will be made through a formal announcement in the very near future.

With acceptance from the Treasury Board, we can report that the budget has been confirmed as \$2 million for this current year, \$3 million for next year and \$5 million for the third year. The intent is to maintain transparency as a result financial information will be made available to public.

Our plans moving forward

- > Conduct engagement - including analysis and reporting - to better understand what communities need and want from an IFMO.
- > Develop a Service Delivery Model.
- > Develop a database framework to gather information and inform activities.
- > Deliver a fire prevention program in a proof of concepts trials.
- > Establish a National Advisory Committee that will ensure communities interests are always represented.
- > Develop a Governance Model.
- > Produce a legislative roadmap.
- > The project working group will continue to evaluate and inform our activities.
- > Continue to collaborate with Technical Services Groups and other organizations.
- > Administer the project using project management methodology and tools.
- > Communicate project activities through various mediums to ensure widespread understanding.

We have published a summary report of the engagement findings to date and will continue to provide updates as we hear more. If you do have any questions, we can always be contacted at info@ifmo.ca



for us, by us

AFAC developed the slogan *for us, by us* as the philosophy that guides the project. The term 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.