



**Think about fire
before it starts**



Amber's
FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Commemorating
5 Years of Fire Safety

UPDATE REPORT 2021 | nan.ca



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**Increasing fire safety
and fire protection in
Nishnawbe Aski Nation.**



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Fatal house fires are all-too common in NAN First Nations and the chronic lack of firefighting services and substandard housing is a deadly combination. House fires are especially devastating in remote communities where overcrowding is the norm and entire families are left homeless every time a home is lost.

Our community has suffered tremendously from fatal house fires and every loss is remembered as if it was today. A home is a basic human right afforded to all people in a first world country - it is one of the three pillars of the pyramid of needs. Our people should not be at risk of harm in their own homes.

- FORMER MISHKEEGOGAMANG CHIEF CONNIE GRAY-MCKAY

INTRODUCTION

The Amber's Fire Safety Campaign is Nishnawbe Aski Nation's response to help end the countless fire-related tragedies that have devastated our communities. NAN is working with Tribal Councils, various levels of government, municipal fire departments and other agencies to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety and fire-fighting services in all of our communities to prevent further loss of lives.

Amber's Fire Safe Campaign continues to:

- » Provide a smoke detector in every home in NAN territory
- » Enhance fire prevention education and increase fire safety awareness
- » Develop plans for fire protection, fire-fighting equipment, services and infrastructure
- » Develop partnerships with key fire protection organizations



**People living in First Nations are
10 times more likely to die in a
house fire than the rest of Canada.**

- FIRE PREVENTION IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, CMHC, 2007

HISTORY

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Amber Strang is a name that connects tragedy to safety in respect to fire protection and prevention. A house fire in Pikangikum First Nation claimed nine lives in March 2016. This house fire took away the futures of three generations of the Strang family, including five-month-old Amber. Amber's Fire Safety Campaign was established in May 2016 to increase fire safety and help prevent tragic house fires

that continue to claim lives in NAN First Nations.

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign has a focus on knowledge building, community engagement, education and empowerment of communities. This basis is set to counteract a lack of clarified roles and responsibilities, resources and support for community fire departments, fire fighter volunteers and funding.

TORONTO STAR

According to a report, only two of 18 northern communities the association visited last winter had any organized fire protection services at all.

- TORONTO STAR



Photo Credit: Jesse Winter, Toronto Star

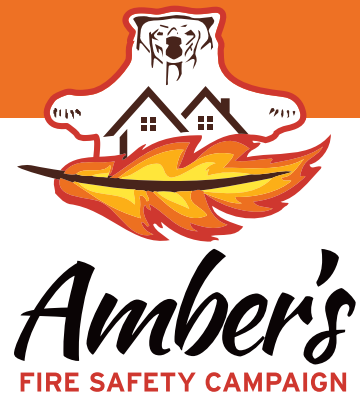
AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and the NAN Housing and Infrastructure Department are working in partnership with the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign Working Group members. AFSC Working Group Members help to guide NAN's work on the campaign and provide their expertise on fire prevention education material. AFSC Working Group members help to ensure the material is accurate and appropriate before sharing with NAN communities. The AFSC Working Group meets every 3 months to discuss the campaign and its current efforts, giving the members an opportunity to provide feedback and direction for next steps of the Campaign.

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign Working Group Members:

- Indigenous Services Canada
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Thunder Bay Fire & Rescue
- Greenstone Fire Department
- Timmins Fire Department
- Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC)
- Sioux Lookout Fire Department
- Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society (ONFFS)
- Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC)
- National Indigenous Fire Safety Council/ Indigenous Fire Safety Marshal (IFSM)
- Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal
- Mushkegowuk Council
- Mattagami Fire Department
- Windigo Tribal Council

Thank you to all the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign Working Group members for their continued support and efforts towards the Campaign and it's success.



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GOALS

Long-term goals of Amber's Fire Safety Campaign include:

- » Provide every home in NAN territory with a smoke detector
- » Development of partnerships for the campaign
- » Increasing fire safety awareness and education, including support for certification in wood burning systems and fire prevention services
- » Development of the Nishnawbe Aski Fire And Emergency Management Service as mandated by Resolution 19/30

The Amber's Fire Safety Campaign is committed to providing smoke alarms in every home within NAN territory.



EDUCATION

TRAINING

PARTNERSHIPS

**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

PILLARS OF AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

EDUCATION

In addition to providing fire prevention materials, community members must be educated in installing and maintaining smoke detectors, best practices for fire prevention, and fire prevention education for both teachers and students.

TRAINING

NAN has continued to coordinate certification opportunities with those who offer wood-energy products and installation and maintenance services to NAN communities and to those who conduct inspections of wood-burning systems on-reserve.

Most recently, the coordination of Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) certification has taken place in a few NAN communities and will continue to do so once it is safe to re-enter the NAN communities.

PARTNERSHIPS

NAN must continue to develop partnerships with various stakeholders and organizations in order to successfully sustain the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign. Opportunities to partner with others, including Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, Aboriginal Firefighter's Association of Canada, CMHC, OFNTSC, and Office of the Fire Marshall must also be pursued.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Fire prevention must be a consistent priority at both the Tribal Council and community level. In order to facilitate this goal NAN will advocate for the creation of Fire Prevention Officers at Tribal Councils, advocate for including fire prevention in community portfolios, and identify sources of funding for fire safety and prevention.

We will work with Tribal Councils, various levels of government, municipal fire departments and other agencies to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety and fire-fighting services in all of our communities so that no more lives are lost.

- NAN GRAND CHIEF ALVIN FIDDLER



Increasing fire safety and fire protection in Nishnawbe Aski Nation.



WETT training course in session



Old woodstove in need of replacement within NAN territory



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAN AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN WORKS TO REMOVE OUTDATED WOOD STOVES AND INSTALL HIGH QUALITY, ENERGY EFFICIENT WOOD STOVES

I. GREENON PROGRAM

In 2017, NAN started its first Wood Stove Exchange pilot project in partnership with the Provincial Government of Ontario. With the approval of the \$1.7 million proposal, this project focused on the exchange of 175 old wood stoves with newer, more energy efficient wood stoves. Many of the remote NAN First Nations rely on wood stove heating as the primary source of heating in their homes. Upgrading of existing wood stoves to higher efficiency/low emission models is an important and strategic action that remote communities can undertake to mitigate the impact of climate change, create a healthier indoor environment and support the local economy. Through the support of the four Amber's pillars; education, training, partnerships and capacity building; the campaign was able to provide WETT training to those communities that received new wood stoves. This three-part course trained students on the safe installation and inspection of woodstoves and wood burning systems. Through this funding

opportunity, the campaign was also able to develop a 'Woodstove Maintenance Guide' brochure featuring wood stove safety tips as well as advise on how to maintain your wood burning system.

II. NRCAN BIOHEAT PROJECT

Building upon the success of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN) GreenON woodstove exchange pilot project of 2018-2019, this project has expanded to additional communities and has built upon existing communities bioheat programs, training and capacity. With the approval of the \$2.5 million project in partnership Natural Resources Canada, NAN is working to exchange 200 woodstoves among 6 communities in NAN and provide Wood Energy Transfer Technology training to community members in all 6 communities. This project captures NAN's community vision of building a stronger local economy, energy efficiency, and independence, fire safe practices, and lessening a community's impact on the climate.

This project compliments NAN's Amber's Fire Safety Campaign which promotes fire safety practices in order to prevent tragic house fires in NAN First Nations. This project also helps to support fire prevention by replacing old, outdated woodstoves with new high efficiency



woodstoves. These newer wood stoves are designed and installed to protect surroundings from heat exposure which decreases the risk of house fires. These stoves will also be installed and inspected by Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) certified individuals who are trained to ensure the woodstoves meet a high standard for fire safety which includes proper clearance from surroundings, protective heat shielding, correctly fitted chimney connections, and proper ventilation.

An additional objective of this project is to bring a more energy efficient source of heat to remote First Nation communities that are reliant on diesel generators for energy. The installation of high efficiency, cost effective, woodstoves to replace existing stoves in homes will reduce the amount of diesel-generated electricity used to heat the homes. It is important to understand that this is a pilot program and not every home will be eligible for a new efficient wood stove at this time.

III. WETT TRAINING

Each community that has participated (or will be participating) in the GreenON and NRCAN projects have the opportunity to identify four to six individuals who will take part in the WETT training. WETT training is of ongoing importance and use to NAN communities so it is beneficial to train additional individuals should there be interest. WETT training is offered in three phases over a 5-day training period. Once individuals are trained, certified installation can begin. Installers will all be educators as well, distributing information on wood stove maintenance, wood choice and need for proper storage and safety information. Once all the stoves have been installed, they will have to be inspected by WETT certified inspectors. If any deficiencies are identified they will be addressed and reevaluated during the final round of inspections.

WETT training has, and will, allow for the community to take part in this work on their own and not have outside companies entering the community. This also benefits the local economy by providing local wages and employment to those in the community.

PROMOTIONAL & COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

NAN developed a number of promotional and communications tools to use in assisting with the delivery of the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign messaging.



These included:

- » Fire Safety awareness rack cards
- » A tradeshow booth
- » Thermos water bottles
- » Reusable bags

In addition, NAN delivered the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign messaging through a number of sources, including the website, Facebook, Twitter, and the Wawatay newspaper.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

Carbon monoxide alarms save lives


A WORKING CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM CAN DETECT CARBON MONOXIDE IN YOUR HOME AND WILL WARN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Over 65% of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries in Ontario occur in homes.

Known as the "silent killer", CO is a poisonous gas that you cannot see, smell, or taste.



*Statistics for Ontario provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management.



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ELECTRICAL FIRES



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

Prevent electrical fires

ELECTRICAL FIRES IN THE HOME ARE ONE OF THE MOST PREVENTABLE TYPES OF FIRES.

DID YOU KNOW?

Electrical equipment is the FOURTH leading cause of house fires.

In 71% of home electrical fires, the cause is electrical failure of the equipment.




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ESCAPE PLAN



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

What's your escape plan?

EVERY FAMILY NEEDS A HOME ESCAPE PLAN.

There is no time for planning during an emergency. When a smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.




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HEATING EQUIPMENT



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

Prevent heating equipment fires

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- Heating equipment fires account for 1 in 10 house fires.
- Heating equipment is the second leading cause of house fires.
- In 25% of house heating fires, the cause is a lack of routine maintenance of heating equipment.



*Statistics for Ontario provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management.



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SMOKE ALARMS



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

Smoke alarms save lives

SMOKE ALARMS GIVE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY EARLY WARNING TO SAFELY ESCAPE A FIRE AND INCREASES YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVING BY UP TO 50%.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Homes today burn up to 8x faster than 50 years ago.
- There was no smoke alarm warning in 1 out of 3 fatal house fires.
- You have less than 60 seconds to escape fire in your home.



*Statistics for Ontario provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management.



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SMOKING



THINK ABOUT FIRE BEFORE IT STARTS

Butt out smoking fires

ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW DEADLY SMOKING CAN BE?

- Smoking fires account for 90% of all home loss fires.
- 1 in 8 smoking fires result in an injury or death.
- 1 in 4 home fire fatalities are caused by smoking.
- 67% of smoking fires are caused by "improper discarding" of smoking materials.



*Statistics for Ontario provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management.



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SMOKE DETECTORS INITIATIVE

The Campaign has delivered smoke alarms to; Wapakeka, Aroland, Marten Falls, Sachigo Lake, Weenusk, North Spirit Lake, Wunnumin, Sandy Lake, Slate Falls Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, and Kashechewan, as well as Mushkegowuk Council, Keewaytinook Okimakanak, Matawa First Nations Management, and Windigo Tribal Council. 3464 smoke alarms have been distributed to communities within the NAN territory during 2019.

COMMUNITY	SMOKE DETECTORS
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	672 smoke detectors were delivered to the community on June 26 2019.
Windigo Tribal Council	152 smoke detectors were delivered during October of 2019.
Matawa First Nations Management	800 smoke detectors were delivered during November of 2019.
Mushkegowuk Council	152 smoke detectors were delivered during November of 2019.
Kashechewan	200 smoke detectors were delivered to the community during November of 2019.



Amber's Fire Safety Campaign provided a total of 3464 smoke detectors in 2019.

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The NAN Amber's Fire Safety Campaign (AFSC) has been mandated by the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly to provide fire prevention education to NAN First Nations schools and communities in order to increase fire safety awareness. So far, the campaign has delivered fire prevention education to 17 NAN First Nations.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig - Shane Ferguson is a Fire Safety Professional, who teaches Pre-Service Firefighting Education and Training at Confederation College who partners with NAN to deliver fire safety education. Shane Ferguson visited Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig (KI) on October 8th, 9th and 10th to deliver fire prevention education at Aglace Chapman Education Centre as well as install smoke alarms throughout the Community. Four presentations were completed with Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes as well as smoke alarm workshops with students in grades seven and eight. Students practiced drawing home escape plans and discussed the proper placement of smoke alarms within the home.

Constance Lake - During their visit on November 14th 2019, Jim Runciman, Fire Chief for Greenstone, and a fellow firefighter attended Josie Bluff Memorial Christian School as well as Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Center. Both schools participated in the fire

**We will work...
to improve fire safety and fire-
fighting services in all of our
communities so that no more
lives are lost.**

- NAN press release May 19, 2016

prevention workshops that focused on smoke alarms and home escape plans. The students were asked to act as fire safety ambassadors for their families and show their family members what they had learned throughout the workshop. Discussions were focused on the "Stop, Drop and Roll" statement to understand what to do in the event that your clothes are on fire. "Close Before You Doze" reminds students to close their bedroom doors to slow the progression of smoke in the house if you are sleeping.

Fort Severn - On January 22nd, 2019, 100 students from Wasaho Cree Nation School participated in four fire safety presentations by Shane Ferguson. The Kindergarten classes along with students in grades one and two reviewed Home Escape plans and the importance of having a smoke alarm in every home. Students throughout grades 3-8 were provided with fire prevention education material pertaining to home escape plans, smoke alarms and their placement, carbon monoxide alarms and heating equipment.



Kasabonika - Fire prevention education was presented at Chief Simeon McKay Education Centre by Shane Ferguson to the 350 students over a three-day period. The training was delivered on February 11th, 12th and 13th 2019 over the course of ten presentations to ensure a higher level of participation and understanding. The presentations were organized by age level and the Amber's Fire Safety education material was distributed to all students.

Sandy Lake First Nation - Shane Ferguson delivered a fire prevention education program to two schools, kindergarten through to grade 11. The two-day program had 400 students in attendance and seven fire safety presentations were delivered over two days. Presentations were given on the topics of fire safety, smoke alarms, home escape planning, and other fire emergency response (i.e. stop, drop, and roll) and fire safety materials such as Amber's escape plans, smoke alarms, heating equipment, firefighter helmets and colouring books were distributed to kids.

Slate Falls Nation - Shane Ferguson provided fire prevention training to 35 students in three different age groups ranging from kindergarten to grade eight. The students watched fire education DVD as well as participated in learning sessions on smoke alarms, home escape plans, and fire safety and awareness. The first group of kindergarten classes were shown Sparkeys ABC's of Fire Safety. The second group, grades 1-4, were shown "Be Cool About Fire Safety", and the last group of grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 students were shown "Bill Nye Fire". Fire safety materials had also been distributed to the students.

Keewaywin First Nation - Lawrence Laviolette, Fire Prevention Officer of Keewaytinook Okimakanak, provided fire prevention education on the topics of fire safety, smoke alarms, home escape planning, and other fire emergency response (For example the Stop, Drop, and Roll).

Wahgoshig First Nation - Wilbert Wesley delivered fire prevention through a fire prevention and awareness session that was held in the First Nation's community center where adults and youth participated. A question period was also held after the presentation, participants were given fire prevention and educational materials, and leftover materials were given to the Fire Chief to distribute to the rest of the community members that were unable to attend.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

SMOKE DETECTOR INITIATIVES

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign will continue to work with communities that receive smoke detectors to make sure they are properly installed and working. Promotional messaging is posted on NAN's website, Facebook page, as well as written messaging using posters and rack cards. Promotional messaging reminds everyone to replace the batteries in their smoke detector and to test their smoke detectors each month to ensure they are still operational. The ultimate goal is to have a working smoke detector in each house, across all 49 NAN First Nation communities.

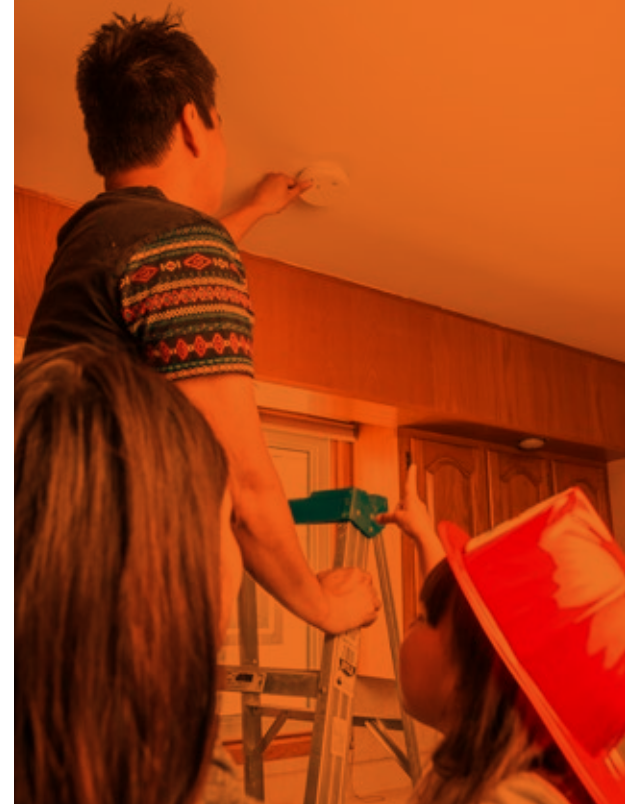
FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION

The continuation of the delivery of Fire Prevention education programs and associated curriculum packages at the community level is required.

FIRE SERVICES INVENTORY

As part of the Fire Prevention Education Initiative an appraisal and inventory of each of the 49 NAN communities of equipment, water and infrastructure will be conducted. This will include a risk assessment and allow for further tailored education and equipment provisions.

**SMOKE &
CARBON
MONOXIDE
ALARMS
SAVE LIVES.**





NISHNAWBE ASKI FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

NAN communities and leadership have identified the need for a fire and emergency management service that would operate at the community level. In 2019/2020, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the NAN Executive Council to begin the development of a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service. This work will include working with various levels of government, assessment of emergency response infrastructure and capacity, the level of operations and maintenance funding as well as complete data history of emergencies and hazard occurrence in NAN communities.



COMMUNICATIONS

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign looks to continue the success of Fire Safety awareness and prevention for the 49 NAN communities. Development of a plan to communicate the campaign to the 49 communities through information, to ensure new fire prevention material and fire safety messaging has been completed. NAN will also continue to produce further Amber's Fire Safety Campaign materials, as well as general fire safety information.

The communication plan may include placing information about the campaign in a number of different mediums, such as to Wawatay Radio, Newspaper and NAN's website.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Amber's Fire Safety Campaign working group has been a great asset to reaching the goals of the campaign. The working group brings years of experience and knowledge in the area of Fire Prevention and have provided the recommendations used to develop the scope of the work and activities identified in year one and year two.

We need the support to address the issues that cause house fires.

**- CHIEF CONNIE GRAY-MCKAY,
MISHKEEGOGAMANG
FIRST NATION**

APPENDIX 1 - RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 16/35: AMBER'S FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations are facing major fire safety issues, especially with house fires, fire protection and fire infrastructure;

WHEREAS NAN First Nations are experiencing common fire safety deficiencies such as a chronic lack of fire services, including lack of education on fire safety awareness, funding for community Fire Prevention Officers, and the uncertified use of wood-burning systems in homes;

WHEREAS a federal study completed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Fire Prevention in Aboriginal Communities (2007) found that people living in First Nations are 10 times more likely to die in a house fire than people in the rest of Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the NAN Executive Council to develop a NAN First Nations Amber's Fire Safety Campaign named after Amber Strang, the youngest victim of the 2016 Pikangikum First Nation house fire that claimed nine lives;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the campaign should provide Fire Safety awareness and education, including support for certification of NAN members in wood-burning systems and fire prevention services;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the campaign should meet the goal of providing a smoke detector in every home in NAN territory within a year, and should explore donation-driven partnerships to provide communities with residential fire extinguishers;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly support Pikangikum First Nation Council Resolution dated May 4, 2016, requesting NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly to call on the Ontario and Canadian governments to convene a joint federal/provincial public inquiry into three related matters: (1) a realistic plan to resolve the third world conditions of the Pikangikum First Nation and set a course for a prosperous future; (2) an assessment of the fire protection services for all remote First Nations in northern Ontario; and (3) an assessment of similar fire safety issues that apply to all NAN First Nations;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Amber's Fire Safety Campaign and the call for a

joint federal/provincial inquiry shall be synchronized with the pursuit of a long-term plan to address fire protection and safety, fire services, fire emergency structures, assessments of housing data for all NAN First Nations to assist them with fire safety issues, fire hydrants, infrastructure and increased resources to build good quality homes that meet fire safety and other applicable standards;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that NAN will report on progress to Chiefs-in-Assembly at the 2016 Keewaywin Conference.

DATED AT TIMMINS, ONTARIO THIS 18th DAY OF MAY 2016.

MOVED BY: Proxy Paddy Peters,
Pikangikum First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Connie Gray-McKay,
Mishkeegogamang First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

RESOLUTION 19/30: NAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

WHEREAS tragic house fires continue to devastate First Nations in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory, resulting in loss of life and homes;

WHEREAS NAN First Nations are increasingly experiencing emergency situations such as wildfires, flooding,

extreme weather events and other crises that affect community health and safety, leading to evacuations and additional risks to community members;

WHEREAS fire protection and prevention services and fire infrastructure in NAN First Nations are often inadequate, and face common deficiencies in funding and maintenance, resulting in a significant risk to life, homes and infrastructure;

WHEREAS a report completed by the Assembly of First Nations First Nations Emergency Management Think Tank in March 2019 indicates that on-reserve First Nations are 18 times more likely to be evacuated due to natural disasters than the general population;

WHEREAS emergency situations require planning, preparation and prompt coordination with municipal, provincial, and federal governments and their related agencies, and dedicated funding and resources are needed for improved emergency management in NAN First Nations to mitigate the impacts to community well-being, health and safety in times of crises;

WHEREAS Resolution 16/35: Amber's Fire Safety Campaign mandated the NAN Executive Council to pursue a long-term plan to address fire protection and safety, including fire services and fire

emergencies, to ensure housing and infrastructure meet fire safety standards;

WHEREAS Resolution 17/14: Fire Safety Inquest mandated the Executive Council to call on the governments of Canada and Ontario for a coroner's inquest into fire safety in NAN First Nations, which led to an Ontario Chief Coroner's Table on Understanding Fire Deaths in First Nations and a review and evaluation of First Nation fire deaths over the past 10 years, and a report of findings that may not be completed until the end of 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Executive Council to begin the development of a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service for NAN First Nations;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN is mandated to seek resources to complete an assessment of fire protection and prevention infrastructure and capacity, the level of operation and maintenance funding, as well as complete a data history of fire threats and occurrences for NAN communities to inform the development of a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service will establish standards of the same or higher quality as elsewhere in Canada, to be

culturally appropriate and reflective of the unique needs of NAN First Nations;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN shall establish a working group to determine a governance structure and framework for a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN is mandated to seek funding and related resources, and build on existing partnerships of the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign to ensure continued support and growth in the development stages of a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the implementation of this Resolution shall take into account related fire and emergency initiatives at the Tribal Council and First Nation levels;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that NAN shall report on progress at the next Chiefs Assembly.

DATED AT KINGFISHER LAKE FIRST NATION THIS 17th DAY OF JULY 2019.

MOVED BY: Chief Sam Mamakwa,
Wunnumin Lake First Nation

SECONDED BY: Proxy Michael Bottle,
Mishkeegogamang First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

RESOLUTION 20/10: FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Ontario Region, has stated that approximately 86% of all emergency events occur in the North, and occur more often in First Nation communities as a result of various factors, including geographic location and relative isolation;

WHEREAS the Library of Parliament concluded that First Nations face additional challenges in responding to emergencies, including lack of emergency management plans, negative socio-economic conditions, limited economic opportunities, and a high frequency of emergencies;

WHEREAS the Emergency Management Doctrine for Ontario 2005 states that since all emergencies are essentially local in nature, the implementation of emergency management programs should begin at the community level, through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities;

WHEREAS Resolution 19/30: NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service mandated the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Executive Council to seek funding and related resources, and build on the existing partnerships of Amber's Fire

Safety Campaign, to ensure continued support and growth in the development stages of a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service;

WHEREAS Resolution 06/11: Pandemic Planning directed the federal and provincial governments to provide NAN the equitable and comparable resources needed to fully prepare communities that are vulnerable, experience overcrowded living conditions, and are severely under-resourced for both human health and health infrastructure, which are integral to implementing a successful emergency pandemic and influenza plan;

WHEREAS the Minister of Indigenous Services (ISC) mandate letter, dated December 13, 2019, states that ISC will continue to work with First Nations communities to ensure they control the development and delivery of services;

WHEREAS the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations (CIRNA) mandate letter, dated December 13, 2019, states that the Minister is to work with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of ISC to establish a new fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples that ensures sufficient, predictable and sustained funding for communities, including revenue generation and fiscal capacity to govern effectively and to provide programs and services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the NAN Executive Council to seek resources and funding in partnership with the federal and provincial governments to advance emergency management training and capacity at the First Nation level equivalent at a minimum to that offered elsewhere in the Province;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the NAN Executive Council is directed to seek resources to complete an assessment of emergency management resources in First Nations and historic emergencies that have occurred within NAN First Nations territory;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Executive Council to develop a culturally appropriate and accessible training program and platform that meets the provincial standards for emergency management at a minimum;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN is mandated to review emergency management policy and procedures, inclusive of the NAN 1997 Protocol Agreement and business continuity aspects, and to develop partnerships and practices that are culturally appropriate, meet the needs of NAN First Nations, and focus on the development of more resilient communities;



FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NAN shall work with existing emergency management coordinators and initiatives at the First Nation and Tribal Council levels;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that NAN is mandated to build on the implementation of this Resolution to inform and develop the basis for a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service.

DATED AT THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, THIS 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2020.

MOVED BY: Chief Cheryl St. Denis,
Brunswick House First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Derek Maud, Lac Seul First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

APPENDIX 2 - LETTER OF SUPPORT



Office of the Fire Chief, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue
330 Vickers St., N
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4B2

(807) 625-2103



November 30, 2017

Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Dear Committee Members,

I have had the honour and opportunity to participate with the Amber Campaign with respect to Fire Safety in First Nation communities.

The commitment of all those participating has been encouraging and I firmly believe it will produce positive results.

A Fire Safety program must be built on the 3 Lines of Defense and prioritized similar to other communities in Ontario and Canada.

They are Public Education, Enforcement and Fire Suppression activities in that order.

Amber Campaign has Public Education well under way and it should grow and evolve.

Enforcement would be ensuring all homes and other structures have adequate modern smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and a robust program to maintain the patency of that protection.

Fire Suppression capacities should be reviewed and attention given to each community's ability to realistically achieve and maintain that capacity. One model will not fit all communities. But one aspect that could fit all communities is passive fire suppression.

Specifically residential sprinklers. These sprinklers would be intended to extend escape time in the event of fire after the alerting from the detectors. They would supplement other traditional suppression tactics while keeping local fire fighters safer.

Thank you for being able to express my comments to the committee and I look forward to continuing with the Amber Campaign.

John Hay
Fire Chief





Amber's Fire Safety Campaign will help end the countless tragedies that have devastated our communities by allowing us to work with Tribal Councils, various levels of government, municipal fire departments and other agencies to coordinate efforts to improve fire safety and fire-fighting services in all of our communities to prevent further loss of lives.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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