

Annual Report 2022



National Indigenous
Fire Safety Council
Conseil national
autochtone de la sécurité incendie

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Introduction

The National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) is the result of a new Indigenous developed framework designed to support Indigenous communities in development of their internal capacity to support community safety and resiliency.

The NIFSC is Indigenous inspired, designed and led in collaboration with regional and national Indigenous communities, organizations, and leaders.

NIFSC Vision and Mission

The mission of the NIFSC is to create a national approach to fire safety in Indigenous communities, and the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) created the NIFSC with the following vision:

- Create a new organization through Indigenous collaboration – for us, by us.
- Create an Indigenous governed organization whose structure receives sustainable funding to operate and serve First Nation communities.
- Collaborate with existing Indigenous organizations providing support to First Nation communities and not accept any existing funding targeted for another Indigenous organization.
- Establish standards and programs that are relevant to First Nation communities' needs and (through validation) improve community safety.
- Create a national reporting system that will serve to improve FN community safety.
- Strategic goals and objectives are free of political influence.
- Promote Indigenous fire service careers and training.

The vision of the NIFSC is establishing an organization that is Indigenous inspired, designed, and led in collaboration with regional and national Indigenous organizations and leaders as well as Indigenous communities to support Indigenous communities to build capacity to determine their own fire and life safety needs.

Our Story

The AFAC was founded on September 19, 1991, in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba by a group of Indigenous firefighters. The AFAC was a united body of regional Indigenous emergency and fire service organizations from across Canada, and the main focus of the association was on fire prevention and raising awareness around the needs and challenges facing Indigenous communities.

The association was established to:

- Represent the interests of these associations nationally.
- Assist in the exchange of information.
- Support the implementation of services.
- Promote national standards in fire prevention, education, and suppression within Indigenous communities in Canada.

Four Priorities of AFAC were:

1. Fire prevention
2. Advocate for legislative standards
3. Fire service operations standards.
4. National coordination of fire and emergency services in Indigenous communities.

This strategic approach was designed to support Indigenous communities in closing the fire service gap to that of non-Indigenous communities and reach a comparable service level. To achieve these results, AFAC worked in collaboration with federal and provincial governments, national fire service organizations and other Indigenous organizations until March 31, 2022 when it transitioned to the NIFSC. The NIFSC Board of Directors assumed its role in April 2022.

AFAC, in collaboration with Indigenous partners (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) created the NIFSC to support Indigenous communities in building capacity to determine their own fire and safety needs. In the interim gap of a national protection framework (fire protection legislation), the NIFSC (AFAC) is performing delegated duties on behalf of Indigenous communities and is acting as an agent of the community as and when required. This approach is an interim framework to increase fire and life safety until the direction of a formalized framework is adapted and implemented.

The NIFSC service delivery department was rebranded to the Indigenous Fire Marshal Service (IFMS) to affirm the fire safety professionals are of service to communities and support regional delivery organizations to collaborate when and where appropriate. The results of the engagement process informed a more strategic vision for delivery, the role of a service provider, research, and standards development at a national level.

Inaugural NIFSC Board of Directors

The goal of developing the NIFSC was an organization that represented all Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) and a governance body that reflected this collaboration. The NIFSC Board of Directors incorporates First Nations, Metis, and Inuit representation along with newly defined Board Directors to represent public safety subject area expertise in emergency management, wildfire, and EMS.

The transition to the NIFSC Board of Directors, which was supported by the NIFSC National Advisory Committee, will result in a more fulsome representation of national and regional Indigenous leadership, as well as subject matter experts that impact community fire and public safety. The benefits of this transition include broader subject matter expertise, inclusivity, collaboration with Indigenous leadership and improved accountability to service populations.

On April 12, 2023, the inaugural NIFSC Board of Directors met and assumed the governance of the organization. The Board of Directors is comprised of the following composition:

Organizations	Member
Assembly of First Nations	Irving LeBlanc
Metis National Council	Erin Myers
Inuit Tapirit Kanatami	Declined
FNEES	Anthony Moore
TSAG	Not Filled
PAGC/SKFNEM	Michelle Vandevord

MAFC	Not Filled
ONFFS	Melvin McLeod
QFNFC	Billy Moffat
NBNFA	Allan Peters
Yukon	James Smarch
Wildfire	Ashley O-Neil
NIFSC Executive Director	Nathan Wright

*Ongoing recruitment for vacant positions

The Board of Directors exemplifies the following characteristics:

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



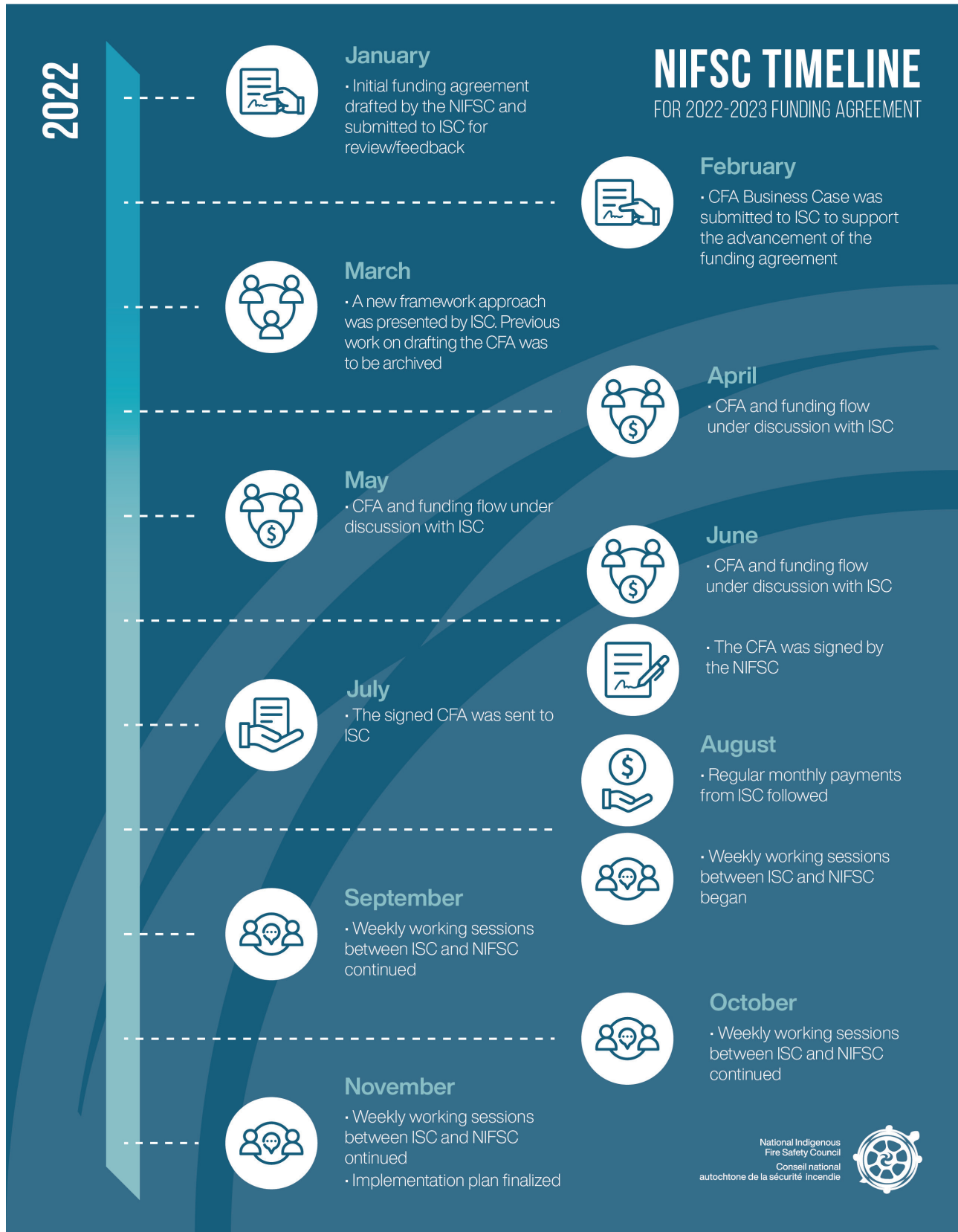
NIFSC Board of Directors at the 2022 Public Safety Conference in Prince Albert, SK

Funding Timeline – 2022-2023

In collaboration with our funder, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the NIFSC embarked on a new path through the implementation of a strategic framework that would serve as the basis for the 2022-2024 funding agreement. Throughout the first quarter of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the NIFSC worked to develop the implementation plan with ISC; a plan designed to support and empower communities, our service partners, and

our organization. These three areas are each supported through 12 strategic objectives and 64 implementation strategies. In order to define those, and determine the work going forward, both in-person and virtual meetings took place through April to June 2022.

A timeline for activities for the fiscal year 2022-2023 has been included in this report for reference. The NIFSC confirmed that funding was received from ISC was received on July 21, 2022, and a second payment was received on July 25, 2022 (for August 1). This resulted in a 3-month delay in activities in April, May, and June.



2022



Janvier

• Accord de financement initial rédigé par le CNASI et soumis à SAC pour examen et rétroaction.



Mars

• Une nouvelle approche cadre a été présentée par SAC. Les travaux antérieurs sur la rédaction de l'EGF ont dû être archivés.



Mai

• L'EGF et le flux de financement sont en pourparlers avec SAC.



Juillet

• L'EGF signée a été envoyée à SAC.



Septembre

• Les séances de travail hebdomadaires entre SAC et CNASI se sont poursuivies.



Novembre

• Les séances de travail hebdomadaires entre SAC et CNASI se sont poursuivies.
• Le plan de mise en œuvre est finalisé.

ÉCHÉANCIER DU CNASI

ENTENTE DE FINANCEMENT 2022-2023



Février

• L'analyse de rentabilisation de l'entente globale de financement (EGF) a été soumise à SAC pour appuyer l'avancement de l'accord de financement.



Avril

• L'EGF et le flux de financement sont en pourparlers avec SAC.



Juin

• L'EGF et le flux de financement sont en pourparlers avec SAC.



• L'EGF a été signée par le CNASI.



Août

• Des paiements mensuels réguliers de SAC ont suivi.



• Des séances de travail hebdomadaires entre SAC et CNASI ont débuté.



Octobre

• Les séances de travail hebdomadaires entre SAC et CNASI se sont poursuivies.

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Ongoing Challenges

Loss of Life Continues

There is a serious problem occurring across Canada and the situation is not improving. Nationally, First Nations are approximately 10 times more likely to die in a fire than non-First Nations persons (Statistics Canada, Mortality and morbidity related to fire, burns and carbon monoxide poisoning among First Nations people, Métis, and Inuit: Findings from the 2011 Canadian Census Health and Environment Cohort, 2021).

Ontario First Nations children aged 0 to 9 years are 86 times greater than non-First Nations children to die in a fire (Ontario Chief Coroner's Table on Understanding Fire Deaths in First Nations, 2019).

In early 2023, four high-profile fatal house fires in First Nations communities occurred in Canada: a January 2023 fire in the Cree community of Peawanuck, Ontario that claimed the life of a 10-year-old girl, a February 2023 fire in the Pikangikum First Nation in northwest Ontario that claimed three lives including an eight-year-old girl and two fires in March 2023 – a fire in the Skwah First Nation in Chilliwack, B.C. claiming two lives, and a fire that claimed the life of a 10 year old girl on the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

A year earlier, a house fire in January 2022 at the Sandy Lake First Nation in northern Ontario claimed the lives of three children between ages 4 and 9, and a February 2022 fire at the Siksika Nation in southern Alberta claimed three lives including a six-year-old boy.

These incidents reveal the real-life impact of the higher fire risk faced by Indigenous people in Canada. Census data from 2016 to 2021 showed Indigenous respondents were more likely to be affected by indicators of higher fire risk, including crowded dwellings in need of repair, low-income households, children under age six, and one or more unemployed family members.

A study, entitled ["National Indigenous Fire Safety Data Collection Evaluation: Review of Existing Practice and Recommendations for the Future,"](#) commissioned by the NIFSC and carried out by the University of Western Australia (2022-2023), assessed the fire data collection techniques of the National Incident Reporting System (NIRS), Home Safety Assessments and Fire Department Assessments related to Indigenous people on and off reserve, while also reviewing the available data pulled from those sources. Relevant Canadian Census data and fire safety findings from Canadian and international research was also included.

Of note from the NIRS data, more than half of the reported fatalities took place at fires that had burned out before the fire department had arrived.

Also noteworthy was the fact that working smoke alarms were present at less than 10 % of the reported residential fires, and that fire-related deaths were highest in locations with no smoke alarm.

Other significant findings included:

- Most frequent reported room of origin was the kitchen, followed by living room;
- Most frequent reported igniting objects were matches, smoker's materials and electrical sources; and
- Highest percentage of reported acts or omissions were suspicious fires, followed by human error (with the latter connected to most of the reported injuries).

Considering these results in the context of existing research and fire data, the report pointed to the unequivocal evidence that working smoke alarms reduce fire frequency, spread and related deaths.

It also noted that while fire departments are an important aspect of fire safety, the priority for remote First Nations communities should be on home and life safety systems such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and residential sprinklers. All of these are proven, effective fire prevention strategies that can be implemented in a timelier manner given the remoteness of the communities and the high costs and resource demands associated with fire departments.

The report also noted that the voluntary reporting of data to the NIRS tends to lead to over-reporting of the higher-profile fatal fires and under-reporting of other fires.



Collaboration and Coordination Regionally and Nationally

There continues to be a lack of coordination and joint strategic planning nationally and regionally as it relates to fire. As a result, the regional organizations are unaware of the mandates of national organizations related to fire and national organizations are unaware of the strategic plans, objectives, and goals of regional organizations. This has resulted in a gap of missed opportunity to leverage the skills and assets to better support communities. The NIFSC will continue to work with ISC to obtain the necessary resources to collaborate with the Board of Directors and regional partners to address this gap.

Impacts of Indigenous Services Canada Programming

The NIFSC has submitted several Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) in order to gain access to more wholesome information regarding regional funding, key priorities, the structure of funding agreements and amendments and how deliverables are assessed in those funding agreements.

The NIFSC has also requested funding allocations for the joint AFN- led, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) National First Nations First Responders Gathering in Ottawa on May 18-19, 2023. The ATIP was denied, and a complaint was submitted.

Each year, the NIFSC undergoes a General Assessment (GA). In order to support the ongoing improvements of the organization, the NIFSC has requested copies of the GA from similar organizations. An extension was requested by ISC.

NIFSC General Assessment

Each year, the NIFSC undergoes a GA. This year, the NIFSC scored high risk, with a score of 39, despite numerous improvements in response to last year's report. A high-risk organization scores between 37.5 and 56.

Key findings in the GA were:

- Ensure that their service population is able to nominate and vote on Board Membership. Indigenous Services Canada recommends that the selection process for the recipient's Board Members is clearly articulated and communicated, with the possibility for the organization's service population to have more involvement in the voting process (1.1).
 - Complete the planned transition to the NIFSC, notably ensuring that members of the National Advisory Committee form part of its main governance body. The extended Board of Directors may wish to elect an executive committee (1.1).
- ◇ Revisions to Board of Directors nomination and representation revised to expand representation, with a clear and transparent selection process. This also includes updating the constitution and bylaws to incorporate voting members

- Recipient should strive to improve the overall capacity of the organization by hiring, training, and retaining experienced and skilled staff. Without sufficient capacity, the recipient may be unable to deliver the agreed-upon activities found in the organization’s funding agreement (i.e., Schedule 6).
 - ◊ Attracting strong talent under the current funding structure remains a risk to the organization. When funding is delayed by two-three months, its difficult to maintain existing staff and attract strong talent.
- Secure other revenue sources (3.1).
 - ◊ Proposed research studies by the NIFSC continue to be underfunded. The organization has sought out independent research partners to ensure that meaning research initiative continue despite a lack of sufficient funding
- Implement the policies set out in the policy manual and refine and update the manual as appropriate including developing program and service delivery policies as appropriate (4.2).
 - ◊ The NIFSC policy manual is submitted to ISC as part of the GA annually, it is reviewed by the Board of Directors and all staff are required to sign off in agreement to adhere to the policies therewithin
- Continue to strive to provide adequate reporting, including quarterly reports that align to the contribution agreement, on time (4.4).
 - ◊ The organisation continues to work collaboratively with ISC on reporting all requiring and ad-hoc reporting and provides a quarterly and annual report summarizing achievements towards the 12 strategic objectives.
- Ensure that there are no disruptions, delays, or gaps in service delivery. If these disruptions do occur, they should be infrequent and have little to no impact on service or project delivery (i.e., due to illness or temporary leave) (5.1).
 - ◊ ISC released the first component of CFA funding in late July 2021. This translated to the onboarding and staffing buildup was delayed by 33%. The ISC rationale statement are specific on the year end timelines and accountability, no reference is made to the actual start time of the current fiscal year (funding receipt).
- Strive to hire, train, and retain the experienced and skilled staff required to maintain services and ensure the organization’s continuous improvement (5.3).
 - ◊ NIFSC recruitment, training and retention is limited to current funding agreement capacity. NIFSC has identified expertise and capacity required. With 12 Strategic Objectives and 64 Implementation Strategies the organization is managing existing resources to respond to the specific tasks required to maintain the momentum required.

Path Forward – Joint ISC-NIFSC 2022-2024 Implementation Plan

In collaboration with our funder and partner ISC, the NIFSC embarked on a new path through the implementation of a strategic framework that would serve as the basis for the 2022-2024 funding agreement. Throughout the first quarter of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the NIFSC worked to develop the implementation plan with ISC; a plan designed to support and empower communities, our service partners, and our organization. These three areas are each supported through strategic objectives and implementation strategies. In order to define those, and determine the work going forward, both in-person and virtual meetings took place through April to June 2022.

ANNUAL REPORT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Empowering Indigenous Communities - Fire Prevention



01

Awareness, availability, and access to fire prevention programs

- Fire life safety programs – new accredited training & community mentoring
- National Awareness Campaigns – Seasonal & Smoke Alarm campaigns launched
- National Public Safety Conference – Inaugural '22 conference & '23 planning in progress
- National platform of programs & services – Coordination and development of a national web depository underway
- Self-service fire prevention tools – development of Home Safety App
- Streamline education process – streamlined training registration process implemented



02

Increase the understanding of contributing fire risks factors

- National Incident Reporting System – 300% increase in reporting
- Fire incident analysis – data mining underway of NIRS
- Monitor & promote effective fire prevention tools – national framework developed to monitor fire prevention tools
- Promote fire incident data – publishing and communication initiatives ongoing
- Identify and conduct relevant research – comprehensive research agenda
- Promote effective fire prevention standards – data driven infographics, reference citations and risk analysis



03

Engage youth in fire prevention

- National Poster Contest – Post pandemic contest returned to schools in 2022
- Youth fire safety and awareness campaigns – Inventory developed of youth fire prevention programs
- High school work experience program – WEP design completed to be piloted in 2023
- Junior firefighter program – Jr Firefighter program developed & pilot completed
- Youth representation on the Board of Directors – continued governance work to engage youth

Enabling Partners To Deliver



04

Support regional organizations and fire departments

- Investigate regional service and key priorities
- Develop capacity building service packages
- Improve operational digital and media tools – Investment in tools and addition of technical staff
- Community fire prevention services – responsive to community & tribal council request for services
- Develop accredited distant learning tools – research and acquisition of distributed learning software for development of new distant education deliveries



05 Support to regions without regional funded organizations

- Co-facilitate to provide capacity – collaboration with regional de-facto organizations to identify strategic goals, current capacity and development of regional ISC relationships
- Provide administrative support – multiple resources provided to regional de-facto organizations (design, procurement, communications, financial services, etc.)
- Create a pool of Indigenous resources – resource pool developed and recruitment of new resources
- Support for securing resources – multiple funding agreement written in collaboration with regional de-facto organizations



06 Improve operational partners collaboration

- Establish operational meetings – developing operational dialogue and creating collaborative opportunities
- Establish climate change forums – recruitment of climate change capacity and create opportunities for evolution and incorporation of climate risk mitigation strategies

Championing Change



07 Strengthen collaborative information and knowledge frameworks

- Promote sharing of information – utilizing other organization events and creating opportunities to meet & share evolving information
- Indigenous-led research and data/statistics – developing communication initiatives, housing research portal and promoting other Indigenous focused research
- Engage political leadership – dialogue with Minister of ISC, Minister of Public Safety, Grand Chief AFN, AFN Chiefs Special Assembly, regional political bodies, provincial relative ministries and



08 Strengthen commitment to a coherent Indigenous fire safety and protection framework and funding instruments

- Engage AFN on the potential for fire protection legislation – ongoing engagement with the AFN Housing & Infrastructure Chiefs committee to support the fire safety evolution
- Explore the potential in other policy instruments – evolution and development of bylaw standards that will support Indigenous fire safety
- Identify regulatory frameworks transferable best practices – utilizing existing regulatory frameworks (health care, education, OHS, etc.) to develop best practices to be incorporated in Indigenous environments



09 Improve standards and practices for greater fire safety and protection

- Technical Advisory Committee – formation and management of the only Indigenous technical standards committee in Canada
- Fire safety organizations engagement – CAFC, NFPA, Building Codes engage to maintain awareness and promote new or modified standards
- Monitor policy areas that impact fire safety – monitoring matrix develop to identify relevant policies and opportunities for public safety improvement
- Advocate for adoption of fire safety frameworks – adaptation and development of relevant standards from existing frameworks

Equipped To Deliver



10 Strengthen organizational governance and accountability

- Improved Board of Directors policies – GA, audit recommendations, GAAP, evaluation of policies
- Board member training – Existing and new Board member training process in place
- Regulatory adherence – annual policy and regulatory filings report reviewed by Board
- Board of Directors driven strategic planning – Strategic planning process in progress
- Board of Directors subcommittees - youth, policy framework, finance, membership and partnerships.



11 Technical and administrative capacity for regions

- Support regional capacity where none exists – regional support provided in Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic and Saskatchewan. Complimentary services provided in BC and AB.
- Establish administrative services for informal regional organizations – all required administrative services can be provided (governance, strategic planning, funding, finance and training).
- Develop enhanced service delivery modalities – new education partnerships & standards implemented for all training
- Establish digital platforms – web site updates to include digital platforms and portals
- Internal training in technical and management skills – performance management process develop to support professional development
- NIFSC operational logistics capacity – office, storage and program resource inventory warehousing secured.



12 Strengthen resources and partnerships

- Nurture strategic partner relations – initiation of relevant look ahead and trend evaluation sessions with partner agencies
- Awareness of fire safety data & research – promoting collaborative research findings, trends and data mining with partner agencies
- Operational partnerships dialogue and feedback loops
- Diversify funding resources – other federal agencies, in-kind contributions, private-partnerships explored for macro & micro initiatives
- Secure additional funding from government – additional funding options and programs investigated with ISC

2022 Fire Safety Conference and National Firefighting Competition – Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

The 2022 Fire Safety Conference and National Firefighting Competition took place in Prince Albert Saskatchewan from September 28 to October 1, 2022, and was co-hosted Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management (SFNEM) and the Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association (CVFSA).

This event drew 160 participants from across Canada who participated in 27 conference sessions (including CISM/Resilient Minds hosted by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Emergency Management and Fire Departments hosted by First Nations Emergency Services Society of British Columbia (FNESS), Diversity in the Fire Service hosted by SFNEM, and Capital Planning in the Fire Service hosted by Indigenous Services Canada, among others), along with five training tracks (such as Vehicle Extrication hosted by JD Fire and Introduction to Emergency Disaster Services hosted by the Salvation Army). Teams from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Quebec competed in both practical skills as well as fire prevention education at the firefighting competition.

The winner of the 2022 National Firefighting Competition was Nemaska from the Quebec region. Second place was won by Black Lake Denesuline First Nation of Saskatchewan. The Saik'uz Fire Department from British Columbia came in third place and the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation from Manitoba won Most Sportsmanlike team.

This year's event also included a tradeshow with 16 different vendors including Anderson Pump House, Canadian Public Safety Operations Organization, Fort Garry Fire Trucks and Superior Diesel.

A post-conference survey was distributed, and the biggest takeaways from this conference (20 responses) were:

- Contacts/ networking, training, the need for more training
- There are resources available to help with fire safety plans
- There are a lot of other communities and fire departments that have started where we are at and have gone to be even better at what they do
- Gives me inspiration for our own department here at home
- The feeling of being welcomed from all who attended
- Most were very happy to be there
- Indigenous communities need resources and funding to be allocated at the direction of the community
- There was a great first of its kind- rich in scope and diverse stakeholder participation- that can build out in the years to come
- Congratulations for pulling this event off at such short notice. It must have been someone's dream to create this knowledge sharing event
- The different challenges between indigenous firefighter funding versus all other levels volunteer firefighter
- NIFSC is working really hard to support all First Nations on a national scale
- Thank-you for your efforts. It was all good.



NIFSC President Michelle Vandevord and Parliamentary Secretary Pam Damoff



2022 National Firefighting Competition Group Photo

2022 National Firefighting Competition

1ST PLACE



Quebec

Team Nemaska

2ND PLACE



Saskatchewan

Black Lake Denesuline First Nation

3RD PLACE



British Columbia

Saik'uz First Nations from British Columbia

MOST SPORTSMANLIKE TEAM



Manitoba


Mathias Colomb Cree Nation from Manitoba

2022 Fire Prevention Campaign (National Poster Contest)

School-based lesson plans were created to promote fire safety through the Fire Prevention Awareness Week campaign. The NIFSC lesson plans focused on traditional fire knowledge while also including the 2022 NFPA theme Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape.

Lesson plans were made available for download (for free) on the NIFSC website- **National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Fire Prevention Awareness Campaign 2022 - 2023 — National Indigenous Fire Safety Council**

Lesson plans included the following categories:



Kindergarten & Grade 1 Lesson Plan

Lesson 1 Fire Moves Quickly and Can be Slowed Down

Notes: Incorporation of traditional fire knowledge

- In many, if not all Indigenous cultures the belief that spirit is inherent to all things is the most common basis of understanding
- There is an active attempt in this lesson to attribute living qualities to fire, using language and comparison. This is not to make fire seem human, but to demonstrate that both the requirements of fire and the children themselves are not as different as the Western mindset believes. This is the traditional way of viewing fire, not as a tool or a problem, but as an entity worthy of respect.

Curricular competencies:

In this lesson plan students are expected to:

- Question how fire moves,
- Predict how fire will move in different situations
- Apply their learning
- Record what they have learned in a student response sheet

Entry for Prizes:

- To enter your regional prize draw, a photograph of the student learning of the class must be submitted to: info@indigenousfiresafety.ca
- Students and educator(s) are welcome to be in the photograph, but it is not required.
- If there are additional classroom activities completed based on this lesson plan (bulletin board displays, plays, artwork etc.) please send photos of them to info@indigenousfiresafety.ca for an additional draw entry and display on the NIFSC website.
- Things that must be included in your photograph submission:
 - o Province
 - o Community Name
 - o School/Organization Name
 - o Grade
 - o Mailing Address
 - o Contact Name
 - o Contact Number

- The deadline for submitting photographs to the regional prize draw is Monday October 31, 2022.

Lesson Plan Material

Kindergarten – Grade 1 (Ages 4-6)

- Fire Moves Quickly and Can be Slowed Down
- Fire in Nature
- Escaping Fire at Home

Grades 2 & 3 (Ages 7-8)

- Fire Moves Quickly and Can be Slowed Down
- Fire in Nature
- Escaping Fire at Home

Grades 4, 5, & 6 (Ages 9-11)

- The Fire Triangle
- Ancestral Fire Safety
- Modern Fire Safety



Migisi Sahgaigan School

Poster Contest

Category Winners

Kindergarten- Grade 1

Kikendaasongamig

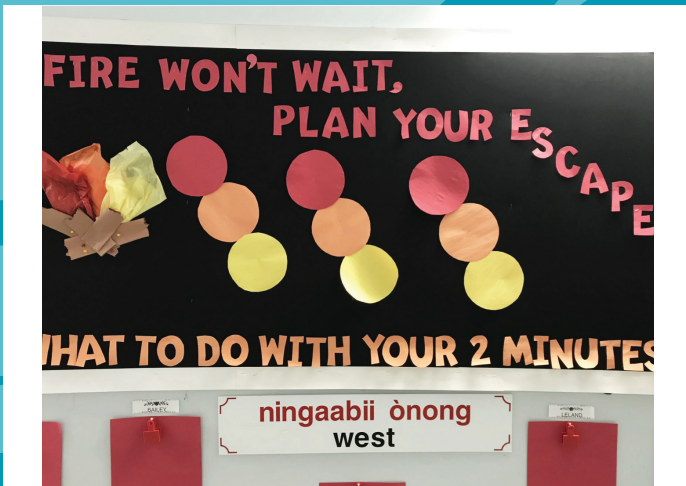
Neyaashiingmiing Reserve No 27, Ontario



Grade 2-3

Migisi Sahgaigan School

Migisi, Ontario (Eagle Lake)



Grade 4 -5

Migisi Sahgaigan School

Migisi Sahgaigan, Ontario



AFN and ISC co-created First Nations Fire Protection Strategy, 2023 to 2028

The Joint First Nations Fire Protection Strategy was first established in 2010 in collaboration with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the AFAC (now the NIFSC) to promote fire protection on reserve.

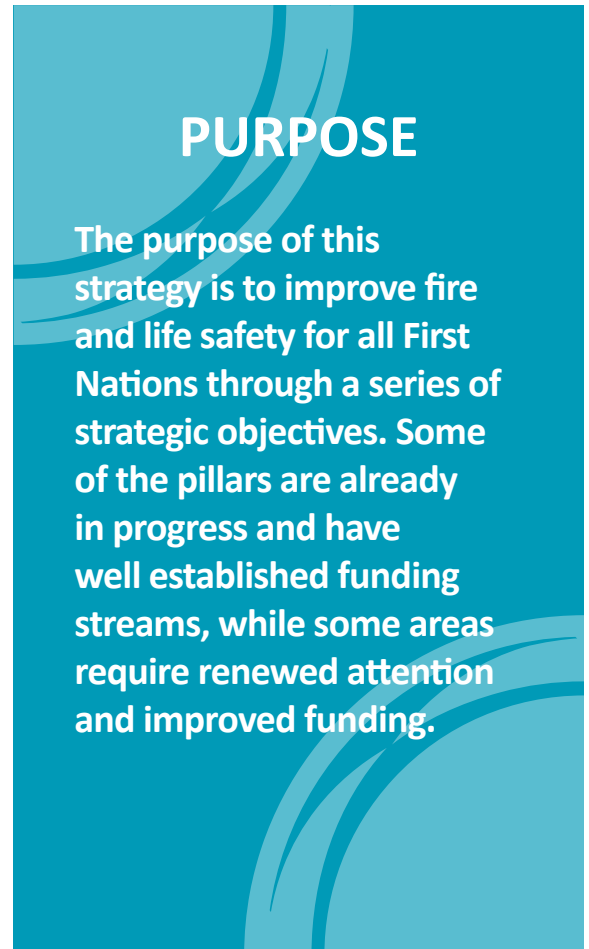
This latest version of the strategy, 2023 to 2028, was co-developed by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the national organization representing First Nations people in Canada, and ISC. It was designed to build upon the previous strategy with the addition of two (2) new pillars. These pillars bring greater awareness to the effect of climate change on emergency and disaster management and climate risks. A sixth pillar includes critical infrastructure to support fire protection and fire departments while promoting modern technology to plan, track and manage fire prevention progress.

The strategy identifies six (6) pillars:

1. Partnership for First Nations fire protection
2. Fire prevention education
3. Community standards
4. Fire service operational standards
5. Climate change
6. Critical infrastructure

The First Nations Emergency Services Society of British Columbia was also engaged in the creation of the strategy through engagement sessions, First Nation fire chief reviews, and research surveys. The strategy was also informed by input from First Nation technical organizations, tribal councils, First Nation leadership, and fire service professionals.

The strategy, in its entirety can be accessed online: [First Nations Fire Protection Strategy, 2023 to 2028 \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca)



Expenditure Report – 2022 - 2023

2022-23 Budget Projection Report - unaudited

		<i>Total Budget</i>	Expense 2022-23
1003	Governance Facilitation	\$ 18,000.00	23,777.63
1004	Fire Conference / NFC	\$ 178,000.00	183,183.03
<i>AFAC Activity</i>		196,000.00	206,960.66
2003	IFMS Resources	\$ 444,152.00	450,556.15
2004	Research Resources	\$ 200,000.00	33,584.60
2005	Corporate Resources	\$ 279,952.00	337,807.46
2010	Human Resources	\$ 40,887.00	40,958.75
2011	PPS	\$ 158,474.00	160,719.78
2012	Research Director	\$ 72,098.00	71,512.00
2013	NIRS Delivery Specialist	\$ 112,572.00	112,518.44
<i>Human Resources</i>		1,308,135.00	1,207,657.18
3002	Regional Support / Translation	\$ 86,022.00	84,639.63
<i>Communications</i>		86,022.00	84,639.63
4000	Board Travel	\$ 50,000.00	55,070.75
4001	Corporate Services / HR Travel	\$ 10,500.00	11,299.74
4002	Population & Partnership Services Travel	\$ 25,000.00	34,780.00
4003	NIRS Travel	\$ 8,000.00	6,658.15
4004	Research Travel	\$ 5,000.00	3,132.04
4005	IFMS Travel	\$ 58,000.00	64,679.02
<i>Travel</i>		156,500.00	175,619.70
7001	Admin - Office Supplies	\$ 8,000.00	10,393.60
7002	Admin - Telecommunications	\$ 11,400.00	5,781.56
7003	Admin - Logistics	\$ 13,000.00	9,880.96
7004	Admin - Audit / Legal & Bank	\$ 18,000.00	7,807.51
7005	Admin - Physical Infrastructure	\$ 19,500.00	21,490.70
7006	Admin - Software/IT	\$ 27,500.00	42,996.31
<i>Administration Costs</i>		97,400.00	98,350.64
<i>Total Budgeted Expenses</i>		1,844,057.00	1,773,227.81

Conclusion

The NIFSC is committed to working collaboratively with its funding partner as it embarks on the second year of the implementation plan featuring the 12 strategic objectives and 64 implementing strategies.

The NIFSC continues to implement the recommendations outlined in the GA, while also incorporating the principles of reconciliation in its work- both within the organization and within its working relationship with ISC.

The team at the NIFSC continues to push forward with passion and dedication for this important work, while recognizing that recruitment and retention, in tandem with the impacts, and structuring, of the current funding agreements continue to serve as risks to its longevity and ability to achieve its goals.